

Middle Manor.

14 Feb 07

Dear Ji,

Thanks you for you very kind letter. I am so sorry not to have answered it before but you have probably heard that I have not been at all well and have finally ended up with a mini ~~stroke~~<sup>stroke</sup> which has put my right leg & arm quite seriously out of action. It will take a few weeks to recover! It makes writing very slow and an effort.

Sorry to hear that you too must  
be struggling with eye ops.

As a result of my problems I am  
not sufficiently on the spot to cross  
on a prolonged & intelligent conversation,  
so we will have to wait a few  
little while before I can answer your  
letter + arrange a meeting.

All best wishes to you both,

George

BELLE VUE

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15 January 2007

Dear George,

When Dennis and I visited you a couple of weeks ago it was my intention to talk to you about the Historical Society, but as you had other visitors at the time I decided not to raise the subject.

The main thing I had hoped to discuss with you was your expressed wish to 'retire' from your presidency of the Society. When that was reported to us by Jacqueline I felt that I wanted to ask you if you would reconsider the matter. Of course, you have no doubt already thought very carefully about it and if in consequence you are sure you wish to give up the presidency I certainly would not attempt to persuade you otherwise.

I also wanted to say that even though you do not feel able in the winter months to come to events and meetings you are not in any way forgotten by the Society. Committee members especially are always aware of the tradition of steady enquiry into the past of our parish, the gathering of material, and the sharing of knowledge and interests that your leadership established for us. I feel we have a flourishing and worthwhile Society that is of benefit to the village and the parish, and I will do my best to maintain it like that while I am its chairman.

At our most recent committee meeting we decided to edit and publish, in one volume and with illustrations, Hingeston-Randolph's *Up and Down the Deanery* writings and 'A Rocky Shore'. We had provisionally thought to include with them an account of his life and broader work within the diocese, but the material on these latter topics is so extensive that it will take some time to assemble and organize, so we will get on with publishing the locally relevant material first. We also have an embryonic scheme to write up the restoration of Marwell and Ringmore cottages and farms by Mr Fellowes' agent in the 1880s.

Another quietly ongoing activity is A Brief Chronology of Ringmore. This is simply a list of all the years from c.1240 to the present, with events alongside each date. Of course, there are many 'empty' years, but it's surprising how it is filling up in the later centuries.

We have also completed a collection of photographs of all the houses in Ringmore, and we hope to have these on show at some time this year. I hope to visit you before too long, George. Life has been rather full lately as both Dennis and I have been having operations for eye cataracts. But we are more or less through those procedures and things should soon return to normal. Meanwhile, this is an interim bulletin.

BELLE VUE, RINGMORE, KINGSBRIDGE, TQ7 4HJ

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Dear George,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of a couple of weeks ago. I hope you are now feeling rather better than you were and that you are able to enjoy signs of Spring in your garden. Today is cold and windy, but sunny as well, and the daffodils seem to keep on coming whatever the weather.

I thought I'd let you know the most recent happenings in the Historical Society. First of all we gave a small 'private dinner' for Jacqueline and for Geof Dykes, both of whom are no longer on the committee. It was a 'private' dinner because it was given just by the committee members who wanted to say 'thank you' to them for being such excellent and hard-working colleagues. We held it at the Journey's End whose new management did well for us in the dining room there, and I felt that we all enjoyed a friendly evening together. There was a certain amount of reminiscing from those of us who remembered happy meetings at Middle Manor.

We had a first-class lecture this last week from Miss Terry Pearson, using slides of Elizabeth the First as Gloriana. Terry is a really accomplished speaker and has just returned from a big tour of Australia and New Zealand where she was lecturing to NADFAS groups. She is most generous to us and charges us no fee – and of course, we just couldn't afford the kind of fee she is paid by NADFAS.

I wonder if you noticed Ardene's piece in the Newsletter on Hill Cottage?

I have now begun work on editing Hingston-Randolph's writings for publication. I'm hoping we will bring them out in a series of booklets, illustrated, and with Introductions and Notes where necessary. I seem to remember your having a large black-bound <sup>book</sup> written by him on Cornish Crosses and Fonts, and that he illustrated himself. If you would be so kind as to tell me the name of the publishers of that book I'd be most grateful. Did you know that he wrote it and had it published when he was just seventeen? That was before he went up to Exeter College, Oxford, with the help of an Elliott exhibition awarded him by Truro.

You'll know, I'm sure, that the Pattersons will be leaving the village soon, now that they have sold Walnut Tree Cottage. We shall miss them greatly, both as friends and as staunch Society members. We shall need to find one new committee member and also to appoint a committee member to succeed Mike as Treasurer. How quickly changes seem to occur as one gets older!

I am hoping that we shall be able to dream up a pleasant Summer Event for the Society to hold this year, following on from the Beach Picnic and Photograph in 2005 and the Yew Tree Measuring last year. We hope also to produce some Ringmore Christmas Cards to boost our funding in order to print the Hingston-Randolph writings. Our May outing is to Fursdon House, near Crediton, winding up with a cream tea.

I think that just about completes current news of the Society. I hope you will feel that this is a way of keeping you in touch with some of our goings-on.

With love and best wishes,

BELLE VUE, RINGMORE, KINGSBRIDGE, S. DEVON, TQ7 4HJ

29 March 2007

Copy

Dear George,

I'm replying to your request to me about lodging family papers somewhere.

I've made a few enquiries and it seems that your best procedure might be to contact the Family Records Offices or the Family History Societies in the counties where the main branches of your family have lived. I haven't come across any place that invites records to be lodged with them, but the above two organizations may be able to tell you about such places.

I would suggest that you ask one of your highly computer-literate family members to go on line to the two organizations and see what can be discovered. As you know, there is already a huge amount of family information already on the Net, usually put there by the families themselves, but my guess is that most of them keep their original documents etc. in the family safe!

Best of luck to you in pursuing all this. I'm sorry I haven't been able to find out more precise details.