



WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

A Message from The Chairman

Our meeting on the 30 October was very successful indeed; not only did we have an interesting presentation by Dr Alan Mackley, but, of more than 40 people that attended most decided to become members of the group. We now have over 50 members, which demonstrates a clear interest in the history of the Wells area, and hope that even more of our neighbours will be encouraged to join us.

Speakers For The Coming Year

Whilst we are unable to give you the order in which they will be speaking we have arranged a number of speakers for the coming months. Some are, like Christine Hiskey, (see below) local figures who will be talking about Wells specifically, and others who will be speaking in more general terms about the recording of events in living memory. More details will be available later and you will be kept informed in future editions of the newsletter.

Dates For Your Diary

The first meeting of 1997 will be on 8 January. All subsequent meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month, and unless you are otherwise advised they will all be held at The Friends Meeting House.

Wednesday 4 December

Please remember our meeting on the fourth when Christine Hiskey will be talking about Westward House. This property built by a rope-maker in the 1730's, subsequently owned by a mariner (who had 12 children), a merchant (who went bankrupt), a miller, and a ship owner (whose grand daughter left the house in 1961) - the history of Westward House re-



Westward House

flects a little of the history of Wells. Christine Hiskey will show how she has used historical documents to piece together some of the history of her house, and so give some idea of the possibilities and the problems that arise in tracing the history of buildings. We hope you can come along and perhaps encourage any prospective members to come with you.

Introducing Our Logo

You cannot have failed to have noticed our logo at the top of this page and we hope that you like it. It represents the early history of Wells and the source of our name. Hopefully it will serve to remind us that Wells' past stretches far beyond the commercial and maritime hey day which we tend to associate with the town.

Wanted

We really do want to make this your newsletter and to have it written by you. If you have any anecdotes, articles, stories or photographs which you think will be of interest to other members please submit them for consideration for inclusion in future issues.

Wells Local History Research Class

Operated under the auspices of WEA this proposed class will undertake its own research on topics of Wells' local history under the guidance of a tutor.

Students will work to produce their own contribution to a group presentation for the local community as a culmination of the course. The class will be encouraged to work as a research team, each individual pursuing their own chosen topic of Wells' history within an overall framework set by the tutor. Besides the physical evidence of buildings, street pattern and landscape, the class will use map sources and where possible the oral evidence of local people to build a picture of the history of the town and port. The cost will be £21.00 for the 10 meetings; concessions will be available. Please leave your details, which will be forwarded to the WEA, at our meeting on Wednesday if you are interested.

Membership Cards

Membership cards should be available for collection at the next meeting. Please be sure to attend and collect yours. Application forms for membership will also be available if you have not already joined. Remember it is only £3.00 and this entitles you to attend our meetings for just £1.00.

And Finally

We look forward to seeing you at forthcoming meetings and take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

