

Jessop who lived at Great Ashfield. Violet was one of life's survivors, she survived not only the Titanic disaster but the sinking of the Britannic during WWI on which she was serving as a nurse.

Dr. Patrick Crouch related how Haverhill has been inextricably linked with the Gurteen family since the 1780's formation of the company in the town where there was already a weaving tradition. We heard how the company took advantage of advances in transportation when the railway arrived in 1863 and in marketing with the use of delivery by mail order. Nearly half of the working population of the town were employed directly or indirectly by the company, not only in weaving but in brewing and brickmaking.

Wendy Sparrow of **Nayland and Wissington Conservation Society** gave us a brief history of the society since it was formed in 1974. Among it's many achievements which go far beyond researching and recording local history are organizing exhibitions and publishing books, organizing an archaeological dig, purchasing land to be conserved as wetland and grassland and even purchasing John Constable's drawing for his altarpiece at Nayland Church. Maybe the society's work is one reason Nayland has recently been voted one of the ten best places to live in the country!



Sarah Doig and a group of local history enthusiasts from the parishes of Botesdale, Redgrave and the Rickinghalls under the name Quatrefoil have been awarded £6,500 through the Heritage Lottery Fund All Our Stories grant scheme. Sarah told us how this would be used to fund the ambitious project of producing nine books on local history themes in the four parishes. One of these books will be about the schools of the villages and Sarah took us through the results of her research so far. (see page 11 for further information on this).

After the lunch break women's role in radar during World War Two was the theme of Mary Wain's talk. Mary was representing The Bawdsey Radar Trust, RAF Bawdsey being the site of the early research into radar and where women were trained for the work. According to contemporary records, women were preferred for this work as they had high powers of concentration, a high degree of finesse, were more conscientious and of course released men for other war duties.

Finally Lyn Gash of Suffolk County Council discussed the digitisation of records. In the future we will see many more of the records we use as local historians being reproduced in digital form with the possibility of being viewed via the internet. Lyn talked about the reasons for digitisation which included preservation of the original documents and ease of searching, also the process by which records were chosen for digitisation.

Neil Langridge

CORRECTION

In the article in the previous newsletter about local history broadcasts on Castle Radio, Alan Mackley's email address was printed incorrectly - the correct address is alan.mackley@blythburgh.net