

Tintinhull Local History Group Newsletter.

Issue 40

January 2024

Happy New Year to you all!

The Cheddar brooch & the 'Weetch Type', see last month's Newsletter. Clive was back to me in hours - how gratifying to know that a few people don't wait for a 'rainy day' to read these Newsletters!

Found here at <https://finds.org.uk/counties/findsrecordingguides/brooches-2/> This could be a really interesting read on a VERY RAINY DAY when the roads become rivers again!

Middle and Late Anglo-Saxon brooches

Rosie Weetch's PhD thesis, [Weetch 2014](#), covers all of the non-Scandinavian brooches found in England from the 8th to 11th centuries. It therefore includes some Continental and a very few Irish brooches.

[Weetch 2014](#) is very easy and quick to use to find types, parallels and dating evidence. This guide simply aims to give a quick overview and reminder of the commonest types of middle and late Anglo-Saxon brooches, and what to put in the classification field; always put the Weetch type in the sub-classification field (if there is one).

Thanks Clive - it's so interesting to see the numerous classifications and to learn something new!

Staying with those Saxons & using Radio Carbon Dating:

The only known Anglo Saxon log boat in Somerset.

This dug-out canoe was found 100 yards from Glastonbury Lake Village in 1892. It has always been assumed that it was connected to the Lake Village and therefore was Iron Age. It has been in the care of Glastonbury Antiquarian Society for over a century.



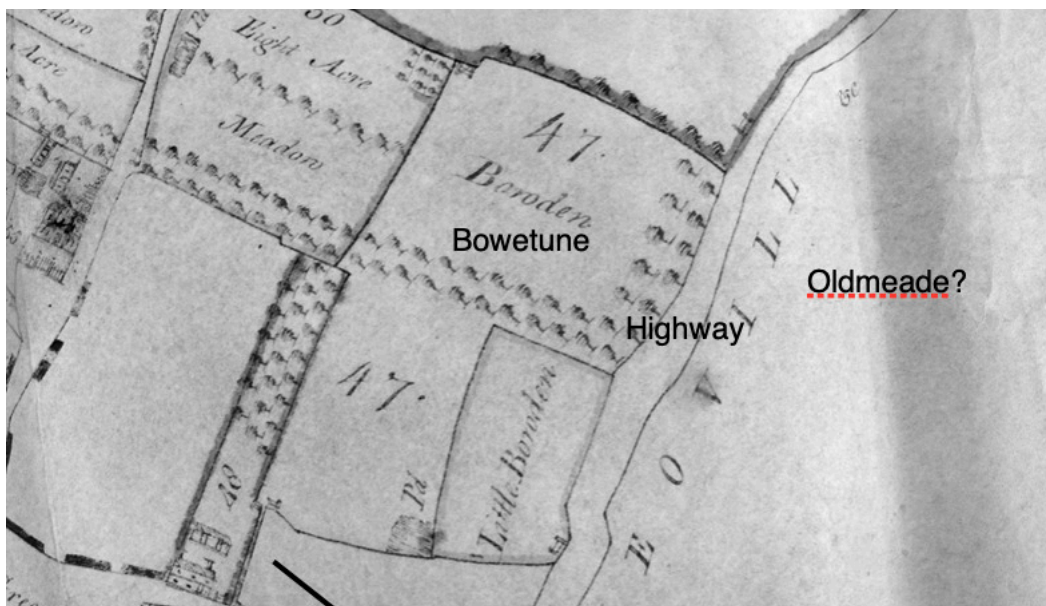
In 2022, the Society agreed that dating the boat would provide an historical context for the artefact. Surprisingly, RCD proved it to be to be much later, early C6th or early C7th AD, the time when the Saxons were beginning to settle in Somerset!

Made of oak, the sides are complete in places so the original size and shape of the craft can be gauged. Its length is 5m, it is 600mm wide and the original external height of the sides was probably about 300mm. The canoe is flat bottomed and curves up towards the prow and stern over the last metre at both ends. Each are carefully tapered towards a slim point suggesting that the canoe was deliberately double ended; an advantage in narrow channels, where a change of direction could be achieved without the need to turn the vessel around.

Imagine Tintinhull's very early Saxon settlers, those on the Bearley, Huish, Worthy or Thurlocks land, moving a boat like this up the R. Parrett or nudging the edges of the "Inland Sea", the R. Yeo, in the northern part of our parish. A boat was the preferred method of transport then, especially in water-logged central Somerset!

You'll have to be patient if you want to see it and set your imagination free as it's currently housed in The Tribunal on Glastonbury High St and that is closed for the winter!

Again Ref last months Newsletter: Here I referred to a 'visitor', young Thomas from Somerton, who mentioned his interest in documents as well as other aspects of history, archaeology etc. I sent him the very flamboyant C16th hand, legal document that referred to New Mede and he worked on it over the weekend both transcribing and translating it. Young eyes and obvious enthusiasm really tick my boxes and after a brief chat with Ed who pointed me in the direction of specific pages in Presence of the Past, which many of you will have gathering dust on your bookshelves, I can perhaps move a couple of arguments forward..... P27 refers to an AD 1326 document in the possession of Exeter College Oxford: "This together with a message in the vennel (Tavener House, 19 Vicarage St).....



and two acres of land Bowetune (Bowdene adjacent map) extending to that message. Also a certain meadow called Oldmeade which extends above the Highway...." If the 3 **Huish**

fields, named after a homestead in earlier Saxons times were then known as ‘Oldmede’ it figures that a ‘New Mead’, land given later, might not be far away.

P 70 gives a little more detail re the VCH Vol III piece I quoted last month relating to the need for a newly sited Vicarage after The Dissolution of the Monasteries.

In September 1633 a Glebe Terrier states that the vicar, Adam Farnam, was ‘given’, by the Nappers (Lords of the Manor) one dwelling house, one outhouse called a kitchen (ie a detached kitchen, desirable when properties were thatched!), one garden, one orchard, one close of pasture land..... one acre of meadow lying in the common meadow of Tintinhull called **new mead**, also Long Mead and the harbage or grass of the churchyard..... and ten pounds a year annually.....” This was signed by familiar Tintinhull names - Napper, Trott, Predell (Priddle), Ostler and Rice. We know that ‘Vicarage’ was located on the east side of Vicarage St. which, to my mind, the VCH seems to identify as **New mede**.

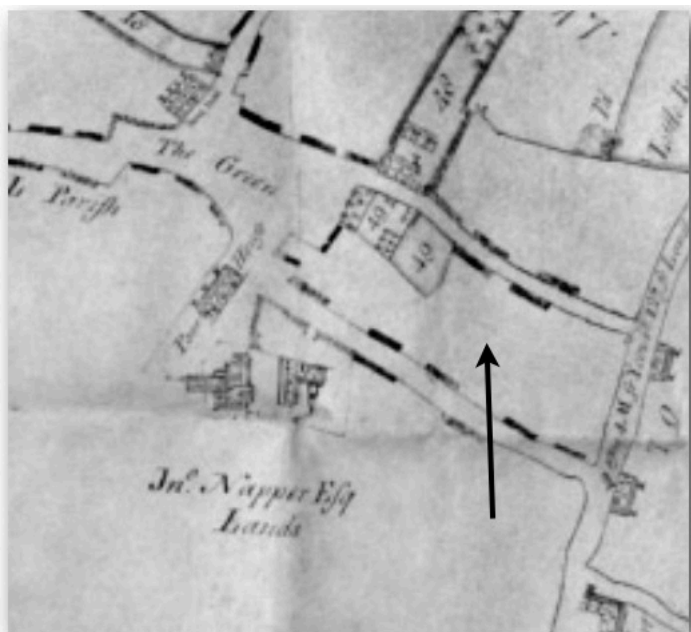


Fig 25. The plot of land (arrowed) which could also once have formed the major part of a green.
E Napper map.

It has long been my belief that the typically Saxon ‘common meadow’ of Tintinhull was a central stretch of grassland extending from Head St northwards and now defined by Vicarage St and St Margaret’s Rd, formerly Hedge St. Over time this would be called ‘The Common’ or ‘The Green’ as it is in so many villages today. It is unusual to be able to identify a green of this size in Somerset villages (Ellison), but the Edward Napper Estate Map of 1777 shows The Green as an area immediately to the south of The Dower House; this covers the area that we call ‘The Green’ today and old villagers called ‘The Saxon Green’. Can we perhaps identify the ‘common’ as New Mede, Tintinhull, when it ceased being a common/large village

green?

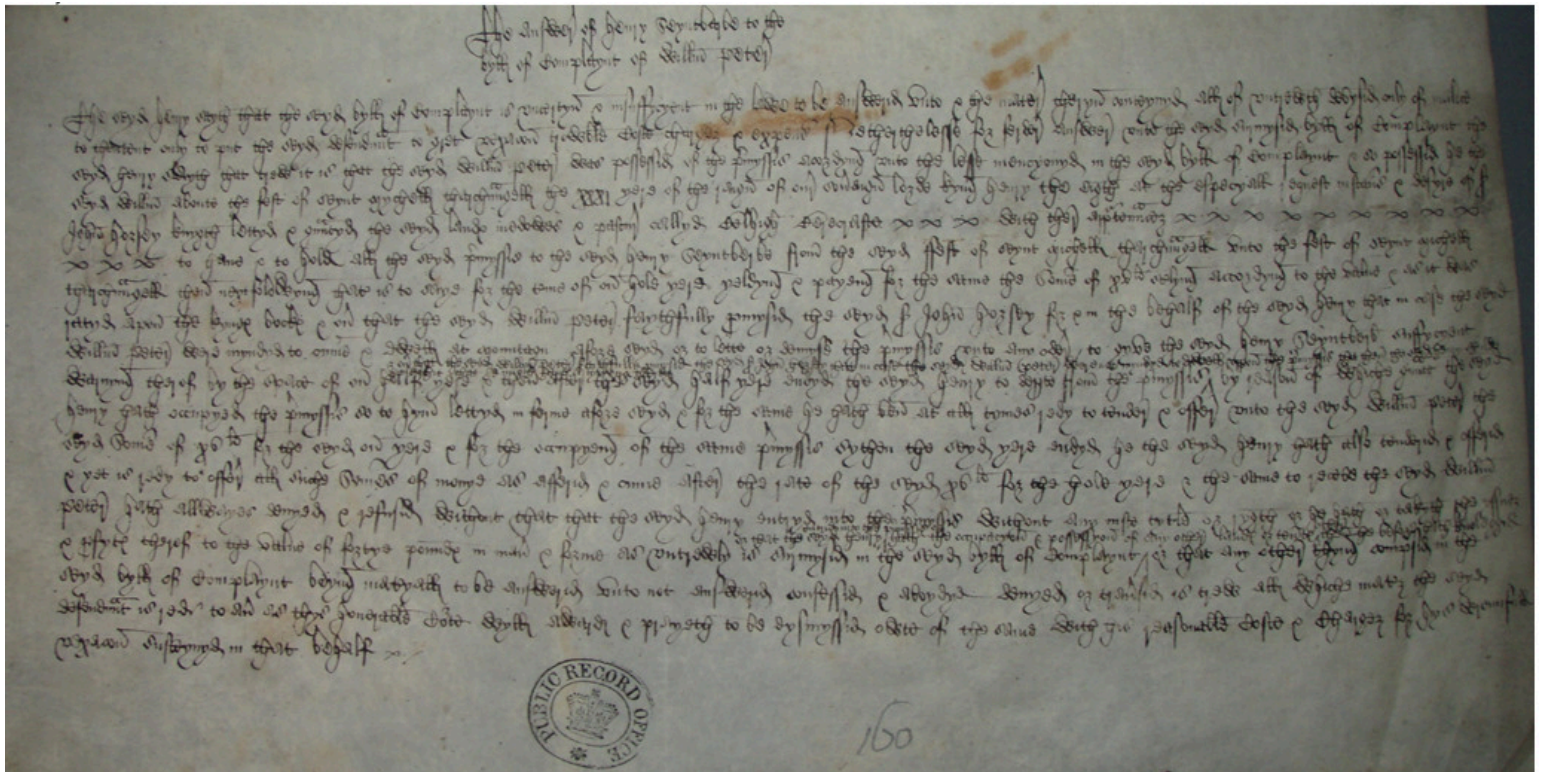
Interested in hearing the oral recordings TLHG did almost 20 years ago with some of our revered pensioners? You can access them at

<https://somerset-cat.swheritage.org.uk/records/A/DXK/1>

When the rain pours and the cold winds blow relax in your comfiest chair and let yourself go back in time - to our **modern** history days.

Blowing a trumpet for 'young Thomas' - again!

When faced with this what would you do?



Most of us would give up before we'd even begun, but Thomas didn't! See below the 'translation' of the transcription of this very indistinct and 'flowery handed' C16th document:

[1] The answer of Henry Seyntbarbe to the
[2] bill of complaint of William Peter

[3] The said Henry sayth that the said bill of complaint is uncertain & insufficient in the law to be answered unto & the matter therein contained all of untruth devised only of value

[4] to the intent only to put the said defendant to great vexations trouble cost charger & expense nevertheless for certain answer unto the said demised bill of complaint the

[5] said Henry sayth that true it is that the said William Peter was possessed of the premises according unto the lease mentioned in the said bill of complaint & so possessed he the

[6] said William about the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel the XXXI year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the Eighth at the especial request instance & seizure of Sir

[7] John Horsey knight letted & granted the said lands meadows & pastures called **B(C)elhigh B(C)erecraste** x x x with the [...] x x x x x x x x

x

[8] x x x to have & to hold all the said premises to the said Henry Seyntbarbe from the said Feast of Saint Michael the Angel unto the Feast of Saint Michael

[9] the Archangel the next following that is to say for the time of one whole year yielding & paying for the same the sum of X sterling according to the value & as it was

[10] written upon the King's books & on that the said William Peter faithfully promised the said Sir John Horsey for & in the behalf of the said Henry that in case the said

[11] William Peter were intended to come & dwell at Montacute aforesaid or to let or demise the premises unto any order to give the said Henry Seyntbarbe sufficient

[12] warning thereof by the value of one half year & then after the said half year ended the said Henry to depart from the premises [*] by reason of which grant the said

[13] Henry hath occupied the premises so to him letted in forme aforesaid & for the same he hath been at all times ready to tender & offer unto the said William Peter the

[14] said sum of XV^{is} for the said one year & for the camping of the same premises within the said year ended he the said Henry hath also tendered & offered

[15] & yet is ready to offer all such sums of money as afforded & come after the rate of the said XV^{is} for the whole year & the same to receive the said William

[16] Peter hath always denied & refused without that that the said Henry entered into the premises without any institute title or right or he hath or taketh the issues

[17] & posits thereof to the value of forty pounds in man & form as untruly as demised in the said bill of complaint [*] or that any other thing comprised in the

[18] said bill of complaint being material to be answered unto not answered confessed & avoided denied or [...] is true all which matter the said

[19] defendant is read to and as the honourable court with [...] & [...] to be dismissed out of the abode with his reasonable cost & charges for his wrongful

[20] vexations sustained in that behalf x

I can't tell you how impressed I am!

Consequently I sent this off to the South West Heritage Centre - archive and archaeological departments. As always the latter drag their heels but Esther Hoyle, who is speaking at our January meeting, expressed an interest in meeting Thomas and telling him about the various career openings in the archive world

and perhaps sending him some remote transcribing to do to save him the trek to the far side of Taunton. Meanwhile Geoff Eisenhauer has sent these examples off to the National Archives.

TLHG are trying to do the best they can for this promising young man and are so glad he came through our door asking for assistance with 'history related' experiences before making a final choice about his future career.

Burlinghams Farm.

This month we move along the A303 towards Ilchester for our next village property:

Victoria County History Vol III notes "a small meadow called Berligeam in the C13th, now Burlinghams."

The Somerset Historic Environment Record notes: "Grade II listed farmhouse with an attached barn, now a house, of C19th date. Built in Flemish bond red brick with some flagstone flooring.

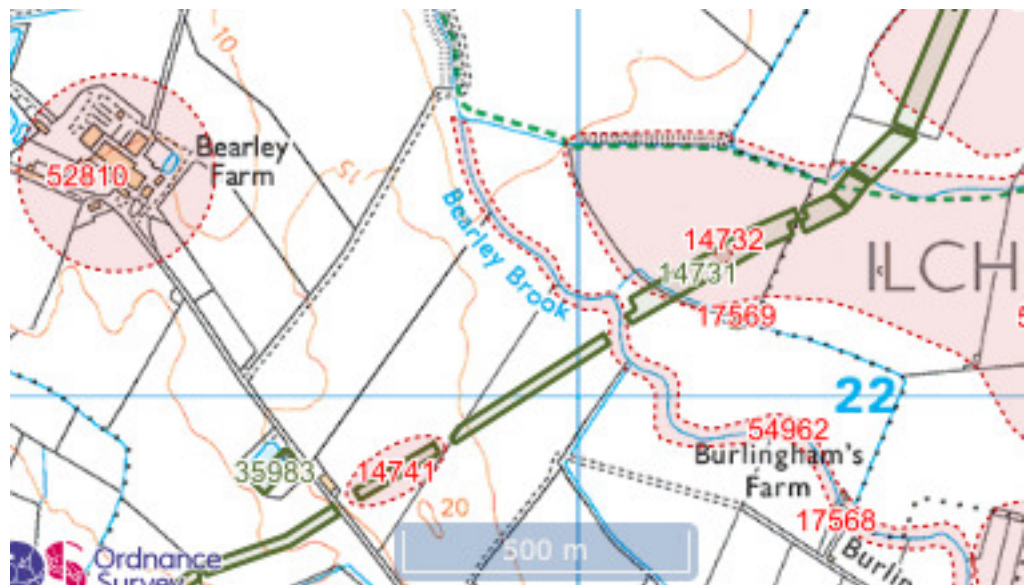
The outbuildings appear to also be C18th and built around a U shaped yard." These are largely 'shelter sheds' for cattle, all with square piers.

In spite of these given dates I feel there must have been something here earlier and the concluding statement on the Historic Environment Record perhaps confirms this: "It is probable that the roof was renewed in 1838 when Burlingham's Farmhouse was made 'very convenient' and the buildings made 'very perfect'; in other words it was 'up-graded' although much later than other farms in the parish.

The HER statement: "The buildings date from soon after the enclosure of the parish in 1796 and were clearly built **to accommodate fattening cattle**, being sited on some of the best fattening and grazing land in C19th Somerset."

You will recall that the early Saxons farmed in cattle and that we believe that the first charter of land granted in our parish was to the thane Wulfric in the mid C10th. So not just 'continuity of settlement' but maybe 'continuity of pastoral farming' on these lush meadows too.

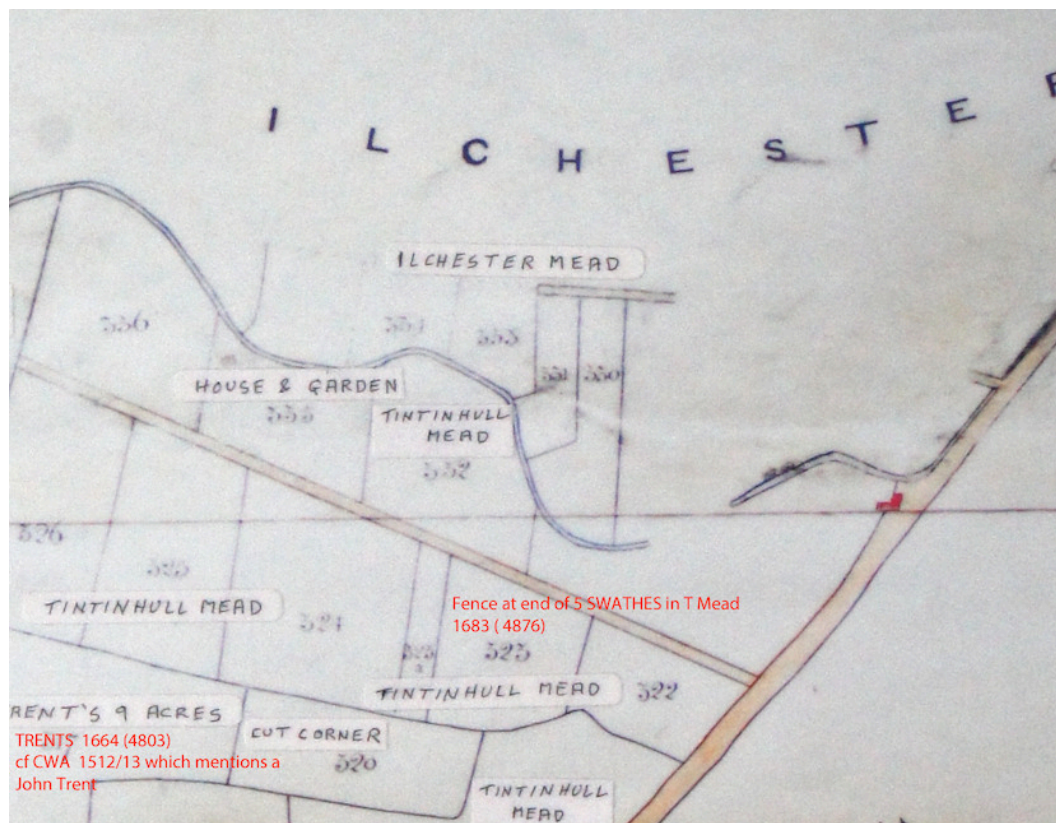
The map shows how close to Bearley Farm Burlinghams is - all in what I am convinced was the Belhigh Bercraste area that Thomas's transcriptions have been



dealing with.

However, look at the parallel green lines which show the laying of a pipe line in 2005/6.

This has to have associated archaeology and it doesn't disappoint. No. 14732 is a ring ditch which indicates a 'round house' here. This may have been Bronze Age but is more likely to have been Iron Age and certainly implies settlement well before the Saxons! Additionally Roman and Medieval pottery finds have been located to the east of Burlinghams Farm.



On the Tithe Map. No 335 appears to mark a House & Garden adjacent to Bearley Brook which is almost certainly Burlinghams.

In 1839 this was owned by the Rev. John Heathcote and leased to William Dyke. It seems

not to have been a farm at this stage!

Heathcote also owned 336 'Tintinhull Mead', a meadow and leased it to John Priddle.

The Census details:

1851. Henry Pardy (Pandy) 48 Agricultural Labourer
Amelia, wife 47 Stay Maker
George, son 18 Agricultural Labourer
Charles, son 14 Agricultural Labourer
Frederick, son 10 Agricultural Labourer

* NB The property is recorded as Tintinhull Mead house.

1861. Henry Pandy 58 Working Bailey(?) Farm
Amelia, wife 57 Stay (corset) Maker
George, son 27 Labourer

1871. Job Goff 41, Agricultural Labourer
Arabella, wife 48

Walter, son	18	Agricultural Labourer
Frederick, son	16	Agricultural Labourer
Theresa, daughter	11	Scholar
Sarah, daughter	8	Scholar
Georgina, daughter	5	
Eliza, daughter	18 weeks	

1891 Martin Drew, 31 Farier or Farmer * Was this when it became a Farm?
 Ethel B. wife 30
 Ellen Maud Hillborne 13 General Service Servant (from Sock Dennis)

Burlinghams is not a property we associate with Tintinhull but it seems to reflect the history of our parish and continuity of settlement through the ages perfectly.

Fun fact: In 1472, use of home-grown yew for bows was so high that every ship coming to an English port had to bring four yew wood bow-staves for every tun of wine they carried.

Those historically rooted Nursery Rhymes: "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep."

Baa, baa, black sheep	One for the master,
Have you any wool?	And one for the dame,
Yes sir, yes sir,	And one for the little boy,
Three bags full.	Who cries down the lane.

During the Middle Ages there were many social problems and this rhyme reminds us of the plight of the agricultural labourer. Nearly all available land was turned over to sheep grazing causing unemployment as only one man was needed to tend a flock which on arable land may have employed many. There was no state 'benefit' then so many became vagrants and thieves wandering the countryside.

Wool was gathered in great quantities and sent to London where it was traded for silks, spices, salt and jewels from other lands. While the wool merchants grew rich the common people grew poorer.

It is thought that "my master" and "my dame" refer to the King and the wool merchants, while "the little boy who cried down the lane" was the common people. "Three bags full" may have been a reference to the tax on wool introduced at that time. English wool merchants and cloth manufacturers became increasingly rich during the five centuries when the export of wool reached incredible proportions. It is fitting that the most important person in the British Parliament today still sits on a woosack and of course many of the beautiful churches we enjoy today were 'built' on the backs of sheep!

The Twelve Days of Christmas. My thanks to the many of you who were able to get to our December meeting. This had a few initial nail-biting technical hitches but thanks to a bit of persistence it got to the screen on time. The mulled wine relaxed us and I really felt 'surrounded by friends' as the evening progressed. My thanks to you all for enabling that and to your wonderful committee (& Sue Best) who took charge of the decoration, the food, the music and the wine. As always there's a high point; for me this was Paul Nathanson greeting me with 'Lo Saturnalia' - he, at least, read last month's Newsletter and, more importantly, remembered!

Our first meeting of 2024 will be on January 24th when Esther Hoyle, now in charge of the archive department at the SW Heritage Centre, will be speaking on 'Somerset Women' Later in the year (March) she will be heading a day of document reading at Kingsbury Episcopi (KTT organised). KTT recently 'inherited' many old documents, spreading over 200 years relating to a particular farm in their parish & 2 interested parties from each local history group have been invited to attend. Ann & I have said we will go but incase one of us has to drop out would anyone like to be 'waiting in the wings'? I'm delighted that young Thomas is on the mailing list for this and hope that he will both be able to attend and will benefit from both the available documents but also the opportunities to 'network'!

Again, a Happy & Healthy 2024 and thank you for your continued support for TLHG.

Denny 28.12.2023

