

Hallo again everyone!

I'm writing this looking at the snowdrops and daffodils in the garden and breathing a sigh of relief that Spring is nearly here! Philip, my husband, keeps bees and we were impressed to see them busy flying on several of our milder days. Honey bees don't usually fly unless the temperature is greater than 10C. Traditionally we should talk to our bees, so I have pointed out to them that they should check the wind speed before they venture out and get home before dark!

I hope that you have all coped with the horrible weather over the last few weeks and that no damage was done to your homes. We lost a large silver birch tree in our own garden, but everything at the Centre survived and we are looking forward to our Spring events. Our gardeners have been growing lots of seedlings to put in the garden and we look forward to sitting out on our Tuesday afternoon openings and watching them grow!

We have continued our Sunday and Wednesday talks throughout the winter and thank all of you for attending them, even on very uninviting days. They really have been worth turning out for and there is more to come!

On **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2.15 for 2.30**, **Stuart Bowell** will talk on "An Waveney Valley Childhood". He grew up here in the 1950s and 60s and his love of the area is undiminished. I'm sure many of us will share similar memories and those of you who are younger will hear what a different world it was then, especially if, like me, you had a less rural childhood. When we first moved here in the 1980's I recall an elderly lady telling me how she won a scholarship to a Norwich Grammar school and used to travel there each day by train from Harleston. Apart from a scattering of station houses and occasional crossing gates the railway is no more.

You may recall that Stuart is also an expert on round tower-churches, a speciality of this area and, several months ago, treated us to a fascinating talk about them, so we look forward to his return.

March is a long month, so we have squeezed in two more talks to keep you entertained!

The next is once again given by a returning speaker. On **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15 for 7.30**, **Rosemary Steer** will tell us about "Crime and Punishment: -Murderers, Robbers and Ne'er-Do-Wells", an insight in to the less reputable side of local life!

Then on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15 for 2.30**, Elaine **Murphy**, our patron and researcher "par excellence" returns to entertain us with "Drovers, Cattle, Dung and Hide" Do you know how far cattle had to walk in earlier times, how long it took them and who was in charge? This is your chance to find out!

Each of these speakers have returned by special request with further diverse topics to wow us and we are truly grateful that we have such a group of knowledgeable and entertaining speakers on our doorstep. Jill and I have now planned our talks right through to next Autumn. "Thank you" to all of those who have agreed to talk to us and of course to all of you for supporting us!

Very best wishes,

Mary Thompson