

Arcadian
Club
SCARNING



Newsletter No.11
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*Just a line to say
Fred and I were
greatly encouraged
by the turnout, and
enthusiasm of
members at our last*

meeting on Saturday 10th May 2003.

It was good to get those attending contributing to our discussions, and not left to Fred and I to do most of the talking. This is a situation we have both hoped for over the years, that those who regularly attend, get involved in our thoughts and discussions.

The indexing of Augustus Jessopp's works has been the catalyst in this respect, and has induced an excellent response, and although it is a long drawn out task, at least a start has been made, and hopefully progress on indexing will continue.

Since our last meeting a request has been received from the Team Librarian (Heritage) at the Forum in Norwich, Dr. Clive Wilkins-Jones, for details of our publications, and Fred has sent

him copies of the newsletters published to date, and promised to add the library to our mailing list for future issues.

Hopefully, these newsletters will be available in the Heritage section of the library at the Forum for the general public to read, yet another avenue in getting Jessopp more widely known, and appreciated as an important contributor to the scholastic, religious and antiquarian life of Norfolk's past.

There are many local societies in Norfolk created over the years to ponder over the lives of its most illustrious personalities in the county's history, and Dr. Jessopp, his life, and work, in the county, deserves to be there along with them.

I am glad to say that Dr. Henry Stapleton will be attending our next meeting on 18th October 2003, and no doubt will add his considerable weight to our discussions, and focus our minds on other avenues of Jessopp's life.

David Bunting



One Generation of a Norfolk House



Recently I have been reading again, 'One Generation of a Norfolk House', and every time I pick it up I marvel at the effort, and research, over many years, that Augustus Jessopp put into this considerable work, especially as it was written during the time he was Headmaster of the Norwich School. I find the notes at the end of each chapter as fascinating as the narrative, which in itself is a masterpiece of clarity and precision.

Some of you may recall that Fred and I, by kind permission of Lady Walpole, visited the impressive library at Wolterton Hall (now over six years ago) and with the help of Martin Styles, a young and enthusiastic librarian, sifted through the correspondence Augustus Jessopp had with Frederick Walpole, and the 4th Earl of Orford. Some of this correspondence related to his ongoing research for 'One Generation of a Norfolk House', and gives an insight into the efforts Jessopp made to dig out all the essential material for the task in hand.

As we have not published any of this subject matter in our newsletter before, I thought members would be interested in what the correspondence contained. Below are a few examples of letters Augustus sent to Frederick Walpole.

This one is dated 6th August 1874:

I have been to Tourni, seen the Chapel in which Edward and Henry Walpole made their Jesuit vows, I have seen the refectory in which they dined, and perhaps been in the rooms in which they lived.

Another dated 10th October 1874:

"Did you tell me that you had a copy of the contract of marriage between Robert Dudley and Amy Robsart, or rather the contract between their parents? If convenient could you let me see it?"

Amy Robsart lived between 1532/1560 and married Robert Dudley in 1550. This document would have indeed been interesting. If Augustus came across it I do not know.

Finally a letter dated 13th November 1874:

"Mr. Simpson, Champion's biographer, is coming to pay me a visit next week. I think you would

like to see him, if you have nothing better to do will you come and dine with us, on Saturday 20th –no it will be the 21st. I am getting on very well with the book, I have got another chapter done, but it will have to be rewritten before printing.”

Richard Simpson who helped and advised, received due praise from Augustus in the preface to the book on publication.

Another gentleman and historian, Everard Green who lived at New Delphie Chambers in London, sent copious notes to A.J. and was obviously a very busy researcher on Jessopp’s behalf. He was amongst the subscribers recorded in the preface.

One letter we found addressed to Frederick Walpole suggested in 1874, that A.J. was worried that he would not live long enough to see the book through to its conclusion, and in the event of this happening, he suggested that Richard Simpson should take over and complete it. As it transpired, Richard Simpson died before the book was published, and of course, as we know, Augustus survived to see it through, and live many more years including 30 years as Rector of Scarning where most of his subsequent works were written.

David Bunting

The annual subscription of £5 is due and will be collected from members by Ann at the October meeting.



Scarning Parish Magazines

The year 1902 was a very eventful one in Scarning. In the January of that year, Dr. Augustus Jessopp wrote “It is a matter of great satisfaction that Scarning can at last boast of having a Magazine of its own.....

The magazines will place on record many interesting events which those who come after us will be glad to be reminded of.....

No time could have been fitter for beginning such a chronicle than at the beginning of the year 1902 – a year in which it is confidently hoped that we shall see our new Village Hall completed and in use.

Rector of Scarning

One hundred years later we are able to show you original copies of those magazines when we put them out for display. Overleaf, we tell how these valuable documents came into our hands.

Scarning Parish Magazines 1902-1905

A few years ago, a lady wrote to me. She had heard of my interest in Dr. Augustus Jessopp and was in possession of a set of the Scarning Parish Magazines for 1903-1905. She no longer wanted them, but felt they should not be thrown away but kept for posterity. Could I suggest what should be done with them?

I wrote to her and said that if she cared to send them to me, great care would be taken of them in our archives.

Some considerable time elapsed and we had a special function at St. Nicholas' Church in Dereham. As I stood outside the church, a lady came up to me and pushed a parcel into my hands. It was wrapped in plastic and tied with string. She said something about it being the Scarning Parish Magazines and then disappeared into the crowd. I barely had time to thank her and on reaching home, discovered my treasure. We put them on show every time we have a meeting.

Magazines for the year 1902 were missing and then I heard from the Very Revd. Henry Stapleton that he had a set of Scarning Parish Magazines, but that he had a year missing and he hoped I could send him photocopies for *his* missing year. We agreed that I would do this and

he would in turn, send me photocopies for my missing 1902.

There is little time for members to read these magazines at our meetings and in any case, they have to be handled carefully in view of their age.

It is therefore my intention to publish interesting extracts in these newsletters commencing with this issue. I think you will find them as interesting as I do. Each magazine consists of an outer cover with a bought insert which I imagine was available for anyone wishing have a magazine but who lacked the necessary material to fill it. The inserts always feature typical sentimental Victorian stories.

It is the outer cover that gives news of the events affecting the community and there are names which may still be found in and around the parish.

One last comment and again it happened outside St. Nicholas' Church in Dereham. Again, there was a special function and as I entered with Beryl Steward, a book was pushed into her hands. It was a *bound copy* of Scarning Parish Magazines for 1904 and is now in my hands and displayed at meetings.

As far as I am aware, there was then a long gap with no magazine, and the next Parish magazine

was dated April 1984 and for one year, Mavis Scarles issued a magazine which covered the Parishes of Dereham, Scarning, Mattishall & Burgh, Welborne, Yaxham, Hockering and North and East Tuddenham.

With my wife, we then took this over for the next ten years until December 1995 and have copies of all the magazines. I wonder if they would be valued by a future generation? The Rector for Hockering briefly introduced a new magazine which ended after a few issues and he went to South America.. Time changes everything and today, Scarning and Dereham together share a joint magazine after a lapse in time.

Fred Hoskins

The following is a report of the Harvest Festival service as recorded in the October 1902 Parish Magazine by Dr. Jessopp:

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival was kept on Sunday, 28th September. Some anxiety had been felt lest the harvest would not be all gathered in by the day appointed, but the fears were groundless; the last week's fair weather was all we could wish, and with grateful hearts we met for our thanksgiving services. There were overflowing congregations. The rector preached both morning and evening. The Choir sang beautifully; the anthem and several hymns were precisely and heartily rendered. The collections for the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital amounted together to £10. 10s. 0d

The Church was very prettily decorated. Mrs. Boddy, Miss Bone, Miss Holliday, Mrs. Hurrell, the Misses Tuck, Miss Milk and Mrs. Miller were among those who willingly offered themselves for the work. Perhaps we may particularise the lovely decoration of the Font and the Altar rails.



Scarning Parish Magazine

September 1902

If we had a time capsule and could venture back into the past, it would be intriguing to visit Scarning in September, 1902. So let us pretend we have and Dr. Jessopp is telling us what has happened during that month. It has been a very eventful month as you will see.

Dr. Jessopp is speaking.

“When the month of August commenced we were beginning to emerge from the deep gloom into which the illness of the King had thrown us, and just ventured to hope he might thoroughly recover from it and be our crowned king at last.

Day by day the news improved, and the nation threw itself into the excitement of rejoicing which had been so sadly interrupted. It was universal, and gave colour to all our thoughts, until at last the supreme moment came, and in spite of fears, and evil forebodings and gloomy prophecies, joy triumphed, and we had the happiness of a coronation such as never has been known before.

Even here, in the depths of a country parish, we have been the partakers of the general joy; but now, as the public excitement is subsiding, we



must turn to the quiet duties of our own work-a-day life.

We have gone on with the Village Hall, and on the 1st of August it was put to its first public use, when the North Elmham cricket match was played, and the clubs had their dinner and tea in the Hall.

Then his Honour Judge Willis kindly gave an excellent tea to 22 old people on the 6th. The party was a most cheerful one; they cordially thanked the Judge, and very much appreciated the Village Hall.

But best of all was the utilising the Village Hall for holding our Sunday School and the children assembled there on the 17th, to the great comfort of the teachers and the taught.

The 20th was the date of the annual Sunday School treat. Swings, cricket, &c., were provided in the Rectory field for the children, but almost at the beginning of the afternoon all games were interrupted by heavy rain. We took refuge in the barn for a while, and when tea-time came, the Village Hall was a pleasant refuge. We were able to enjoy a prolonged repast.

In the intervals of the showers we had a few games and races, and with the happy disregard of bad weather which children generally exhibit

they seemed to enjoy themselves. As the shades of evening began to fall, little gifts were distributed, and they dispersed. There were about 53 Sunday-school children present.

We hope to come into full work on the 29th of September, by which time we hope harvest may be over and the holiday makers sufficiently refreshed to be able to return to work.

CRICKET

A somewhat disappointing season was brought to a close by a match on August Bank Holiday, on our ground, against N. Elmham.

The match which was a whole-day one, was very pleasant, and resulted in a win for the home side.

The two teams had lunch together in the Village Hall, which proved to be an excellent place for such a purpose.

We hope to give the batting and bowlings averages for the season in a subsequent number of the Magazine. The batting record is very poor.

In the October issue for 1902, Dr. Jessopp refers to a Statute for the conduct of Village Hall affairs. This Statute consists of four pages, foolscap size and we hope to reproduce part of this in our next newsletter.

Most of the October 1902 Parish Magazine for Scarning drafts the Rules and Regulations for the use of the new Village Hall. Over the years, these rules have been modified to agree with changes in attitude.

The New Scarning Village Hall 1902

Dr. Jessopp writes:

The month of September (1902) has been a somewhat eventful month for Scarning. In the first place, the land on which the Village Hall and the five houses connected with it are built, has been formally handed over by Mr. Evans Lombe to five trustees – The Rector; Messrs. Milk and Wade, as Churchwardens; and Messrs. W. Bone and H. Crowe as members of Scarning Church Council. The whole work contracted for by the builder, Mr. Lerner, had been completed, and the Estate has been fenced in throughout. There only remains to pay the balance due for architect's charges and extras.

EVENING SCHOOL 1902

The evening classes at the School re-opened for the season on Monday, September 29th. This year they will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in each week, from 7.15 to 9.15pm. The subjects of study are Mensuration, Drawing, Commercial Correspondence and Arithmetic. Mrs. Miller is forming a Female Class for instruction in Domestic Economy and Practical Cookery. It will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7 o'clock to 9pm

Extracts from Scarning Parish Magazine, November 1902

The month of October has passed away very quietly, and with fewer changes in Scarning than usually happen at Michaelmas time. The most startling event was the merciful escape from a real conflagration which would inevitably have burnt down the row of small houses at Church Corner if it had not pleased God to avert it.

Very early on the morning of 7th October a smell of fire roused Arthur Hayward from sleep and, being alarmed, he got up and went out. It was then discovered that smoke was issuing from the window and roof of Mrs. Thody's house. On their breaking the window, flames burst forth alarmingly. The poor old woman, who has been much failing of late (she is 81 years of age) was found lying on her bed fully dressed, the bed and bolster smouldering, as it appears it had been doing for hours. Without the loss of a minute the neighbours managed to extricate her from her perilous condition. She was taken to Hayward's house, and the fire was soon put out – but not a moment too soon.

Mercifully, little damage was done, though Mrs. Thody was burnt, though not very seriously. Some time elapsed before the necessary preparations could be made for her removal, but in the evening the poor woman was taken to the

Union House at Gressenhall, where she is now, and is likely to remain for the remainder of her life. She was very strongly averse to go to the Workhouse; but now that she has had experience of the kind of treatment which inmates receive at the hands of the officials, and of the comforts supplied there, she is continually saying she wishes she had gone there before, and wants nothing better than to stay there till the end.

Though he was never an actual inhabitant of the Parish of Scarning, Lewis Barton, who died at Dereham, aged 102, last month, was known to many of us at least by sight; and until his eyesight failed, he might be seen almost every afternoon making his way to have a chat with his old friend Mrs. Cooper in Scarning.

The Rector used occasionally to go and see him, and could make him hear better than most of his friends. Barton was a strong churchman, and an earnest and devout old man, who read his Bible as long as he could see to read. The last time the Rector went to see him Barton gave him a curious old Prayer Book, printed at Cambridge in 1662. Perhaps we may be able to say a word about this Prayer Book on some future occasion.

We have to acknowledge the presentation of a Ping-pong table by F.W.Wilson, Esq. M.P.

A. Jessopp