



Chair's Report *Peter Wade-Martins*

This report is based on that being made to our forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Introduction Overall, we feel that this has been a particularly successful year. While visitor figures to the museum were down a little, numbers attending our evening talks are increasing significantly, and the number of our followers on Facebook is most encouraging. The post-Covid return of the Annual Dinner, in the Ploughshare at Beeston, was a great success. We published a new guidebook to the cottages (see below). We have also started the process of having a Dereham-wide discussion based on the committee's view that heritage provision for Dereham is not adequate and something needs to be done about it. Our view is that we need a Heritage Centre in the Town Centre to celebrate the past, the present and future possibilities of our great town. But DHT can't do it alone: we need the widest possible debate.

Bishop Bonner's Cottages

For 2023, the main changes in the displays were to give greater emphasis on cottage life to enhance the kitchen area in the north room (which is also the entrance for visitors).

Our target was to open for 66 three-hour sessions, on Friday mornings 10 till 1 and on Saturdays 10 till 4 from 6th May to 30th September. We had enough volunteers to open in all but two of those sessions when there were last minute problems. Over the season we admitted 529 adults and 86 children. Those figures include the four September Heritage Open Days when we had a staggering 286 adults and 46 children. We also had five group visits from both Norwich and Wymondham, as well as from the Brownies and a local school.

Of those visitors who filled in the feedback form, all said that they enjoyed their visit "a lot", which is very satisfying.

Our 2024 season

Preparations are well in hand for the 2024 season. This year we will be highlighting the businesses, trades and shops located in the town centre during the period from the 1860s to 1890s. This will give our visitors a glimpse of Dereham when it was a thriving market town with a population of over 5,000. It will show examples of employment and trade in the variety of shops and businesses trading in the town centre.

Items from our Archive on display will be linked appropriately to an individual trade or shop. For example, there will be a Victorian Writing Box along with its contents which could have been purchased from Leonard Hatfield, stationer, printer and bookseller, situated in the Market Place.

There will also be a box of a items which will be suitable for children to handle and to identify!

Museum acquisitions

Many donations of items important to the heritage of the town have been given during the past year including a tremendous amount of material pertaining to Hobbies and an 1840 framed watercolour of Church Street and St Nicholas' given to us after the closure of Case &

Dewing in whose premises it hung for many decades. A framed oil portrait of W F Crane, founder of Cranes Trailers, is in the process of being donated to our care.

We also attended an auction to acquire the silver desk seal of Sir John Fenn (1739-1794) who lived in Hill House in the Market Place. This unique seal includes his coat of arms set against a castle with his crest above and 'NORFOLK' below. Well known as an antiquarian he was also a respected magistrate heavily involved in the judicial system in the county and was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1791.

New guidebook to the cottages

The most important exhibit we have is the building itself. Our understanding is made complicated by the fact that 1502 in the pargeting on the front wall and at the southern end of the building is clearly not the date of these buildings. The true date needs to be established from a structural study of the carpentry in the timber frame. Having organised such a survey, we were able to produce a comprehensive review of the dates of the three cottages covering the seventeenth century, starting with the south cottage, being the oldest, from the early 1600s. We are pleased to say the guide has sold well. It was designed to be read as you went around the cottages, although many took it home to read afterwards.

The Town Council has paid for the restoration of the pargeting which is now correctly coloured pure white.

Greater marketing and publicity

The creation of a Facebook page, combined with new posters each month for the lectures, featuring wonderful artwork for each occasion, has made an enormous difference and has greatly increased awareness of our programme of events and of the wider work of the Heritage Trust within Dereham.

A Heritage Centre for Dereham?

There is no doubt that Dereham gets a raw deal when it comes to heritage provision compared with Swaffham, Watton, Wymondham and Aylsham. So, we believe it is time we did something about it. We organised a meeting for 28th February with invitations going out to a selection of the movers and shakers of our town to come together to discuss what we could achieve. But we have emphasised that we are too small as an organisation to do this on our own. We hope this can be linked to the initiative taken by George Freeman MP and the Rev Paul Cubitt which we hope will start the process of making the town a more enjoyable place in which to work and live. See next page for a report on this meeting.

Bob Davies 1935-2023

We were deeply saddened by the death of our longest-serving volunteer and supporter, Bob Davies. Bob and his wife Margaret served the Dereham Antiquarian Society for well over 20 years, organising coach trips and outings for members. We miss him.

Come along to our AGM (19:30 on Wednesday 13 March at Trinity Hall as usual) to hear what your Committee has been doing - and plans to do - join us (1) to hold us to account for our actions on your behalf, (2) to tell us what you think we should be doing and (3) to hear about some of the items in our archive. Oh, and (4) enjoy some celebratory cake!

Heritage Centre

There was a full house for the meeting on 28 February at Dereham Golf Club. Peter opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. He described the difference between a Heritage Centre and a Museum - a Museum being a place to display a range of items, while a Heritage Centre is more about people: it's a place where people can experience their memories in the context of Dereham and its varied history. It was also somewhere that could serve many functions - such as tourist information, a café and toilets. Taking this message further, Sue Gattuso related how the Heritage Centre at Swaffham came about, noting on the way a number of questions and issues that would need to be addressed as the proposal developed. She also spoke on behalf of Chris Hutchings of Watton Museum, who was unable through illness to attend.

Following these introductions, a message of support from MP George Freeman was read out, referring to the initiative he and Paul Cubitt had started to promote Dereham. Then councillors and staff from Dereham Town Council, Breckland District Council and Norfolk County Council voiced their own support (as well as some words of advice) and a caution about the amount of work that would be needed to establish a Heritage Centre. Others in the audience added their own words of encouragement, including about Dereham and Mid Norfolk Family History Society. Many added acknowledgement of Dereham's heritage already exemplified by the Windmill and the Mid-Norfolk Railway, as well as Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum itself.

Bringing the meeting to a close, Peter asked for a show of hands from those in support, receiving an overwhelming response. He proposed that a group be formed to take things forward, noting that the endeavour went far wider than Dereham Heritage Trust, involving all concerned with the town's heritage and culture.



all in favour ...



Attendees at the meeting

Every item has a story to tell ...

This item reproduced by kind permission of Robena Brown and Susan Dewing of Shipdham History Group

In November 2023, Shipdham History Group were fortunate to find and buy a William IV pewter quart measuring jug inscribed with 'S. Morris SHIPDHAM'. We were intrigued to find out who was 'S. Morris', and when and what was his link to the village. Surely, the jug had a story to tell.



Early nineteenth century quart pewter mug owned by Samuel Morris of Shipdham

It wasn't hard to find our mystery man (we assumed it was a man) and Samuel Morris was soon found in many different records. Unusually, he was born at sea in 1796; the first Shipdham resident we have ever found to be so, and had formerly lived in Lambeth, Surrey before moving to the village. He married Martha Abell, a Shipdham woman, on 5th November 1823 - exactly 200 years before we found his measuring jug.

<i>Samuel Morris</i>		of the	Parish
<i>of Lambeth in the County of Surrey</i>		<i>Widower</i>	
and	<i>Martha Abell</i>	of	<i>this</i> Parish
<i>Spinster</i>			
were married in this		<i>Church</i>	by <i>Banns</i> with Consent of
		this	<i>Fifth</i> Day of
<i>November</i>		in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <i>Twenty three</i>	
By me <i>F. W. Cubitt, Curate</i>			
This Marriage was solemnized between us		<i>Samuel Morris</i>	
		<i>Martha Abell</i>	
In the Presence of		<i>George Abell</i>	
		<i>S. Ann Abell</i>	
No. 121.		<i>Thomas Mondhouse</i>	

Extract from Shipdham All Saints Church Marriage Register of 1823

It is interesting that the marriage register of 1823 detailed that the Rev. F.W. Cubitt performed the marriage ceremony as curate to the Rector of All Saints Church, the Rev.

Charles L. Edridge. The curate's surname leapt from the page to us since the Rev. Canon Paul Cubitt is presently Rector of the church of St. Nicholas and the Dereham and District Ministry Team, the Benefice of which All Saints is a member church.

Samuel Morris was a widower at the time of his 1823 marriage to Martha Abell when he was 27 years of age. No children could be found as issue from his first marriage, but he and Martha went on to have the usual large family of the times - nine children: seven girls and two boys.

Sadly, five children, including both sons, did not survive infancy and they are all buried in Shipdham churchyard but, as was typical of the period, have no memorial.

In the 1841 census, Samuel, Martha and their children were living in Market Street and he was listed with the occupation of 'Straw Dealer'. Throughout his time in the village, he was in trade of some kind, mostly related to farming but also over many years as a wine merchant - hence the necessary measuring jug!

By 1848 Samuel was a churchwarden of All Saints and his home overlooked the church since he and his family resided then in Dean House, now known as Shipdham Manor Care Home. We found a link to St. Nicholas' Church, Dereham in that the Rev. George Deans Dundas Watt, twice Rector of All Saints Church, Shipdham, had previously been curate to the Rev. Benjamin J. Armstrong and is often mentioned in Rev. Armstrong's celebrated diaries. The property name of 'Dean House' came from the Rev. Watt's own name.



1972 postcard of Dean House long before conversion to a care home

Samuel's occupation in the 1851 census was given as a farmer of 33 acres employing two men. His daughter Katherine, then aged 23 years, gave her occupation as a schoolmistress and we note from later records that a warehouse, attached to Dean House, had been converted to a schoolroom and we can safely assume that Katherine taught village children there in the manner of a private dame school.

This 1845 newspaper notice of the revival of the annual Church Fair that evolved from 'The Drynkings' was jointly organised by Samuel Morris as one of the two churchwardens of the day. The 'Camping Land' detailed is now the village green.

In her 1943 'Norfolk Life', Lilius Rider Haggard describes camping land, ie, ground where camping matches were held: 'usually twelve to a side, sometimes fifteen, they played stripped to the waist, and the qualifications were that they must be good runners, boxers and wrestlers.'

Sounding like a violent form of rugby using a ball the size of a cricket-ball and having two goals each, 'the object was to seize and convey it between their own goals...winning a "snotch" if he gains a goal.' The game took 2-3 hours to win and was 'played amid the shouting and roaring of half of the population of the contiguous villages, often degenerating into a free fight, and the game died away in East Anglia around 1800.'

After the death of Samuel Morris in 1856, the Norfolk Chronicle of 21st August 1858 advertised an estate sale which included Dean House and the adjoining Chequers public house with brewery.

Shipdham Fair.

GENTLEMEN, Farmers, Cattle Dealers, and others, are respectfully informed, that the FAIR at SHIPDHAM will be held on the CAMPING LAND in that Parish, on **Monday Next, June 30th, 1845.**

Hurdles for Sheep may be had on application to Mr. Wm. Stacey.

N.B.—No Booths for Stalls will be allowed by Persons not resident in the Parish, unless paid for before erecting the same. Application to be made to Mr. Samuel Morris or Mr. John Butcher, the Churchwardens.

**SAM. MORRIS,
JNO. BUTCHER.**

Shipdham, June 26th, 1845.

VALUABLE SMALL ESTATE AT SHIPDHAM.

MESSRS. BUTCHER are instructed to SELL by AUCTION, at the King's Arms Inn, East Dereham, on Friday, the 27th of August, 1858, at Three for Four o'clock in the Afternoon, in Five Lots, viz. :—

Lot 1.—A capital brick-built RESIDENCE, in the occupation of Mrs. Morris, situate near the Church at Shipdham, containing a Vestibule, good Dining-room and Drawing-room, Two Kitchens, Store-room, Pantry, Dairy, Seven Bed-rooms, Dressing-room, and excellent Cellar for Wine and Ale.

A Warehouse, now used as a school-room, a three-stall Stable, with Hay, Harness, Chaise, and Knife-houses, and Granary over the same.

A Flower Garden, Orchard, part of excellent walled-in Garden, with Tool-house and Offices; also part of a piece of Pasture Land adjoining, the whole containing by survey 1a. 1r. 20p.

Lot 2.—The CHEQUERS PUBLIC-HOUSE, with Brewery, large arched Cellar, Stable, &c., in the occupation of Edward Carr; part of a walled-in Garden, occupied by Mrs. Morris; and part of a long piece of Pasture Land adjoining, in the occupation of Mr. George H. Winkfield, containing by survey, 0a. 0r. 22p.

This Lot is well situated next the Church-lane and the Roads to Watton, Dereham, and Letton.

Lot 3.—A piece of rich old PASTURE LAND and part of an Inclosure of fine ARABLE LAND adjoining, called the "Home Pightle," containing together 3a. 1r. 26p., in the occupation of Mr. Winkfield.

Lot 4.—An excellent brick-built Barn, Implement Shed, Stable, Cart Lodge, Two Cow-houses, Fowl and Straw-houses, part of two pieces of fine Pasture Land adjoining; part of an Inclosure of Arable Land, called the "Home Pightle;" and Two Inclosures of Arable Land, called "Great Bullocks" and "Seven Acres," containing together 20a. 2r. 35p., in the occupation of Mr. Winkfield.

Lot 5.—An Inclosure of very productive ARABLE LAND, called "Coe's Close," containing 7a. 3r. 36p., in the occupation of Mr. Winkfield.

For Particulars and Conditions of Sale, apply to Messrs. Cooper and Sons, Solicitors, East Dereham; or Messrs. Butcher, Auctioneers, Norwich, and 37, Bedford-row,

Norfolk Chronicle 21 August 1858



Mug belonging to Edward Carr of The Chequers

In 2022, a pewter tankard inscribed with 'Edward Carr' was found in Arizona, US, and the new owner shared photos of it with our group after finding us via the Parish Council. Edward Carr (1816-1883) was known to have lived and worked as a farmer, brewer and innkeeper at The Chequers public house adjacent to Dean House. It was an amazing coincidence that personal, and almost certainly cherished, items belonging to two men who lived side by side in the nineteenth century have both come to light.

It is surprising how much information can be found just from a name on an old jug.

Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum Display for 2024 *Jane Heyburn*



The 1872 Harrods Directory of Norwich and Norfolk

As some of you may already know the display for this year is based on the Trades, Businesses and Shops located in Central Dereham from the late 1860s to the early 1890s. The criteria I have used is that they must be mentioned on both the 1871 and 1881 census and, if appropriate, the 1891 census; are mentioned in the Trade Directory of the time; are in newspaper adverts/articles about the shop/trade; and that we have an archive artefact which is an appropriate example. It is hoped that there will be one good example of each type of shop, trade and business giving a general picture of Dereham during this time.

During this period the population was over 5,000 and Dereham was a thriving market town. There were a number of amenities available eg the Railway, the Corn Hall and the Assembly Rooms. In addition, Sewerage and Water works were being built and there were opportunities for those with an entrepreneurial spirit to open shops and provide trades with employment.

A large map of Dereham in 1884 will be displayed with the history of the building and facilities in place alongside. Take, for example, the cemetery - how much did it cost, who provided the land and when was the cemetery custodian supplied with a lawnmower?! Also, how many Banks were there and who were the Managers?

To accompany the shops, trades and businesses chosen for display we are using items we hold in our archive. There are fans, bonnets, umbrellas and parasols which we hope to use as well as stationery items such as pens and inkwells, as well as a print of Dereham produced by Leonard Hadfield who was a Stationer, Printer and Bookseller of the period. We also have tools of the trade such as those used by shoe makers, leather workers and carpenters.

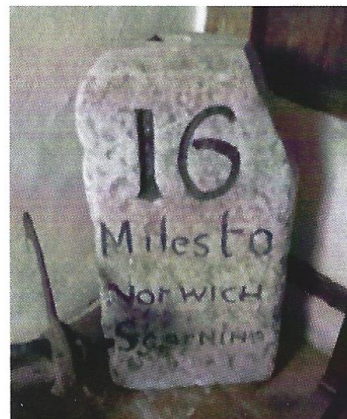
We have a large glass and metal display case (thank you Trevor), which this year will show off our recent purchases for example the Tipstave, the Skinner Camera and the Fenn seal all of which will be accompanied by information details.

Finally, if there is space and time, articles from newspapers will be reproduced - who doesn't want to know about the elopements, the lodgers who kept stealing clothes from Mr Rice or the grocer's assistant who knocked down Mrs Willimont, breaking her arm and knocking out one of her teeth!

Our milestone

We are pleased to reproduce a recent item by Carol Haines from Newsletter 46 of the Milestone Society (<https://www.milestonesociety.co.uk/>) about the milestone in the Museum - make sure you have a look when you next visit!

Museum milestone. Besides being the Milestone Society's membership secretary, Ken Hawkins and his wife Catherine are trustees of the Dereham Heritage Trust. There has been a milestone (NO_NSM16A; Norwich 16/Swaffham 12) on display in Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum for some years but no information about it is given at present, and they asked the Norfolk rep to write an explanation for it. The stone, which comes from the parish of Scarning just west of Dereham, was reputedly found in a hedge, was then used as a garden ornament, and was eventually given to the museum in 1986.



NO_NSM16A

Photo: Ken Hawkins

The road from Norwich to Swaffham via Dereham became a turnpike in 1770 and the minutes show that milestones were made for the road in 1782. These were replaced by a cast iron set in 1822, and the present surviving stones with metal shields date from 1868. It has been suggested that the museum stone could even pre-date the turnpike as the inscription is fairly crude, and it is known that a subscription was raised for a set of milestones between Norwich and Dereham in 1755. The reason for the square depression in the top is unknown. Redundant milestones were often re-used. Could this have supported a wooden post? There is an eye-witness account of the Norwich 16 milestone of the 1868 series (NO_NSM16; Dereham 1/Swaffham 11) being buried in 1940. It must have been dug up again, possibly when the original turnpike road was by-passed by a new section of the A47, and it is now within a lay-by in Scarning.

Volunteers needed!

Preparations are underway for the re-opening of the museum on Friday 3 May. We hope to be able to open on Friday mornings 10 to 1pm, and Saturdays 10 to 4pm, until the museum closes for the season on Saturday 28 September. But this will depend on how many volunteers we have to staff the museum, and there are currently a few vacancies to fill.

Volunteers always work in pairs, and there will be a half day training and get together for all volunteers before the museum opens. Volunteers can opt to staff the museum as often as suits them, ranging from once a week to a few sessions in total during the season.

If you are interested in volunteering, and would like to have a chat about it, or know somebody else who might be interested, **please get touch with the Volunteer Co-ordinator, tel 07732 858020.**

Recent talks

December : Dereham Shops of Yesteryear : Robena Brown and Gordon Olley
Robena Brown



Gordon Olley, a well-known Dereham photographer, together with Beanie Brown presented over 150 images of *Dereham Shops of Yesteryear* to a packed room in December. Their presentation had drawn upon Gordon's own extensive collection supplemented by images from our own archive and some from the 1980s and 1990s which came from two albums that had been kindly donated to the Trust by PACT's Dereham charity shop.



Commencing the 'tour' at the north end of the Market Place we saw the area as it looked in the mid twentieth century showing Flatt and Starlings shops, a different road layout, no traffic-lights and interesting cars.



This Church Street image c1880 was the earliest shown with clear signage for Skipper & Allen's Leather Manufactory posted on the side of the White Horse pub. It served as a very interesting comparison to the framed watercolour c1840 of the same view, now in our archive, and which had hung for decades in Case & Dewing's estate agency. That building was here occupied by Nicholson.



On the corner of the High Street with Norwich Street, H S Kingston, later Kingston & Hurn, dominated the area. This image was taken in 1901 to celebrate the accession of King Edward VII.



Over 100 years later in 2003 we see the well-known toyshop of Bonds run by the Misses Thelma and Cynthia Bond which had formerly been their father's cycle shop.

We were very pleased that night to welcome many new visitors who enjoyed an evening of pleasurable nostalgia and shared their own knowledge and stories with us so we all learned more about the shops of Dereham.

January : What the Normans did to and for Norwich : Adrian O'dell *Ken Hawkins*

Adrian opened his well illustrated talk by noting he was a landscape historian, interested in human impact on landscapes. He set the scene by describing Norwich before 1066.

In the 8th to 11th centuries (middle and late Saxon period), much of the area was ancient woodland (which is not thick tree cover), with scattered villages and farmsteads. The River Wensum (= 'winding') then had a greater width and volume than at present, so the area was good for livestock, drinking water, fishing and transport. Middle Saxon Norwic was made up of Westwic, Coslany, Norowic, Nedham and Conesford, with houses and wooden churches. In the late Saxon period, the population rose as the area was good for settlement with good access to the North Sea (the river was navigable up to Westwic but not beyond). Industries were developing and villages merging to form Norwic.

Isolated Danish Viking raids took place from the 8th century, targeting churches and minsters (which contained portable valuable articles). Later, the Anglo Saxon Chronicles reported on further raids, including in 1004 the incursion of King Sweyne (Forkbeard), who burned parts of Norwic and then returned the following year. By 1065 it was prosperous, with a population of about 5500, and a principal port trading to north west Europe. (The fens provided a barrier to westward trading.) It had 1320 burgesses (taxpayers and property owners). It also boasted 25 churches, mostly wooden, and its own mint.

In 1066 the Normans arrived. The Nortmanni (Northmen) were ruthless and forceful rulers of Normandy, with piratical ancestors. The Normans also went to other countries but William, Duke of Normandy, had a valid claim to the English throne. After the victory at Hastings, England's links to Denmark and Norway were broken, replaced by ties to



Normandy and Europe. The Normans proceeded to build castles to consolidate their occupation, originally to the motte and bailey pattern - a wooden tower on a mound surrounded by a ditch and with palisades; some 500 were built over a 20 year period. Norwich was no exception, with 98 Saxon houses and a church demolished to enable the castle to be built, using forced labour. The keep was wooden as the newly constructed mound provided an unstable base and it was only 27 years later that the Caen stone castle was started - the third royal stone castle in the country (after London and Colchester). There was no permanent military garrison, but the castle was imposing and represented dominance and power.

Around the Castle Fee a New (or French) Borough was created. Ralph de Guader, Earl of East Anglia, was said to have granted the land in common to the King before 1075: this was the Magna Croft (Great Field). But in 1075, refusal of his marriage led to a revolt against the King, which was suppressed, and William took over the area. By 1086, new French burgesses were in place, leading to the area being called the French Borough. There were three main communities - English, French (in the New Borough) and a Jewish community. The latter had been brought to England by William I as money changers and then collected dues in cash rather than kind. They were protected by the king, being seen as his property. Over time, they became moneylenders, which generated race hatred, associated with their being seen as enemies of Christianity. The Jewry was between the castle and the market.

In 1094, Norwich became the location for the bishopric. (In 680, the bishop was based in North Elmham, moving to a new See in Thetford in 1071. In 1087, William II (William Rufus) brought in Herbert de Losinga, who in 1094 moved it to Norwich.) In 1096, a priory, monastery and cathedral were started, with much demolition and disruption through land acquisition. The whole precinct occupied 85 acres, with stone, iron and timber from France, Scandinavia and the Baltic being carried from the river along a canal, the stub of which is all that remains at Pull's Ferry. The Priory followed the Plan of St Gall, a template used across Europe to create an ideal monastery. The Priory was occupied by 60 monks in 1101. Herbert de Losinga died in 1119, while the cathedral's main structure was completed in 1145 and a priory and nunnery at Carhowe (now Carrow) in 1146. Friar Preachers who worked

out in the streets among the public were established later - Blackfriars (Dominicans) and Greyfriars (Franciscans) in 1226, Whitefriars (Carmelites) in 1256 and Austin Friars in 1274. Between 1066 and 1154, 15 new churches were built, plus two Hospitals in the early 12th century (and more in the following two centuries). Norwich also became celebrated for the care of people with leprosy, with 6 leper or lazar houses in the city or on its outskirts.

To conclude, Adrian summarised the impact of the Normans on Norwich and England:

- a change of the ruling elite
- major topographical changes
- new styles of architecture
- layout of streets changed radically
- a centralised government
- the church reorganised
- increased trade with Europe
- French words embedded in the language

February : The widow Kett : Georgette Vale *Ken Hawkins*

In a change from our usual format, our February meeting took place in 1553 at Wymondham Abbey, when 'the widow Kett' provided an insight into the events surrounding what became known as the Kett Rebellion. She also provided considerable context, both the historical events which formed the backdrop to the events and more intimate reports concerning her husband Robert, the part he played and what happened to him.

It's simply impossible to summarise the details and the asides which brought the 'rebellion' alive in a way that a traditional account would not have done. The main elements are fairly well known.

In a time of general unrest, rising prices and the aftermath of a considerable drought, people everywhere were struggling to survive. Moves to fence common land (the process of inclosure) met with strong opposition. Robert Kett had himself erected some fences, but when he met with a group set on taking them down, he effectively apologised, agreed to join them and made the offer to act as their captain - an offer that was accepted.

He led the group to Norwich, where they took up position on Mousehold Heath, a vantage point from which they could see the city below. After a number of skirmishes, they issued 29 demands to the King (in reality, the Protector). When the response came back, it was only to promise pardon to everyone there who was willing to leave and return home. That offer was rejected and following the Battle of Bishopsgate Bridge, the group found itself in control of the city, with ever more people joining them.

Moves to get support from Bishop's (now King's) Lynn and Yarmouth came to nought. Challenge came from another army, with another offer of pardon, though this time excluding Robert. This was again rejected, but the violence was increased and Robert thought it best to leave Mousehold. In the major battle that followed, 3000 people were killed and the better equipped army was victorious. Robert fled but was soon captured. He was taken and held in the Tower of London, but brought back and hanged at Norwich Castle (as an example to others), to be buried in an unmarked grave whose whereabouts was withheld from his widow.

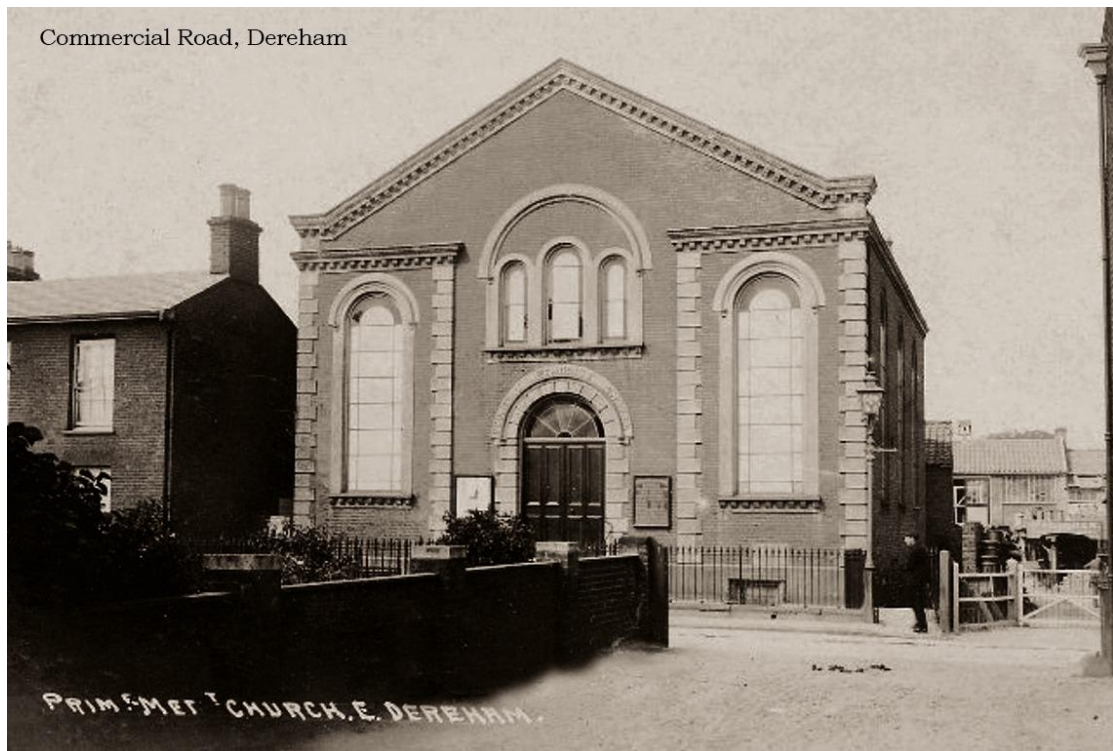


W Larner - Brick & Tile Manufacturer *Beanie Brown*

When putting together last year's slide presentation about Dereham's many industries I wondered exactly where W Larner's brickyard had been situated in Commercial Road. Browsing through old postcards of the town this week I spotted Larner's sign and yard on the right to the rear beside the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Commercial Road. Now I know exactly where it was. Most satisfactory!



W Larner - Brick & Tile Manufacturer - Commercial Road, Dereham



The old Primitive Methodist Chapel with Larner's brickyard in the background

Winter Lecture Synopsis

In Search of Some of Norfolk's Early Churches

Peter Wade-Martins (12th December 2023)

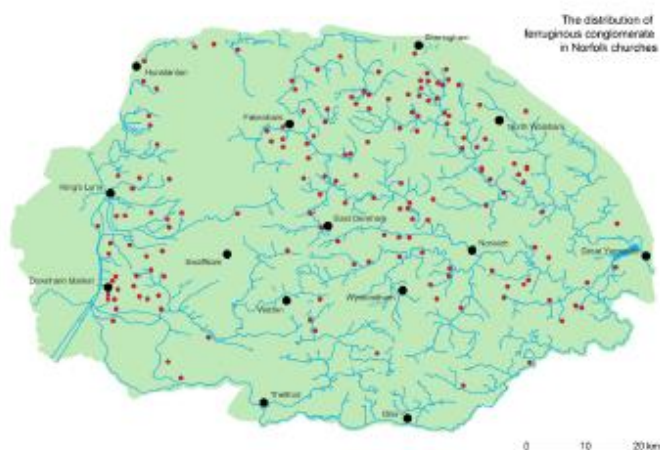
Following the publication of our *A History of Norfolk in 100 places* in 2022, a survey of all Norfolk churches to look for the use of iron-bound or ferruginous conglomerate seemed an obvious choice for the next project. This has involved driving all over the county with a steering wheel in one hand and a 1:25,000 map the other, and it has been fun. But once you start you realise that you also need to include the rubble from ruined Roman buildings which was still available at the time the first stone churches were being built.

The use of ferruginous conglomerate and Roman tiles and stone in Norfolk churches is usually an indicator of an early period of church building when little local stone, other than flint, was available. By 'early' here we mean the immediate post-Conquest period when the dominant Scandinavian tradition of building in timber was gradually replaced by stone in the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries.

The distribution of churches containing conglomerate indicates that it was dug from the local river gravels and was not carted far. In addition to flint, it was often used to form corners, doorways and windows until limestone ashlar from Barnack or Caen in Normandy became more readily available.

From the 650 or so Norfolk churches in use, disused or ruined which were examined for this project it was possible to identify some 172 (about 26%) with conglomerate either as originally used or re-used. Where conglomerate forms corners, windows or doorways there is a good chance that it represents a primary use of the stone. But, it is important to recognise there are also early churches without any conglomerate where only flint was locally available.

The map shows all churches in the county where the conglomerate has been identified in the fabric. The strongest concentration is in about 20 parishes to the north of Aylsham around the headwaters of the River Bure and in the Bure valley running down towards the Broads. There is another group in the Fakenham area around the upper reaches of the River Wensum and along the Wensum valley towards Norwich. There is a smaller group to the south of the Broads, while over the higher areas of West Norfolk and the clay lands to the south, there is little sign that conglomerate was available. It can also be found along the fen edge and in the river valleys which flow into the fens. From this distribution, it is clear that the river gravels were the main source of the material.



The distribution of ferruginous conglomerate in Norfolk churches

The Roman rubble came from villas, coastal forts and larger towns like Caistor and Brampton. With this rubble also came wall and roof tiles which are often quite distinctive, although there are occasions when it is difficult to recognise. Tile thickness and texture are the determining factors here. Identification was assisted by comparing tile thicknesses with the published measurements of almost 2,000 re-used Roman tiles from the upper filling of a Middle Saxon well I excavated during the 1967-71 North Elmham Park excavations.



Roman tiles forming a double-splayed nave window at West Barsham

Of the 172 churches with conglomerate, 29 (about 17%) also have certain or probable Roman tiles. That compares with 47% in the Thames Basin where there has been a similar survey. The difference was due to local availability. The density of surviving Roman stone



left: window of conglomerate blocks in the tower at Beeston St Lawrence



right: Conglomerate quoins forming what looks like long-and-short work at Itteringham



Yaxham - An impressive example of a tower arch made from a finer grained conglomerate, as well as the doorway above.



The belfry window with strip-work above it at Bessingham - below it is a bricked-up loop with a monolithic head carved from a block of conglomerate

buildings in Norfolk appears to have been lower than in areas further west within East Anglia and in regions further south.

Grey quartzite blocks, quarried from the Lower Cretaceous beds of the Sandringham Sands near Castle Rising (formed most likely in the Pleistocene) were quarried during the Roman period and used in the West Norfolk villas. It was also transported by sea to build the Shore Fort at Brancaster and a Roman building, possibly a fort, at Reedham. It was then re-used in West Norfolk churches and in a small number close to Brancaster and Reedham. The quartzite was quarried again from the eleventh century onwards for use in the Castle Rising area right up to the nineteenth century. Distinguishing the re-used Roman quartzite from the freshly quarried medieval stone in churches can be assisted by the presence or absence of Roman tiles and Roman mortar (*opus signinum*).

The lecture also featured a selection of examples where conglomerate, Roman tiles and grey



Grey quartzite in Appleton church from a nearby Roman villa.



Edgefield tower with conglomerate quoining

Photos: Peter Wade-Martins.

quartzite has been used. There are only two places where we can see for certain that the conglomerate dates from the original construction of the church later than the twelfth century. One is in the ruined fourteenth-century church with an octagonal tower at Edgefield. The other is at Little Snoring where the original church was demolished except for the tower and the conglomerate then built into the adjacent thirteenth-century church.



Little Snoring church
Conglomerate in the tower arch of the first church
The west wall of the nave of the later church showing a course of conglomerate at the base and the quoins

Little Snoring Photos: Ian Hinton.

Peter was County Archaeologist from 1973 to 1999, then Director of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust until 2014. He has published widely on Norfolk History & Archaeology in the East Anglian Archaeology series and edited the two editions of Norfolk from the Air, and the first edition of the seminal Norfolk Atlas, as well as recent volumes about other aspects of Norfolk.

This article is about to appear in in the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group Newsletter and is reproduced here by kind permission of Ian Hinton, the Chair of NHBG. The Group was set up in 2000 for anyone who is interested in the buildings of Norfolk, particularly the vernacular sort. It has 250 members who enjoy winter lectures, summer visits, bi-annual newsletters, research publications and occasional training courses. See www.nhbq.org.uk.

From - and to - the Archive *Beanie Brown*

1 Sir John Fenn's Desk Seal

Following our winter newsletter article about Sir John Fenn's 1791 silver desk seal used during his period as High Sheriff of Norfolk, we sought to have an appropriate, removeable, wooden handle fashioned to match other period seals. The design chosen is marked below with an arrow. And this is our seal!



Auctioneer's display of the whole desk seal collection sold in 2023 showing the wide variety of designs

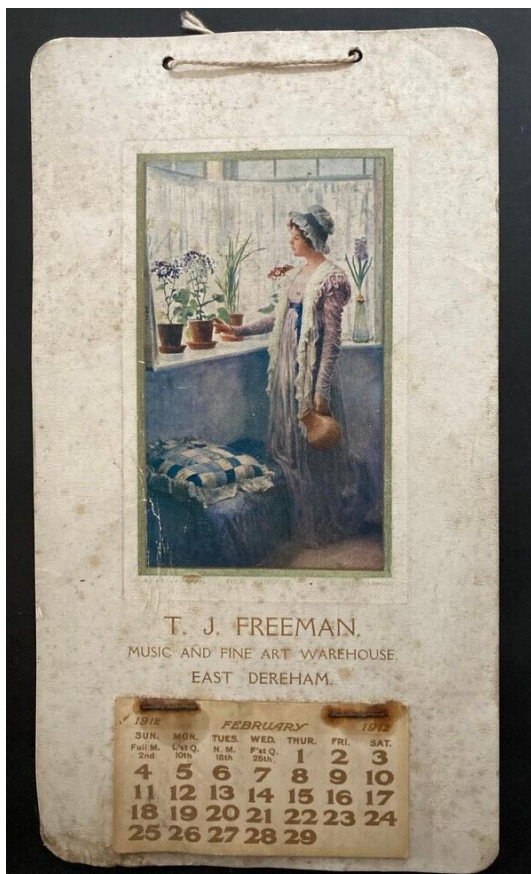
Our chairman most conveniently had a piece of antique ebony which was perfect for the purpose and after researching the size and style of other contemporary seal handles we chose the preferred shape for a skilled craftsman to make a beautiful handle for Sir John's seal. The seal will be on display in Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum this year.



Sir John Fenn's desk seal as purchased - and with ebony handle

2 Dereham Calendar 1912

We thank Carolyn Colman for bringing to our notice the opportunity to purchase online the 1912 calendar shown below. It was not in the most desired condition being 112 years old but is a rare survivor and important piece of Dereham's heritage, especially when viewed alongside the photograph of Mr T J Freeman standing proudly outside his music warehouse in Norwich Street.



Dereham & District Antiquarian Society Minutes 1953 - 2003

A search of DDAS minutes from 1953 to 2003 provided riveting bedtime reading - it's amazing what one finds when looking for something else! We doubt that we all knew about the time-capsule placed in the chimney in 1992.

- 1953 Dereham and District formed.
- 1955.04.13 Talk given by Mr. G. Cook and display of maps, pictures and books all appertaining to George Carthew as this was the anniversary of his book of 1855. Mr. Cook had brought together 'all the facts' relating to the great antiquarian of Dereham.
- 1956.02.22 AGM: Summary of year. Reduced membership cost for those 'at school or under 18', known as Junior Members. Members brought items of antiquarian interest to show. Visits to/by R H Mottram and R W. Ketton-Cremer.
- 1963.05.04 Bishop Bonner's Cottage opened by Sir Albert Richardson.
- 1965.02.17 Gift of Victorian figures from Strangers' Hall.
- 1967.01.18 AGM: Note that old splints and other medical items donated by Dr. Susan Palmer.
- 1974.xx.21 AGM: Fine spinning wheel on loan. Early sewing machine and a fine engineer's set square protractor dated 1737. Bought a watercolour of Dereham Church 1867 by W.F. Austin. Films showed by Colin Aldous and a short film given by Mrs. Dixon of the opening of the museum in 1963.
- 1974.10.23 Talk by Mr. D. Urry on the history of newspapers including the EDP and DaFTs.
- 1979.01 Quiz. 30 photos of odd corners of views in the town. Exhibition of Dereham photos given to raise money for museum.
- 1980.01.27 Note many visits to and from other historical societies. Lots of quizzes. The owners of the cottages were the Norfolk Archaeology Trust. The Town Council had offered to buy the cottages but the Trust were not allowed to sell. The Council were not in favour of a full repairing lease so the Trust were applying to Breckland Council for 'change of use' to offices. The Chair hoped members would write to protest.
- 1981.02.11 AGM: Purchase of Bishop Bonner's Cottages by Town Council almost completed. 1400 visitors to museum in year.
- 1982.01.13 AGM: Town Council now owned Bishop Bonner's Cottage. Leased to the Society for rent of £100 per annum. Council responsible for repairs and insurance. Society will insure contents.
- 1984.01 AGM: Formation of Friends of the Museum scheme proposed. May to August visits, September to April indoor meetings, dinner and AGM.
- 1986.01 AGM: New constitution.
- 1987.03.11 Agreed Town Council to be asked to provide a sign pointing to the museum. Want newsletters.
- 1988.05.03 Exhibition and slide show at Phoenix.
- 1989 Membership drive at sixth form and high schools.
- 1992 AGM: Time capsule put in cottage chimney included EDP, members' list and postcard of museum etc.

Extracted museum	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
visitor numbers	1449	1039	1014	1022	796

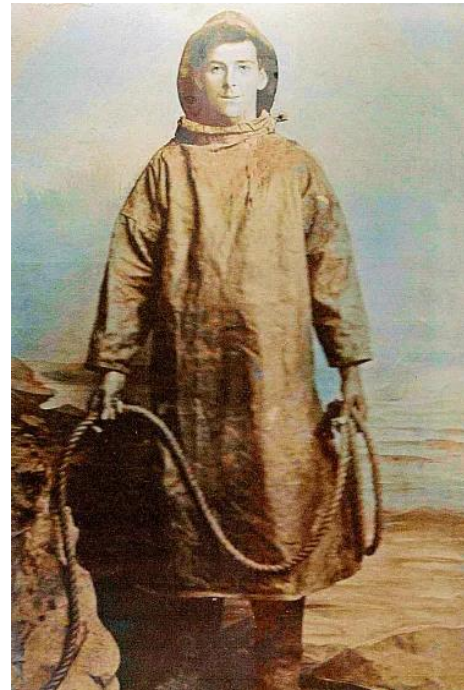
At the rear of the book there are some pages containing newspaper cuttings and photographs in the form of a scrap book which provide a record of some of the Society's activities. All of these pages have been photographed as a digital record for the Trust.

John Craske: Picturing Peace *Katie Goodman*

At the beginning of February, Dereham Heritage Trust launched *Picturing Peace*, a brand-new community art and wellbeing initiative inspired by the story of John Craske, Dereham's fisherman-turned-artist.

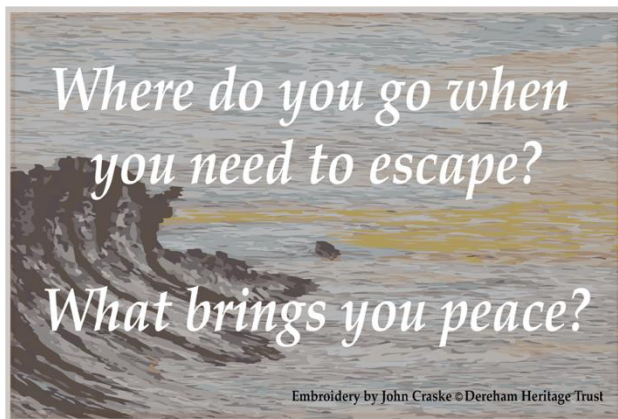
Born in Sheringham in 1881, John Craske was part of a family long associated with the sea. In the 1890s, he continued the family tradition of earning his living at sea when he became a deep-sea fisherman. In 1905, when the local fishing industry was in decline, some of the Craske family moved inland to Dereham where John's father opened the first of three fish shops. John ended up spending most of his life here.

Following a brief stint in the First World War, a sustained period of ill-health meant John was no longer able to work or go to sea, causing him to become restless. It was then that he turned to art, painting countless images of his beloved north Norfolk coast to help calm his troubled mind. When his health further deteriorated and he was bedridden, often drifting in and out of consciousness, he took up embroidery and began sewing his beautiful seascapes instead. John slipped in and out of ill health throughout his adult life but his art remained a constant, right up until his death in 1943.



Portrait of John Craske

In John's story we see that, even in the darkest of times, art provides a means of escape, if only in one's mind.



Now, based on John Craske's inspiring legacy, we're asking people to get creative and show us the place that brings them peace - the place they visit in their mind when they need to escape. It doesn't matter if it's a favourite view, a cuddle with a four-legged friend, or even just a cup of tea in the garden; you can paint, draw, sew, or maybe graphic design - all we ask is that the finished piece is two-dimensional and no bigger than A5 (210mm x 148mm).

This is not an art competition and is open to anyone, of any age. Every 'Picture of Peace' submitted will go on display in Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum later this year, in an exhibition that celebrates the timeless therapeutic value of art as championed by our very own John Craske. The exhibition will also include photographic representations of three Craske artworks in the Dereham Heritage Trust collection - the first time that images of his work will have been exhibited in Dereham since 1993.

We would love as many people as possible to take part, so if you'd like to get involved and create your own 'Picture of Peace' to be displayed in the museum, entry forms can be picked up from Dereham Library and Flow Craft Café (37 Norwich Street) or downloaded from our website <https://derehamheritagetrust.org.uk/museum/picturingpeace/>. To submit your artwork, visit Dereham Library or Flow Craft Café and leave it in one of the designated drop-

off boxes, or hand it in at one of our monthly talk events. Alternatively, you can submit a digital or scanned entry by emailing it to museum@derehamheritagetrust.org.uk along with your entry form. All 'Pictures of Peace' must be received by 5pm on Monday 22 April.

Dereham Peace Day 2024 *Katie Goodman*

As part of *Picturing Peace*, the Trust is embarking on a series of community outreach events in the hope of encouraging new audiences to engage with Dereham's history, whilst also increasing interest in Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum.

On Saturday 24 February, we were delighted to be able to take part in Dereham Peace Day 2024, an initiative of Dereham Aid Centre that encourages the local community to come together in the name of peace. Since evolving into the Aid Centre, the organisation champions all aspects of peace. Anyone facing any kind of turmoil can relate to John Craske's story, his artwork epitomising a troubled mind in search of peace, which is why we were thrilled to bring Picturing Peace to the forefront at this year's event.

Throughout the day we hosted an art table where people could come along and create a picture of the place that brings them peace. We had 27 people visit us and take part! All of the artworks created at Peace Day will be featured in this year's *Picturing Peace* museum exhibition.



The first *Picturing Peace* event was a success!

History lectures by month at Gresham College 2024

Gresham College has again sent us details and an invitation to attend their lectures. They are all ticketed but free! The lecture series are hybrid so you can watch online, in person or on replay at a later date. Sign up to watch through the links below. All lectures commence at 6pm.

6 March: [Ritual Nudity in History and Religion](#), Professor Ronald Hutton; central London Venue tbc. Online/Watch Later gres.hm/ritual-nudity

24 April: [The Western Magical Tradition](#), Professor Ronald Hutton; central London Venue tbc. Online/Watch Later gres.hm/western-magic

5 June: [Witch-Hunting in European and World History](#), Professor Ronald Hutton; central London Venue tbc. Online/Watch Later gres.hm/witches-europe

NAHRG Lecture Programme 2024

Meetings of Norfolk Archaeological & Historical Research Group (NAHRG,) take place in the Thomas Paine Lecture Theatre at the UEA at 2.30pm. For details, see www.nahrg.org.uk, or contact enquiries@nahrg.org.uk. There is a hearing loop in the lecture theatre. Refreshments will be available afterwards. Non-members are welcome to try one or two lectures before joining.

9 March: Fornication and Penance: Unlocking the Norwich Consistory Court Archive
Jonathan Draper (Partnership and Development Manager, Norfolk Record Office)



20 April: AGM followed by lecture - Roman Temples in East Anglia
Natasha Harlow (Hon. Research Fellow, University of Nottingham)

Norfolk Record Society Spring Lecture

The Norfolk Record Society invites you to its Spring Lecture being held online via Zoom on **Tuesday 19 March 2024 starting at 7pm**. The subject is *Rethinking the politics of Kett's Rebellion* by Professor Andy Wood. In this lecture, Andy will use the Hatfield petitions further to illuminate rebel politics and will also re-examine the Mousehold articles themselves, pointing towards the way in which they might be read as conjuring up a new vision of English society and the Tudor polity. This will be supplemented by a review of seditious speech cases from the Norwich records, especially those heard by the Norwich Court of Mayoralty and the Norwich Quarter Sessions. For more information about this lecture and to book, please visit: <https://www.norfolkrecordsociety.org.uk/event/2024-spring-lecture/>.

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 May**. 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 <https://derehamheritagetrust.org.uk> is updated regularly so please have a look now and again.

Membership matters

If you are a member subscriptions are due for renewal by 1 April for most people. Those who joined us this year have nothing to pay until 2025 and will have this confirmed by separate email. (If you don't get such an email but think you should have done, please let me know as soon as possible.) For everyone else, subscriptions will soon be due and can be paid by cash or cheque at a meeting, by posted cheque or by bank transfer. **Please note we are changing banks to Lloyds and the new account details are: Dereham Heritage Trust, sort code 30-99-50, account 29575362; please add your surname as a reference.** Please also advise us of any change in your contact details.

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 March), while new joiners paying full rate from January will have membership to 1 April in the following year. The membership form is at <https://derehamheritagetrust.org.uk/membership/> 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. See above for payment options.

Annual General Meeting - 13 March 2024

You will have received notice that our Annual General Meeting will take place as indicated below on 13 March 2024. You should have received the agenda and accompanying papers for the meeting: if you haven't, please let us know as soon as possible. After the formal meeting, Beanie and Katie will be showing - and talking about - some archive items.

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.

13 March	Annual General Meeting (no admission fee) Followed by a presentation of some items from our collection
10 April	The A-Z of curious Norfolk Sarah Doig
8 May	Shakespeare and heraldry Rob and Penny Knee
12 June	Goddard Johnson Dr Clive Wilkins-Jones
10 July	The Oxburgh restoration project Matt Champion
14 August	Anchoresses and anchorites and how they lived Joy Taylor
11 September	The Gloucester and Oliver Cromwell's Western Design Dr Ben Redding
9 October	Dinner at the Beeston Ploughshare
13 November	Treasures from our collection Robena Brown and Katie Goodman
11 December	A Christmas celebration Chanter's Jigge