

# WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER No. 15 - SEPTEMBER 2000

*This first Newsletter of the season is being sent to everyone who has been a member at any time, and to those who have expressed an interest in joining us. Subsequent issues in the year will be sent only to paid-up members.*

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

We are again at the start of a new winter season. the monthly meeting dates were given in our last Newsletter (No. 14); and we can now list the actual programme - see later.

There being no alternative nominees, at our A.G.M. on 10th May 2000, all previous year's Committee members were re-appointed.

At our first Committee meeting of the new year, we agreed to continue with the allocation of duties as before, except that John Checketts would become Treasurer, leaving John Christmas more time to arrange the lecture programme, maintain a membership register and extend the Millennium Project started by Phil Champion.

We continue to rely on several non-committee members for help in various ways - such as publishing the newsletters, at meetings, and recently at Wells Harbour Day (see later).

Also at the A.G.M., the suggested amendments to the Group Rules were adopted without further discussion, and a copy of the final version is enclosed with this Newsletter, for you to keep.

Our first winter meeting, on 4th October, is to be devoted to a presentation on the use of records in the study of local history. We hoped in calling our organisation a "Group" rather than a "Society" to encourage members to work on and write up original material, as well as listen to lectures. Mike Welland has done both, and we look forward to sharing the benefit of his experience, at a demonstration of the use of our microfilm reader which is to be accommodated in our Branch Library. Only a few people at a time can use the machine, but we hope to ease the waiting for others by opening the bar!

The meeting is due to begin at 7.30 p.m. as usual; please come early so that subscriptions can be received without delaying the start. Membership/programme cards will, we hope, be available at this meeting for everyone wishing to join or re-join. We have decided to maintain the subscription at the same level as last year - £5 per person or £8 for two at the same address.

**Brian Scott**

## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2000 - 2001

Held in the Maltings Community Centre, Staithe Street at 7.30

- 4th October . . . . . Researching History in Wells
- 1st November . . . . . Saxon Shore Forts in Norfolk
- 6th December . . . . . What we can Learn from Stray Finds: the Work of the Norfolk Identification and Recording Service
- 3rd January . . . . . Development of Freeman Street
- 7th February. . . . . Great Hospital of Norwich
- 7th March . . . . . The Burnhams in Saxon and Mediaeval Times
- 4th April. . . . . Castle Acre, Castle Priory and the Planned Mediaeval Town
- 2nd May . . . . . The Ins and Outs of Norfolk Workhouses

### ***Spreading The Word***

A small group of members have started a collection of pictures, writing and artifacts, which can be assembled to make a display in order to publicise the work of WLHG.

Our first and rather tentative attempt at display was on 14th May at the "Skeletons in the Closet" day at Gressenhall Museum. Though few people attended the event, we were pleased and encouraged by the interest shown at our stand.

We made additions to the display and attended the Community Association Open Day in the Maltings on 17th June. Again we were delighted with the response. Many people stopped to talk about items on display, to offer further information and suggestions and to ask for details of membership.

By Harbour Day on 13th August, we had ready a broader and more varied presentation, which included details of projects undertaken by the special interest groups, some historical records of buildings and families in Wells, and a "then and now" photograph quiz. Considerable interest was again shown by both residents and visitors.

Mike Welland our Publicity Officer would be pleased to hear from any readers who:

a) have historical material which they would be prepared to lend for future events or,

b) would be prepared to help on the stand for a few hours. No great knowledge is required for the latter, only an ability to engage in conversation, which is mainly a case of being a good listener!

***Maureen Whiddett***

## EDITOR'S SOAP BOX

Jean Terrington has agreed to produce the Newsletters for the coming "Group Year" and in turn I have agreed to present copy to her on time. This latter point is important and members must get items to me as soon as possible for inclusion.

I have had nothing but compliments on the content and style of the Newsletter over the last 12 months, and this must be attributed to the professional production by Jean built on the foundation provided by Madge Smith.

*P.S. The Group is anxious that old photographs and documents should be preserved with, perhaps copies in the Group's archives. If you have any why not mention what is available at a monthly meeting.*

*D. A. Perryman*

*Late Item (only made it because of fuel problems - ed.!)*

## Microfilm Reader

Our microfilm/microfiche reader will be on site for the first meeting of the new season. The equipment will then be placed in the library, on a desk in the public area adjacent to the Internet reader. Films and records to be used in conjunction with the reader will be in a locked cabinet.

Persons wishing to use the reader and film will be able to make an appointment through a list of nominated members of the Group, and details of these members will be in the library. Your committee feel that this is the best way to ensure that both the reader and the valuable films and records are protected, as the staff in the library will be unable to assist either in operating the reader, or with giving advice on the content of the films.

We have on film or fiche all census records from 1841 to 1891. Also on film are the Parish Records from 1549 to 1900. In addition to the registers of births, marriages and deaths, there are interesting comments about events of the time written by some of the Rectors as they occurred.

***Mike Welland***