



editor Ken Hawkins ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk 01362 691455

Letter from the Vice Chair *Trevor Ogden*

Our AGM, and who's on the Committee

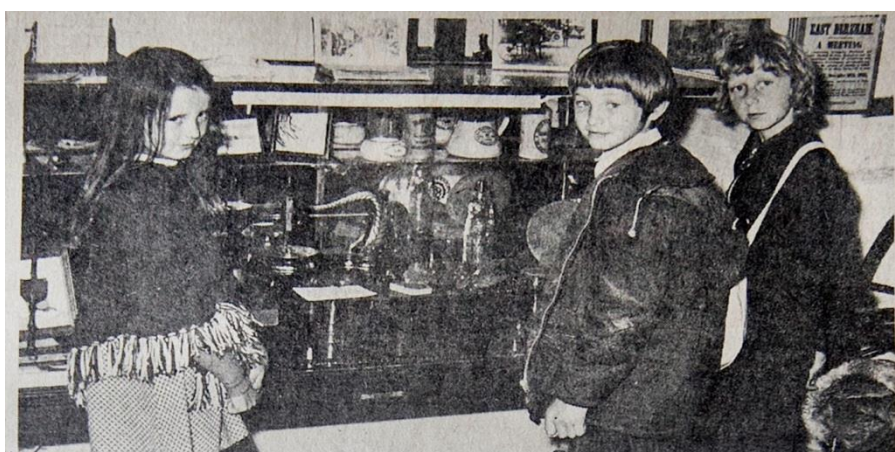
Business before pleasure. On 23 December we had a welcome Christmas present from the Charity Commission, in the form of notification that Dereham Heritage Trust had been transitioned from a simple charity, and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under the number 1187140. Our forthcoming AGM will therefore be the final AGM of the old charity, and we will be proposing resolutions to transfer the assets of the old charity to the new CIO, and to enable any other legally necessary changes. This is therefore a formal notice that **the AGM will take place on 12th February at 7.30 pm in Trinity Church Hall, Theatre Street, Dereham.**

You will remember that we had a Special General Meeting in October which unanimously approved our becoming a CIO, and we explained then that as far as possible we were adopting the CIO constitution recommended by the Charity Commission. By this members appoint trustees, but the trustees then appoint the chair and any other officers. However, we said that we would involve the membership in this. The five trustees (committee members) of the old charity have become trustees of the CIO, but we are allowed to have up to nine trustees, so if you wish to propose someone as a trustee (committee member), please get their consent and find a seconder and inform the secretary Sue Rockley in writing by 29th January. Similarly, if you wish to recommend which of the trustees should become chair of the Trust, or have other suggestions about roles, please inform Sue by that date. (The present trustees are Robena Brown, Ken Hawkins, Trevor Ogden, Peter Wade-Martins, and Sue Walker White. Sue Rockley acts as secretary, and her email address is suerockley84@gmail.com or write to her at 1 Manor Farm Cottages, Manor Road, Scarning, Dereham NR19 2LL.)

People

People are more interesting than AGMs, so as we pass into a New Year it is a pleasure to thank again Natalie Small and Amanda Lovejoy who stepped down from the Committee in 2019, and Peter Wade-Martins who stepped back from being chair, but continues to give his expert knowledge and experience. In this context, I must also mention Tony Jones, whose obituary appeared in the last issue and who - amongst many other things - was chair for several years.

Looking at the Society records one becomes aware that we benefit from probably hundreds of people who have helped over the years. I feel that we are not just doing this for people particularly interested in history, but it is something we are doing for the town. If people understand how Dereham got where it is now, they are more likely to be interested in where they live and feel good about it. We are doing one or two things this year to make ourselves better known and interest people who do not yet come to our meetings or read the website. For example, we are asking members to help us distribute posters advertising the individual meetings, and we have arranged with Dereham Library to have foyer displays for part of March and May about the Museum. Apart from anything else, without a continual influx of new volunteers to welcome people into the Museum and help with our other activities we will soon be history ourselves!



The Bishop Bonner's Cottage museum at Dereham has opened its doors for the 1974 "season" and these children, left to right, Susan McDonald, Michael Simmons and Neville Bond, were among the early visitors.

Attractions at Cottage Museum

BISHOP BONNER'S Cottage Museum in St. Withburga Lane, Dereham, has some interesting new acquisitions this year, among which is a beautifully-decorated Cowper Sewing Machine made in 1857 by Jones.

The machine, which is the centrepiece of a new display case full of items that have connections with the town, was bought from A. R. Downes shop in the High Street in 1872. The shop specialised in pianos and sewing machines and stood on the site where B. B. Adams supermarket now is. By the way, the 117-year-old, hand-operated machine presented by Miss I. Neale, still works.

Also on display are part of the set of official town scales used to make spot checks on weights being claimed by traders in the market.

Visitors will be interested in an arrangement of Victorian dolls which has been set out as a dolls' tea party. Another new item is a wood and brass set square dated 1730, thought to have been used by a wheelwright, which was presented to the museum by Mr. Ronnie Wright.

A wooden yoke used until quite recently for carrying pails has just been given by Mr. A. G. Browne, of Badley Moor.

By the end of September, the Museum had received 473 visitors, more than half as many again as in 2018. This brought us admission fees of £626, plus almost £100 in sales and £120 in donations. Saturday was the most popular day (average 8.6 visitors per day, then Friday (6.8), and Wednesday (4.4). In the light of this, we have decided to open just on Fridays and Saturdays for 2020, but to try to arrange 2 sessions - morning and afternoon - on Saturdays. All of this depends on volunteers being available to welcome our visitors: if this might be for you, please contact Catherine Hawkins at cghawkins@tiscali.co.uk or on 07732 858020. You might then feature in an 'Opening the museum' article, like this one, from 1974 (Dereham and Fakenham Times)!

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

Excavations in Bishop Bonner's Cottages Peter Wade-Martins

Those of you who visit or volunteer in the museum will from time to time have noticed a distinctly damp smell in the room at the north end of the cottages. This is due to rising damp in the north wall and the chimney stack, and this damp has caused some of the plaster to fall off the lower sections of the wall, particularly around the fireplace. The damp is caused by dampness rising up through the brickwork, and we need to find out why. The town council owns the cottages, and we have raised the problem with them. So, Tony Needham, the Town Clerk, has commissioned their building surveyor, Anna High, to do what she can do to solve the problem. She arranged for Goodfellow Construction to carry out some investigations.

On 5 December they dug down in a cavity filled with very damp soil and rubble on the right-hand side of the kitchen range and cleared it out. Among the rubble was half an egg cup and some fish paste jars suggesting that the rubble in the cavity, which was certainly causing some of the problem, was put in during the 1950s. Those of you of a certain age will know the fish paste jars I am talking about!

On the outside they also dug two test holes close to the north wall and found that the foundations, such as they are, are no deeper than the floor inside. Concrete had been laid along the wall thus not allowing the base of the wall to breathe. We are suggesting that all this concrete along the wall should be dug out and filled with gravel to encourage the water to rise up and evaporate through the gravel rather than in the brickwork. However, we are not qualified to make that decision and that will be up to the Town Clerk with the advice from Anna High. The problem is that the foundations are so shallow that to do that may require some underpinning.

The museum is due to re-open on 2 May, so we have asked that the internal works be finished by mid April to allow us to restore the exhibits which we have had to clear away. On the outside the plasterwork and pargetting needs to be repaired in places and repainted, and we expect that will happen in the dry weather next summer. We have asked that the pargetting should be re-coloured as before, even though we know that this paint was only put on in the 1960s. We have no knowledge of the earlier colours which were originally used. Watch this space.



The "finds", probably dating from the 1950s, found in the damp rubble.
photo - Peter Wade-Martins

The two cavities to either side of the fireplace, the right hand-one still filled with damp soil and rubble and the left hand-one just filled with dry bricks and floor tiles.

photo - Peter Wade-Martins



Bishop Bonner's Palace *Robena Brown*

The majority of early twentieth-century topographical photographs were produced as 'real photo postcards' or RPPCs as postcard collectors know them today. We are fortunate that as almost every home of the time kept a postcard album in which to store and display them many have survived in good condition and are very collectable today.



This postcard of Bishop Bonner's Cottages produced either during or before 1913 shows our museum building soon after its 1906 restoration by the antiquarian Walter Rye. A bishop's residence being known as a 'palace' it was a common name for the building at that time though there is no evidence found yet to show that Bishop Bonner ever visited and almost certainly never lived there though he appears to have owned it.

The wording on the reverse says it was a 'Souvenir of Motor Tour with Father and Mabel in August 1913. Stayed at East Dereham one night – and visited the subject of this photo.' Motor cars were few and far between on the roads in 1913 and the detail written on the card conjures up an image of the emerging social habits of the time.

The building was the subject of many photographic postcards throughout the last century and by comparing them we are able to note changes made and assess dates of restoration.

Those of you familiar with the current configuration of the building will note differences between 1913 and 2020. The pargetting was then newly coloured which is clear though the image is in black and white and the position of doorways was different with the room nearest to St Nicholas' Church, which was much later to become the home of 'One-Armed Jack' accessed directly from the street.

Notes from our recent meetings *Ken Hawkins*

11 September: Kett's rebellion - 'The commotion' - Barbara Miller

Barbara opened her talk by noting that early records of the 'rebellion' did not use that term, but called it 'The commotion' - and reminded us that records were usually written by the victors. To set the scene, we were also reminded that at that time, Norwich was an important city, not far behind London and Bristol. But the 1540s were a time of many changes. The dissolution of the monasteries caused many lost jobs, and the loss of support for education and for sick people. The strip system in agriculture was moving towards the creation of farms, while the demand for English wool was rising - and sheep farming needed very few workers but lots of land (Sir Thomas More said 'the sheep are eating up the men'). Both Henry VII and Henry VIII had been opposed to enclosure (fewer workers meant fewer soldiers), and laws were passed against it, but not enforced. There was also the rise of Protestantism and the consequent religious confusion. Though the Book of Common Prayer was published in 1549, there was no clear established church.

When Henry VIII came to the throne in 1509, the Treasury was full and there was peace, with the Wars of the Roses starting to fade in memory. By his death in 1547, all the money was spent, and he was succeeded by 9 year old Edward VI, supported by a council set up (by Henry VIII) to have no one leader. Out of this unworkable confusion, Edward Seymour eventually came to the top. His sister Jane was Edward VI's mother, so he had a direct familial link to the throne. Nevertheless, neither he nor his wife were popular.

Into all of this came local riots in Fakenham, Hingham, King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth, and a major rebellion in Devon (though this last was primarily concerned with the prayer book and the boy king). On 6 July 1549, a group broke the fences of Mr Justice Flowerdew, a local landowner, and moved on to the land of Robert Kett with the same intention. He, a 57



Robert Kett sitting under the oak of reformation by Samuel Wale (c. 1746)

year old landowner, listened to the group, then threw down his own fences and joined them - as their leader. They collected at what has since been called Kett's Oak, then went to Norwich, passing over Cringleford Bridge. They reached Eaton Hill, but were there met by the city fathers who refused to let them into the city. They camped overnight at Bowthorpe Chapel, but the following day they were again refused entry, so went to Mousehold Heath and set up camp there.

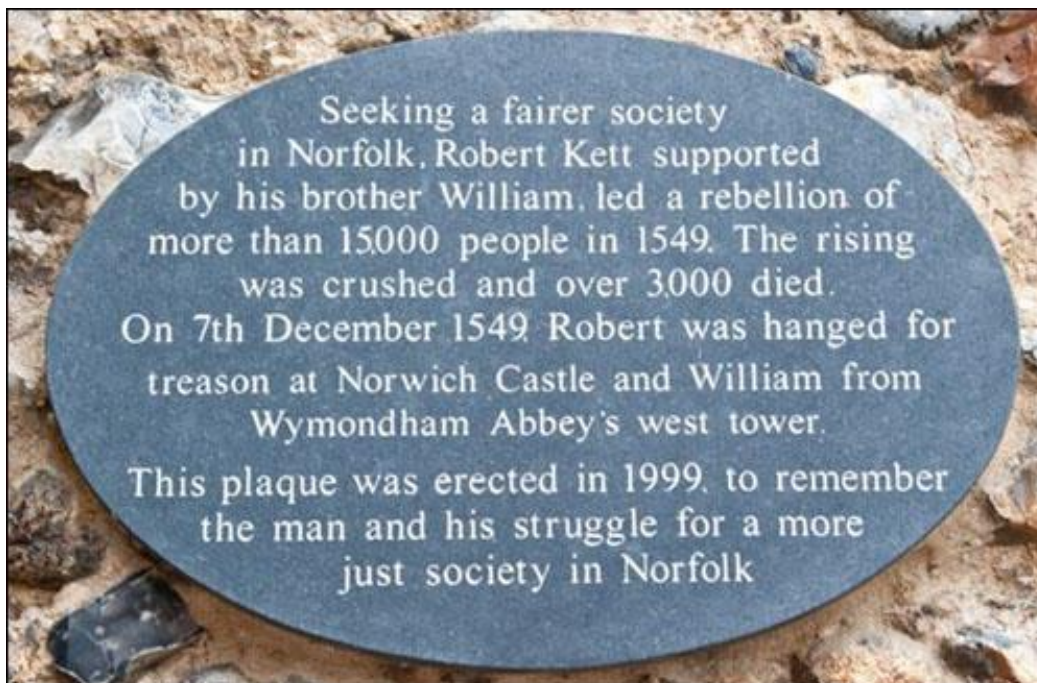
The rebels were orderly, paying for their food (probably better than many would ordinarily have had), and holding morning prayers. During this time, they were visited by Matthew Parker (later to become Archbishop of Canterbury), as well as capturing Thomas Godsalve and his son John, who then gave them legal advice. 29 requests to the king were formulated and sent to the king.

On 21 July, the Royal Herald arrived, offering a Royal Pardon: Robert Kett rejected it as he had done nothing wrong. The Herald brought the Mayor, Thomas Codd, but he was then captured and the Herald sent back to London. More were joining the rebels - it was a slack time in farming - though feeding them all was a challenge. Edward Seymour sent 1500 men,

led by Edward Parr, and there was some sporadic fighting, but the rebels were able to occupy the city, though Robert Kett remained on Mousehold Heath. Seymour himself was fighting in France, but sent Robert Dudley on 23 August. Kett was again offered a pardon, which this time he accepted and took it to read, but a boy bared his bottom at the Herald, and a soldier shot him, sparking fighting and damage to houses. By then, harvest was approaching, and men were drifting away: Kett and the rebels moved from Mousehold and Warwick staged a surprise attack. It was over. Kett and his brother escaped but were captured at Swannington. On 29 August Warwick held a thanksgiving service in St Peter Mancroft church and this continued as Commotion Sunday until 1728.

By early September, Robert and William were in the tower, condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered. Robert was hanged at Norwich Castle, William at Wymondham Abbey. In the aftermath,

- the rebels did not regroup
- Dudley did not pursue the rebels - 'you need your workers'
- Norwich had to clear up 248 loads of rubbish
- a Lord Lieutenant was appointed in each county, the start of a standing army
- 400 years later, a plaque is erected in Norwich citing Robert Kett as a hero

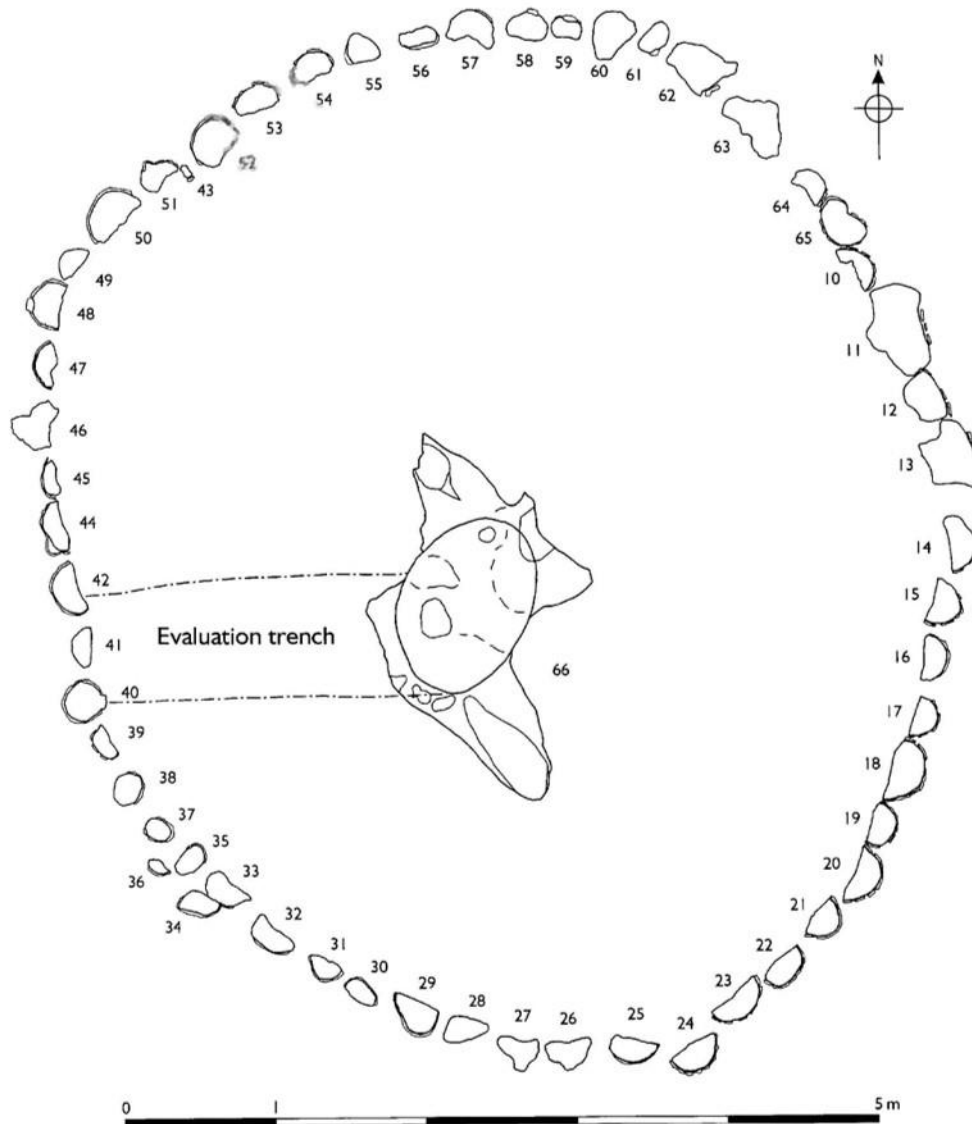


Pictures: <https://spartacus-educational.com/TUDkettR.htm>

13 November: Displaying Seahenge - Hannah Jackson

In a riveting presentation, Hannah talked not only about displaying Seahenge, but its discovery and preservation. Her tale began in summer 1998 when a timber circle was revealed in the sand at Holme beach. This was not the first sighting (some have suggested it had been seen as early as the 1970s), but on this occasion, John Lorimer reported it. Initially referred to as the Stonehenge of the sea, the EDP christened it 'Seahenge' and the name stuck. What was seen was a central oak stump, inverted so the roots were in the air, surrounded by 55 smaller posts in an approximate circle. Subsequent investigation showed that all were felled in late spring or early summer 2049 BC, making it an early Bronze Age circle.

Tidal action was eroding the peat layer which had protected the timbers, so a plan was made of the site, and ultimately an excavation took place - perforce by hand - between 26 May and 2 August 1999. These revealed no bodies or offerings beneath the central stump, which would have indicated the function of its construction. Instead, lengths of honeysuckle were



Picture: *Brennand & Taylor 2003/ Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society circle.*

found in a hole in the central stump, which was thought to have been the remains of a rope constructed to lower the stump into its position. Already, decay was setting in through the action of salt water, worms and wood-boring molluscs. In spite of opposition, it was decided to remove the timbers, and they were initially taken to Flag Fen where Francis Pryor and the team kept them soaked in fresh water. Here they were scanned for information, and the plan made to preserve and display Seahenge in Lynn Museum. Before the timbers could go on display, however, they needed to be taken to the Mary Rose Trust in Portsmouth for further cleaning and treatment with polyethylene glycol (PEG) to preserve them.

Hannah then discussed its original setting. At the time of its establishment, there were no nearby settlements; those that were nearest were small farming communities, living in roundhouses with thatched or turf roofs. She noted that timber circles were not rare, but it was most unusual to have the timber still present, rather than evidenced by post holes. Close examination of the timbers showed that the axe marks on them, from which the blade

curvatures and sizes could be calculated, had been made by 51 different bronze tools, suggesting preparation had been made by a large number of people. The timbers were all neatly finished, showing considerable skill, and many had bark still attached. It was believed that the circle as built would have looked from a distance like a giant log. The plan shows that two posts (34 and 36) were just outside the circle, and two making up the circle at this point (35 and 37) turned out to be a single forked timber. It is thought that this formed an entry point into the circle. About half of the timbers were placed upside down; this is believed to have been to create a balance rather than having them all taper in the same upward direction, though these were not arranged alternately. Just one of the timbers in the circle (30) had no outside bark, so would have stood out visually. As with so much else, why this was done is not known, though there is plenty of speculation.

Seahenge was constructed in saltmarsh, but water levels were rising. The area later became a fresh water marsh, and a layer of peat developed, which subsequently was to preserve the circle. Around 1300 BC, the sea broke through the sand dunes, which were gradually eroded and moved inland. By about 400 AD (and certainly by 600 AD), Seahenge was under the beach. As mentioned before, there are no known settlements nearby, but the discovery of timber, pottery, animal bones, charcoal, and burnt stone suggest that the area was visited frequently.

To the surprise of most of us there, Hannah then told us about a second timber circle found close by at Holme, dating to exactly the same time. This was not excavated but disappeared back into the sand, to reappear briefly in 2013. This was of about twice the diameter of Seahenge (13.2 metres against Seahenge's 6.6 metres), with 2 logs placed flat in the centre of an oak hurdle-lined pit, surrounded by a circle of timber posts and a second circle of split planks.

Resuming her tale, Hannah showed us how parts of the original were displayed at the Lynn Museum, together with replicas showing how it was, and giving a sense of its original environment. The Seahenge Gallery was opened in 2008, but without the central stump, which was still undergoing treatment at the Mary Rose Trust. It was not until the following year that this arrived back in Norfolk to be measured and prepared for display - needing some major work to get it physically into the Museum, including taking the front doors off the building to get the 2.5m wide stump into its final position! The Lynn Museum reopened in 2010.

After the talk, Hannah fielded a veritable barrage of questions, which continued while she tried to drink her well earned cup of tea.

11 December: Herbert T Cave, Dereham, Photographer - life and works Sue Walker White and Robena Brown

In a finely choreographed double presentation, Sue Walker White and Robena Brown provided an update on their 'work in progress' about Herbert T Cave - inviting their fascinated audience to contribute additional information (which they did).

To set the scene, they started in 1766 when William Hyde Wollaston was born in the original rectory in Dereham (the one in the middle of the moat, not the current building). He started as a doctor, but went on to become involved in chemistry and inventing. In 1804, he developed the meniscus lens for spectacles, which improved focusing as it was matched to the curvature of the cornea. He experimented with the *camera obscura* (pin hole camera) and added a lens to it, making it portable - and the basis for the camera as we know it. He also worked on the *camera lucida*, a device which enabled the image to be traced, and was thus an early way of recording it. It could be argued that the only difference between Wollaston's *camera lucida* and the later daguerreotype was the fixing of the image.

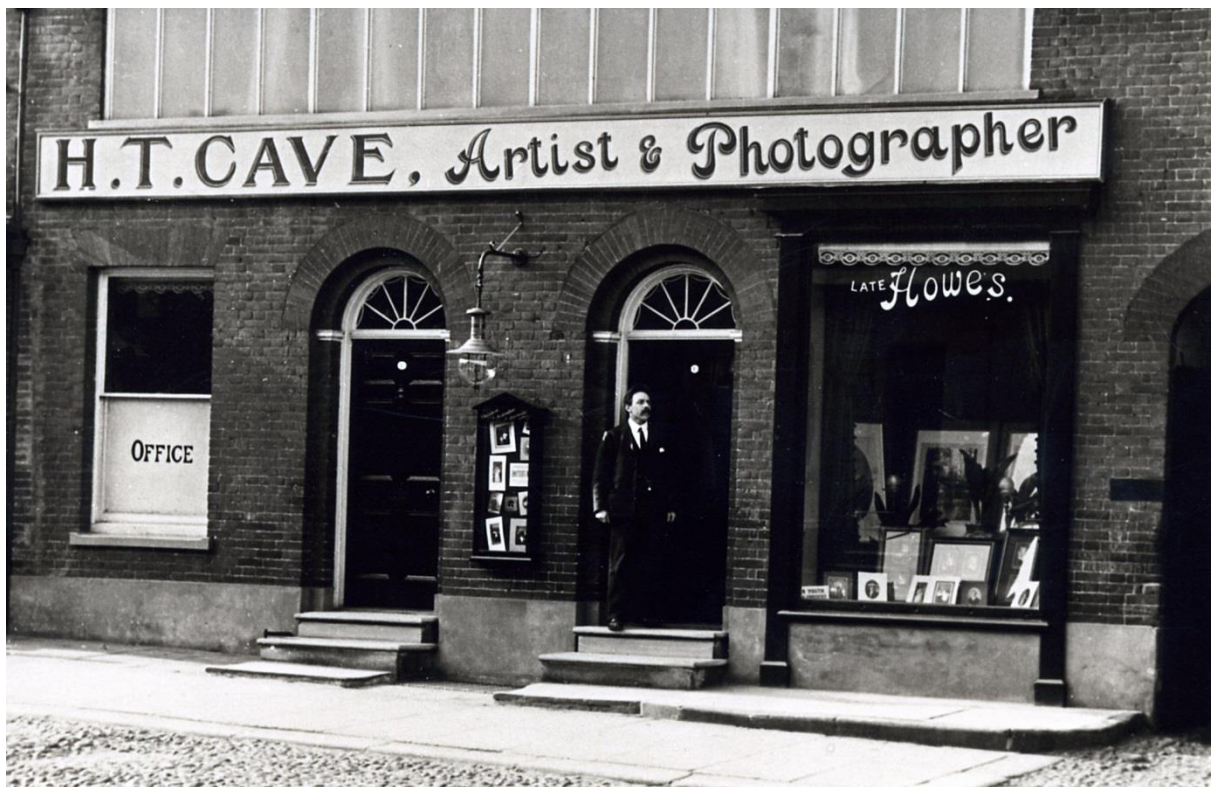


photo c 1906

In Dereham, the first known photographer was W Brunton - this can be dated from a photograph of Bishop Bonner's Cottage before 1905. Photographs appeared from the 1860s - the earliest local dated photograph was of Daffy Green, 1862. R W Hawes was another Dereham photographer, also based in the High Street - both did many things in addition to photography. J H Skinner was a 'Photographic Apparatus Manufacturer', employing 100 people making cameras. (The Skinner camera recently acquired for the archive was probably built there.) Herbert Cave took over R W Hawes, then at 3 and 5 Church Street, and was an 'Artist and Photographer' from 1905 (on the site now occupied by Cecil Amey, Opticians). Herbert was born in Northampton, and when working in Dereham he traded solely as a photographer and artist. After 1894, when the postcard postal rate was set at ½d, the burgeoning trade of postcard sales meant that almost every family kept a postcard album to store collected studio photographs and local views. Herbert Cave left his studio to take a remarkably large number of excellent views of Dereham and the surrounding villages some of which were published by Count and Coleby but later by himself, particularly many excellent ones documenting Dereham in World War One. The fashionable postcard exchanges began to decline from 1918 when the postage rate was doubled to 1d and other means of communication, eg telephone and public transport, came to the fore.

Cave's photographs were well composed and of high quality, using good emulsion: he also dated many of his negatives, an invaluable benefit for the researcher. The talk was illustrated with many of Cave's photographs, such as a postcard of the Great Fire at Hobbies on 28 February 1907, date stamped 6 March - so produced, sold and posted within a week! Others included Royal Mail vehicles, and family, election and commercial photographs. He was called up to serve in the RAF in 1917, but was demobbed and back taking photographs of Peace Day in Dereham on 19 July 1919. He was also able to manipulate his photographs, as shown by a group photograph which included 3 people who were probably at the group dinner, but not in camera range, and who had been added to the picture from another entirely different photograph! His most recent photographs were from 1939/40, and the last advert for his business was 1947. He later moved to Kingston upon Hull, where he died in 1952.

Skinner camera

The Trust has acquired a Skinner camera (photo attached). It is an early model, made in (East) Dereham. It cost £500, and was acquired on our behalf by Peter Wade-Martins. We have no acquisitions budget, but felt this was an article we could not miss. Two members have donated £80 and £50 towards the cost, and further members at the December meeting contributed an additional £30. We are, of course, open to further donations should anyone want to make one.



Metamec Works *Trevor Ogden and Robena Brown*

In the Museum this summer some visitors looked at all the Metamec clocks and the stories from the factory, and asked where the factory used to be, so it was a matter of getting the map out and showing them Metamec Drive. Recently someone posted this aerial view of



the works on Facebook, on 'Laurie's Dereham and all Norfolk Archive'. No doubt many DHT members will remember it like this. For those who can't place the site, this is looking SW, and front foreground is the junction of South Green and Southend. Centre left is Moorgate House, which is still there. Old Ordnance Survey maps show that the four long buildings parallel with the road were built on the gardens of Moorgate House, but some of the buildings behind them were part of East Dereham Brewery in the 19th century.

The Google Earth view from about the same viewpoint shows how Metamec Drive now covers the site. It looks as if Moorgate house was in scaffold when this photo was taken, which is why it seems to have a collar.

The big house at the top on the left of the old aerial view was called The Elms in the 19th century, but later South Green House. The colour postcard shows the view of the east front of this house as you came up South Green from the Toftwood direction, and on the original you can also just see Moorgate House through the trees. This area was not built up until after World War 2.



Returning to the old aerial view, the railway to King's Lynn can be seen in the bottom left-hand corner. Between the old railway line and South Green is the site of the East Dereham Foundry, now covered by Thorpe Court. And the final photo is a drain cover cast in the foundry, still doing service in Norwich Road!

We have not been able to trace who owns the copyright to the old aerial view, so apologies if it is you - let us know and we will be delighted to give credit.

Lighting up your Christmas tree, 1895 style *Trevor Ogden*

Bob Stroulger, who was at one time the joint managing director of Hobbies (Dereham) Ltd, has very kindly given to the Archive various documents about the famous Hobbies companies and personnel, including some bound copies of early volumes of the magazine Hobbies Weekly. Hobbies began in Dereham in 1887, selling fretwork equipment, and then for many years made the tools and sundries for the hobby and sold them world-wide. (When Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum is open, you can buy there Terry Davy's well-illustrated history of the company's *The Hobbies Story* at a much reduced price of £3.)

In 1895 Hobbies started issuing a weekly magazine, which covered all sorts of hobbies - photography, keeping animals for profit, electrical experiments, cycling, using a magic lantern and making slides for it, decorative metalwork, stamp collecting, and, of course fretwork. The Christmas number of that first volume gives advice on how to light up your Christmas tree with electricity, when, for most inhabitants of Dereham, electric light in the home would have been some decades in the future.

At that time you could apparently buy small electric globes with incandescent filaments. The globes were held in special holders by pairs of platinum loops, but for the Christmas tree you would have to obtain cotton-covered copper wire and make up the wiring yourself. The scheme was to use 25-30 globes. There are a lot of detailed instructions about wiring up the little lamps and tying them to hang from the branches.



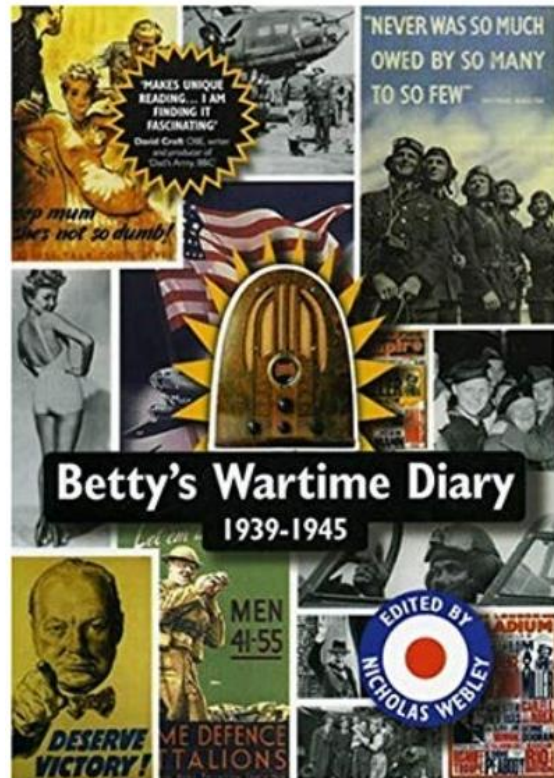
The author says that he had originally intended to explain how to make a battery, but said that they were now so cheap as to make this not worthwhile, although you did have to make up your own electrolyte, 4 parts sulphuric acid, 3 parts chromic acid, half a part chlorate of potash, and 20 parts of water. You were cautioned to add the sulphuric acid carefully to the water and not vice versa, and when it is cooled to add the other ingredients. This was used in a cell 10 inches in height and 5 inches in diameter, a glass vessel with three long carbon and two short zinc plates. The zinc plates had to be arranged so that they could be drawn up out of the electrolyte to turn off the lights. It was recommended to put the tree in a stand which could also hold the cell, to shorten the lengths of wire.

The lamps were wired in parallel, so the total current for 30 lamps would have been 15 amps, many times the current of a modern torch. Not surprisingly, you are warned that the lamps will be a "tremendous drain" on the battery, so "do not make any use of it, beyond a very brief trial, beforehand". The article does not say how long the battery would last, but it can't have been long.

You could still try this at home for Christmas if you want to take the risk (*no you couldn't - ed*), although it would be difficult to get the ingredients of the battery, and as potassium chlorate is used in making explosives you might find the counter-terrorism police taking an interest. Probably easiest just to pop into Morrisons (where Hobbies factory used to be) and see if you can get a set of LED Christmas tree lights.

Betty's Wartime Diary *Trevor Ogden*

The Archive has been given a second-hand copy of this book, first published in 2002. The editor, Nicholas Webley, came across the diary, written on scraps of paper, in a shed in Norfolk. He was allowed to edit and publish it, provided he did not identify Betty, or say where she lived. However, she talks about going into Dereham, and about the airmen from Shipdham and Swanton Morley who come into the pub where she works. And when a greyhound called Toftwood is running in a race in London, she and her friends put money on it, although she does not normally do that sort of thing. The dog wins at 100 to 8. It seems possible then that her pub was in Toftwood, but maybe there is a member of Dereham Heritage Trust who knows ...



Notice of publication - Scarning Free School. Dereham Heritage Trust provides this notice as a matter of interest to its members; we have not seen the publication and do not offer any comment on its quality.

Nick Hartley has contacted us to say that he was about to publish a book on the history of Scarning Free School. The book covers the school's history from its foundation in 1604 to the School Strike of 1883, which pre-empted better known events at Burston in the following century.

Notable pupils at the school include Edward Thurlow (George III's Lord Chancellor), Charles Turner (who married Sir Robert Walpole's older sister), John Fenn (editor of the Paston Letters) and Horatio Nelson's father, Edmund. The Nelson family were trustees at the school for six generations, alongside such families as the Astleys of Melton Constable Hall and the Wodehouses of Kimberley Hall. There are sections in the book about all these families, together with colour portraits by Batoni, Gainsborough and Reynolds, amongst others.

As well as telling the story of the school, the book explores many wider aspects of Norfolk's history and includes a wide range of subjects from slavery (one of the pupils was a prominent anti slavery campaigner) to the Grand Tour (taken by the school's pupils and trustees) to agriculture (through the connection of one of the Masters to Thomas Coke of Holkham and the Norfolk Agricultural Association, formed in the late eighteenth century).

The book is printed in full colour and is 226 pages in length. The cost of a copy is £14.99; it is having a limited print run and will not be in the shops. Copies are available direct from the author, Nick Hartley - contact him on 01362 687492, or email nicklouise.hartley@btinternet.com. Nick says he lives in Scarning and is happy to drop off copies in order to save people post and packing if it helps.

Membership matters

Our membership year runs annually from 1 March to the end of February. The rates for 2019-20 are currently as below, but will be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting in February.

Individual - £12

Couple at the same address - £20

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

You can renew or join at any of our meetings, or use our membership form from the website http://www.derehamhistory.com/uploads/1/6/2/3/16236968/dht_membership_leaflet_2019.pdf.

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

Programme of events 2020-21

Here is our programme up to February 2021: note that we have arranged an August meeting this year. Full details are also available on our website, which will also carry any necessary last minute changes (www.derehamhistory.com/talks.html). They are printed into our 'Talks Programme' cards - available at all of our meetings. We are now well advanced with the 2021 programme, but further ideas are always welcome - it's never too early to start planning!

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

12 August
Narborough Bone Mill
Speaker: Graeme Brown

Wednesday 12 February
Annual General Meeting

9 September
19th century industrial activity in Norfolk and its market towns
Speaker: Adrian O'dell

11 March
Burial and belief - the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity
Speaker: Dr Catherine Hills

14 October
Annual Dinner
venue to be confirmed

8 April
25 years of archaeological research at Sedgeford
Speaker: Gary Rossin

11 November
Armstrong's Dereham
Speaker: Susanna Wade Martins

13 May
Making tracks through Mid-Norfolk
Speaker: Paddy Anstey

9 December
to be arranged

10 June
Norwich Castle Keep Project
Speaker: Robin Hanley

13 January 2021
Maud's Story – the life of a Norfolk Trading Wherry
Speaker: Linda Pargeter

8 July
Jonathan Boston
details to be arranged for this visit

10 February
Annual General Meeting

Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are at Trinity Methodist Church, 31 Trinity Close, Dereham NR19 2EP (off Theatre Street), and start at 1930. Admission to talks is £1 for members of Dereham Heritage Trust and £3 for non-members. Visitors are always welcome, with the fee payable on the door, refreshments included.

Next issue

We plan to produce a Newsletter every quarter, in January, April, July and October. The press date for the next issue is **15 March**: if you have material for this issue, please send it in to Ken Hawkins. And please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any other comments of any sort.

In between Newsletters, our website www.derehamhistory.com is updated regularly so please have a look now and again.

Can you save us some money? If you did not receive this Newsletter via email, but would be willing to do so, please let us have your email address: we won't pass it on to anyone else without your permission, and we won't use it for anything but Dereham Heritage Trust business.