

## **What's next then for WHC?**

Hello everyone. This just to keep you up to date with what we're up to! Our next talk is on **Sunday (29<sup>th</sup>) at 2.15 for 2.30.** Stuart Bowell is officiating this time, speaking on "Fiery Disasters in East Anglia". This region is famous for its timber-framed buildings, many even now with thatched roofs. This of course includes churches, many with the equally renowned round towers which Stuart has also researched for many years. (you may remember he gave us an interesting talk about these a couple of years ago.)

In the past, the use of these materials formed an ever-present threat of fire and in large cities were, of course, banned centuries ago. Even in our local small towns there were disastrous fires, such as those in Bungay and Southwold. Stuart will look at some of the major fires and the methods used to tackle them, along with the social and economic results, including financing and rebuilding.

Of course these fires still occur and our hearts go out to those affected. It must be a horrible experience, taking years to resolve, even although the fire prevention and containment methods are much improved now. We were reminded of how things were when we were invited to look at the Harleston fire engine dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It's very small, very heavy and needed several men to push it to the fire! In our archive we also have accounts of the fire which destroyed Syleham Mill which make interesting reading!

Then, on **11<sup>th</sup> September we have our OPENDAY!**  
From 11.00am -4.00pm

We plan two exhibitions on the same day in the same building! Upstairs we formally open our vintage technology exhibition. We have working early phonographs and gramophones, early tape machines and of course radios from all decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

In the meantime, downstairs we will be displaying more of our archive collection, including, would you believe, Jill's grandma's underwear(!), more histories of some of our lovely old houses, reminiscences from local residents and much, much more. We also have quite a collection of books by local authors, including autobiographies and biographies and of course histories of local houses and families which will be available for you to look at.

Refreshments will be available as always and you will be very welcome!

We look forward to seeing you again.  
Mary Thompson and your Trustees  
phone 01379 668279