

The Bulletin

www.calh.org.uk

Cambridgeshire
Association for
Local
History



The Bulletin is your chance to catch-up on all the latest news and events relating to Local & Social History world in Cambridgeshire

Dear All

Spring 2010

Welcome to the latest edition of **The Bulletin**, the Newsletter of the **CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY**.

Would you like to be the Editor of this newsletter? So that it can be published on a more frequent basis, we would really love to hear from you!!

2010 SPRING CONFERENCE & AGM & AWARDS:

Enclosed with this newsletter you have details of our exciting spring conference at St Peter's Hall, March on Saturday 10th April 2010. The title is the

'3 Rs - Rivers Railways & Robbers'

& has some excellent speakers: Cliff Carson, Andrew Ingram, Brian Jones, & Stuart Orme.

Our 2010 Awards & AGM take place this year at Toft Peoples Hall, by kind invitation of the Toft Historical Society; it takes place on Saturday 22nd May 2010. We have just judged the Book Awards and we have selected 11 books this time, we shall be awarding some very deserving individuals whose names will all be familiar to you, & our CYPHA & CCAN Awards will also be presented. You will receive all the details of this shortly & once all the winners have been contacted the names and details will be available on our website.

CALH 60TH ANNIVERSARY:

In September 2009, CALH, in association with the Cherry Hinton Festival team, we hosted a History Fair on the Cherry Hinton Recreation Ground. Our own Michelle Bullivant worked tirelessly on this, to make it the great day it was. In 2010, we have decided to take a breather. This break has given CALH a great opportunity to plan how we are going to celebrate, yes!! **OUR 60th ANNIVERSARY** next year. We would love to hear from you the members as to what you would like to do or what event you would like us to hold to make this a very special year. Please send us your ideas, so we can all join together and celebrate this as one.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE BFI MEDIATHEQUE:

The Cambridgeshire Collection and the Cambridge Central Library have now been reopened for a few months and I am sure you have all had a chance to visit. The way you take out and return your books is very swish and high tech. A great new addition

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to the central library and a real coup for Cambridgeshire is the new BFI Mediatheque centre (www.bfi.org.uk). There are only two other centres in the UK, one in London, on the Southbank & one in Derby, at the Quad, with another library setting planned for Wrexham, to be the first Mediatheque in Wales . For Cambridgeshire, the Central Library, BFI, & the East Anglian Film Archive (www.eafa.org.uk) have brought together a great variety of films for you to watch.

If you haven't been there yet, you really must go & give it a try. There is a glass room, with a series of booths, these hold up to 4 people, you sit on a bench and wear headphones, in front of you is a large flat screen and keyboard. To access the choice of films there is a very user friendly simple to operate menu system. You can browse, and choose to watch, any of over 1500 different titles ranging from short public information films to full-length feature films. Titles cover the period from the dawn of British film-making at the very end of the 19th Century through to the present day.

They regularly add to the collection and you can find details of this at the county council website. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/online/bfi_media.htm

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ARCHIVES – NEW EXTENDED OPENING TIMES:

Cambridgeshire Archives holds archives and other information sources relating to the former administrative areas of Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely (that's the present-day districts of East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire, Fenland, and the City of Cambridge).

The office also has a library of national and local history publications, to help research. Their helpful staff are always on hand to offer advice, process document requests, and guide you through the lists and indexes to help you find what you are looking for. Appointments are not always necessary but are strongly advised, especially for those wishing to consult maps or use microfilm and fiche. A Research Service is available for anyone who is unable to visit in person.

New extended opening times

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/visiting/crocambridge.htm

Monday:	Closed	(for distant enquiries, staff training, cataloguing, etc)
Tuesday - Friday:	09.00 - 17.00	No document productions between 12.45 - 14.00.
Tuesday Evening:	17.00 - 20.00	By prior appointment only. Please contact them by 2.30 pm to order any records you require for the evening.
Every 3rd Saturday in each month:	09.00 - 16.00	By prior appointment only. No new admissions between 12.00-13.00. Documents to be ordered by 12.45 on Friday.
Sunday:	Closed	

ACCESSIONS TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE ARCHIVES

Through our representation on the County Advisory Group on Archives & Local Studies of which we currently hold the Chair, we are delighted to announce that the accessions to the Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Archives are now available to download at the Cambridgeshire County Council website.

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/catalogue/recentaccessions.htm>

There is a wide range of material being deposited from church records, photographs, registers, and personal items, one such recent accession is simply listed as:

Mr A. Diver, Staines: diaries of Evelyn Diver (1894-1946) of Isleham 1908, 1912-16 (R109/064). What is fascinating is when you have a peep inside these diaries of a young country girl writing about her day to day experiences, including her time at school. One such entry paints a glorious picture:

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"Lots of Mice at School Today!! The farmer workers next door have started flailing & threshing last summer's harvest"

– no drama, just an everyday experience; can you imagine the sheer panic it would create in a primary school today, well at least the H & S officer would be having a field day (sorry for the pun!!!), please do have a look at these they are absolutely fascinating.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY ARCHIVE NETWORK:

The Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network is a fantastic resource of local, archive and current photographs, oral history recordings, video footage, and family history stories. Well over 50 local villages are represented from right across the county and approaching 25,000 wide ranging records are now available. Please do take a look: www.ccan.co.uk

Each local group has its own team & they have decided how they are going to record their own village(s). Some have stuck to a traditional archive, while others have decided to make it a living archive, recording images of today, for the archives of tomorrow. This all adds to the rich bounty of this flourishing website.

The Network is self led with representatives from a variety of groups; local groups pay the county council for the annual upkeep and development of the website and an annual subscription to the CCAN executive committee which enables it to function. The Network executive committee pays an annual subscription to CALH for the Networks special membership of Association. The benefits of this are available to all the local groups.

Several New groups have expressed an interest in helping to expand the network and this can only bode well for the long term future of this valuable county resource.

THE LILIAN REAM COLLECTION:



Lillian Ream (1877-1961)

Lilian Ream, born Lilian Pratt, was a remarkable woman who ran a number of businesses in Wisbech including the Borough Studio. She started her photographic career at the age of 17, as an apprentice to Alfred Drysdale, a Wisbech photographer. In 1909, after working for a number of other local firms, she opened her own photographic studio in the Crescent. By now she was a member of the Professional Photographers

Association and married to Sidney Ream. In time she took over other photographic businesses in Wisbech and became a well-known figure in the area until her retirement at the age of 72 in 1949. The family firm she built continued in business until 1971 and over this period a large collection of photographic negatives was amassed.

About the collection: The earliest photograph in the collection which can definitely be dated was taken in 1907. The Lilian Ream studio photographed local people, places, and events. It was very much a commercial operation and the variety of scenes reflect the variety of customers which ranged from local newspapers to shops, factories, sports teams and individuals who wanted to record their family, home or some major event in their lives. Portraits were the bread and butter of the business, and form about seventy percent of the collection. They illustrate not only changing fashions in clothes but also how the people saw themselves.

Saving the collection for posterity: No one knows just how many negatives existed when the firm closed down as all the records have disappeared, but many were lost before the surviving negatives, numbering somewhere between 150,000 and 200,000

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negatives, were acquired by Cambridgeshire Libraries in 1981. The negatives were sorted with the aid of a Manpower Services Commission project sponsored by Fenland District Council, and later a number of local exhibitions were held thanks to sponsorship by local businesses. In 1993 Cambridgeshire County Council handed them over to a newly formed charitable trust which has continued to make more of the collection available to the public. The negatives are now stored at the Cambridgeshire Collection in Cambridge.

Over 2,500 images from the Lilian Ream Collection are now available online at the Cambridgeshire County Council Website, thanks to the work of the Lilian Ream Exhibition Gallery Trust. These are a wonderful source for the local, Social & Family Historian.

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/local_history/lilianream/lilianream6.htm

THE PREVIEW 2010:

Since its foundation in 1951 CALH has published a regular journal with articles on a wide range of Cambridgeshire topics, people, buildings, and village histories contributed by members and others. In 1992 the name was changed from the Bulletin to the **REVIEW**. The Review is published annually in the spring.



As we told you in the last Bulletin, this summer we will be producing our new look Gazetteer (the **PREVIEW**) of what is going on and who to contact in our very busy county of Cambridgeshire. We are also looking to develop our highly successful online speakers list & eventually to publish this in print form as well, logistically this is quite tricky, so

bear with us. Also on our Preview webpage is an online, downloadable version of society programmes, this again has proven to be very well received. So in early June, local societies and CCAN groups will be contacted to provide their information to include in our new online and printed gazetteer.

The Preview will be an invaluable publication for all those interested in Archaeology, Community Archives, Local, Social, and Family History. www.calh.org.uk/preview.htm

EMAIL HISTORY NEWS NETWORK:

The 'History News Network', is another very popular service that CALH provides, absolutely free. If you would like details of your event to be distributed to the very people that are most likely to be interested in your event, please just send in your posters and fliers.

Preferably, these should be in pdf format and if possible below 0.5mb. If you do not have the facility to convert your document or pictures to pdf, we will accept them in whatever format you have, but the size restriction is very important.

Likewise, if you aren't currently a recipient, but would like to be added to our mailing list, that keeps you right up to date with the news and events in Cambridgeshire, please also send a quick email to the same email address: info@calh.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this year,

So take care for now & Happy Researching!!!

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