

BLAKENEY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 3

September 1998

Dear Members,

Here's another newsletter to tell you what's going on in the Society and, more particularly, to let you know about forthcoming events. But firstly, a word about

RECENT EVENTS

The lecture on the Historic Parks and Gardens of Norfolk given by **Dr Tom Williamson** was attended by some 40 people who were treated to a lucid overview of how the gardens of the big land owners changed during the 17th and 18th centuries according to fashion. Then, much as now, the lower ranks followed the practices of the elite, but could never quite catch up. At the end of July an **exhibition** of social history was staged in Blakeney Methodist Chapel. Some 80 people helped to make the preparations a great success for the 400 or so people who came in – and many stayed for hours, poring over the scrapbooks and other records of life in the Glaven villages. The exhibition was put on by and for the Chapel, but Society members were prominent in preparing the material on display. In August some intrepid members travelled to **Sedgeford** to see and hear about the extensive work on various sites in this village. The visitors were divided into 2 groups (there were 100 in ours!) and taken to 2 sites, one of them a Saxon graveyard, and then into the church where we heard from Peter Carnell about the geophysical explorations he was carrying out on a manorial site.

In June, **Journal No. 1** was issued to members and more have since been sold to those who have joined for 1998/9. At the time of writing there are just a few left (at £3.50) so apply to the Secretary if you want a copy. If you have something you could put into the Journal – or wish someone else would – please let us know.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

21st September
Monday 2.00 pm

UEA Course

Mike Brackenbury starts a 10 week course on Monday afternoons which will show us how to measure, draw and record a building and reach conclusions about its age, structure and history. This is a practical course and no prior knowledge is necessary. The cost is £45 (£40 to members) with some extra for equipment. If you're unsure, you can still come to the first meeting and then decide whether it's for you. Please come if you can because we need a minimum number for the course to proceed to the second week.

23rd September
Wednesday 7.30 pm

AGM

and Lecture

The business part of the AGM is not expected to take very long, especially when we are looking forward to a talk by **Dr Dick Hamond** about his studies of the marine life of this part of the coast. The Committee's report to the AGM includes a review of the year's activities, but rather than listing past events it emphasises that the Committee needs to take a positive role in the Society's primary aim: studying and reporting on the local history of this area. What we also need is more Committee members to help guide the work. If you, or someone you know, would like to **join the Committee** please tell the Secretary before the AGM if possible, or else at the meeting.

Clubnights

Those who attended the four clubnights last winter found them good value. The evenings are very informal, members' guests are welcome – and the coffee is free. Give them a try.

27 th October Tuesday 7.30pm	Clubnight	Project: Blakeney Chapel	The Committee has noted that there are several sites in the area which would be worth some serious study by the Society. The Chapel will be the first such Project and anyone who would like to help should come to this meeting. The present intention is to use the site for developing the necessary skills as well as to present a report to the National Trust – before the site gets washed away.
24 th November Tuesday 7.30pm	Clubnight	Flint tools	Janet Harcourt will bring some of the flint tools which have been found on her farm at Wiveton. If any members have flints which puzzle them now is the time to bring them in as there will be expert advice on hand: Professor Peter Robins has agreed to explain how you can tell man-made flints from natural ones. (Please note change of date.)
26 th January 1999 Tuesday 7.30pm	Clubnight	Local postcards	Gerald Cubitt will bring some examples from his large collection. Again, other members might like to bring any old postcards of the area that they have. Some non-members will also be asked to show some cards.
23 rd February 1999 Tuesday 7.30pm	Clubnight	Metal detecting	The arrangements for this evening are not yet complete but we hope to cover all aspects: not just the finds themselves but the legal requirements and the need to record accurately where objects are found.
27 th March 1999 Saturday	Spring visit	Venue to be arranged – ideas will be welcomed.	
June 1999	Lecture	Speaker and date to be arranged.	

NOTES and QUERIES

In this new section of the Newsletter any member who is looking for some specific information can appeal to other members for help. Replies can be passed to them direct or via the Secretary. In this issue:

Richard Kelham would like to hear about an oyster smack named *Tryphena* which plied these parts in the 19th century. Do you know anything about this boat? Do you know of any possible sources of information?

Monica White has noticed that our wells are different from those in some other parts of the country. Could anyone tell her about how wells were constructed or loan photographs of the 'working parts' or of wells actually being used before the arrival of mains water in 1953?

Victor Manton is looking for copies of *The Paper*, which was distributed in the Fakenham/Wells area between 1882 and 1886. The Fakenham Library set was transferred to Norwich and lost in The Fire – do any copies still exist? Have you still got one? Do you know anyone who has?

John Wright would like to know (in order to answer an enquiry) something about *Joseph Cornelius Elsy*, postmaster of Cley from c.1840 to 1871. And are there post cards or photos showing the post office?

AND FINALLY

Any comments, requests, suggestions etc should be made known to any member of the Management Committee or to the Secretary: John Wright (01263 740589).