

BLAKENEY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 1

February 1998

Dear Members,

This is the first of our occasional newsletters designed to tell you what's going on in the Society and, more particularly, to let you know about forthcoming events.

CLUBNIGHTS

Firstly, though, a quick word about events that some of you have already missed. Our 'clubnight' evenings provide an opportunity for members – and their guests – to talk to each other about their interests. In most cases there is speaker to provoke discussion about some particular subject. Our first evening in the Methodist Chapel last October enabled members to see and talk about some of the maps and other documents held by the Society. In November Peter Carnell gave us a wonderful demonstration of 'looking under our feet' with his resistivity machines which, if conditions are right, give a picture of what lies just under the ground surface – you may well have seen such machines in use on the Time Team TV programmes. There was so much interest that Peter agreed to arrange for us try it out for ourselves. The January meeting 'skeletons in cupboards' proved to be as entertaining as it was informative: John Wright and Peter Carnell encouraged us to find out about our families and told us of their experiences – we over-ran our time in the Chapel but no-one seemed to mind. Our fourth and final meeting this winter, on 24th February, will be based on a tape recording of Freda Starr (of Cley) although this event may already be over by the time this newsletter goes out.

Those who have attended these meetings have found them good value and we look forward to seeing more people next time round. The evenings are very informal, members' guests are welcome – and the coffee is free.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

21st March
Saturday

Spring visit

Wiveton

An informal walk around parts of Wiveton, to include the old 'quay' on land owned by Janet Harcourt, who will be present to show us round, then moving on to the church. After that, much depends on the weather! Meet at 10.0 am on the Green in front of the church, finish by 12.0. (If this should have to be cancelled for any reason, someone will be there on the day to say so.)

4th & 5th April
Saturday & Sunday

Practical course

How to do a resistivity survey

Peter Carnell is preparing a course designed to show members how to use a resistivity machine in order to prepare a survey of what might lie under the ground. There will be some classroom tuition first, followed by practical work on how to set up the survey and take readings from the machines. The course will begin in the Chapel at 10.0 am on Saturday. Places on the course will be strictly limited so those who wish to attend must let Peter know (740789) by the 14th MARCH at the latest – after that date any spare places will be given to non-members (who will be charged £5). The spinoff from this course is that those who take it may be allowed to use a resistivity machine on a site of their own choosing. Outdoor footwear will be needed but in the event of rain some changes to the intended programme will have to be made.

17th June
Wednesday

Summer lecture by Dr. TOM WILLIAMSON of UEA

The Historic Parks and Gardens of Norfolk: recent research on their origins and development. Tom Williamson has done much research himself on the parks and gardens of Norfolk and is also an excellent speaker – don't miss him! This illustrated talk will be held at the Blakeney Village Hall at 7.30 pm. It will be open to the general public and members are urged to bring their friends to ensure a good turnout for the speaker. (£1 per head – free to members.)

It is expected that the Society's first **Journal** will be ready for distribution to members at this meeting. The journal will contain a variety of articles – it will also contain a request for contributions, so be prepared! There is a great deal of documentary evidence on the history of the area and much scope for fieldwork but unless we make the effort to 'publish' much will remain unknown.

1st July

Subscriptions for the year 1998/9 are due on 1st July and should be paid directly to the Secretary, John Wright, whose address is 'Hillside, Morston Rd, Blakeney, NR25 7BG'. The amounts are the same as for 1997/8: £5 per person and £3 for those under 18. A further newsletter may well reach you about then but there will not be any separate reminders.

31st July to 2nd August
Friday to Sunday

Exhibition

In the Blakeney Methodist Chapel

A 3 day exhibition to show to both residents and visitors something of the history of the Glaven villages. If you have items of interest which you could loan would you please see Mary Ferroussat before the end of June. Photos and documents would be welcome (though no originals will be displayed) and we are also looking for objects to represent the life of the village in days gone by. Items connected with the maritime activities of the Glaven villages would be particularly useful – this exhibition is not limited to Blakeney.

14th August
Friday

Visit to Sedgeford

Guided tour of the Sedgeford Archaeological Project,

consisting of several long-term studies in the parish (4 miles from Hunstanton). The leaders give regular guided tours on Friday afternoons and on this occasion Dr Peter Carnell will also be there to talk about his work on resistivity at one of the Sedgeford sites. Those who wish to go should get in touch with Peter (740789) nearer the time for details about times, transport and footwear.

23rd September
Wednesday

AGM

and Lecture

The annual AGM is a necessary meeting and we should like to have a quorum! To encourage you to come there will be a lecture on some topic relevant to this part of Norfolk. The meeting will be held at 7.30 pm in the Chapel - more details later.

28th October
Tuesday 7.30pm

Clubnight

Ideas for a particular theme would be welcomed.

24th November
Tuesday 7.30pm

Clubnight

Same again!

Any comments, requests, etc should be made known to any member of the Management Committee or to:

The Secretary: John Wright 01263 740589