



BAHS Newsletter

Number 38

www.history-blakeney-area.org.uk

January 2015

Your Society is in Crisis



Dear Members,

We have just completed another good year with the three cornerstones of the Society, the lectures, publications and the History Centre, each maintaining the high standards that we have all come to expect. All the individuals involved are to be congratulated. Unfortunately the people who contribute to our success are not getting any younger and replacements are urgently needed.

As promised at the AGM in September we are undertaking a major review of our activities – this has led to many difficult questions being explored and a lot of heart searching.

A major issue is that we need new blood. The recruitment last September of two new people to join the Management Committee

has run into problems: the imminent retirement of one to live permanently in Cley has been delayed and the other has resigned for personal reasons. This leaves the Society with a major problem – too few volunteers to continue functioning successfully.

Your Society needs help now with many simple jobs that are crucial for its survival. Of immediate concern is ensuring that the equipment needed for each lecture is in place and ready for the speaker. The heavy and awkward item, the screen, is now stored in the Harbour Room, so the task is much easier; the rest is stored in the History Centre. If we don't get assistance from one or two volunteers then the lecture series that provides so much pleasure is in jeopardy. We are examining different options, some are temporary,

but there could be fewer meetings or they could all be cancelled and the Society dissolved – that is the stark reality we are facing.

So please get in touch with me immediately, either by email or phone (see below), and volunteer to help. Note, for example, not all volunteers need be members of the main Management Committee. Let us talk. We are flexible and can discuss what task(s) you could undertake. Otherwise the future for the BAHS is bleak.

I am sure we all hope the news for the BAHS improves in 2015.

Thank you.

Peter Wordingham

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Blakeney Merchants' Houses



Elegant living at the end of the 19th century; the front elevation of the Merchant's House.

The History Centre was very grateful to Mr and Mrs D Marris for allowing us to visit their property and quietly contemplate its metamorphosis from cottages to a fashionable Regency house.

September 6th 2014 The Merchant House and the heart of Blakeney High Street

Our afternoon 'walk and talk' led by Pam Peake with support from John Peake, gave us a privileged opportunity to puzzle over the evolution of the Merchant House and consider the role in the development of the High Street by the Brereton, Page and Turner families in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The walk began in the gardens of the Merchant House with its fine yellow brick garden frontage, described as newly erected by Randle Brereton in 1824, one of the extended Brereton clan of Blakeney merchants. We then puzzled over the linking sections joining it to the house – or rather, houses – fronting the High Street

that records show as two separate properties in 1769. There were more questions than answers in the patchwork of brick and flint and the complex history of acquisition, consolidation, demolition and rebuilding that resulted in the property we see today.

In 1884 Martin Fountain Page purchased the Merchant House. He and his business partner Edward Clifford Turner were the last of the Blakeney shipping magnates, following in the footsteps of the Temples, Breretons, Robert Wells and Augustus Hill. Page was responsible for the imposing "Tudor" gate and the high walls around the property.

We continued up the High Street, to explore properties such as Ponds Court, the Methodist Chapel and some of the Blakeney Neighbourhood cottages – before ending the afternoon with tea at the last merchant house, the Turner's red brick late Victorian home, Sunnyside (now Blakeney House guest house.)

Melanie Hilton

A Mardle Night Exhibit

Throughout 2014 the History Centre has had several small displays in Blakeney on the Great War. This theme was continued at Mardle Night when all the current research on the six Glaven Parishes was made available, it extended to thirteen folders. This was supplemented with boards highlighting the contribution to the war effort made by the Pinchen family of Cley and George Long of Blakeney.

Bob Pinchen, First Watcher of Blakeney Point, was a Special Constable on the Point, being too old at 49 to enlist for the Front while his son Valentine and his cousin Kate Pinchen's husband, Frank Loades were not. Gunner Valentine Pinchen, 46579, 110th Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery, died of wounds received whilst taking part in the 'Allied Advance to Victory' – the 100 Days Offensive; whilst Private Frank Loades 24129, 8th

Battalion Norfolk Regiment was killed in action on the 'Fields of France and Flanders'; he had been married to Kate for just 4 months. Both these men are remembered on the Memorial in Cley church.

A chronicle of George Long, eldest son of George Long coxswain of the Blakeney Lifeboat Caroline, was presented by John Wright. George served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force as Private Long 6/286, 12th (Nelson) Regiment of the Canterbury Infantry Battalion. He was ashore at Anzac Cove on the very first day of the Gallipoli Campaign, 25th April 1915. Although subsequently wounded in action, George survived the Great War and returned to Blakeney where he spent the rest of his life.

Also on display was a small selection of pages from the Headmaster's Log Book, Cley Board School. These pages covered the opening years of the twentieth century up to and including the period of the Great War. It contains a rich vein of local history from Cley at the very beginning of the last century. To read it casually or simply flick through the pages is to miss all the wonderful colour of Cley in action.

Much of the information relates to the day to day running of the school such as;

- staff comings and goings
- daily record of staff absences
- probation pupil teachers, their progress and or shortfalls
- curriculum decisions
- daily start times, before and after lunch as well as time tables
- visits by Education and Medical Inspectors and the school governors



- building upkeep, repairs, renovations and extensions as well as storm damage and regular shortages of coal
- holidays, especially those for harvest
- attendance totals and averages for pupils

Pupils mentioned by name feature to a lesser extent, nonetheless the entries paint a clear picture of the;

- prevalence of childhood illnesses
- misdemeanours and the relevant punishment fines for non attendance

- recipients of County prizes and scholarships
- and the names of young school boys who were all too soon to lose their lives in the Great War

Cecil Bolton
Cecil Gathercole
Albert Jeary
Valentine Pinchen
Herbert Williamson

Pam Peake

History Centre Diary

January, February: closed

March, May to July: open first and last Tuesdays only, 10.30am till 1.00pm

April: open every Tuesday morning, times as above

Researchers and visitors wishing to use maps, film or fiche readers are strongly advised to book in advance and reserve space as both equipment and table space are limited. Special openings at other times are strictly by prior arrangement. Arrangements can be made by phone 01263 740388 or by writing to the History Centre, Blakeney Village Hall, Langham Road, Blakeney, Norfolk NR25 7PG (Remember to include a SAE for confirmation).

Blakeney and the Great War

In January 1915, the newspapers were reporting that 148 men from Blakeney had already joined the war effort, a figure that included reservists returning to duty as well as new recruits. Without knowing the exact criteria used to compile such a list, this figure must be regarded with a certain amount of caution. Indeed with just over four more years of war ahead and conscription yet to take place, the number would rise and that is without even taking the role of women into account. By this reckoning alone, with a population of approximately 800, the chances are that virtually every family and every home in the village had a direct connection to the war.

In just over six months the History Centre has already compiled a sizeable list of all known servicemen and women with Blakeney connections either by birth, schooling, work or through family connection, marriage and even holiday homes. It contains both the names of 36 casualties, as well as those known to have served and returned home. The survivors are elusive and harder to trace. Names have been provided by descendants and newspapers are being searched together with various online sites. The list is constantly being added to and adjusted as records are checked and new information incorporated.

A brief profile is being prepared for everyone who served in the Great War in whatever capacity; this includes information on their family together with a selection of service records where they survive and are applicable. The collection of available photographs is limited, those used here represent the sum total, except for five, of our entire collection. Some are in uniform, some are not. Can you help? Do you recognise a name on the list and have a photograph of them or can alert us to where there might be one that we could copy?

This seemingly impossible task has virtually been completed for all those that made the ultimate

sacrifice. Only two pose a problem; W. Bond where we have his rank, number and regiment and are just waiting for confirmation of his christian name and then H. Wright. Without any further information other than a single initial, H. Wright may prove impossible to identify.

There are five casualties not commemorated on either the War Memorial on New Road or in the Church and they are highlighted in the list with an asterisk. Job Simpson and George Haines, both born in Blakeney, are remembered in Thornage and Haddiscoe respectively and William Bilham in Field Dalling where he was born. There are no traces of local commemoration for either Joe Stevens or Blakeney born W. Bond.

Research on the Great War continues with completion of profiles being top priority at the moment. Soon we will turn to life in the village, looking at those who kept day to day life running; the Rector, doctor, schoolmaster, policemen, shopkeepers, farmers, postmen, Inn keepers, harbour master, the Lifeboat and so on. It is an ambitious task but the end result will provide a wonderful snapshot of Blakeney 100 years ago. If you have a passion or curiosity about the village where you live then please join in, any help would be invaluable. There is plenty to do and the History Centre will be open again in March or you can phone me on 01263 740388

Pam Peake

CASUALTIES

Edward Abel	ADCOCK
Percy Henry	ALLEN
Basil Claudius	ASH
Robert	BALDING
William Charles	BILHAM *
W	BOND *
Vincent Keeble	BULLEN
Charles	CLAXTON
Christopher A G	COOKE
Reginald C	COOPER
Reginald M	DANIEL
Clarence E	HAINES
George Henry	HAINES *
George Peter	HUDSON
George Alfred	KING
William Edward	KING
Thomas R D	LANE



James Herbert LONG
Herbert James LONG



John "Jack" LONG MM
Clement Barber MITCHELL
James Lewis MOORE
John "Jack" E MOORE
John NEWLAND
Charles NICHOLLS
Thomas Herbert PALMER
Frederick Walter PYKE

William Samuel PYKE
 Cyril Charles G ROE
 William Edward SEALES
 Job SIMPSON *



James William SMITH
 Ernest Herbert STARLING
 Joe STEVENS *
 Alfred Edward TURNER
 H WRIGHT

SURVIVORS

A Richard ADCOCK
 Albert Edward ADCOCK
 Arthur Ernest ADCOCK
 Richard Donald ADCOCK
 G E ANSTEE
 Gerald B ASH
 Edward BAINES
 Charles Edward BALDING
 Edward John BAMBRIDGE
 George William BAMBRIDGE
 Thomas Joseph BAMBRIDGE
 A Harry BECK
 Benjamin James BECK
 J E BECK
 John William BECK
 William Henry BECK
 Archie BEDWELL
 Charles Albert BISHOP
 John BISHOP
 John Henry T BROOKER
 A BROWN
 Henry Charles BULLEN
 Frederick C COBON
 Henry C COBON
 Herbert Robert COBON
 Joseph Spooner COBON



Thomas William COBON
 T William COOK(E)
 C DAINES
 John Robert DALE
 John DAWSON



A George DICKINSON
 MM
 Edward DIGBY
 John Reginald FORSDICK
 Christopher J GRIMES
 Robert George HAYWARD
 Thomas HOLLIDAY
 Eric HORNE

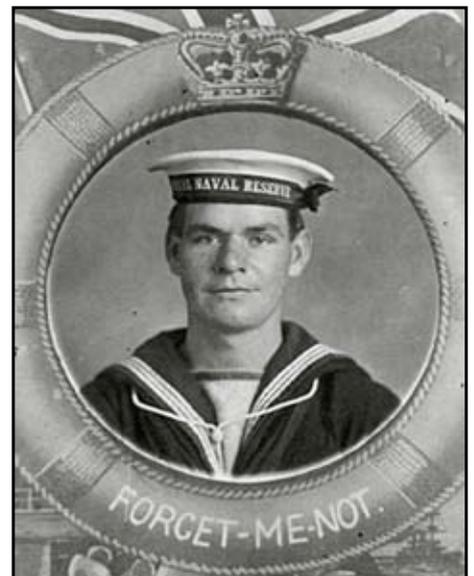


Hampton HUDSON

John Warnes HUDSON
 Stephen HUDSON
 Bertie JACKSON
 E JARVIS
 William Henry JARVIS
 John Robert JOHNSON
 George KEEP
 Herbert Victor KING
 Frank Arthur KING
 Cyril Hawkins L LANE
 Groom Sendall LANE
 Reuben LANE
 Herbert LEE
 Ernest Albert LONG



Frederick LONG



Frederick LONG
 George LONG



H Matthew LONG
John William LONG



Samuel D LONG
William Henry LONG
William Henry LONG
Henry MANN
Joseph MITCHELL
Josiah Blyth MITCHELL
James NEWLAND
George Twiddy NICHOLLS
William NICHOLLS
Robert OVERMAN
Samuel PARSONS



Harry POND
Herbert Ernest POND
Charles Anthony PALMER
Douglas John P ROE
Robert Gordon ROE
Charles R RUSSELL
W Edward RUTLAND
John SEXTON
George SHORTEN



Herbert Ernest SMITH
Isaac STANFORD
Francis "Frank" STARLING
Herbert Samuel STARLING
Leonard William STARLING
Thomas Rowe STARLING
William STARLING
Edward Albert STEARMAN
Herbert Stephen STEARMAN
George STRATTON
Frederick W THOMPSON
Arthur Kenneth D TILLARD
Elliot Dowell TILLARD
Sir Philip Francis TILLARD

Stephen Dowell TILLARD
William Buck TURNER
Alfred Ives TWIDDY
Edward/Edmund WARMAN
Arthur Richard WITHERS
Isaac Valentine WITHERS
Jabez Cranfield WITHERS
Edward J WORDINGHAM

Jodrell vs Hardy The Bayfield Lake

The Autumn Newsletter of the RGCG (River Glaven Conservation Group: an organization well worthy of support) included a mildly amusing story of antagonism between two local landowners in the late nineteenth century. This piece is based, with permission, on two articles by Dr Ian Shepherd who is happily also a member of BAHs.

Sir Alfred Jodrell who had succeeded to the Bayfield Hall estate in 1882 was apparently at loggerheads with Mr Cozens-Hardy of Letheringsett. The problem was that Sir Alfred was trying to maintain the Bayfield Lake for fishing trout and other fish species and objected to the quantities of silt and mud which were periodically discharged from upstream. Sir Alfred lists other grievances and even notes that It behoves any owner of the Bayfield Property to be on guard against the Hardy family.

He wanted to take proceedings against his neighbour but was persuaded to a friendly arbitration which produced just £18 compensation for Sir Alfred though he maintained that while their representatives were viewing the damage Mr Hardy flushed large volumes of water through to conceal the evidence.

In order to keep the mud out Sir Alfred, between 1890 and 1894, had a 1km long tunnel built by-passing the lake and this has itself been by-passed this year with a new sinuous river channel. That work too is described in the RGCG Newsletter.

Frank Hawes

Industrial Fakenham

by Dr E M Bridges
25 November 2014

The November meeting was addressed by Mike Bridges on the subject of Industry in the market town of Fakenham. While much of the talk must have been of special interest to those who know Fakenham well there was plenty to hold the attention of the rest of us. Born and educated in Fakenham, Dr Bridges, after a career in various parts of the world returned to his home town and has had twelve years as Chairman of the Museum of Gas and Local History.

He started his talk with a few words about the origins of the town which is not as ancient as some in Norfolk. There is no evidence of Roman or pre-Roman occupation and it seems likely to have come into existence around 600AD growing up around a convenient crossing place on the River Wensum. Fakenham developed on one side of the river and Hempton on the other. Both names, he said, were based on the names of individuals or families one being the lands of Facca and the other Hemma's farm or settlement.

The talk was organised around the basic needs of a medieval community: food, housing and marketing. Under food he touched on cereals and livestock, under housing there were mentions of the early tofts and a little about nineteenth century growth and finally under marketing the way in which the town was originally based around the market place and how retailing had changed in his lifetime.

There was a water mill in Fakenham ever since the compilation of the Domesday Book and later Hempton had a mill up stream and there was a third one down stream probably near where the later railway crossed the river. The Fakenham Mill buildings are now apartments and a hotel but no traces of the others remain. Both places also had a windmill. He showed a fine photo of the Hempton tower mill which was demolished as a too prominent

landmark during the last war but surprisingly does not get a mention in Harry Apling's book on Norfolk Mills. The Fakenham mill was a smock mill later converted into a tower mill and then into a private residence. The town had several bakeries but the last closed two years ago and it had a corn exchange from 1855 to 1932 when it became a cinema which it is again now after a period as a bingo hall.

Charlton's maltings and brewery in Staithe Street was the largest of several maltings and many brewing houses in the town until Dewing's maltings arrived with the railway. We were shown a photo of the Dewing's staff with long aprons, shovels and rakes. Most of the brewing was probably done at public houses and inns but only three of the 14 old public houses remain.

Until recently the town had two slaughter houses serving several butchers together with a tannery, leather workers, saddlers and fellmongers; a word new to me and apparently to several others in the audience which describes the trade of preparing skins before tanning. Dr Bridge's photo of a local saddler's shop showed many more horse collars than saddles illustrating the fact that there would have been many more horses pulling carts, carriages and ploughs than were being ridden.

Moving on to construction materials we were told that there were three blacksmiths in Fakenham and one in Hempton but also Bowles's Iron Foundry some of whose products such as fence posts and gully gratings can still be found around the town. There were gravel, sand and clay pits in the vicinity and a local stonemason whose work however seemed to be mostly funerary monuments. The town had two sawmills, Smith's and Clarke's, the latter being also wheelwrights.

Dr Bridges went on to talk about the coming of the railways; first in 1847 a line up from Wymondham and East Dereham to Fakenham East station, extended in 1857 up to Wells and then in 1879 a line from South Lynn to Fakenham West station which in

1881 was extended to Melton Constable and beyond. The railways disappeared in 1959 and 64. The coming of the railways triggered the arrival of not only Dewing's Maltings but of a number of printing businesses as well. Stewardson's had been in the town since 1803 but Miller's, Pratt's and the Norfolk Chronical all arrived about this time. Miller's were booksellers and published the Fakenham Advertiser. They also printed Richmal Cromton's *Just William* books and many by Enid Blyton until they were taken over in the 1960's. Sansom Pratt was a seedsman who set up a press and in 1905 launched a newspaper which ran for only twenty issues.

After a brief mention of the Peckover family, Quaker bankers since 1657 there were illustrations of garages and motor agents and the racecourse and mention of enough shops and businesses which have come and gone to bewilder this reporter.

More recent diversification of Fakenham industry has included Kinnerton's chocolate and McCartney's Food processing. Dr Bridges said that he had not mentioned the gas works because he had talked to us about that a few years ago. If any of the audience had come specially to hear about Fakenham's historically important gas works I am sure that they would have been more than satisfied with the wide ranging talk that we did have.

Frank Hawes

Spring Outing

For those who haven't yet been, this year's Spring Outing is potentially going to be a visit to Fakenham Gas Museum and Town Centre, or Walsingham, both with a guide. More details will be available at the BAHS lecture on 27th January 2015.

Meanwhile, if you have any other suggestions of places to visit please contact Diana Cooke on 01263 740320 or secretary@blakeney-history-area.org.uk

Spring Programme 2015

Lectures

All the following meetings are on Tuesdays in the Harbour Room at the British Legion Hall in the High Street, Blakeney starting at 7.30 pm. Entrance fees are £3.00 for members and £5.00 for visitors. Please note there will be no meeting in September.

27 January Four Short Talks – Member's Night
Richard Jefferson: Stanley Webster's War
Will Savage: Shipwrecks and plunder
John Peake: Serendipity – a Nelson Connection
Pam Peake: 18th Century Cley

24 February Revisiting the Asylum
Stephen Cherry (UEA)
The Norfolk Lunatic Asylum: St Andrews Hospital (1814-1998) uniquely used the same site and some buildings in providing custody, control, care, comforts and cures, but 'the asylum' was also about relationships between patients, their families, medical and nursing staff; daily routines and treatments; and local and external forms of authority: all involving narratives which are difficult to establish. It was also used as a 'War Hospital' during WW1 and as an emergency civilian hospital in WW2. As an N.H.S. hospital it was soon faced with closure but mental health care in the community proved easier to prescribe than to deliver, and arguably neither blueprints nor sufficient resources have been provided.

31 March Roman Treasure Finds
Roger Bland
An extraordinarily rich group of hoards of precious metal coins, jewellery and plate have been discovered in Britain and especially East Anglia dating from the last 50 years of the Roman rule in Britain: examples are the Hoxne, Mildenhall, Thetford and Water Newton treasures. These very rich finds have forced us to rethink the traditional view that Britain and East Anglia was something of a backwater in this period. This talk will draw on a project to study why so many hoards are known from Roman Britain to give new insights into why they were buried.

28 April Dr John Hales
Mike Muncaster
Our insight into the life of a country doctor John Hales, a prominent 19th century doctor in Holt, is through the diary kept by his wife and the books of his daughter Jane Hales.

September No meeting

27 October Lecture to be announced
Short AGM before meeting

History Centre Diary – see page 3

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