

WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER No. 24 - SEPTEMBER 2003

This first Newsletter of the Winter Season 2003/04 is only being sent to members of years 2002/03 and 2001/02. (See Editor's Soap Box September 2002.)

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Our Summer Programme was again well received particularly the June meeting when, as in the past few years, we had talks from local residents about their experiences of the past. Terry Norton entertained us with his account of his early years in the printing trade, and Richard Cracknell with details of Wells boat building in recent years. Once again during Carnival week the History Group had an exhibition in the Maltings, attended between Monday and Friday by almost 400 people, the majority of these being local residents. The Maritime Museum were kind enough to lend a couple of their ships models, and other residents loaned items, which together with photographs and archive documents made it a display for our group to be proud of.

The list of speakers for next season is enclosed with this newsletter, and once again I have tried, wherever possible, to include a local content in our talks. I hope members will support our meetings as they have in previous years.

Your committee were re elected on block at the May AGM, possibly for the reason that no other names were received for election. However, this will not be the case next year as several members have already indicated that this will be their last year as committee members. I have been chairman for some years, as has our Secretary, and if the group is to move on, and not stagnate, there must be new blood with new ideas. We, as a group have a small hard core of willing helpers, but they are a small core. To make events like the carnival display a success the same few are always left to carry the load. The W.L.H.G. must not be perceived as a monthly talk to provide entertainment and then be forgotten until our next meeting.

We will be looking for a new secretary well before the close of this season in order that they can work with Maureen to familiarise themselves with our systems. I would ask all of the members to think of the future of what is a very successful group, and give some thought to how they can perhaps become more involved.

Mike Welland

What You Need to Know

An Executive Committee Meeting was held on 14th May and the following officer posts were filled:-

Chairman	Mike Welland
Vice Chairman	Terry Whiddett
Secretary	Maureen Whiddett
Treasurer	Bob Huntington
Newsletter Editor	David Perryman
Archivist	Cynthia Jackson
Membership Recorder	John Christmas
The other committee member is Michael Dunsford	

SOS

Mike Welland has indicated that he wishes to stand down as Chairman in May 2004 and Maureen Whiddett has said she wishes to stand down as Secretary at the same time. Terry Whiddett will not seek a seat on the Executive Committee in May 2004. (Either get them to change their minds or nominate replacements! Editor)

The Book of Wells

Has a certain familiarity doesn't it! I have volunteered to progress this publication in association with Halsgrove Publications. I need a team of say three others, one at least with computer, disks etc. So far I am in the dark with only my quill and parchment. Please offer your services direct to me so I can see where we might go a.s.a.p.

D. A. Perryman

Family History

I continue to have many communications from people who are checking on their family history. Recently two researchers sent me some results of their work.

SMITH - Chris Woods is researching the Smith branch of his family who lived in Wells from 1785 and were ship owners. He also has details of the vessels owned.

FROST - Margaret Frost has sent details photocopied from the family bible, of her ancestors from 1844 to 1974 some of whom lived in Ship Inn Yard and Cottage Yard.

Please contact me if you are interested in either of these families.

Maureen Whiddett

Summer Meeting

An Entertaining Summer Meeting - 2nd July

Terry Norton made a very welcome return visit to continue his story of life as a printer. He told us of his long apprenticeship During which he had to learn to type set by hand until he was able to set and dis (put back into the case) the type without looking at it. He is so skilled at type setting that he could talk to us and answer our questions as he did it!

We were shown Regatta programmes produced by Terry and his colleagues which led us straight into hearing from Richard Cracknell about the development of sailing in Wells.

Richard reminded us about the size and importance of the shipyard at the East End of Wells during the 18th & 19th centuries. He then outlined the growth of competitive sailing from the beginnings when working boats raced, through the heyday of multiclass racing during the late 1930s, to the present day when we can now see Sharpies representing A pinnacle of speed and efficiency.

In the discussion which followed, Evelyn Wright, who was in the audience, spoke about her exciting experiences when hydroplane racing, and Diana McCullam told us how her son had recently finished building his own whelk boat.

Who has the Group's "clicker"? Please return it a.s.a.p.

Archives

GRATEFUL THANKS FOR SUMMER GIFTS

Many gifts of pictures and written material were given to WLHG at, or as a result of events held during the summer. These include:-

from David Case, papers relating to his period in office as clerk to the Harbour Commissioners

from Brian Barker, a signed copy of his recently published book "Norfolk Carrier"

from Mary Pressland, a copy of the Godfrey Edition of the Old Ordnance Survey map (and notes which she compiled from sources including the "Wells Time Chart"), of NW Norfolk 1897 1906

from Margaret Frost, copies of family photographs taken by AJ Mahomet

and other donations of photographs and material, too many to itemise, from people who willingly lent and had returned these family treasures.

To all of the above we give our grateful thanks. A worthwhile outcome of the Summer Programme don't you think?

EDITOR'S SOAP BOX

Copy for the December Newsletter must be in my hands by 31st October 2003 and be submitted where possible on a disk or as an email attachment with a print out for editing purposes.

THINK no copy no newsletter.

D. A. Perryman

Wells Local History Group

Winter Programme 2003-2004

01.10.03	Films from the Norfolk Archives	TBA
05.11.03	Norfolk and the "Bounty"	Alan Leaventhall
03.12.03	Norfolk Clothes	Mary Alexander
07.01.04	Time Team	Joe Ellison
04.02.04	Wells Past, an illustrated talk	Eric Reading
03.03.04	Photographs from the Comma Archives	John & Alison Christmas
07.04.04	Evolution of Transport in Norfolk	Peter & Rosemary Salt
05.05.04	Ware Hall House	Christine Adams
12.05.04	AGM	

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in The Maltings Community Centre, Staithe Street, Wells



TINKER'S CORNER



Wells Next the Sea.

The Quay.

The Wrench Series, No. 1583

The Quay, Wells.

