



IN TIME

Ely U3A History Group Members'
Newsletter



Edition 12

18 June 2020

Edition 12 and still going strong – a big thank you to all our contributors. This week we have food on the Titanic, a new take on Bluetooth, the story of Matthew Wren Bishop of Ely, another item for the Disrepair shop and unearthing Roman remains. Please keep on sending in articles, historical musings, and items for the Disrepair shop, it is you the members of the group who make the newsletter what it is. Send your articles to Maggie Haverson (email address supplied in the email containing this newsletter)

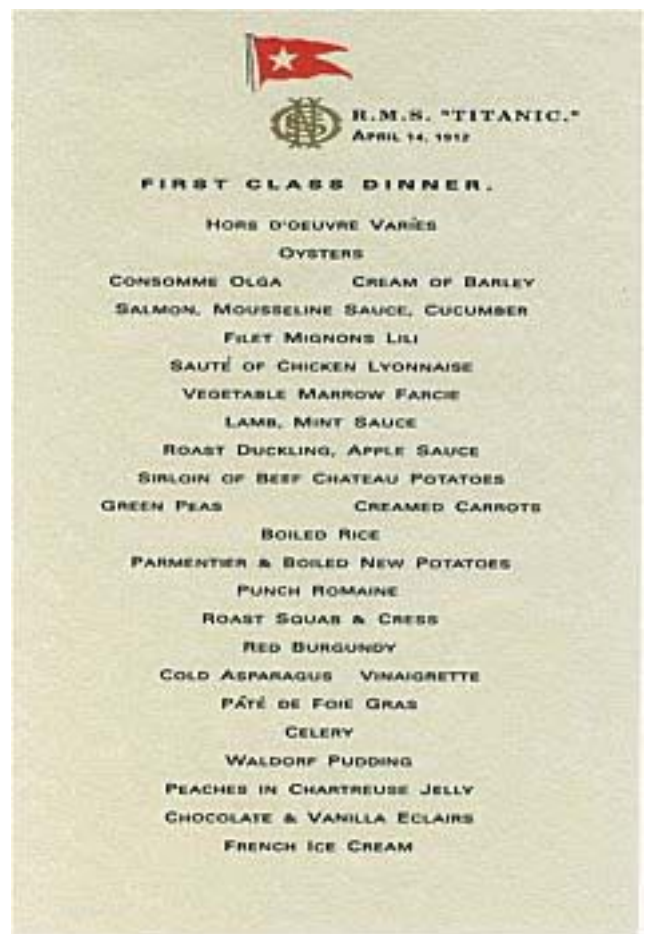
Last Dinner on the Titanic – Wendy Rolph

Most of the first-class passengers on the Titanic's maiden voyage were wealthy Americans returning home after a winter season on the continent. They expected and received, superb food and service. In the a la carte restaurant decorated in the style of Louis Seize the White Star line intended to mimic the lavishness of a five-star hotel reflecting the wealth and status of the diners. On the evening of April 14th 1912, a special dinner party was being hosted by the Widners of Philadelphia one of the richest families from the city.

Unlike the ship's three dining salons operated by White Star employees and serving a fixed menu that changed daily, the a la carte restaurant was operated as an independent concession with its own kitchen under the watchful eye of the manager Luigi Gatti who had previously run two Ritz Restaurants in London and employed ten of his cousins amongst his staff. The actual menu chosen for the dinner did not survive but it can be safely assumed that the Widners and their guests ate many courses in considerable quantities. Some of the survivors remembered lobster in rich cream sauce and quail with a sauce of brandy and fresh cherries.

It took sixty chefs, their assistants plus their kitchen support staff of thirty-six to prepare food for the ship's 2,223 passengers and crew. The Titanic boasted unprecedented storage facilities on board including separate refrigerators for meat, fish, vegetables, eggs and dairy products. From the mundane: 10,000 pounds of cereals and five tons of sugar to the more exotic: 800 bundles of fresh asparagus and 1,221 quarts of oysters the larders were full to overflowing.

One of the two menus that does survive comes from the first-class dining salon. If anyone felt like taking up the challenge it would be possible to re-create in its entirety the meal last enjoyed by such luminaries as John Jacob Aster, Benjamin Guggenheim and the Unsinkable Molly Brown.



King Harald 1's Legacy - Heather Carruth



King Harald I of Denmark (c910 -c987), possibly not a king whose achievements readily spring to mind, but every day we enjoy the benefits of a system named by its Swedish creators in deference to one of his major achievements - the ability to communicate effectively thus bringing together and uniting different peoples, a system called Bluetooth. Harald Bluetooth possibly earned his nickname because he had a conspicuous bad tooth that appeared blue.

During his rule, the many tribes of Denmark were unified, Norway was conquered – an event which had major historical consequences and a dynasty was founded that grew to include parts of Sweden and much of the British Isles; his grandson was King Knute.

In matters of religion, Harald demonstrated tolerance and appears to have supported the spread of Christianity among the Danes, although he did not agree to get baptised himself. Ultimately, but it

is not clear exactly why, conflict between the Holy Roman Emperor, Otto the Great, developed which led to war, likewise the exact outcome is also unclear. Norse sources maintain that Harald and his allies held their ground; German sources relate that Otto broke through his defences and imposed strictures on Harald, including making him accept baptism.

Spasmodic fighting continued, but at home in Denmark power began to slide and within 2 years, Harald had lost control, as pagan stalwarts in his nobility rose against the push to Christianity. Hisson Sweyn Forkbeard, revolted and it is believed killed him in battle in 986-7. Harald's body was brought home to the wooden church he had built at Roskilde; later to be walled up in one of the pillars of the choir in the stone church which eventually replaced it and so the legend might have been largely forgotten had it not been for a need to find a meaningful name for a seamless communication system.

The Life, death and funeral of Matthew Wren (1585-1867) – Bishop of Ely - Clinton Tweed

Part 1 - Life

Matthew Wren is now best known as being the uncle of Sir Christopher Wren. He was born in London in 1585 and in 1601 he was admitted to Pembroke Hall (now Pembroke College). He was a protégé of the then Master Lancelot Andrewes (latterly Bishop of Ely 1609 – 1619) and made the usual academic progression eventually graduating Bachelor of Divinity in 1615. Between 1611 – 1615 he was Rector at Harston, Barton and Teversham and in 1615 he became Andrewes chaplain.

Wren's oratory skills came to the attention of King James I and in 1622 he was appointed chaplain to Prince Charles (latterly King Charles I). At the time secret negotiations had been going on for Prince Charles to marry the Spanish Infanta. By March 1623 the negotiations had been dragging



on and so the Prince and the Duke of Buckingham (travelling as Thomas and John Smith) accompanied by Wren embarked on a secret mission to Spain for the Prince to win the lady's hand. The mission failed and they returned home in October.

King James died in 1625 and in that year Wren became Master of Peterhouse where he was a success, looking after the college records, and collecting money to build a new chapel. In 1633 he accompanied King Charles I to his Scottish Coronation and was also made Clerk of the Closet, (the Clerk of the Closet is responsible for advising on candidates for the Roll of Chaplains to the Sovereign).

Wren became Bishop of Hereford (1634) then Bishop of Norwich (1635) and was made Dean of the Chapel Royal in 1636. Whilst at Norwich Wren was accused of "passionately and furiously" proceeding against Puritan congregations and after becoming Bishop of Ely in 1638 he continued the same policy. He acted under the direction of the Archbishop of Canterbury William Laud who was being directed by the King. Laud was accused by the Puritan's of trying to restore Catholicism. In 1640 Parliament accused Laud of treason and he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. The day after Laud's impeachment Parliament started to proceed against Wren.

In 1641 articles of impeachment were drawn up resolving that Wren was unfit to hold any office in the church or commonwealth. Wren prepared an elaborate defence and no proceedings were taken but by the end of the year he was sent to the Tower to join Laud and some other Bishops. He was released in 1642 but on 30th August the Bishop's Palace at Ely was searched for ammunition by 'a troop of well-affected horsemen' who by order of Parliament arrested him and returned him to the Tower. While in the Tower he continued performing episcopal acts, such as the institution of clergy, and keeping up his register.

In 1644 parliament offered terms to the King (which were rejected) for ending the conflict, in those terms Wren was one of those excluded from pardon. On 14 March 1649 the Commons resolved that he be imprisoned till further order, and while in the Tower he vowed, that should he be released, to donate a sum of money to "some holy and pious employment" It is claimed that Cromwell more than once offered to free him (once through Wren's nephew Christopher), but Wren refused to acknowledge Cromwell's authority and so he remained in the Tower until 1660. After his release he was as zealous as ever and on one occasion Charles II asked him 'to give no further disturbance,' he 'replied "Sir, I know the way to the Tower"'

To fulfil his vow he made in the Tower on release he spent over £5,000 in building the new chapel at Pembroke Hall (foundation 1663, finished 1666) and had it built by his nephew, one of the great architect's first projects. It was said that Wren's habits throughout life were those of a hardy scholar, up at five and seldom in bed till eleven. He died at Ely House (now Ely Place), Holborn, on 24 April 1667.

Next week – Wren's lavish funeral at Cambridge.

[The Disrepair Shop – cherished memories](#)

AmplexModel A Radio Receiver - Peter Lee



When I was growing up in Harrow, I got into trouble going into our loft and 'discovering' my father's crystal radio receiver. It had been there for years and it has been sitting in the corner of my workshop for quite a few more. The top of the nice wooden box has lost its polish. Inside you can see most of 'the works': the crystal, cats-whisker and a tuning dial that

underneath rotates a coil within a coil, and four terminals, two for the aerial and earth, and two for a pair of simple headphones. In theory, the whisker just touching the crystal (probably galena) becomes a diode that demodulates the radio signal and extracts the audio signal.

From an online radio museum I have learnt that this receiver was manufactured by Collins and John Ltd in Birmingham from 1923. It needed no power, other than the power from the received signal, which meant having a big aerial and only having enough output for headphones. My father had put a tall pole in my grandparent's garden (next door to where I grew up) with a long aerial running back to the house at roof level. I don't have the headphones now, but when I did, I couldn't get it to work partly because I didn't have the right aerial, but mainly because I didn't have the skill or patience to get the cats-whisker to work. Would anyone like to try?

As for value, one like it (perhaps in better condition) sold for £70 at a British Vintage Radio Society auction in 2010.

[Five Miles fromRoman Upware! – Roger Haverson](#)

The tiny hamlet of Upware where we live (population 60 give or take, post box and a pub) is definitely best known for its excellent “Five Miles from Anywhere but No Hurry Inn.” Long



before the 5 miles graced our River Cam shore another population lived, worked and died here. Recent archeology on a site for five building plots on land in the village centre have revealed a thriving late Roman era occupation.

The land was at the time the tip of a shallow dry peninsula on the fen edge marshland stretching out to the nearby River Cam and so potentially was a site for trading as well as agriculture. Oxford Archeology East carried out two digs on the site, in 2017 and 2019. There were so many pottery shards on site that at an open day the archeologist said, “help yourself” so we did!

We await the final evaluation report but here is a quote from the preliminary report “The excavation revealed evidence for intense and long-lived Roman activity, with part of a ladder-like settlement with enclosures, boundary ditches, pits, postholes and substantial structural remains uncovered. A rectangular building with stone foundations, a wide entranceway and two parallel lines of large post-settings was partially exposed in the north of the site. Human remains in the form of a double adult inhumation, multiple neonate burials and a cremation were also found associated along the eastern edge of the site.”

So quite a lot - you never know what went on under your garden! .

The report asks the following:

What is the form of the roman settlement?

What can it tell us about the environment?

What ceramics were in use?

What animals and crops?

What was the economic reason for the settlement. Why here?

I would love to know the answers. To me history is about the people, because they were *just like us*. We haven't changed, just the technology. Upwareians await with baited breath!

Petty's Pick of the Week

Every day Mike Petty posts on his Facebook group "Fenland History on Facebook" a number of newspaper clips from his massive archive of local events reported "on this day" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/102684982076955>



Old people used to be neglected Past Snips June 14th 1950

Old people in this country used to be about the most neglected section of the community, but since the war various bodies have sprung up to give them help when needed and make the even-tide of their lives happier and more conformable.

Cambridge is doing its bit through the Old Peoples' Welfare Council.

As an experiment they decided to organise a small party of members for a week's holiday in Westcliff-on-Sea. Special terms were offered by a number of hotels and boarding houses at a cost of £3.7s.6d including transport by a private coach.

This story appeared in a Cambridge newspaper on this date.