

# Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf

## Community Heritage Group



### Chairman's Report 2019 for AGM 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

The group is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year and continues to flourish, bringing a wide range of talks, displays, events and research evenings to our three villages. The Friends support is invaluable both from their subscriptions and their input into research and events.

In our search for a permanent home, Neatishead Baptist Church kindly offered us the use of their Stable Building. We finalised an agreement last year and give them an annual donation for its use. In 2015 we were given a donation to help establish the group and we have purchased shelving, collapsible tables, storage boxes, a dehumidifier and a kettle with this money! It has been great to have our own space to use for meetings, research and to spread out our displays boards to design exhibitions.

Our WW1 Event last November to commemorate the Armistice was very successful with a very different and poignant events enabling our community to remember the Fallen and the Victory in different ways – the drama, the poppy trail, the exhibition and the ecumenical Remembrance Service. We obtained a grant from the Norfolk Big Community Fund to cover the cost of hiring the New Victory Hall for the weekend and should like to thank the Parish Councils for their valued contribution towards the Victory Tea which was a fitting end to a memorable weekend.

Gareth had applied for us to be able to lay a wreath on behalf of the group at The Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and we felt privileged to have been accepted.

We now have two websites: [www.greatwar.nibchg.org.uk](http://www.greatwar.nibchg.org.uk) which contains information about all the men from our villages who served during WW1 together with our research about life in the villages at that time. We also have a group website [www.nibchg.org.uk](http://www.nibchg.org.uk) with current information about meetings and projects. Any help to keep these up to date would be welcome.

We now have five books covering various aspects, times and characters of the villages available for sale at the White House Stores, Horning Post Office and our meetings. The most recent book "Two Wars and Marigolds" is the story of our two WW1 dramas with a conclusion to Betty's story. "A jam round Barton Turf" by John Yaxley has been reprinted and is available from Barton Church.

For the Farmers' Markets this year we invited local groups to share some of their archives with us. Carol liaised with them and assisted with their displays. Some fascinating photographs and information was discovered and it has raised awareness with the groups the importance of looking after such information which forms part of our villages' heritage. We should like to thank the New Victory Hall for allowing us to use the stage for displays

As Neatishead, Barton and District WI celebrate their 86<sup>th</sup> year, I would particularly like to share a few pages from their W1 scrapbook for 1965. This was discovered, together with another from 1978, when organising their display in May this year and each is a priceless time capsule in pictures, press cuttings and text, describing our villages during those years. I hope we can arrange a presentation of these next year.

Some members of the group have been involved in a number of very successful research collaborations: “St Benet’s Abbey and its Medieval Connections with Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf” - Michael, Jim, Duncan and Claire; “It’s a Monk’s Life” - Claire and Irstead PCC, “Hatch, Match and Despatch” - Barbara, Michael, Susan, Gail and Barton Turf PCC; St Peter’s Churchyard Archive - Monica and Anne Turner.

There are a number of projects which have been started this year and are ongoing.

- Footpath Map – Carol produced a map which is available in the White House Stores. We should like to develop this to cover the three villages.
- Barton Turf Telephone Box – purchased by Barton Turf & Irstead Parish Council who have asked us to provide a display inside.
- Norfolk Record Office have secured Heritage Lottery Funding to help communities capture the county’s historical memory and we are one of 35 heritage groups who will gain training, help and expertise in cataloguing and archiving our resources.
- The Victory Hall – we have started collecting photos and memories as the New Victory Hall celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

In addition for 2020 we should like to:

- Arrange a programme of presentations and research evenings for the year.
- Undertake some WW2 research and commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day in May.
- Get involved with “Broads Hidden Heritage” – this is a group of interlinked local history, archaeology training and research projects that form part of the wide Water, Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership scheme. The projects are being delivered by Norfolk County Council in conjunction with the UEA, Broads Authority and local organisations. Projects include in Wrecks, Boatyard Histories, Regatta Histories, Staithes, WW2 on The Broads. Already oral histories have been recorded for a another strand of the Water, Mills and Marshes Scheme by John Horner – A Neatishead Farm Boy (1950s to present) and Alan Cox (former Irstead resident) – Story of an Irstead Boy 1930s to present). These can be found online at <http://www.wisearchive.co.uk/>.

Finally thank you to the committee: Michael Brandon-Jones, Carol Horner, Geoff Hunt, Susan Lamb, Gail Murrells, Gareth Pritchard, Barbara Pilcher for their ongoing dedication to the group and to you all for your continued support.

**Claire Penstone-Smith, Chair, NIBCHG, Oct 2019**