



Letter from the Acting Chair *Peter Wade-Martins*

We have completed the museum year feeling well satisfied with the outcome after being closed for two years because of covid. There were 454 visitors in all, 149 on Friday afternoons and 305 on Saturdays when we were open all day. This includes the two weekends when we gave free admission to 107 adults and 9 children as part of Heritage Open Days week. Our team of 20 volunteers managed to keep the museum open at all the advertised times except on two occasions because of illness. August was the busiest month. From the feedback forms which were completed it appears that about half were Norfolk people, and the rest came from further afield.



The Heritage Open Days bunting in the Museum

At the end of the season we held a de-briefing session for the volunteers so that they could share their experiences with each other and with committee members. This was rather illuminating. They were asked five questions:

What did you enjoy most?

What did you enjoy the least?

How might we improve the visitor experience?

How can we encourage visitors to complete more feedback forms?

And lastly, we asked about suggestions about improving the displays.

The answers to the last question were particularly revealing. Here are *just some* of the ideas and comments:

The reception room needs to be re-organised to create a more realistic atmosphere of an old kitchen.

Make the One-armed Jack story more attractive.

Display more of the famous Craske pictures.

The display of clocks, which has been there since 2019, should be reduced and become part of a broader display of Dereham industries

So, we are setting up a display team of volunteers to consider these changes.

We are also hoping to produce a new booklet on the history of the cottages, and to that end we have commissioned specialists in tree-ring dating to see what they come up with.

However, we have been warned that they may not find a tree ring sequence in our timbers which will match closely enough to a known Norfolk sequence to provide an accurate date.

It is worth a try though.

The committee has been visiting museums in other market towns in the area, particularly in Watton, Swaffham and Wymondham. They all have far larger premises than we do which give them a greater opportunity to put on displays which reflect the diverse range of their histories from local prehistoric metal detecting finds to nineteenth-century industries. Dereham has a particularly strong history of industries of national importance based on the railway which we can't even start to display. The problem is that Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum is housed in a group of small probably sixteenth and seventeenth-century cottages which are ideal for telling the story of what it was like to live in the town before the arrival of modern conveniences but hopeless for telling Dereham's wider story. As I have said several times in the past, we need a Heritage Centre, preferably equipped with the facilities required to support school visits.

As reported before, we are very short of storage space, even though St Nicholas' Church and the Rector has kindly allowed us the use of an attic room in Church House. We have been offered a large collection of Hobbies treadles and a big collection of Hobbies printed documents which we don't have room to accept. We have thought about buying a container to give us more storage space, but we have been strongly advised by our professional adviser not to go down that route because containers tend to have serious levels of condensation.

The committee has many challenges ahead, and we want to create a town museum which has sufficient space to store our collections safely. If any members want to join our committee to help with these and other challenges, do get in touch.

For a long time, we have invited Phillip Duigan as Town Councillor and chair of the Council's Heritage and Open Spaces Committee to participate in our committee meetings, but the Council has decided to discontinue this arrangement, instead inviting the Trust to present a report twice a year to that Committee, and we are planning to do this for the first time in January. Phillip has a deep knowledge of the recent history of the town, and we are grateful for his input over the years as Town, District and County Councillor.

Dereham clock makers - Boyce *Robena Brown*

As noted above, the consensus view of the volunteers is the clocks should take less prominence for 2023. This account may therefore become a piece of (temporary) history.



Dereham has been known as a clock-making town for many generations. Our Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum currently holds dozens of examples of those made by Metamec in the twentieth century and a long-case clock made much earlier by Wenham of Dereham stands beside the fireplace in the lower north cottage.

This beautiful regency wall clock made by Boyce of Dereham has appeared for sale by auction in North Yorkshire and during its long life has clearly travelled a long way from Dereham.

It is described as a 'small regency 9" convex dial fusee wall clock. It has a figured mahogany case with scroll carved ears and brass inlaid drop-box below a moulded surround and locking cast brass bezel enclosing a 9" painted convex dial with Roman numerals fronting an eight-day fusee movement'.

[Editor's note - Wikipedia says: Used in antique spring-powered mechanical watches and clocks, a fusee (from the French fusée, wire wound around a spindle) is a cone-shaped pulley with a helical groove around it, wound with a cord or chain which is attached to the mainspring barrel. Fusees were used from the 15th century to the early 20th century to improve timekeeping by equalising the uneven pull of the mainspring as it ran down.]

Dereham's Guildhall *Trevor Ogden*

Along St Withburga Lane from the Museum is a Georgian era house called The Guildhall, with a porch facing the Lane, supported on two columns. The front onto the Lane looks fairly ordinary, although photographs show that round the corner at the right-hand end, the house has an impressive south front looking onto a big garden, which we can't see from the Lane because of a high wall which stretches southwards.



The Guildhall in St Withburga Lane. The old wall can be seen at the far end of the house

But what is the wall at the other end of the house, towards the Museum? As the photograph shows, there are five structures in the wall, with stone surrounds filled in with bricks.



Pevsner and Wilson, in the Buildings of England series, say that this wall is partly 16th century, and that the structures were two doorways at the right-hand end and one at the left, and two blocked windows between them. The nature of the doorways is not immediately obvious, because the lower parts are covered by a layer of bricks which has been added as a buttress. Pevsner and Wilson say of the wall, "This is supposed to remain from the former Guildhall of St Withburga, suppressed and sold in 1548 to Thomas Wodehouse." That would make this wall nearly 150 years older than the main visible part of the house now called The Guildhall. What was this Guildhall of St Withburga? What has gone on with these buildings?

Popular ideas of medieval guilds are largely shaped by what happened in big towns, but this is perhaps not a good guide to Dereham's Guildhall. The big town guilds started as societies of merchants who committed to help one-another in times of hardship, to pay for burials and to pray for dead members. In time they developed into craft and trade guilds, defending standards and often enforcing monopolies, and those are now often remembered as their main functions. Through endowments they might become rich; they might build their own halls as centres of their activities. As they brought together the most powerful people of the town, the guilds were often influential in local government, and a guildhall might function as a town hall, as happened in Norwich.

In a place like Dereham, the guilds would have been more likely to retain their original functions as religious fraternities, for mutual support in life and death. This gave them close links with the parish church, and they usually adopted a patron saint, and maintained an altar in the church where they paid for a candle to be kept burning, and perhaps for a chaplain to say masses for the souls of dead members, to shorten their time in purgatory. Volume 10 of Blomefield's History of Norfolk (by Charles Parkin), lists 14 such guilds in Dereham in 1458, and Parkin quotes a will of 1474 naming two more, and he seems to imply that they had altars in the transepts of St Nicholas' church, though it is hard to see where all 16 could have fitted.

As well as support in sickness and death, guilds might provide social links at other times. No doubt members of a guild sometimes had a meal together if they could, and if the guild had a hall, that was the obvious venue. There are no records for Dereham, but we have some details of the Guild of St John the Baptist in Swaffham, one of seven such fraternities in Swaffham's parish church. In 1508, the members enjoyed a meal of beef, mutton, lamb, pork, and goose, with sauces and spices, bread cheese and ale. The guild was equipped for the meals - at about that time it owned five large pottery plates, five smaller pewter plates, three flat pewter dishes, six saucers, 18 wooden dishes, 28 great wooden trenchers, 17 wooden spoons, three or four long tablecloths, and a large brass pot. This information comes from Colin Platt (details at end), who suggests that 40 or 50 people attended the meals, enjoying minstrels as well as the food. Charles Parkin says that Dereham had "a famous guild or society of this Withburga, which had a strong brick-house called the Guildhall, where their feasts were kept, and other ceremonies performed", so if it was like Swaffham we can imagine that St Withburga Lane would have been quite a noisy place on the night of the feast.

If there were 16 active guilds in our town, most of them must have been much smaller than St John the Baptist's in Swaffham, but they still might have provided important services to members. John Hatcher, a Professor of Economic and Social History at Cambridge, has used the exceptionally full local records of Walsham-le-Willows, a village 14 miles south east of Thetford, to tell a fictional but well-founded story of the township in the years of the Black Death, around 1348. He imagines "a huddle of the more prosperous and sober villagers gathered in the churchyard" after hearing the rumours of the coming pestilence and the havoc it produced, with mass burials in unconsecrated ground without the necessary rites. Hatcher imagines the villagers resolving to act collectively, that they would support one another from onset of illness to death, and that each should have a funeral procession and proper burial with priests and mourners and candles, and masses afterwards to help the

departed souls through purgatory. Perhaps some such collective resolution lay behind Dereham's guilds.



In the Middle Ages, the church taught that the souls of the righteous had to spend time being purified by fire in purgatory before they could be admitted to heaven, but the time could be shortened if a priest said a mass for you. This was one of the things that your guild would arrange, but the Reformation banned the teaching and the masses as unbiblical. (This is a drawing dated 1419 from Strasburg. Public Domain – Wikimedia Commons)

But in the first half of the 16th century, the leaders of the Reformation declared that Purgatory was false because it was not in the Bible, and they swept away chantries and guilds whose main official purpose was to help souls through it. The property of the guilds was sold off for government profit, and in Dereham, Parkin says that St Withburga's Guild lost its Guildhall, 5 tenements and 20 acres of land. We can imagine the dismay of the townspeople who valued the Guild and Guildhall for its help to the living, as well as the dead.

According to Parkin, the Guildhall was first sold to Thomas Wodehouse of Waxham, and passed through several owners' hands in the next few years. The Norfolk Heritage Explorer concludes from the visible and excavated remains that a mansion was built in the 17th century. The main visible parts of the house now on the site date to the 18th and 19th centuries. When Parkin completed the Dereham section of the *History of Norfolk* in the middle of the 18th century, the house belonged to James Smyth. A hundred years later, it included a school under the Rev J Thompson, who appears several times in Rev Benjamin Armstrong's Diary. More recently, it was part of the offices of Mitford and Launditch District Council, which may have led some to believe that it had always had that kind of civic function. It is now back in private hands.

There is a saying, "If these walls could talk..." The old Guildhall has left Dereham with an unprepossessing brick wall, but it must have witnessed many sad and happy occasions. All we can do is look at it and try to imagine what they were.

For further information

Hatcher, John, 'The Black Death: the story of a village 1345-1350'. London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2009.

Norfolk Heritage Explorer, Record Number 2883. <https://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?MNF2883-The-Guildhall&Index=2&RecordCount=1&SessionID=ea94acc5-25a3-4e99-b164-c78d22e78bcf>

Parkin, Charles, 'Mitford Hundred and Half: East-Dereham', in An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 10, pp 204-218. This history was initiated by Francis Blomefield, and this volume was written by Charles Parkin before 1765, and published in 1809. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol10/pp204-218>

Pevsner N and Wilson B, 'Norfolk 2: North-West and South' (2nd Edn). The Buildings of England. New Haven, Ct, USA, Yale University Press, 2002

Platt, Colin, 'The Parish Churches of Medieval England'. London, Secker and Warburg, 1981

Wood, Eric, 'Guilds and Guildhalls' in 'Historical Britain'. London, The Harvill Press, 1995

Holman's Swallow Cycles of Dereham *B Scholes*

Reproduced courtesy of Mid-Norfolk Family History Society, from their newsletter

Fellow Veteran-Cycle Club member Paul Weeks has a "New Swallow" gent's bicycle, made in Dereham by C E (Charles Edward/Edmund/Edmond) Holman (1873 – 1960). Charles F Holman (1848-1923) was his father who started the business.¹

On the 1891 Census, the family were living at 43 Norwich Road, Dereham: father as grocer, son as a camera maker.

They appear together on the 1901 Census as "Cycle fitters", still at 43 Norwich Road, Dereham. In the 1911 Census, father is a grocer and subpostmaster, still at 43 Norwich Road. Son Charles Ed also lives on Norwich Road, being listed as Cycle Maker & Dealer, and now married with a two-year old daughter Louisa. He appears in the 1912 Kelly's Directory of Norfolk as 'Cycle agent, 40 Market Place'.



The photo shows Holman's business in Norwich Road, courtesy of Dereham Heritage Trust.

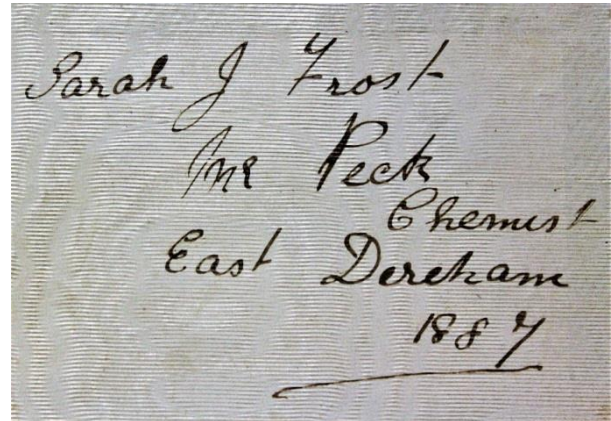
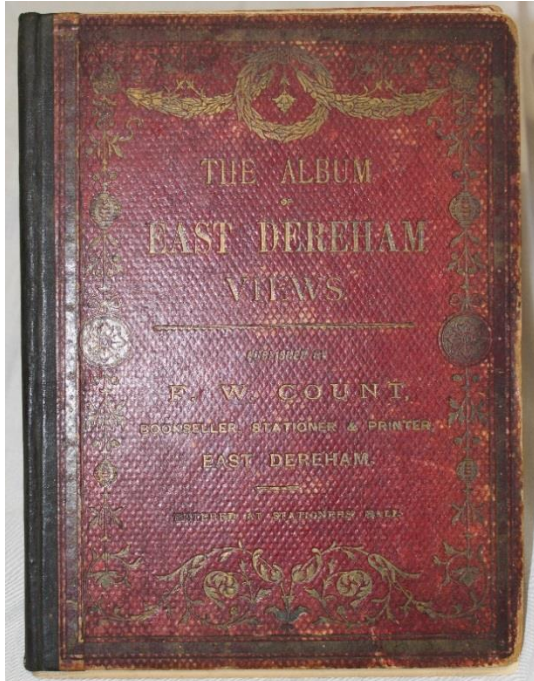
Charles Ed Holman is on the 1921 Census as "Cycle maker" living at "Swallow House", Norwich Road, East Dereham. Father Charles Fenn Holman appears on it as shopkeeper and subpostmaster, still living at 43 Norwich Road, East Dereham, which his granddaughter Louisa Holman was running in 1933 and 1937, according to Kelly's Directories.

Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum in Dereham also has a New Swallow, a ladies' single speed model. The head badge and carrier look identical to those on Paul Weeks' gent's machine. What plating remains seems to be chromium, so both are more likely to be 1930s than earlier.

Ray Miller's V-CC's "Encyclopaedia of Cycle Manufacturers: The Early Years up to 1918" (2nd edition) lists: Holman, C F Located at 43 Upper Norwich Road, East Dereham, Norfolk, in 1898-1908 and maker of the 'Swallow'.

Edward Peck - chemist of East Dereham (1857-1923) *Robena Brown*

Many years ago I was fortunate to come across 'The Album of East Dereham Views' published by F W Count, who as the town bookseller, stationer and printer, occupied the premises now beneath the town sign that most of us remember in the mid-1900s as W F Chambers & Son.

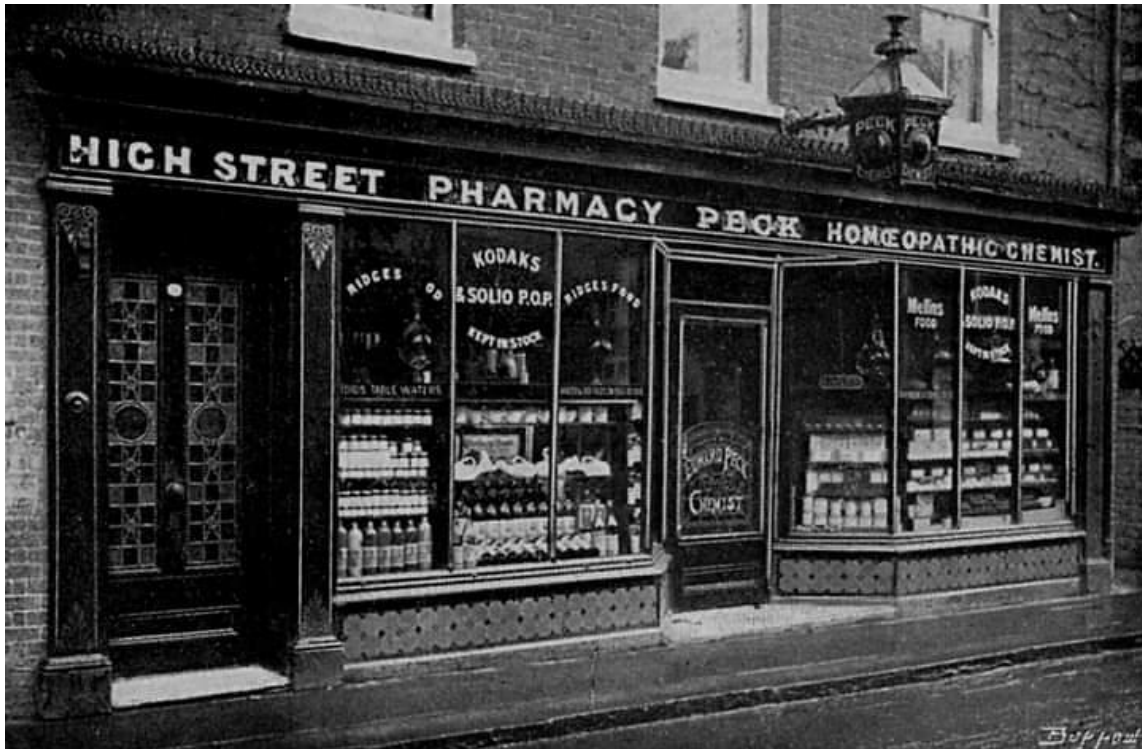


The inside rear cover has an inscription written naming Sarah J Frost, Mr Peck, Chemist of East Dereham and the date of 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Frost is a very common name and Sarah has not yet been identified in records. Mr Peck was much easier to find.

Photographs of Edward Peck's premises at 21 High Street taken in the very early 1900s show the pharmacy where he practised as chemist.



East Dereham High Street from the south



Edward Peck's shop at 21 Dereham High Street

Wanting to know more about Edward Peck and his life in East Dereham it was found that he was born in Ely, Cambridgeshire, in 1856 the son of chemist, George Peck. By 1881 the census details that he was working as a chemist's assistant in Salisbury.

The premises at 21 High Street shown above were formerly those of William Parke who, according to a list of local chemists obtained from the Norfolk Record Office, 'traded as a chemist and druggist prior to 1868, where he was proprietor of a solution for the extermination of turnip fly. His business was acquired by Edward Peck around 1883, who qualified as a chemist and druggist in the same year. Peck was described in 1908 as a 'chemist, druggist and dealer in photographic materials' - all of which is confirmed by the shop window display shown above.

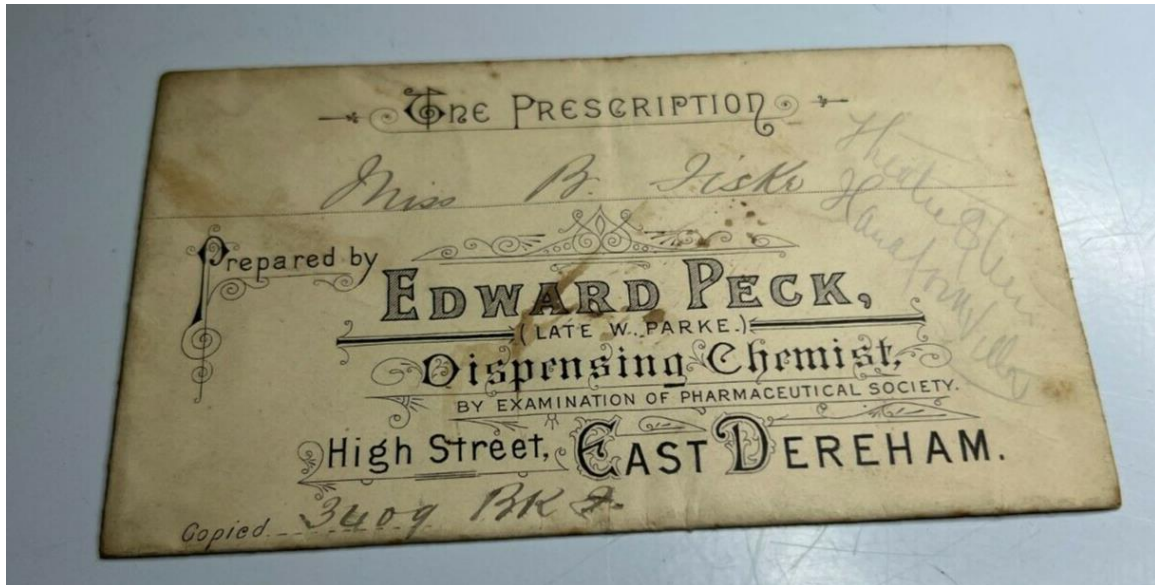
Georgiana Parke (nee Hubbard) had been married to William Parke at St Nicholas' Church in 1869 by the Rev Benjamin J Armstrong. After her husband's death, she and Edward Peck were married on 17 April 1887 by the Rev John Armstrong, Curate of St Nicholas', son of the renowned Rev Armstrong.

Edward Peck advertised various cures for physical ailments in newspapers far and wide. He offered pills to cure gout, 'Dr Richter's celebrated pain-relief', and his own special cure for asthma which appears to have been a cure-all for most respiratory conditions.

PECK'S ASTHMA CURE.

AN Effectual Remedy for Asthma, Bronchitis, Hay Fever, Influenza, Whooping Cough, &c. Sufferers from the above Distressing Complaints are invited to try this Remedy, which never fails to relieve the most violent paroxysm of Asthma. One sufferer says: "Your powder has done me more good than all the expensive remedies." Another says: "I could not be without it." Price 1s. and 2s. 6d.; post 1s. 3d. and 2s. 9d. Prepared only by **EDWARD PECK, Chemist, East Dereham.**

Advertisement in Lowestoft Journal of 16 October 1886



Prescription envelope used by Edward Peck in his dispensing chemist shop

The Norwich Mercury implies in 1902 that Edward Peck was a prominent and trusted member of the East Dereham community when he was appointed as secretary to the committee of the Nursing Association's planned coronation celebrations for the new King Edward VII.

EAST DEREHAM.

CORONATION CELEBRATION.—A meeting of the committee of the Nursing Association was recently held at the Freemasons' Hall to carry out the scheme adopted by the town as a permanent memorial of the Coronation, when the following officers were appointed:—Chairman, Mr. C. G. Wood, Dillington Hall; treasurer, Mr. Charles Cory, manager L. and P. Bank; secretary, Mr. Edward Peck, chemist, High Street. An Executive Committee was also elected, consisting of the chairman, treasurer, and secretary, and the Vicar, the Rev. H. J. L. Arnold, the Rev. R. J. Layzell, Mr. J. P. Bradley, Mrs. Leech, and Miss Vincent. A nurse has been engaged from the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, and it is hoped her services will be available early in September. About £400 has been promised as donations towards the establishment of this commemoration scheme, and of this sum £350 is to be invested as capital in the names of the three trustees appointed at the meeting—Mr. C. B. L. Norgate, Becclesgate House; Mr. Chas. Pearse, Gorgate Hall; and Mr. J. H. Skinner, Eckling Grange. The committee are anxious to receive all the promised donations, which can be paid to the treasurer or secretary.

Norwich Mercury of 16 August 1902

When checking some of the newspapers within the DHT archive of the Dereham and Fakenham Times (printed from 1880) the name of Edward Peck continues to appear as a prominent member of the town. On 21 November 1914 the newspaper contained much about the new military hospital at the vicarage given by Rev Macnaughton Jones for care of the World War I wounded. Edward Peck was clearly a major administrative figure as the appointed Secretary of the Dereham Military Hospital Committee.

By February 1916 newspapers detail that Edward Peck was then Chair of the Hospital Committee while continuing his trade as chemist in the High Street.

AN APPEAL FOR THE HOSPITAL.
Mr. Edward Peck, the Secretary of the Dereham Military Hospital Committee, asks us to state that the following articles are required to complete the furnishing of the hospital, and he will be glad to receive them:—Bed-pans, screens, bed-jackets, night-sheets, feeding-cups, towels, washing-basins, small tables, bedroom chairs, double sheets, mackintosh sheets, hand sheets, easy chairs, slippers, dressing-gowns.

Extract from the Dereham and Fakenham Times of 21 November 1914



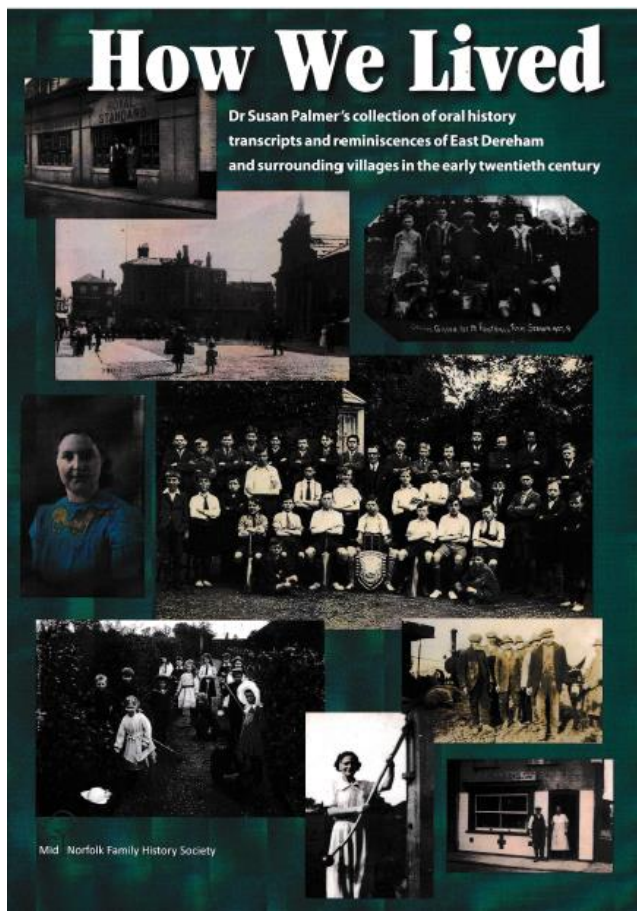
Edward and Georgiana Peck pictured with their beloved pets

The photographs shown on page 10 were found for sale online earlier this year, 15 years after his name was first spotted inside the book of Dereham views. Sometimes it takes that long for a story to come together and these portraits were the completion needed.

Edward Peck died in 1923 aged only 67 years, followed by his widow Georgiana in 1930. They had no children, or other family members qualified to carry on the business.

NRO records of Norfolk chemists show that Edward Peck's assistant, Archie Bullard, assumed control of the business until he was succeeded by H L Sturgeon in the 1940s.

'How We Lived' by Dr Susan Palmer - A review *Susanna Wade-Martins*
 Newly published by Mid-Norfolk Family History Society



WHERE CAN YOU BUY A COPY?

The book will be available at our regular, meetings, on the third Wednesday of every month, (except December).

They will also be available at events which we attend locally and also by post.

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Dr Susan Palmer came to Dereham in 1954 and remained here all her working life, living in Hill House at the north end of the Market Place. She was always interested in people and when she retired in 1980 she began collecting reminiscences from her former patients about their lives and those of their parents. These notes were then deposited in the Norfolk Record Office, but were closed to the public until 2010. Dr Palmer died at the age of 100 in 2022. She published *Daisy Rayner's Memoirs* in 1989, but *How we lived* is the first time that the notes about nine families living in the Dereham neighbourhood have been published alongside fascinating photographs loaned by surviving family members.

Many of the reminiscences in the book, such as those of Beattie Howard of Baxter's Row, Dereham, describe in detail the people and conditions in which they lived. Born in the workhouse at Gressenhall in 1915, she was brought up by her grandmother in Baxter's Row and vividly records life there. In spite of the violence of some of the men, Beattie described it as 'the kindest place to live' and was able to paint a vivid picture of life and the characters there in the 1930s. For instance there was the windmill man who made windmills out of a

stick and a piece of wallpaper for the children who brought him jam jars. She also remembered all the shops in Dereham such as Aldiss's where Mr Aldiss was 'the grand lord of his shop' and provided high chairs for customers to sit on at the counter. Like other girls depicted in the book she worked both as a domestic help and as a shop assistant. She also worked stripping osiers for a basket maker. After marrying a local man, Tommy Lee, in 1939 she took various jobs including in a laundry and at Hobbies. Beattie died in 2007, but her relatives were able to provide many photographs to illustrate her story.

Other entries in the book describe the various trades carried out by their authors. The large Perkins family were shop keepers who ran grocers and fish shops and had a smoke house in Baxter Row while Gilbert's wine shop is covered by his granddaughter, Margaret Pett. Again, the entries are accompanied by a wide selection of family photographs.

Other occupations represented include malting. James and Charles Sizeland, father and son, worked in Wells, Ryburgh and finally Dereham maltings. The process of malting is fully described and illustrated. Ethel Neave's father ran a market garden. Ethel (1904-1995) remembered getting up at 3am during the strawberry season to jangle bells made of corned beef tins on strings to frighten the birds away. Butcher Rayner (1907-1986) was the son of the farm foreman at Alby, near Aylsham, and recorded in detail all the tasks carried out on the farm. As a boy he watched the carpenter make the cartwheels to be tyred by the blacksmith. The yardsman had 30 bullocks to feed. 'These people were real experts and wonderful to watch'. 'Butcher' was helping on the farm from five years old and at six years he was looking after the horse that walked round and round working the elevator.

The memories of Ernie Tovell (1908-1994) of Dereham are by far the most detailed in the collection, running to 40 pages, while others describe Etling Green and Swanton Morley.

Appendices include the history of the Norfolk Fire Brigade, the life of Len Heffer (1882-1965) and the story of the Dereham and District Disabled People's Club, set up by Dr Susan Palmer and represent only one example of her many contributions to Dereham society. The fact that she was able to gain the confidence of the people whose memories are included in this book is testimony to the regard in which she was held by her patients in the town.

There is much in this book for those interested both in the families and their lives in Dereham as well as those seeking eye-witness accounts of the various trades carried out in and around the town. All the descriptions are fully illustrated with family photographs and the Mid-Norfolk Family History Society is to be congratulated in their work of collecting so many in this very valuable publication.

Annual General Meeting

The Trust's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 February 2023, at the usual time of 19:30. We have no proposals for resolutions this time, nor do we plan to change the subscription rates, but there will be our Annual Report and the Accounts to present. All relevant material will be sent out to everyone in the New Year.

For the rest of the evening, **we are inviting our members to take 5 to 10 minutes to tell everyone about some piece of research or area of interest** you have been pursuing. If you think this would be something you could do, please let Ken Hawkins know so we can plan the timetable for the evening. Equally, if you have questions about this, please do get in touch.

Recent talks *Ken Hawkins*

September : The Glaven Ports to 1800 by Jonathan Hooton

Jonathan opened his profusely illustrated talk by referring to how he had come to North Norfolk, seen the tiny river channels and wondered how these could have served significant medieval ports. At the time he was preparing an 8000 word dissertation, which has since spurred the production of two books.

The ports concerned are Cley, Blakeney and Wiveton. The origins of their names might be

- Cley - Claia (Domesday Book) from Old English clæg = clay soil; maps show spellings as Clay (1586), Cly (1693), Clye (1724) and Clay (1854)
- Blakeney - Blakenye, Black Island or Blacca's Island (also known as Snitterley, Domesday Book's Snuterlea)
- Wiveton - Wifa's tun

In 1200, there was a wide estuary as far as Glandford, with two short arms - to Wiveton in the west and Cley (the present church) in the east. An aerial photograph showed a wide, flat flood plain matching this estuary, which the flooding in 1953 refilled with water to give an idea of what it had looked like then.

Blakeney spit then extended only as far as north of Morston, and Jonathan had tracked its movement over time: it had steadily extended west at an average rate of about 7 metres a year, but also moved towards the land at about 1 metre per year. (Both of these figures are averages over many years, and movement was in fits and starts, depending on storms.) Jonathan had tracked these movements and related them to various maps, such as Faden's map of 1795, which confirmed the accuracy of the calculations. These movements continue, leading the Environment Agency to cut a new channel c2005-8 to compensate for the silting of the New Cut. Jonathan also explained how laterals grew - further arms of land at the end of the spit, having a north-south orientation as a result of the movement of sand and shingle.

The use of the ports was illustrated by a range of records:

The ships

- 1230 - a letter of release of ships from Blakeney and Cley (at this time, there was no navy, so when ships were required for war, the king ordered them to be held in their ports)
- 1242 - records existed of ships kept at Snitterley and Morston
- 1298 - Blakeney was to supply ships to go to Sluys
- 1301 - ships were needed to sail to Berwick; these were from Blakeney, listed alongside those from Ipswich, Southampton, Newcastle, Lynn and Yarmouth
- 1335 - 12 prominent men acted to release a ship

Trade

- Blakeney was a port for cod and ling, supplying the royal household
- John de Blakeney lived in London (died 1397)
- Agricultural produce was exported, while wine and salt were imported

Piracy

- 1321 - a ship was ransacked
- 1409 - a ship was taken to Normandy and ransom demanded for its 13 crew (many promised to pay and were released, but failed to do so, to the anger of the remaining captives who did not escape until much later)
- 1412 - a treaty was agreed to end rivalry with Hanse merchants

Jonathan then showed photographs of the few physical remains of the ports, starting with the undercroft of the Guildhall at Blakeney, though he thought this was more likely to be the cellar of a well-to-do house. He then showed an archway in Cley - the local story was that it

came from the marshes: an archaeological dig of Blakeney Chapel (2005-7) provided no clear evidence, though its doorway was the right size.

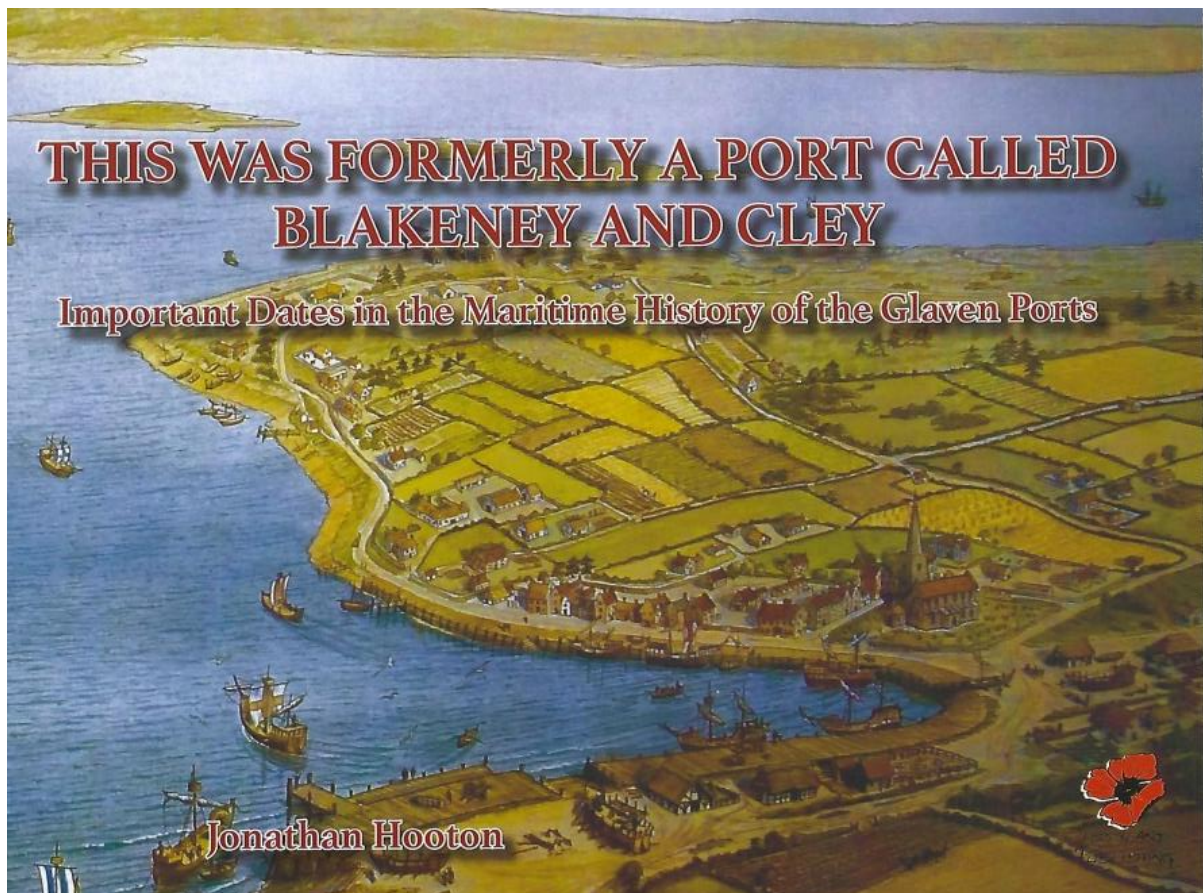
Coming forward in time, there was trade with Iceland in the 15th century, and in the 16th century, coastal trade with ships taking out agricultural produce and fish, and bringing in salt, timber and London luxuries. There was also considerable overseas trade to Scotland, Holland, Germany, France and Spain.

The ships themselves changed little over time, medieval vessels being single masted with probably a square sail. They were clinker built (overlapping hull planks) and had leeboards to give stability at sea, which their flat hulls (necessary to allow them to lie safely in the channel at low tide) could not provide.

Decline started with enclosure and embankment of land at Salthouse by John van Hasedunck in 1637. By the following year, fishermen were complaining they could not get through, and there was much opposition. Tides no longer came up the river, and their scouring function was lost. The impact was felt in a variety of ways - the price of coal, the lack of use of inns, reduction in imports and exports. The Privy Council eventually ordered the bank to be removed, but by then the damage was done and irreversible: Wiveton ceased to operate as a port, though (going ahead somewhat), in 1786, Blakeney and Cley had more ships than ever.

Frustratingly, the story didn't get to 1800 as we ran out of time - and Jonathan had in any case said that there was a whole extra tale to be told to bring us up from 1800 to the present. Perhaps another time ...

In the meantime, there is information in his latest book - £9.95 from Poppyland.



October : Old Dereham Industry and Manufacturing by Robena Brown

23 members and 16 non members were taken through 117 slides drawn from the collections of DHT, Robena Brown and Gordon Olley (who was sadly unwell and unable to join us), covering all modes of industry and transport that once found their homes in Dereham.

These two photos show the early Crane farm waggons c1910 built at Great Fransham for sale at Dereham Market Place, then 50-60 years later the huge transporters leaving South Green factory to be exported around the world.



November : Norfolk Postal History 2021 -1579 by David Leathart

This was another talk to which a written account can't do justice, as most of it was showing stamps and their cancellation; without seeing these, the history told by David can't be properly appreciated. The history of the postal service falls into two parts: from now back to 1840, using envelopes and stamps, and pre 1840 when letters could be folded sheets, secured with sealing wax. 1840 saw the introduction of the famous Penny Black and the less well known Twopenny Blue - these were the world's first gummed stamps. Going earlier than this time took us to the days when the recipient, not the sender, paid the postal charge (or not, if they chose not to receive it). Much of this stemmed from 1635 when King Charles I opened the post to public use. David's talk illustrated these, and other, basic facts with an extensive range of photographs of envelopes bearing stamps, and postmarks showing their cancellation; he also had brought a small sample with him for us to look at.



Membership matters

If you are not currently a member, can we invite you to consider joining? From September each year, we offer half price membership for the remainder of the subscription year (ie to the end of February), while new joiners paying full rate from January will have membership to 1 March in the following year. The membership form is at https://www.derehamhistory.com/uploads/1/6/2/3/16236968/dht_membership_leaflet_mar22.pdf or you can request a copy from Ken Hawkins. Then either post your completed form with payment or scan and email it to ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk.

Payment We can take payment at one of our meetings (cash or cheque only), but there are also two other ways open for payment: by cheque payable to Dereham Heritage Trust, posted to Ken Hawkins, DHT, 26 Hillfields, Dereham NR19 1UE, or by bank transfer to Dereham Heritage Trust, sort code 20-28-20, account 10179752 - but if you use this method please make sure you quote your surname as a reference so that we can recognise the payment as coming from you.

Programme of events 2023

We have a full programme of speakers and events planned through the year, though it remains open to change.

Wherever possible, and where the speaker agrees, we are recording each talk and making it available to members until the next following meeting date; we will send details by email to members. Members who choose to watch the talks in that way are invited to pay the usual £1 charge as a donation to offset our costs - our speakers still deserve full recompense for their time and effort! Payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer as noted in the

[Membership matters](#) section above. Thanks to those of our members who have donated for our online talks up until now.

For the full programme, please see the back page.

Queen Mothers' Garden reopening

The Queen Mothers' Garden was dedicated to the Queen Mother in 1983. In recent times, it had become somewhat run down, and its opening hours limited, especially at the weekend. It has been redesigned to make it more accessible and is open 7 days a week - entrances from Church Street and past Meeting Point. Study of the OS maps from 1885 and even further back to the Tithe Maps show that the land has never been developed and its existence as a garden has been continuous.

Welcome to the Queen Mother's Garden

In the historic heart of town

You are now at the north entrance to the lovely walled garden that was dedicated to the Queen Mother in 1983. The garden was redesigned in 2022 to make it more accessible to local community groups and visitors to the area. It now includes sensory planting and several spaces for different uses.

Key to diagram, right

- 1 Garden information board
- 2 Backed benches (made from recycled materials)
- 3 Picnic bench area (with games boards attached)
- 4 Queen Mother's planting bed
- 5 Book swap cabinet location
- 6 Animal boxes, hand painted by the Church School
- 7 Pergola Archways
- 8 Kiosk area for events
- 9 Zeppelin information panel
- 10 Queen Mother's plaque

The garden redesign took care to preserve features from the original walled garden, including the weathered rose bricks which give the space so much of its charm. At the same time, the newly laid out garden can now cater for community meetings, events and performances.

Opening times

The Queen Mother's Garden is open seven days a week:

- October to March – from 8am to 6 pm
- April to September – from 6am to 8pm

The garden is designed to be wheelchair and pushchair friendly, with the easiest access from the south entrance in the Guildhall car park.

This garden is continuously monitored by CCTV for your safety, if you have any concerns, please contact **TEL NO**

Please use the bins provided or take your litter home.

THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER THIS COMMUNITY SPACE

Queen Mother's Visit

The Queen Mother was the mother of Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret. She was born the Honourable Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon on 4 August 1900 and in 1923 was married to HRH Albert, Duke of York, The King and Queen's second son.

When King Edward VIII abdicated in 1936, the Duke of York was proclaimed King George VI, and his Duchess became Queen Elizabeth, the first British-born Queen consort since Tudor times.

The Queen Mother visited Dereham several times and is seen here on the occasion of the opening of the Queen Mother's Garden, dedicated to her after her 80th birthday.

27th July 1983: the Queen Mother unveils the plaque, accompanied by Mr Ison, Chairman of Breckland Council.

Produced by the Dereham Wayfinding Partnership of Dereham Town Council, Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council, the aboutDereham Partnership and Dereham Heritage Trust

One of the information panels, designed by Sue Walker



Next issue

We plan to produce a Newsletter every quarter, in March, June, September and December; the press date for the next issue is **15 February**. If you have material for this issue, please send it 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.

Please keep this page as your reminder of our 2022/3 programme

Planned meeting dates continue to be the second Wednesday of each month, at Trinity Methodist Church, 31 Trinity Close, Dereham NR19 2EP (off Theatre Street), starting at 19:30, and ending with light refreshments before close at 21:00. 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.

14 December 2022

Dereham in the 1980s - The Films of Michael Burton (continues to 21:30)

Brent Scholes

11 January 2023

Norfolk's earth heritage

Tim Holt-Wilson

8 February

AGM

followed by reports from members on the results of their recent discoveries

8 March

Restoring Dereham's ponds - Part 2

Andy Hind

12 April

Narborough Bone Mill

Graeme Brown

10 May

The Anglo Saxons at Great Ryburgh

Matt Champion

14 June

The Caistor Roman Project

Mike Pinner

12 July

Heraldry (full title to be confirmed)

Penny and Rob Knee

9 August

The conservation movement in Norfolk

Susanna Wade-Martins

13 September

The Norwich dialect and its origins

Professor Peter Trudgill

11 October

to be arranged

to be confirmed

8 November

For a Time Lost: Researching the Gressenhall Church Band

Bridget Yates

13 December

Local shops of yesteryear

Robena Brown