

CALH BULLETIN JANUARY 2022



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
ASSOCIATION FOR
LOCAL HISTORY

CALH BULLETIN JANUARY 2022 PART TWO

Wisbech Books

We have released the first volume of Wisbech Inns, Taverns and Beer-Houses : Past and Present written by Andy Ketley.

Volume 2 is being launched at Wisbech & Fenland Museum on Thursday 3 February. (see below)

The books are available from the W&F Museum gift shop, Bygones and Community Hub at Etcetera (in store and online). Price £10.

Each volume covers 30-40 pubs and includes the history of buildings and landlords and includes maps, photos and illustrations.

Regards

Garry Monger
Hon Sec
Friends of W&F Museum

Wisbech Inns, Taverns and Beer-Houses

PAST AND PRESENT



Volume 1

Andrew B N Ketley

Wisbech Inns, Taverns and Beer-Houses

PAST AND PRESENT



Volume 2

The Case Is Altered – The Friendship Inn

Andrew B N Ketley

Images of Wisbech

WISBECH and the Fens were home to a large number of photographic studios and the area was also visited by photographers keen to capture images of the fauna, flora, landscape or inhabitants. Other residents took their cameras overseas. The Fading Images website www.fadingimages.uk run by Les Waters lists more photographers for Wisbech than any other town in the county.

The Rev William Ellis's (1794-1872) work as a missionary took him to Madagascar and he brought back images that were used in his publications. Jane Holloway recently published a biography entitled *Wisbech's Forgotten Hero*.

Samuel (Philosopher) Smith (1802-1892) captured the development of the town during the 1850s and 1860s. His collections are now found

around the country and include those photographs held by Wisbech & Fenland Museum and the Science Museum, London.

Lilian Ream (1877-1961) created a collection, of which 10,000 images survive. This provides a wide-ranging record of local residents and events. *From Cradle to Grave in a Fenland Town*, with over 160 photos compiled by Colin Wilkinson and Robert Bell.

Geoff Hastings (1926-2005). After leaving school he worked for the Air Inspectorate Department based in March. Here he audited aircraft parts prior to their being assembled on the war-time assembly lines. After the war he married Mabel White and came to Wisbech as a manager with Cambridgeshire Motors on Elm Road.

He was a keen amateur photographer and he was unhappy not to have been able to make a photographic record of Wisbech prior to the initial slum clearance of the Horsefair in the 1950s and early 1960s. By good fortune he learned of Wisbech Borough Council's redevelopment plans and was determined that this time he would use his camera to record the buildings of the town.

He would cycle around the area using his 35mm camera to photograph buildings - residential, industrial, mercantile, maritime or agricultural - at risk of demolition. Thus Geoff compiled a collection of negatives of huge interest. Soon local newspapers and periodicals made his work well-known around the area and further afield.

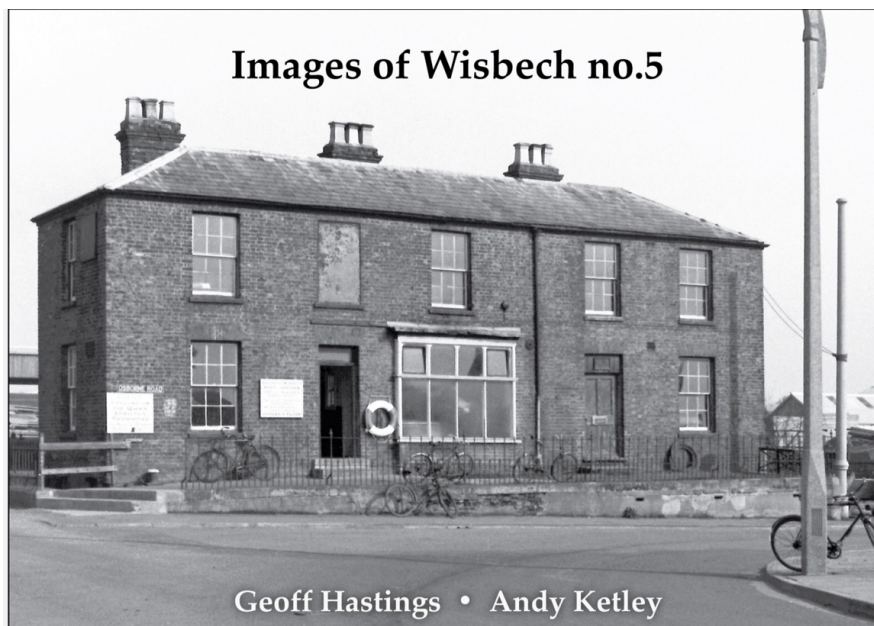
Even when photographs are undated, visual information such as car number plates, brewers' signage, car models or style of dress can assist in dating an image.

The photographs themselves were lost in the 1978 Wisbech flood, but the collection's negatives remained stored away out of sight until Geoff's death on 25th September 2005. The collection of 3,000 negatives and 300 drawings was passed by Geoff's family to Andy Ketley. The images were then scanned.

Andy, a trustee of the Friends of Wisbech and Fenland Museum produced *Images of Wisbech no.1*, Comprising a selection of images from Geoff's collection, with information about Geoff and his photographs. The first print run of 100 sold out in a week, reprints and rapid increasing sales of four successive volumes led to increasing print runs and total sales of about 3,000 copies. The income from this series of publications is used to support the museum in curating the town's heritage, which includes Geoff's collection.

The Friends of Wisbech and Fenland Museum support the museum by organising talks and events. Members give talks and carry out research and publish books about local history. The group has a Facebook page and a notice board in the museum entrance. *Images of Wisbech nos.1-5*, priced at £5, are stocked in the museum's gift shop, Bygones in Hill Street and the Community Hub at Etcetera, York Row, Wisbech (in store and online).

Garry Monger
Hon Sec
Friends of Wisbech & Fenland Museum.



Lost Voices Workshop: Bringing voices from the past to life

This workshop will present outputs from the Lost Voices project, funded by the Arts Council through its *Developing Your Creative Practice* fund to share our insights and ideas, developed through the project on how voices from the past might be brought to life. In addition, Mike Petty, Cambridgeshire researcher, lecturer, historian and creator of the Cambridgeshire Collection and Steve Waters, professor of Scriptwriting at the University of East Anglia and successful playwright will provide their own thoughts on this topic.

We believe the workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss how neglected voices from the past might be brought to life, voices of the types of people rarely seen in films and television, but often such a rich part of the local history and the places where we work and live. The workshop will explore how historians, writers, film-makers, actors and

others, alongside local communities can come together to bring to life our shared past.

The agenda for the workshop is as follows:

Workshop Location: Microsoft Teams meetings

Date: 7th February 2022: 1.00 p.m.

The Lost Voices Project: summary and outputs:

Peter Daldorph 13.00 to 13.30 p.m.

Ideas on bringing voices from the past to life:

Peter Daldorph 13.30 to 13.40 p.m.

Mike Petty's work on local history

13.40 to 14.00 p.m.

Steve Water's on bringing the past to life in the theatre

14.00 to 14.20 p.m.

Discussion, questions and answers

14.20 to 14.40 p.m.

We really hope that you can join us for this workshop.

Please contact peterdaldorph@yahoo.co.uk to express your interest and receive an invitation to join this event.

Accessing the 1921 Census Results

– *an issue for Local History Groups*

(This is a concern that, we believe, is typically shared by many local groups and individuals CALH)



One of the key, much used resources and assets of the Abington History Group, is the information regarding people who lived in the villages of Great and Little Abington in Cambridgeshire.

We have built this up over the last 20+ years as a set of qualified records of Births, Marriages and Deaths and this attracts a lot of interest from the local community.

Some of this was painfully transcribed from original parish records and other local documentation. All of this has been historically checked using modern online services, many of which we have found suffer from a number of transcription errors.

We have nearly 6000 records covering Births, Marriages and Deaths for our villages from 1599 to 1902 and details of the 483 people in the villages from the 1901 census and the changes over the 10 years to 502 people in the 1911 Census (there were 286 new names in the 1911 census that did not appear in the 1901 census)

We were eagerly looking forward to updating and adding to this from the 1921 Census publication but find we have been priced out of accessing this data online by Findmypast.

To look at the original 1921 census images, which are often more accurate than the transcriptions, cost £3.15 each (even with the Findmypast membership discount).

Tracing the 502 residents from 1911 census to 1921 could cost over £1500 – which as a small group with very limited funds, we do not have.

At least four of us in the group *personally subscribe* to Findmypast contributing approaching £500 to their funds, but to update our records we would still have to find a further £1500.

[others in the group also subscribe to other genealogy organisations]

As a small history group, we therefore feel aggrieved that we have been priced out of using 1921 census data. (spending several weeks at Kew is not practical for us)

Is there any way to enable us to update the history of our villages ?

Have any other groups encountered the same problem ?

If there is a way, could you please let us know.....

Barry Brooks

Chairman of the Abington History Group, Cambridge

abingtonhistorygroup@gmail.com

We have lost the following members this year

Sylvia Beamon, 1935-2021

Members will be saddened to learn that Sylvia, who was our Chair from 1986 to 1994, died on 30 November 2021. Although a Londoner (she was born in Islington and raised in Edgware), she was a long-term resident of Royston, where she was involved in many community initiatives, notably founding the town's first playgroup (the Retreat Parent and Social Group) which later evolved into the Royston Community Association), campaigning against dangerous traffic in Royston town centre, and on behalf of CND and Amnesty International.

History was her over-riding passion, however, and particularly the exploration and interpretation of man-made underground structures: she was the founder of 'Subterranean Britannica' in the 1970s and will especially be remembered for her work on Royston Cave and its possible links with the Knights Templars, publishing (with Lisa Donel) 'An Investigation of the Royston Cave' in *PCAS*, LXVIII (1978).

She was also an authority on ice-houses, publishing *The Ice Houses of Britain* with Susan Roaf in 1990 and contributing a chapter on the subject to *An Atlas of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire History* (ed T Kirby and S Oosthuizen, 2000). She was a fount of information on underground Britain (and indeed Western Europe): thanks to a chance remark I made on the Surrey Iron Railway, it was she who alerted me to the extensive network of underground canals serving the stone mines at Merstham, between Croydon and Redhill.

Sylvia came from a generation for whom higher education was the exception rather than the rule, but made up for this in later life by becoming a student at Lucy Cavendish College, taking her BA in Archaeology and Anthropology in 1977 and her MA in 1981. She was a member of CAS Council from 1978 to 1982, and then undertook the arduous work of Registrar until 1986.

She succeeded Andrew Pye as Chair of what was then the Cambridgeshire Local History Society in 1986, and after her retirement from that position continued as Vice-Chair until 2000, as well as acting as *Review* Editor in 1993 and from 1996 to 1998. Under Sylvia's chairmanship, the Society organized two very successful Local History

Festivals at Impington (1987) and Wimpole (1990), and she launched our very first Annual Conference, held in September 1992.

She also set up the 'Collector's Group' of the Society, for people interested in collecting local history relics and ephemera, which held its meetings on Saturday afternoons before the traditional lecture. Finally, it was under Sylvia's guidance that the Photographic Group was launched, to up-date the collection of photographs of Cambridgeshire villages taken by members of CAS in the 1920s and 1930s, which was co-ordinated by Gill Rushworth.

She was an ebullient and outgoing person who wore her learning lightly and was held in deep affection by members. Her passing will be mourned by all in the local history community and by a much wider circle of people with whom she came in contact. Our condolences go to her family on their loss.

Tony Kirby

(With thanks to Tom Doig, Anne George, John Pickles, Philip Saunders and the *Royston Crow* for information)

Julie Curtis

whose presence at the Saturday talks and on excursions will be sorely missed.

John Pickles

We were saddened to hear, just before this issue of the Bulletin was issued, of the sudden death of John Pickles, who will be known to many members as the Librarian of the CAS Collection in the Haddon Library and as a regular contributor to the *CALH Review*. He was also the instigator of the CALH Book Awards, which have become an important annual fixture. He was unfailingly kind in providing information on even the most arcane aspects of Cambridgeshire history and had an unrivalled knowledge of the holdings of the Cambridgeshire Collection and Cambridgeshire Archives (as well as being a proud Yorkshireman!).

A fuller tribute will follow in the next Bulletin.

Tony Kirby

Jean Underwood

whose presence at the Saturday talks and on excursions will be sorely missed .Fuller tributes to these four will appear in the Bulletin and elsewhere.

If you would like to notify us of any deaths, we will include them in future issues of the CALH Bulletin.

Historical Board at The Cross, Royston

The historical board at the Cross, Royston (at the bottom of the High Street), which had become very dilapidated, has been replaced with new artwork to a very high standard created by Martin Kaszak, the Vice-Chairman of the Royston and District Local History Society. If you happen to be in Royston, it is well-worth a look.

Martin was previously involved with the artwork on the Royston Tapestry and his wife Carole with the embroidery. There are now ongoing discussions as to how to best display the tapestry when the Royston Museum and Art Gallery reopens later this year.

David Allard

Regards

David Allard

Honorary Treasurer, Outing and Programme Secretary
Royston and District Local History Society

www.roystonlocalhistory.org.uk

