

Arcadian
Club
SCARNING



Newsletter October 1999 No.3

NEWS ROOM

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*We are indebted to Mr. Stuart Dormer for the excellent
drawing of Dr. Jessopp on the cover.*

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Following our last meeting on 8th May 1999 when the general
census of opinion was in favour of increasing the content of our half
yearly Newsletter, it is hoped that our third edition will meet the approval of
our membership.

This issue includes the Lecture given by Augustus Jessopp 'Ecclesiastical
Dereham' which Ron Fiske kindly produced, and is of obvious interest to
Scarning and Dereham Members.

As promised, we are including the remainder of Augustus Jessopp's
publications and edited works, the complete list will, it is hoped, be of benefit to
those who are seeking out, and enlarging their collections of Jessopp's books.

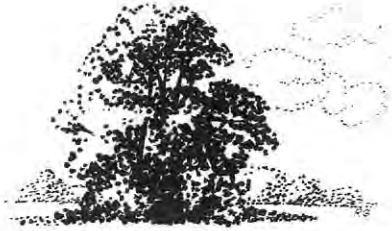
In the March 1999 issue of Heritage Today, it is stated that Dr. Henry
Summerson, Tudor research editor of the *New Dictionary of National Biography*
will be replacing the 32 volumes written by Dr. Jessopp for O.U.P. with 55
volumes in 2004, in which he is very critical of Dr. Jessopp's moralising tone.
Fred's reply shows on page 4, the divergence of opinion held regarding
Augustus Jessopp's views on Historical matters! I think Fred's is the more
accurate.

in his 'King's England Series (Norfolk)' Arthur Mee said of Scarning - 'One who
lived here called it his Arcady because to him it comprised all that he most liked
in Norfolk -HE was Dr. Augustus Jessopp.

'He loved the fine views of the countryside from the hill on which the trim
houses, the Inn and the cottages stand.' Arthur Mee wrote those comments
nearly sixty years ago. Much has changed in Village Life since then but the
abiding beauty of the Norfolk Countryside remains that Augustus Jessopp loved
so much.

An earlier Norfolk Chronicler, William A. Dutt, a contemporary of Augustus
Jessopp, said of Scarning and Augustus Jessopp, "It is a very pleasant district
in which the Scholarly Rector, author and Antiquary lives; an ideal district for
one who, while he loves his books and can always find contentment in his

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library, yet can enter whole-heartedly into the joys and sorrows of his Parishioners. From the Churchyard at Scarning, and from the window of the ivy-clad Rectory, he can look out upon some of the most charming scenery in Norfolk."

I doubt if Arthur Mee, or William A. Dutt, or for that matter Augustus himself would approve of the busy A47 which now disturbs the quietness of Arcady. At least the Railway no longer passes nearby which Augustus disapproved of, but many of us today would probably prefer the steel tracks to the constant roar of motor engines passing to and fro in their thousands every day of the week, on the busy Motorway fringing Scarning.

How much has changed in One Hundred Years!

David Bunting

In his entry on Elizabeth I in the Dictionary of National Biography, Augustus Jessopp wrote: "There is nothing, absolutely nothing to show that Elizabeth had a heart, nothing to indicate that she ever, for a moment, knew the thrill of sentiment, the storms of passion or the throbs of tenderness." Dr. Jessopp then gave examples of her actions on the rebellion of the North, the execution of the Babington plotters and her courtships.

Dr. Henry Summerson writes: "So overtly moralising a tone is out of fashion today and would not be something we would expect of our contributors. I don't think Rev. Jessopp (sic) shows any real understanding of the great difficulties Elizabeth faced when she became Queen."

Fred wrote: "A biography consists of facts and opinions. The facts are indisputable but I cannot see how the atrocities and attitudes of our present era should now alleviate in some way those of her reign."

He also corrected the spelling of Dr. Jessopp's name but has received no reply.



Dr. Jessopp on Ecclesiastical Dereham

The following article giving details of a lecture presented by Dr. Jessopp, has been submitted by Mr. Ron Fiske. We are sure readers will find it of considerable interest.

The Rev. Dr. Jessopp gave an interesting lecture on Tuesday evening at a public meeting under the auspices of the Churchman's Society. The vicar presided, and notwithstanding the rain, a good audience assembled. The title of the lecture was announced as "Dereham and its Parson," but this the worthy Doctor, in a few humorous prefatory remarks, said was misleading. He did not propose to libel the chairman, nor to speak any disagreeable truths.

The lecture was an historical one, and was delivered with the Doctor's quaint humour, its title properly being "Dereham Church and Parson," and commenced with the reign of Anna, King of the East Angles, and the foundation of religious houses by his daughters Sexburga and Etheldreda at Ely, and Withburga at Dereham, after their father and brother and the rest of the family had been killed in warfare - 200 years after the foundation of the monastery here by St. Withburga on pretty much the same site as occupied by the parish church.

There was a fearful invasion by the Danes or Norsemen all over the country, and the civilisation of England was almost obliterated; the monasteries of Ely, Peterborough and most of the religious houses in the land were pillaged, and their inmates slaughtered. Amongst other places destroyed was the monastery at Dereham. In the next two centuries Ely and Peterborough revived, but the obliteration of the Dereham monastery was complete.

When these monasteries were founded, large tracts of land were given for their support, and it was pretty certain that the land which



formerly belonged to Dereham extended from Honingham to and included Shipdham, and carried with it the two very valuable livings of Shipdham and Dereham, and until quite late times the living of Shipdham was one of the very good plums of the Diocese of Ely, and down to the Conquest, the Rectory of Dereham was one of the prime pieces of preferment the monks of Ely kept in their hands.

William the Conqueror, wanting to find out how far his people were capable of being taxed, caused a survey to be made in 1085, or thereabouts, known as the Domesday Book, but the record relating to Dereham was undiscovered until about 20 years ago. Before that time Dereham was put down as having no church at the time of the survey.

it was now known that there was a church in Dereham at that time, surrounded by about twenty acres of land, and that the living was very considerable indeed. The church was probably built about the year 800, and was almost certainly a timber church, as until the time of the Conquest the Anglo-Saxons had no faculty at stone working; they were, however, wonderful men at woodcraft, although their only tool appeared to be the axe; this they used skilfully upon wood, and with deadly effect upon the craniums of their enemies in battle; and it was also certain, from the evidences of their early attempt at working in stone, that they used the axe for that purpose also.

Quite two generations passed before they took to the mallet and chisel. There were several instances hereabouts of early Saxon churches; the church at Great Dunham was one, and some parts of Gressenhall Church were the work of the Saxon. There was great rivalry in those days between the Bishop of Ely and the Bishop of Norwich, who was then living at Elmham. After Elmham had its stone church, the good people of Dereham thought they too must have one, and it was accordingly built about the year 1100, some portion of the Norman work being still visible in the fluted column near the chancel.



in those days there were no roads, how then did these good people get the stone here? There was no stone in Norfolk and they did not get it from France. The stone they used was Lincolnshire stone, and this was doubtless brought by sea to Yarmouth or Lowestoft up to Norwich, thence by Swanton Mill and Worthing, and turning along the stream near the Workhouse they brought it quite up to their own doors by the little stream dividing Dereham from Scarning, running along by the bottom of the churchyard.

The doctor explained that the rainfall in those days was five times as much as now, and consequently many of our narrow streams were then navigable with flat bottom boats used for that purpose. He went on to describe the probable shape of the early stone church, illustrating his meaning by diagrams drawn upon the blackboard, and traced the development of the apsidal termination at the east end into the present chancel. The Holy table was placed in the apse, and the celebrant then stood, his back to the east and his face to the people.

In the beginning of the 13th century the tithes in Dereham were divided, and Jeremiah Caxton was the first rector. There was a great distinction made between the rector and his assistant, or vicar. The rector was always a non-resident. All he did was to take the revenues, and the vicar had to content himself with the tithe egg, the tithe onions, and such smaller articles. The lecturer incidentally mentioned that a similar division was made in Scarning, and for several centuries the Rector was a non-resident. He jokingly referred to the composition of the Scarning Parish Council, and the weakness of the people for non-residents, and mentioned that on the Council there was only one man who was born in the parish.

Proceeding with the lecture, the Doctor said Caxton died in 1244, and Robert Passileau, Prime Minister in King John's reign, an immoral and extravagant man, and not a cleric, who had just before been put forward by King John for the Bishopric of Chichester, and



was refused, was appointed by the Bishop of Ely as Rector of Dereham.

The 13th century was very celebrated for a great revival that has left its mark and effect upon the work of the churches. The buildings were made handsomer, and not only was there a religious revival, but some remarkable reforms were made. The Clergy were not allowed to marry, but some did marry, as he was in a position to prove. The Romanists said nay but he said yea. Several instances had been collected by him from records between the years 1270 and 1290. One great cause of this prohibition was that the clergy in many instances disposed of the valuables of the Church, gave their glebes to their own children and otherwise dispossessed the Church of her property.

Another great reform resulted from the religious awakening. Preaching, which had almost come to a stop in England, was revived by the mendicant Friars, and again became popular.

The lecturer having given some account of the old-fashioned pulpits and rood lofts and screens, said he had not carried his audience very far, and in fact, had hardly touched upon the parson; but proposed to continue his lecture at a later date.

As to the ownership of the fabric of their church. The chancel, which was of 13th century date, belonged to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; but the lecturer had to the present been unable to ascertain to whom the remaining part of the fabric now belonged. Perhaps some of his learned friends would enlighten him upon the subject when he came to give a continuation of his lecture.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the doctor, on the proposition of Mr. H.B. Vincent, at the close of the lecture.



Banquet to the Rector

The following article appeared in the Scarning Parish magazine for February, 1902

Our readers will hear with pride that our Rector was entertained at a Banquet given in his honour by the London Society of East Anglians at the Trocadero Restaurant, London, on Monday, January 20th. The banquet was given "in recognition of the charm and scholarship of Dr. Jessopp's contributions to literature, and especially to that literature which revivifies for us the past life of East Anglia." Sir F.Lacy Robinson, K.C.B. was in the chair.

Mr. Edward Clodd, in proposing the toast of the evening, spoke of the Doctor's work as Head Master of Norwich School, and at Scarning as the Parish Priest, the guide and friend of a small agricultural community. He had always at heart the welfare of Arcady. Mr. F.W. Wilson, M.P., speaking in support of the toast, bore personal testimony to the affection of all parishioners for their beloved Rector.

In replying to the toast the Doctor told the story of his first book, and of his life at Norwich and Scarning. When he first came to Norfolk, forty years ago, he was told that the people were very suspicious of a man from the shires. He had found them quite the contrary. They had given him a hearty welcome, and in the forty years that he had known the people of Norfolk he had experienced much kindness at their hands. The twenty years he had spent in Norwich were happy days, although he had to work very hard. In all those years he hardly knew what it was to be in bed after half-past five in the morning.

The Doctor went on to tell the story of his first book. At the suggestion of the Hon. Fred Walpole, M.P. for North Norfolk, he began to make investigations into the life of Father Henry Walpole, a Jesuit priest in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This led to his writing "One Generation of a Norfolk House."

Publishers were not friendly, and he determined to bring the book out by subscription. and found that the Norfolk gentry responded with gratifying enthusiasm to his invitation to subscribe. The book was a literary success, and he considered it the most substantial of all his historical works. This led him into other historical studies, and into various byepaths of literature.

But his main literary success was achieved in his efforts to pourtray (sic) the life of the people of the country around him - in the past and in the present. He had pointed out continuously that while the men of wealth were giving of their means freely to relieve the gloom of the slums of our great cities, little or nothing was being done in this way for the villages.

At last the dream of twenty years was about to be realized. A munificent anonymous friend having come forward and supplied him with funds, before long they hoped to have in Scarning a Village Hall and some model cottages.

Amongst those present at the dinner were:- Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, Sir Edward and Miss Bulwer, Lady Buxton, Mrs. Jessopp, Sir Henry Howarth, Sir S. Hoare, M.P., General Sir. A. Gaslee, Mr. F.S. Stevenson, M.P., Mr. G. White, M.P., Mrs. F.W. Wilson, Mr. H. Massingham. Mr. Brooke Little, and many others.



PUBLICATIONS BY AUGUSTUS JESSOPP *continued from May Newsletter*

ONE GENERATION OF A NORFOLK HOUSE A contribution to Elizabethan History, Norwich (1878)
(Viz. The Walpoles of Houghton)
Sec. Edition printed Edinburgh (1879)
Third Edtn. revised P.352 London
T.Fisher Unwin (1913)

PENNY HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND P.87 Christian Knowledge Society London (1902)
Revised edition London (1908)
Revised edition P96 SPCK London (1922)

PITY THE POOR BIRDS SPCK London 1893

RANDOM ROAMING AND OTHER PAPERS P264 T.Fisher Unwin London (1894)
Second edition (1896)

ROBBING GOD A pamphlet on Disestablishment
P23 T.Fisher Unwin London 1907

SIMON RYAN THE PETERITE P119 T.Fisher Unwin London 1896

STUDIES BY A RECLUSE IN CLOISTER TOWN & COUNTRY P281
T.Fisher Unwin London (1893)

SWANTON MILL P62 Christian Knowledge Society
London (1900)

(continued overleaf)



Publications by Dr. A. Jessopp continued

THE TRIALS OF A COUNTRY PARSON P295 T.Fisher Unwin
London 1890

OTHER VIEWS ON THE TRIALS OF A COUNTRY PARSON 1891

WALPOLE & WHAPLODE LINCOLN A. Jessopp & Everard Green
Being a genealogy of the Whaplode
branch of the family of Walpole
of Houghton, Norfolk. Privately
printed Norwich (1874)

BEFORE THE GREAT PILLAGE With other miscellanies.
(T.Fisher Unwin) London
1901

THE COMING AND GOING OF CUSTOMS ECCLESIASTICAL
A sermon preached before the
University of Oxford London (1899)

THE COMING OF THE FRIARS AND OTHER HISTORICAL
ESSAYS (T.Fisher Unwin) London (1889)

DORIS AN IDYL OF ARCADY Christian Knowledge Society London
(pages 62) (1892)

ENGLANDS PEASANTRY AND OTHER ESSAYS (pages 398)
T.Fisher Unwin London (1914)

FRIVOLA MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS (page 205) T.Fisher Unwin
London (1896)

THE GOODWINS OF EAST ANGLIA Family of the Goodwins
of Hertford (1891)