

Arcadian
Club
SCARNING



Newsletter

October 1998

No.1

Members

Mr. J.C.BAXTER, Keepers Cottage, Castle Orchard, Bungay, Suffolk,
NR35 1DD

Mr. & Mrs. D. BUNTING, 38, Park Road, Holkham, Wells-next-the-
Sea, NR23 1RG

Mr. V.CLARK, 4, Mayfair, Scarning, Norfolk

Mr. R.CLARKE, 5, Mayfair, Scarning, Norfolk

Miss A.CORDERY, (Treasurer) York House, Dereham Road, Scarning

Mr. & Mrs. R.DAVIES, 29, Sheddick Court, Dereham

Mr. S.DORMOR, York House, Dereham Road, Scarning

Mr. F.C. FISKE, Morningthorpe Manor, Morningthorpe

Dr. R. HAMOND, Scaldbeck House, Morston, Holt, NR25 2BJ

Mr. F.HOSKINS, (Secretary) Hope Springs, Dereham Road, Scarning,
NR19 2PL

Mr. & Mrs. K. LACEY, 9, The Watlings, Scarning

Mrs. D. LOVETT, Homelea, 2, The Watlings, Scarning

Mrs. M.MERKEL, Dial House, 26, The Street, Bintree, NR20 5NE Mr.

Mr. B. NORTON, 1, Council Houses, Etling Green, Dereham

Mr. & Mrs. K.ROCKLEY, Manor Farm Cottages, Scarning, NR19 2LL

Mr. G. SCOTT, Wyrley Farm, Scarning Road, Shipdham

THE VERY REVD. H.C.STAPLETON, The Deanery, Carlisle

Mr. & Mrs. J. STILGOE, Crabbe Hall, Burnham Market, Kings
Lynn, PE31 8EN

LORD & LADY WALPOLE, Mannington hall, Norwich, NR11 7BB

Mrs. R.WRIGHT, 1, Jessopp Close, Scarning

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*We are indebted to Mr. Stuart Dormor for the excellent drawing of
Dr. Jessopp on the cover. This will be featured on all Newsletters.*



Aims of Arcadian Club

*Following a get-together in the winter of 1995 between
Fred Hoskins and David Bunting who discovered a mutual
interest in the life of Augustus Jessopp, a meeting was called for
Saturday, 4th May 1996 with the aim of forming a Club or
Association to study the life and literary works of Augustus
Jessopp.*

Thus the Arcadian Club came into existence; at the initial
meeting it was agreed to meet half yearly in May and October to
pursue this object.

It was felt that this group should be formed on an informal basis
and should be held in Scarning Village Hall. The annual
subscription was set at five pounds.

Since the meeting and formation of The Arcadian Club on 4th
May 1996, four further sessions have been held including one
highly interesting visit to Mannington Hall by kind permission
of Lord and Lady Walpole.

The consensus of opinion amongst club members is that a half-
yearly newsletter should be published to make available to all
the large amount of information collected from various sources
on the life, work and family of Augustus Jessopp.

*Comments from members would be appreciated - better still, items for
inclusion in future editions are invited.*



Continuity is the essence and it is hoped that members of the Club will participate in forming the content of future newsletters for as a group, we have a personal and collective interest in the life and literary works of Augustus Jessopp.

All regular members are now familiar and well acquainted with Augustus Jessopp's history, his childhood, his education, his first clerical appointment, his change of direction in midlife into education and finally his long period as Rector of Scarning, the Parish he faithfully served for over thirty years.

Biographical Details

1. Born at Cheshunt, Herts on 20th December, 1823, the third son and youngest child of John Sympson Jessopp D.L. (Barrister), and his wife Elizabeth.
2. The family moved to the Low Countries in the Spring of 1831. Augustus received a roving education abroad and later at Clapham under the Rev. A.J.Plow.
3. Three years in a merchant's office in Liverpool c.1841/1843
4. Sent to St. John's College, Cambridge in 1844. Awarded his degree in 1849



5. Curate at Papworth St. Agnes (then in Huntingdonshire)c.1847/1854
6. Married Mary Ann Margaret, daughter of Charles Cotesworth R.N. of Liverpool, also in 1847
7. Short period at 52 Regent Road, Cambridge following resignation at Papworth St. Agnes in 1854
8. Headmaster of Helston Grammar School, Cornwall. c 1855/1859
9. Headmaster of the Norwich School 1859/1879
10. Rector of Scarning 1880/1911
11. Mary Ann Margaret died 1905 (Buried at Scarning)
12. Incorporated at Oxford (From Worcester College) and took the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1890. In 1895 his Oxford and Cambridge Colleges elected him Honorary Fellow on the same day. In the same year he was made Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral and in 1902 as Chaplain in Ordinary to King Edward VII which he held until 1910.
13. Resigned living in 1911. Removed to The Chantry, Norwich
14. Died at Virginia Water, Berkshire 12th February 1914
15. Buried at Scarning alongside his wife on 14 February, 1914

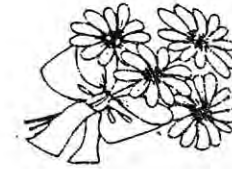


After his death, H. Irwine Whitty published his personal reminiscences in the Eastern Daily Press. Mr. Whitty was a Master at the Norwich School. This is now recorded in full:

Personal Reminiscences

We buried him this afternoon beneath the shadow of the little church where he ministered so long, and beside the wife he so deeply mourned. And today is Valentine's Day. What memories it recalls of the kindly pair in those far gone days at the Grammar School. Every boy in the house - there were over thirty - received three Valentines, duly delivered one by one, amid thunderous knocking at the school-house door, and boisterous expectation and laughter of the waiting crowd within. Merry were those old days and pleasant, if flavoured with sadness, their memory to us old fogies who saw and shared.

It is just thirty-seven years now since I first joined that friendly band at the Grammar School, of which he was the head, and of which by his death, I am left the sole survivor. He was a schoolmaster indeed, and many a boy has trembled at his nod, but he was also a genial companion and the kindest of friends. Kind-hearted and generous were he and his incomparable wife, as no one can testify better than myself. For a while still a comparative stranger, only a few months after I had joined, I was seized with a severe illness at the school. But I was peremptorily forbidden to return to my lodgings - a room was got ready for me in the school-house, and there by weeks of tender personal care was I nursed back to health; nor did the kindly friendship ever fail during the years which have passed since then.



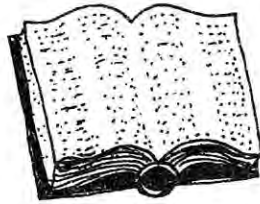
(Personal Reminiscences)

Pleasant is the memory of the Sunday walks, when morning chapel being over, the doctor and his wife and we of the staff used to wend our way up the Thorpe Road and back by the river, discussing all things both in Heaven and earth. The doctor's criticisms were mostly trenchant and he would rise to the heights of sublimity in denouncing what was not to his taste; but underneath it all was a charity, deep and wide, so wide that he was at times almost impatient of creed.

I well remember his telling us his famous ghost story the evening after he returned from the scene of it. To say truth it seemed to me, though a curious and interesting experience, to be one of a type by no means unknown, and why it should have created such an extraordinary sensation when published in this "Athenaeum" has puzzled me from then till now.

Yesterday's "Daily Press" quotes his words with regard to the feeble old men and women watching hungrily the coming of the relieving officer, lest their allowance should have been stopped by the Board. Could the doctor have put an end to that state of affairs altogether doubtless he would have done so; as it was he softened the necessary asperities of the Poor Law as much as possible to the old folk beneath his care. He allowed those in receipt of relief to meet weekly in their own church and arranged that they should receive their allowances there. Well do I remember one such gathering on a cold day in January. First the old folk met at a short service in the church, where, as it happened, the sermon that day spoke of the brightness of Heaven. Afterwards, they repaired to the room behind the church, where hot cocoa was served out to them. Then their allowances were given them and they made their way home, refreshed in soul and body.





(Personal Reminiscences)

Anyone, again, who would realise what were the doctor's dealings with his poorer parishioners can find a vivid picture of such in his book "Doris". The furniture of his library at Scarning had been presented to him by the old boys of the school on his resignation of the headmastership; and many a friend, old and new - though old ones had, I think, the warmer place in his heart - recalls with delight, as I do, the hours spent there talking to the doctor, or listening, perhaps, while he read aloud, in a style so peculiarly his own. I do not think I shall ever forget his reading of Rudyard Kipling's story of Purun Bhagat, and the description of how the brown hand of the little brother was put forth to warn the sleeping saint of the impending landslide.

A great joy to him was the building of his own village hall, and there is no doubt the pleasure and well-being of his parishioners was largely enhanced thereby. It was not a case of building a hall and then letting it take care of itself, for every detail of its management was looked to by the doctor, in conjunction with Mrs. Jessopp during the early days of its existence, and later with his devoted niece, Miss Pycroft. Indeed the traditions of the hall tell of one husband who stated that he was more than willing to arrange for his wife's attendance at the entertainment evenings there as it kept her so happy and helpful during the rest of the week.

Well, the doctor has passed away and the world seems to some of us a poorer and colder place; his memory, however still lives in Norwich, in Scarning, in Norfolk, and throughout England, and it is the memory of a cultured scholar, a brilliant conversationalist, an able preacher, a generous and kindly friend. *H. Irwine Whitty*

The next newsletter will contain a list of publications of Jessopp's works.
