

## **Debenham History Society Report for 2009 Annual Parish Meeting**

The 2008/9 season started with the appointment of the new chairman Kate Burton at the Society's AGM in August, and where the Knowland Memorial Lecture was given by Philip Aitkins, an historic buildings consultant in the restoration and history of Crows Hall.

Ian McKechnie, in conjunction with Martin Bridge, successfully completed the dendrochronology project for investigating the age of five village properties:

19, High Street ( Broadway House), dating from 1603 – 26,

23-25 High Street, a late 15<sup>th</sup> century building of 1418,

37 High Street, which has a queen post dated 1525,

12 Aspoll Road (the Old Cooperage) dates from 1445 – 1607,

and 7 and 9 Gracechurch Street, which has been confirmed as 1589.

An article on the dating of Debenham, written by Ian, will be in the next edition of Eavesdropper, the Suffolk Historic Buildings newsletter.

We were very pleased to welcome the historical crime writer Joan Lock to give our Autumn 2008 lectures on Victorian Sensations, a fascinating insight into 19<sup>th</sup> century local history, and to the architect Mark Beasley, who talked about 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century East Anglian artists for our Winter 2009 series. This culminated in a most enjoyable visit to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich to view the paintings of John Constable and Thomas Gainsborough. We look forward to his return in January 2010 when he will lecture on 20<sup>th</sup> Century artists. The date of this year's AGM and the commencement of our autumn series is yet to be confirmed.

To contact the Debenham History Society, our secretary is Susie Bronniman, tel 01728 861563.