



WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

APRIL MEETING

We begin this Newsletter with our sincere apologies for having to cancel the April meeting. This was due to circumstances completely out of our control and we are very sorry for any disappointment and inconvenience caused. We are pleased, though, to let you know that our speaker, Keith Reay, will talk about Tudor Cottage at a later date.

MAY MEETING

Our thanks to all who turned out, for the March meeting. We were fascinated by the talk given by Derek Edwards and the slides he showed of Norfolk from the air. Hopefully you will be able to come to the meeting on Wednesday 7th May when our speaker will be David Yaxley and his subject will be The Houghton Collection. Sir Robert Walpole's collection of paintings was one of the great collections of 18th Century Europe and its sale in 1779 to Catherine The Great of Russia was a national tragedy. David Yaxley's

illustrated tour of Houghton Hall will reveal the pictures as they hung in 1745, the year of Sir Robert's death. This Promises to be another most interesting evening and we hope to see you there. May we take this opportunity to remind you that there is a collection made at the meetings to cover the costs of speakers. This is currently £1.00 and together with the annual subscription of £3.00 we believe represents excellent value, particularly when considering the calibre of the speakers this year. I lost speakers, since our formation last autumn have not charged a fee for their presentation, although this is unlikely to be the case next year. Please, therefore ensure that you make your contribution when you attend otherwise there will be no alternative but to increase the annual membership fee.

ORAL HISTORY GROUP

The group has now acquired a recorder and group members will be instructed in its use and in interviewing techniques during the coming months.

MONUMENTAL HISTORY GROUP & MILLENNIUM PROJECT

Earlier this year several of our members indicated their interest in joining special interest groups to record Monumental History in the town and be involved in a Millennium Project Most of those in question were interested in joining both groups. A meeting of those interested in either or both of these groups will be held on Monday 12th May at 7:00 PM at Blenheim House, Theatre Road. If you are able to attend please phone Stewart Armour on 711368

WALK ABOUT GUIDE

Seven people have undertaken to take an active role in the collection of material for one or more Guides. We have decided to divide the town into the areas in which we live, and to write information on all the features of interest from an overall list. We hope to collect more material than will be needed for one Guide, and so will at first have to be selective in what we use,

but the process will, we think, be useful in accumulating both long past and very recent records. "... history only finished yesterday."

UEA COURSES

The UEA are offering an increased range of courses next autumn. These include a range of history based subjects, some of which may be of interest to members. The titles on offer include English Local History, Field Archaeology, and Landscape History, Mediaeval Studies, East Anglian Studies, and Architectural History, which includes the techniques of recording and conserving old buildings. Anyone interested in any of these courses should phone the Centre for Continuing Education on 01603

CAN YOU HELP ?

I have had a letter from a Mrs Cappleman in London. She is researching her ancestors who came from the town and is anxious to trace anyone who might be able to help her. Her family name is Ringwood. It seems also that there was a Ringwood Yard although she is unable to trace its location. If you know of anything which might have any relevance please contact John Christmas on 710924.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY

We are hoping to arrange a guided visit to Holkham Camp in late August or September. Access to this Roman site is not normally available to members of the public and so we are especially privileged to have this opportunity. Numbers will be limited but if you are interested please complete the attached coupon and return it to any member of the Committee as soon as possible. More details, including the cost, will be available as soon as possible.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

1997 marks the tercentenary of the Wells Friends Meetings. Moira Field, has asked, whether any of our members are interested in researching, and giving a presentation to the Group on the history of the Quakers in North Norfolk, to mark this anniversary. Please contact Mrs Field on 710678.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 28th May, at 7:30pm in the Friends Meeting House. At this meeting the Executive Committee will present its reports for the last year and the election of members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing

year will take place. Attendance at this meeting will be limited to members of the Group i.e. those who have paid subscriptions for the 1996/97 membership year. Attached to this Newsletter is a coupon requesting nomination for members of the Executive Committee. Please bring these nominations to the meeting with you or if you are unable to attend send them to the secretary, Neil McKechnie at St Michael's House, Red Lion Yard. All nominations should have a seconder who is also a member of the Group, but will be automatically seconded by a member of the existing Executive if you cannot contact another member. At the AGM members will have the opportunity to vote in respect of the Groups constitution. A copy of the constitution is available in the Wells Library for perusal by members of the public. Each member of the Executive Committee also has a copy and will be happy for you to examine it at their homes by appointment. All relevant phone numbers are shown on the reverse of your 1996/97 membership cards.

