

I have decided to divide Volume V into two parts, The War Years ('39 - '45) and The Post War Years ('45 - '54). It is a fat volume and the world itself changed so much after the war. Up to the end of the war the Society carried on much as it always had done from the start - but after - the modern world as we now know it, caused many subtle changes. There was a special meeting, as in 1914, when it was decided that the Society should carry on, and really, the war does not seem to have greatly affected the routine. There were far fewer changes in the membership. There appear to have been no extra arrangements for Service people temporarily in the area. Blackout material was bought and used.

There were several air raids, two in October and November 1940. According to a recent series of articles on the war, a number of bombs fell on Lynn, doing a certain amount of damage, and killing and injuring a number of people. In particular, three bombs fell nearby. The one that landed behind Grummett, the butcher, seems to have been almost in All Saints Churchyard, to the rear of Welwick House. There was some damage reported to the Committee of September 6th 1941, when "some furniture was broken". (This date is not an error. This was when the incident was reported).

The Red Cross first borrowed a table in 1941, and later, rented the Art Room for a time in 1943. The 1939 AGM was the last to be reported in the Press. In March 1940 it was reported that experiments with the translucent (Episcope) screen were successful and that it was to be used in the future. This is the precursor of the modern overhead projector. The death of Mr. G.H. Anderson was reported in September 1941. He was a founder member and the gentleman who so helpfully supplied the detailed early history of Welwick House. His son, A.A. Anderson, presented a photograph of his father to be hung in the Lecture Room.

The 1942 AGM reported 180 members on the list. In 1944, at the AGM, the subscription was changed to 7/6d per annum, after general discussion. That year there were 135 members and in 1945, the number was reduced to 99 members.

"The need for more cultural facilities in King's Lynn" was discussed. A possible solution "was to advertise for more members". The Society's finances were at rather a low ebb, under £30. There were frequent requests to Miss Sherman and Miss Watts to organise another Whist Drive. The Ladies received a Vote of Thanks for help in providing refreshments at these various social occasions. Again there is mention of exemption from Rates under the Scientific Societies Act - "Rooms occupied by a Librarian or Porter for the purposes of the Society are within the exemption". R.V. Brandt. 1851.