

# The Bulletin

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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

Edition 4: Spring 2008

Welcome to the latest edition of **The Bulletin**, the Newsletter of the **Cambridgeshire Association for Local History**. You can see from the above banner, that while we had hoped to produce this newsletter quarterly, due to the increased postage and production costs, it will now be produced most likely three times a year; in fact the cost of postage goes up again on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The three mailouts will contain the following: In early September, a copy of the '**Bulletin**', the '**Conduit**' and the '**Review**' and your Membership card. In Early Spring, a copy of the '**Bulletin**' and details of the Spring Conference. In April, details of the AGM and Awards ceremony and the Summer Excursions programme and a copy of the '**Bulletin**'.

However, with more and more people being able to receive information electronically, this is an area we are going to continue to experiment and expand upon.

If there is a budding editor out there, who would like to help write this newsletter we would love to hear from you. This would give the person the opportunity to be one of the first to hear all the latest news.

Easter this year coming so early on 23<sup>rd</sup> March has caused all sorts of log jams and problems and meant that all the work of the committee has been compressed and hence the paperwork has been delayed, for which we sincerely apologise. However, this most certainly hasn't affected the quality of the all various conferences, lectures and the excursions programmes, these all look very exciting and it has given us the opportunity to send a wide range of information from various groups. Would you please take this opportunity to fill out the booking forms and return them today or ASAP; this will greatly help the organisation of these events. Thankfully, Easter will not be this early for another 152 years.

### ***HISTORICAL RESOURCE & CULTURAL CENTRE (HRCC):***

Well, lets get the sad news out of the way first. You may have heard this news by now, however, we have been asked by Christine May, the Archives and Local Studies Manager to pass on this very sad news about the proposed HRCC at The old Foster's Mill at the Railway Station. The CALH is a member of the County Advisory Group on Archives and Local Studies, and from this we know first hand just how very hard everyone at the Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies Team and indeed the County Council have worked to try and make this exciting project come to fruition and I know they will all be sharing in our bitter disappointment. All we can do at this stage is to send them our warm thanks for all their efforts and to offer them our continued support in the now renewed search for a permanent home for all our precious archives and records.

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**Subject: Press release about HRCC - <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>**

*The following wording is on the front page of the County Council's website:*

### **SITE SEARCH FOR CULTURAL BASE FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE STARTS AFRESH**

The search for a new home for Cambridgeshire's priceless archives will start afresh after a previous scheme to site the records near Cambridge railway station collapsed.

It had been hoped to create the new centre with high quality storage and state of the art protection and preservation facilities as part of the cb1 redevelopment of the 24-acre site around Cambridge's Station Road.

The world famous Cambridgeshire Collection was also expected to move to the new facility - but the County Council has now withdrawn after protracted negotiations with the cb1 developer Ashwell failed to resolve long term financial and lease arrangements.

Trumpington Liberal Democrat County Councillor Anne Kent, whose ward includes the proposed Station Road site, said: *"I am very disappointed that this has fallen through, it was a very good location on a transport hub and would have been a great asset for the city. It is very sad that the developer appears to have raised the stakes and is now applying for yet more offices instead and the archive service is left back at square one with the records hidden in the basement of Shire Hall."*

The need for easily accessible public facilities and storage conditions which meet the current national standards for the unique archive collections remains an urgent priority for the Council, which is fully committed to finding a solution which produces an attractive, innovative and lasting cultural legacy for Cambridgeshire.

The search has therefore now started to find a new site and work to get the project back on track is underway.

Cambridgeshire County Council Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor John Reynolds, added: *"It is very disappointing that this exiting project to create the new Historical Resource and Cultural Centre as part of the cb1 development can not now proceed. After prolonged negotiation it has become clear that the development is not financially viable for us and does not offer value for money for Cambridgeshire council tax payers."*



One much more happier and exciting piece of news is that the CALH Committee is in discussion with the **Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network (CCAN)** to form a close working relationship when the initial funding and relationship with the County Council draws to a close in August this year. Some of you may already be a member of the around 50 digital community archive groups around the county, several of our committee members are involved in groups as wide apart as March and Linton.

The basic principle that is being discussed is that the CCAN would continue; retaining its own unique identity and would be administered by its own committee, as a sub-group under the umbrella of the CALH. All of the 50 digital community archive groups will continue to operate independently, but would become 'affiliated members' of the CALH, with all the benefits that would bring. The CCAN County committee would provide such things as technical and training support, administration, publicity, exhibition organisation, and most importantly a unified voice for CCAN in all its future network/server agreements. Links with the County Council would be maintained via Steve Capes being on the committee, Steve helped set up the scheme in the county.

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This basic concept of this arrangement has been accepted in principle by both the CCAN and CALH and the fine details will be worked out in the coming months. In the meantime, please do visit the CCAN website ([www.ccan.co.uk](http://www.ccan.co.uk)), where you can see all the photographs, text, sound and video archives that have been digitised and uploaded already. You may like to join a digital community archive group near you?

If an agreement can be made, this will be great news for both the CALH and CCAN and is very good news for future of Local and Social history in Cambridgeshire.

### ***THE ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS:***

While we already have had a enthralling series of lectures this season, however, we still have a lot more to look forward to and some great speakers to listen to. Our next Saturday session is importantly on **Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>** when **Garth Collard** will give us an introduction to the fascinating history of Linton. In a changed title Garth will take us on a photograph laden trip down **LINTON HIGH STREET THROUGH THE AGES**. Linton is an area you may not be familiar with, but it is one of the county's ancient Market Towns, sited in the south of the county on the Essex/Suffolk border. Garth is an excellent speaker, with a keen sense of humour and his lectures are always very entertaining. Garth is the chairman of Linton & District Historical Society and Linton & District Community Archive Group and he recently received his MBE from the Queen for services to Local History.

The following weekend on **Saturday 19th April** we have our Spring Conference on **'RURAL TECHNOLOGY'** and again we have a host of excellent local experts and speakers. See the enclosed booking form for full details, please complete and return ASAP.

Our **AGM AND AWARDS CEREMONY** this year takes place on **Saturday 3rd May** at Abington Village Institute, full details of this will be sent in due course.

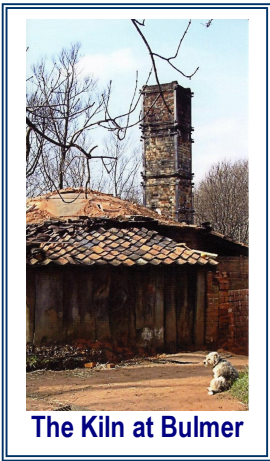
This year we will have an extra meeting on **Saturday 24th May**, when Professor M. Chisholm will give us a talk entitled **'RE-ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF DRAINING THE FENS IN THE 17TH CENTURY ON NAVIGATION'**, I have heard this talk and it is absolutely fascinating and one not to be missed, the Professor may also give his views on how climate change may affect the Fens and Cambridgeshire in the future.

### ***SUMMER EXCURSIONS PROGRAMME:***

We have been working very hard on this and have some very exciting excursions lined up and have taken the message on board that you would like more Saturday trips, these will be arranged as far as possible, however in some cases this just isn't feasible. You will see in your pack details of our joint trip with the **CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST** who are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. The trip on **Saturday July 26th** to **LINCOLN CATHEDRAL** is led by **Revd. Dr Lynne Broughton**, who many of you will know from either the summer church tours or her WEA Courses in the county. She has also brought out a new book, entitled **"INTERPRETING ELY CATHEDRAL"** and this will be launched in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral at 7.30pm on **Monday 28th April**. To book you place visit the Cathedral website or ring 01353 660300.

Other dates to put in your diary are **Saturday 20th September** when we will be going to the **BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM** near Birmingham ([www.bclm.co.uk/](http://www.bclm.co.uk/)), if there is enough demand, like the Lincoln trip we will pick up at both Ely and Trumpington Park and Ride. There will also be a range of visits and walks more local, these will include another day out with **Tom Doig** over near **NUTHAMPSTEAD**, a possible walk around **MARCH**, and historic **NEWMARKET**, a visit to **BARRINGTON CEMENT WORKS** with **John Drayton** the Quarry Manager (see a slice through Cambridgeshire's past and where all the fascinating

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fossils, such as the ICHTHYOSAUR) and the **BULMER BRICKWORKS** with **Peter Minter**, who has lived there since the early 1940s, and there has been a brickworks on this site since the 1450s (*it is just like stepping back in time, watch close up as bricks are handmade, just like they have been for many centuries*) this will include a walk around **BURY ST EDMUNDS**, (Sorry, both these will have to be midweek).

So please put these Saturday's in your Diary today:

**31<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>** (Lincoln), **AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
and **SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>** (Black Country Museum).

The full details will accompany the AGM Papers in April.

### ***NEW ASSOCIATION BOOK STALL:***

We have been trying all sorts of new things lately, including having a raffle at our Saturday Meetings, with a recent published book as first prize. This has proven to be unbelievably successful and a great showcase for local authors. To take this a step further at the Spring Conference we are going to have a bookstall, that will primarily be selling second hand history based books. We hope that this will be as equally successful and if so we hope to extend it. **Dr Ray and Janice Adams** are looking after this, so if you have any second hand books that you want to dispose of or even you have written a new book that you would like to sell to local and social historians, please do get in touch with them by email: [janice.adams1@ntlworld.com](mailto:janice.adams1@ntlworld.com)

### ***'LOOKING BACK' – THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION:***

The Association first started life as the **CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL** nearly 58 years ago. Members of the recent Committee have compiled a booklet simply entitled '**LOOKING BACK**' at the Association from 1952 to 2002. This will soon be available to download from our website: [www.calh.org.uk](http://www.calh.org.uk) . If there are any members who simply cannot do not have access to the internet, we will print you a copy and send it to you for a small fee. This is a fascinating glimpse at our Associations own history.

### ***'WILLIAM COLE OF MILTON' BY DR W. M. PALMER:***

Across time there have been several books that could be regarded as 'local bibles' for Historians. '**WILLIAM COLE OF MILTON**' by **Dr W. M. Palmer** is one such book. This is a fascinating book, William Cole was an 'Antiquarian' in the 1700s, he visited nearly all the parishes in Cambridgeshire and wrote a detailed description of the churches and buildings in the 1740s. This book has been re-printed By **Dr John Pickles** and is not available in the shops; if you would like a copy, please contact [jdp1003@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jdp1003@cam.ac.uk)

### ***EMAIL HISTORY NEWS NETWORK:***

We started off talking about communications, both postage and electronic. We know that many of you miss the regular email updates on local events and news. This had been interrupted due to a malicious attack that destroyed the secretary's 'Outlook Address Book', this happened twice and on both occasions we lost over 3000 email addresses. You do not need to worry, it isn't a virus that can be passed on, it was simply a bug that only affected the host computers 'pst' files. This does not happen in MS Office 2003 and above. The Association members email address book is being rebuilt, so if you would like to be sent these Local history news emails again, please send a short message including whether you have a broadband or dial-up connection to [info@calh.org.uk](mailto:info@calh.org.uk) will then tailor the contents to suit both types. This is your chance to stay fully in touch with what is happening locally.

Very Best Wishes and I hope to see you at one of our events very soon: **Andrew Westwood-Bate, CALH Secretary**

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