



WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who turned out for our open meeting in January; Graham Pooley entertained us with a most interesting story and a delightful telling, indeed another most successful and encouraging meeting.

are currently revising the draft Constitution approved at the Meeting last September and we expect to be in a position to submit the Constitution to a General Meeting of The Group, for approval in May 1997.

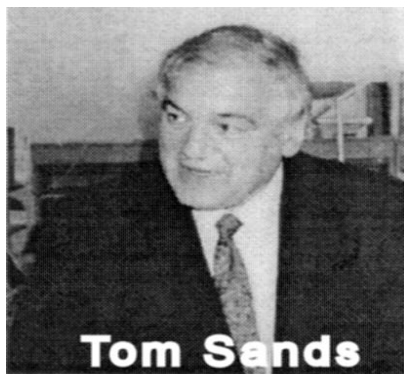
are thought to reflect the interests of members. These are: recording oral history, publishing a walk round guide, a millennium project, recording monumental inscriptions and recording buildings. A brief description of each interest follows, and members are invited to indicate which, if any they would like to be identified with. A group will only be formed if there is an interest. Please complete the coupon at the end of this newsletter if you are interested in participating in one of the groups and bring it to the meeting on Wednesday 5th when further details of the groups will be available. If you cannot come to the meeting and would like to participate in one of the groups please pass the coupon to the secretary at St Michael's House, Red Lion Yard.

NEXT MEETING

Our meeting on 5th February has Tom Sands, a well know local figure, who will be talking about events in Wells during the period 1813-1850. This promises to be a most illuminating topic and we hope to see another Full House.

SPECIAL INTEREST

From the earliest days of the group it was apparent that there were people who wanted little more from the group than to hear talk on various subjects related to the history of Wells and its surrounding area. There were others however, who wanted to take a more active role in either researching local history, or recording the present for future generations. Now that the group is becoming established and a programme of speakers is planned, your committee feel that it is time to establish specific interest groups. Each group can then form its own agenda and proceed with its chosen topic at its own pace. Members will be free to identify with any or all of the groups, and actively participate according to their personal interests and commitments.



Tom Sands

CHARITABLE STATUS

At our last meeting the Committee decided to seek charitable status for the group. Before we can submit our application to the charity Commissioners, however, we must first finalise the Group's constitution. The Committee

The committee has initially identified five groups which

ORAL HISTORY

Oral History is tape recording the living memories of local people whose experiences and recollections might otherwise be lost. Very few of us keep diaries or write our memories, and our personal recollections die with us. Recording stories and reminiscences is one important way of insuring that the personal details of history are not lost.

Please indicate which Group(s) you would like to participate in.

- Oral History
- Walk About Guide Project
- Monumental History
- Buildinas Recordina

Name

Address..... Millennium

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Phone

For centuries Wells was a stable, self sufficient but quite closed community, with its own culture and its own (Norfolk) dialect. In the 1960's this changed, and the town became popular as a place for retirement, with caravanning and leisure activities as its main source of income. At the same time the traditional industries of boat building, fishing, and malting, with grain exportation and coal importation through the harbour disappeared. Similarly the nature of farming, employing horses and much labour, became a thing of the past.

Although we know a great deal about the old trades and skills in general terms, we have few first hand records of the way of life at that time. Forty years on, there are still a few left who remember the way it was, but every year the list gets shorter. The objective of this interest group would be to capture as many of these memories as is practicable, and continue to record the experiences of the following generations so that in the future they will know how it was for us. Are you interested?

John Christmas

WALK ABOUT GUIDES

We hope to have soon a new Walk About Guide of some of the most interesting buildings and features of Wells, of the sort now available for other towns. Ultimately we might have more than one guide, and provide for a series of walks, or deal with particular topics, churches or trades for instance. So, we would like

everyone to provide information, particularly on lesser known features of the town which could be drawn upon by a small group of volunteers preparing and illustrating the guides.

Brian Scott

MILLENNIUM PROJECT

It now being less than three years until the year 2000, the committee have been considering how best we could mark this milestone.

We believe that the Group, in association with as many other organisations in the town and adjoining area as possible, join forces, over the next three years to make a record, photographic, video and audio of the town, as near to 31st December 1999 as is possible. This would be a major project for the entire town and in another 100 years, could be a major source of information the historians. Our own Domesday Book!!

If you wish to be involved in the project, or have any ideas about it please let us know.

Stewart Armour

MONUMENTAL HISTORY

This group will be involved in recording and perhaps photographing the inscriptions on tombstones and any other markings on the masonry around the town. It is essential to have these records now before erosion and the ravages of time obliterate the engravings forever.

Stewart Armour

BUILDINGS RECORDING

We are looking for additional members for the Building Recording Group, which was established last year with three members. So far we have recorded Tudor Cottage in Jolly Sailor Yard with measured drawings, photos and a small amount of written history. It is the intention of the group to record as many as possible of the older buildings and features of Wells as the opportunity arises. Members of the group will have the opportunity to learn how to carry out a measured survey and learn what to look for and record when recording buildings - no previous training or skills are necessary and all are welcome.



Tudor Cottage

We are also interested in collecting records of any buildings in Wells whether old or new, plans or any other documents would be welcome. We do not want to keep the originals, but we do have facilities for copying, them however large, so if you have any plans of your house please contact me on 711734.

Keith Reay