

WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER No. 17 - APRIL 2001

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

By the time this Newsletter reaches you we will be nearing the end of another 'winter' season, with only the meeting of 2nd May to come, and the Annual General Meeting a week later.

The Agenda for the A.G.M. is enclosed. You will see that, in addition to the usual routine items of business, we have added two topics on which we will welcome your views. If you cannot come to the meeting please express them at some time to a member of the Committee.

One or more of the Committee do not propose to offer themselves for reappointment, so that it is vitally important that nominations for new Committee members are made which, according to our rules, must be in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before the A.G.M. Please come, and show your concern and commitment to the running of the Group. See you there!

The two items for discussion are:

1. Subscriptions - Most members will know that from the inception of the Group the funds necessary for its running have been raised by levying a modest annual subscription (so far of £5 per person and £8 for two people at the same address) and asking members to make a voluntary contribution of about £1 at each meeting they attend. Non-members have been actually charged £2 per meeting. Our hope was that no one would be discouraged from joining by our charging too high a subscription, and that members outside Norfolk (we have several) who

only rarely come to meetings would be fairly treated. Due to our thriving membership we have been able to keep subscriptions at the same level over our first five years, and so far this approach has raised adequate funds to finance all our activities.

Some of the present Committee members would like to change the system, and to charge a higher subscription and abolish the voluntary levy. We would continue to charge non-members a fixed amount per meeting. What do you, the members, think about this? Please let us have your views before, at or after the A.G.M. The newly appointed Committee will then, as in each previous year, discuss the matter at their first meeting and fix the subscription for the coming year.

2. A Summer Programme - Up to now, our regular activities each year have consisted of 8 speaker meetings from October to May, plus the A.G.M. plus some outings, usually in Summer. It does seem a pity that so far our regular activities have ceased for June to September, at a time when visitors are about and might well wish to attend. (The very successful Town, Walks in Carnival Week last year were, strictly speaking, not History Group events.) Not all the present Committee members would be willing or able to be involved through the Summer, but the ones who are have prepared a tentative programme, and will of course be glad of help from other Group members at certain events. Again, we will welcome your views - will you support such a programme by attending monthly events? Better still, will you help?

Brian Scott

PUBLICATIONS

TOWN WALK TWO is now available for purchase at meetings or from shops in the town or at Tourist Information Centres, or from me or the Secretary, at £1 per copy. It is in the same format as Walk One, but in a differently coloured cover. The sales so far of *One* have covered the cost of its printing, and we hope the sales of *Two* will be as successful. This would encourage the preparation of *Walk Three*, which we hope will appear at this time next year. The route is likely to follow Theatre Road, Chapel and Blackhorse Yards, Freeman Street, the Quay, East End and the Northfield area.

A different but similar publication "**The Inns and Public Houses of Wells Walk One**" will appear soon. Both the text and illustrations are by Mike Welland.

We plan to finance and publish occasional booklets on specific topics relating to Wells, and we will welcome submission of suitable material. Help could be given in its preparation and reproduction. A Group Member, Bill Tipler, has kindly given us a copy for our archives of his '**Short History of St. Nicholas Church Room**' which, with perhaps additional material, would be just what we have in mind. We await a flood of further suggestions.

B.M.S.

over" by the Executive Committee and if such a programme is possible details will be included as a separate sheet in this Newsletter, or given at the A.G.M.

EASTER COMPETITION

Members attending the A.G.M. in May last year will recall that a suggestion was put forward that the Group has a "new" logo. The one previously used was a drawing of the old pump at Church Plain - just into Old Staithe Walk.

The Executive Committee has agreed that a competition be held to find the best logo from Group members. This was to have been a Christmas competition!

Proposals should be submitted on an A4 sheet of paper in ink (biro these days!). Additionally, on the same side of the A4 sheet write a note in not more than 50 words why the Group should have a logo and why the submitted design should be chosen.

The Executive Committee reserves the right not to use any of the submitted or ANY design.

The winning submission will be selected by the members attending the Annual General Meeting in May.

The winner will receive free membership for a couple for one year.

Entries should be submitted to the Editor:-

**D. A. Perryman, 5 Grove Road,
Wells**

by 30th April 2001

SUMMER EVENTS

Several members have suggested that a programme of Summer Events be prepared. This idea has been "mulled

Extract from Wells Parish Records regarding opening of new Burial Ground.

1855 Jan 4. The Burial Ground or Yard surrounding the Church of this Parish having been ordered to be closed against further use as a Burial Ground from the 1st of this month by an order of Her Majesty's Privy Council, and a piece of Ground measuring 1a.0.28p. bought by subscription of the Earl of Leicester to the East of the Churchyard (though separated from it by the small field belonging to Mr. Edwd. Houghton) and the Licence of the Diocesan obtained to inter bodies in the said purchased Ground till his Lordship could come and consecrate it, the first sod of the fencing in was turned by the Rector on Wednesday the third day of January instant, and the first body (of Mary Hall, Widow, No. 1410) interred at the South West corner of the said Ground or New Churchyard on Thursday 4th instant. The next body of an adult (above 14 years old) will be laid paralleled to Mary Hall's on the North side of it and so till a little below the brow of the hill when the second row or line will commence at the foot of Mary Hall's grave. The distance from grave to grave at the centre of the graves shall be 18 inches , and from the foot of one to the head of the other 24 inches. The stable soil shall be left on each grave till the usual settlement has taken place after when a portion of it shall be harrowed down and spread over the lowest parts of the Ground. No Grave for an adult shall be of less depth than 7 good feet (depth of M. Hall's)

Bodies under 14 years old shall be buried at the North West corner ascending in rotation toward the brow of the hill but not beyond the Lower Part of the Ground, to prevent which a second row and so on must be commenced. The distances between the bodies, at side and end, shall be exactly the same as in the case of adults. The depth of ground for a body

under 14 years old shall be 5 good feet.
 The Earl of Leicester Agreed to sell the land for £50(less than Half the price his Lordship had lately paid for it) as an additional Church Yard, and Mr Edward Houghton has handsomly agreed to sell to the Parish for the use of the Parish Church for ever a right of sufficient Way thro' the lower part of his field aforesaid from the North West corner of the said additional Church Yard at a reasonable sum, once for all. The Agreement for the Selection and Adoption of this piece of Ground for the above purpose and the payment of the Price, expenses of Enfranchisement and Conveyance were subscribed to by forty Parishioners of almost every Denomination. And the said Churchyard is to be for ever and is, and was the Churchyard now closed, open to the burial of every Parishioner of every Christian Denomination whatsoever by the Rector, Curate, or Officiating Clergyman of the Church of England on the same terms as heretofore.

Sites for Vaults may be selected subject to the approval of the Rector. Brick graves may be in the same line of rotation of the same depth as if not brick graves and may be so long as the lid of the coffin, however, with the purpose for the reception of a second body : to be laid on the first, and of which a record must be kept in the iron Chest or Register of Burials.

James Robt. Hopper; Rector

**Consecration of new Burial Ground.
 Taken from Parish Records of the time.**

On Saturday September 8th 1855 the new Churchyard of 1.a 0.28p in extent situated to the West (s.b. East) of the Old Churchyard and separated from it by Mr. Edward Houghton's pigstile through which a right of way * is to be secured to the Parishioners for ever, was Consecrated by, in the absence from severe illness of the Diocesan, the Right Reverend George Trevor Spencer, late Lord Bishop of

Madras assisted by the Reverend Robert Eden A.M. Rector of Wymondham Chaplain to the Diocesan, John Kitson Esq. Registrar and Secretary to the Diocesan, and the Clergy and Inhabitants of the vicinity and Town of Wells.

John Robt. Hopper Rector

*Joseph Springhall Southgate
William Gibbs
Churchwardens*

** A right of way is believed to exist there already, leading formerly to a Glebe Marsh of the Rectory, which marsh was purchased by the Commissioners under the Wells Improvement Act, passed 7th Victoria Regina 1844.*

Mike Welland

GROUP FUNDING

Members will know that the Group is quite active in spending money behind the scenes on various projects and, of course, funds need to be readily available to pay our lecturers fees and expenses when so requested.

Up to now the Executive Committee has had a policy of keeping the subscription to a minimum and asking for donations at each lecture. There may be some merit in seeking higher annual subscriptions and not asking for donations from members at each meeting.

What do you, as a member, think? Please give consideration to this for possible discussion at the A.G.M. (I know my thoughts. Ed.)

EDITOR'S SOAP BOX.

I am sure all members will agree that another winter season of monthly talks has confirmed the continued success of the Group.

If you retain your Newsletters my comment in No. 14 (April 2000) was that the Newsletter is a vital link between members and I believed it could be enhanced and extended. My hope was that members (or others) would supply "tit bits" for inclusion but this has not come about. I have run out of interesting old adverts. as "fillers" and I need to think further regarding the use of old post cards.

It may be that the Newsletter will have to reinvent itself. I hope not - I would like it to continue as originally planned.

I anticipate the Agenda for the A.G.M. will be distributed with this Newsletter.

Jean Terrington has continued to produce the Newsletter on her computer and I would thank her for dealing with the "rush" just before publication and keeping calm whilst all around is panic.

Jean and I have also discussed the quality of previous reproduction. It may be you will detect an improvement this time - let me know.

D. A. Perryman

WELLS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2001

Date	Time	Venue	Nature of Event
April			
Wednesday 4th	7.30.pm	The Maltings	Castle Acre, Castle Priory and the Planned Mediaeval Town
Saturday 28th			WI Day in Wells (private function)
May			
Wednesday 2nd	7.30.pm	The Maltings	The Ins and Outs of Norfolk Workhouses
Wednesday 9th	7.30.pm	The Maltings	A.G.M.
Saturday 19th			W.I.Day in Wells (private function)
Monday 28th			WLHG stand at Spring Fair on the Buttlands
June			
Wednesday 6th	6.00 - 9.00.pm	The Maltings	A display of pictures from the Millennium Collection
July			
Wednesday 4th	7.30 - 9.00.pm	The Maltings	People of Wells remember the Past - a question and answer evening
Friday 6th	Depart 11.00.am		WLHG visit to Catherine the Great Collection at Somerset House
Monday 16th	Depart 8.00.am		WLHG visit to Catherine the Great Collection at Somerset House
August			
Wednesday 1st	6.30. - 9.00.pm	The Maltings	Some interesting buildings in Wells + pictures and deeds on display + walk
Sunday 19th			WLHG stand at Harbour Day
Thursday 23rd	6.30.pm		WLHG visit to Brancaster Fort (numbers limited)
Monday 27th			WLHG stand at Bank Holiday Fair on the Buttlands
September			
Wednesday 5th		The Maltings	The History of some Wells families - talks + pictures genealogy
October			
Wednesday 3rd		The Maltings	First of winter monthly meetings

WELLS PLAQUES

The locations of the Pubs in Wells have been researched and documented by Mike Welland and Tom Sands- Where a Pub has had more than one name all the documented names are listed.

Many of the sites are marked with blue Wells Local History Group plaques, those without plaques are marked (NP) in the list below. The plaques were made by Thom Borthwick, they were lettered by Janet Beckett

1. The Jolly Sailor - east side of Jolly Sailor Yard j/w East End
2. The Norfolk Freeholders - west side of Jolly Sailor Yard j/w East End
3. The Shipwrights Arms - East End
4. The Standard -Standard Rd j/w East End
5. The Queen Adelaide then 'The Queens Head - yard off East End
6. The Half Moon then 'The Lord Nelson - The Quay j/w Crofts Yard (NP)
7. The Fleece - The Quay j/w Staithe Street (NP)
8. The Sun - Sun Yard
9. The Red Lion - Tunns Yard (NP)
10. The Three Tuns - Tunns Yard
11. The Greyhound then The Ship - Freeman Street j/w The Glebe
12. The Kings Arms - Freeman Street
13. The Ark Royal - Freeman Street (NP)
14. The Wheatsheaf - Freeman Street j/w Blackhorse Yard
15. The Anchor - Freeman Street
16. The Blackhorse (exact location uncertain) - Blackhorse Yard (NP)
17. The Sailors Home - Freeman Street
18. The Queen Adelaide - Freeman Street
19. The Dogger - Freeman Street j/w Dogger Yard
20. The Holkham Arms - Leylands Yard off Freeman Street
21. The Exchange - Freeman Street
22. The Park Tavern - Park Road
23. The Lugger - Theatre Road
24. The Catesby - Staithe Street (NP)
25. The Crown & Anchor - Staithe Street
26. The Grapes - Staithe Street
27. The Three Swans then The Dukes Head - Staithe Street
28. The Tewksbury Arms then The Prince of Wales now The Corner House -Staithe Street j/w Station Road
29. 'The Railway Hotel then the -Tinkers finally The Lifeboat - Station Road j/w Standard Road
30. The Fighting Cocks then, 'The Leicester Arms now The Edinburgh -Station Road
31. The Globe - The Buttlands (NP)
32. The Crown - The Buttlands (NP)
33. The Green Dragon then The Dukes Head - High Street
34. The Vine - High Street (NP)
35. The King William IV then the Prince of Wales - High Street (NP)
36. The Eight Ringers - Church Plain
37. The Ostrich - Burnt Street
38. The Bowling Green - Church Street
39. The Wagon and Horses - Church Street
40. The Royal Oak - Burnt Street (NP)
41. The Crown and Anchor - Maryland (NP)