



THE REEPHAM SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England

Newsletter – January 1999

(Follows September 1998 Issue)

At this time of year, as our voluntary collectors go round asking for your subscriptions, we generally include in the newsletter a reminder of the Society's aims and activities. The society operates as a local amenity society within the parishes of Reepham, Booton, Hackford, Kerdiston, Salle, and Whitwell. It is a registered charity affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England and is non-political and non-sectarian. The Society is also non-profit making and financed entirely by members' subscriptions, voluntary donations, and fund raising activities. Membership is open to all who are interested in the area covered. Objects are to:-

1. stimulate public interest in the area;
2. promote high standards of planning and architecture;
3. secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historical or public interest.

In addition to its own activities to promote these objects, the society cooperates and co-ordinates with other bodies such as the Parish Council, clubs and youth groups. The society also keeps a watch on activities and developments outside Reepham that are likely to affect the town.

Planning

As an Amenity Society, we are entitled to be notified about and comment on all planning applications in Reepham. These are scrutinized by our Planning sub-Committee, of which Jan Henry is now Chairman and Jolyon Booth is Secretary.

In 1998 the sub-committee commented on 28 applications. Broadland District Council subsequently refused 2 of them and approved 24 leaving 2 outstanding at the time of going to print. The most significant refusal was for two pig buildings at Wood Farm Kerdiston as reported in the September 98 newsletter. The most significant proposal since then is to convert Riches House (The old Happy Shopper) into a shop and four flats. We have not opposed this but BDC have yet to decide on it.

Highways

Members will, no doubt, be pleased to learn that, at a Parish Council Meeting on 25th Nov, there had been a constructive exchange of views with two County Council Highways Officers on a range of highways topics. The Officers accepted that long vehicles should be discouraged from coming through Reepham. As soon as possible they would put notices on the B1145 at Bawdeswell, Aylsham and Fir Covert Road advising drivers that the road was unsuitable for long vehicles. The effect of these advisory notices would be monitored to assess the likely value of framing a restrictive regulation. They would also change the direction sign off the A1067 at Bawdeswell so it showed Reepham rather than Aylsham, as at present. They thought various other ideas about changing road priorities, protective kerbs and a chicane were not feasible though they believed Reepham was near the top of the queue for traffic calming. They would come and look at our parking problems outside Spar and along Norwich Road. There was a possibility of extending the 30 limit beyond Booton Beck.

RS Garden Competition

In order to keep a unified theme for the evening, a new format was tried for the presentation of the Reepham Society's 1998 garden competition prizes. So, after they had very fully and carefully explained who was getting the awards and why, the judges formed themselves into a gardeners' question time panel. The audience challenged them with a wide variety of questions, which they fielded most expertly and

adroitly. All three of them found something to say about almost every question - there was no repetition and only the faintest hint of disagreement - altogether a fascinating evening. We are most grateful to the judges, for the time and effort they contributed. Between them they visited 80 gardens twice over.

Winners, in order - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Highly Commended - were as follows.

The Stimpson Cup (Large Gardens). Mr. & Mrs. R Kemp; Mr. & Mrs. R D Harding; Mrs. A Wyand.
Judge Mike Allen.

The Ewing Cup (Intermediate Gardens) Mr. & Mrs. R W Franklin; Mr. & Mrs. JR Lambert; Mr. & Mrs. H W Raffell; Mr. & Mrs. B Simpson **Judge Laurie Riches.**

The Margaret Cameron Cup (Small Gardens) Mrs. Pat Waterworth; Mr. & Mrs. IW McGilvray Mr. & Mrs. DW Everett; Mr. & Mrs. J Lay. **Judge Brian Norbury.**

The Chairman's Cup (Vegetable gardens) Mr. W Roberts; Miss Dorothy Burton; Mr. HN Egmore; Mrs. NA Jinkerson; Mr. W J Tubby; Mr. S Tebbutt; Special Award to: Mr. P Walker. Mr. & Mrs. D Leonard
Judge Mr. EG Geater.

Programme of events

You will see from the list below and on your membership card, that this summer we have combined the "outdoor" event with the presentation of the Marjorie Gibbs Rose Bowl (hanging basket) awards. Last year it was the social aspect of both these events that members seemed to enjoy most and we plan to lay on some (gentle) live music as well as food and drink to oil the wheels.

1999 Programme

FEBRUARY 11 **The Knight on the Bed of Stone.** (Like the Kerdiston tomb in St.Mary's Church.)
Illustrated talk by **Kate Nightingale** (Reepham Society)

MARCH 11 **Victorian Cooking: Rich & Poor.** Talk and display by **Lyn Gash** (Norwich Museum)

APRIL 29 **AGM** Election of Officers & Committee for 1999-2000, followed by **Medieval Norfolk from the Air.** Illustrated talk by **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk Landscape Archaeologist, Gressenhall)

MAY 13 **Unusual Britain** Illustrated talk by **Helen Paterson** (Formerly of English Heritage)

JUNE We hope to arrange an outing. (Members' suggestions would be welcome.)

JULY 17 **Society Summer Soirée & Presentation of Awards for Hanging Basket Competition** at Moor House, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard.

SEPTEMBER 9 **The Sinking of the Titanic.** Illustrated talk by **John Balls** (Relative of a passenger)

OCTOBER 14 **Saints Alive** (Unusual church dedications in Norfolk & stories of their saints). Illustrated talk by **Philip Skeyte** (Enthusiast)

NOVEMBER 11 7:30 PM START **The Society's Garden Awards** followed by **Gardeners' Question Time**

Norfolk Amenities Group AGM

Members will be interested to learn that we are hosting this year's Group AGM (16 April at the Pavilion, Stimpson's Piece) where we hope to put on an exhibition of the Societies activities. Please notify Jolyon Booth if you wish to participate.

Literature Festival

Reepham's fame as an intellectual power-house has spread as far as Norfolk County Council who have chosen the town as the location for a Literature Festival (though they want to call it something else!) to be run in conjunction with the District Council on 21, 22nd, 23rd October. A Festival activity that the Reepham Society particularly wishes to help promote is 'reminiscence gathering'. The memories of some of the