

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

Non members

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Newsletter



Number thirty-eight
Autumn 2019

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CHAIR

As you will see from the winter programme on the following page, the location for the NHBG lectures has moved away from UEA. Unfortunately our long association with INTO has come to an end as a result of their operational needs and internal changes. INTO has provided a useful base for our winter season for many years and our grateful thanks have been extended to the management.

In searching for a replacement venue, the commercial reality was soon obvious. Anywhere large enough to hold up to 100 people was subject to commercial rates applicable to business functions and considerably above our comfort level.

Analysis of the addresses of attendees at the last three winter lectures last year shows that the vast majority come from Norwich with another group based around the southern border of the county. Investigations of public facilities in and around Norwich which are conveniently located, with some off-street parking, close to bus routes and available at reasonable rates has resulted in this winter's lectures being held in The Diamond Centre in Sprowston as a trial. A map and post-code information is shown on the lecture programme page opposite.

If any member wants to suggest an alternative which has equal accessibility and provides good value, the committee will be happy to consider it for future years.

Ian Hinton
Chair, Norfolk Historic Buildings Group
August 2018

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Administration

Boulton & Paul Fieldwork

The investigation of the surviving documentary records contained in the Record Office Norfolk Record Office has revealed a number of potential buildings for the group to study.

We are getting to the stage of beginning the fieldwork to establish how many buildings made by Boulton & Paul are still standing. One of the problems is that many of the buildings have been altered in appearance by extensions and the updating of the materials used.

The research team is planning a field trip to investigate some known buildings and look at others in order to work out the best way of progressing the fieldwork stages.

It is planned for early November (when there are fewer leaves in the way of photography) at a date to be arranged. If you are interested in taking part, please email:

nhgboultonandpaul@btinternet.com

Social media update

Facebook, love it or hate it, has been very successful in introducing the NHBG's research and events to a wider audience. To extend our reach into the wider world, on June 21st the NHBG launched its new twitter page.

Twitter is a more instantaneous social media platform and our page will be another way for us to share the group's love of old buildings, NHBG events and talks and the research work we carry out, as well as picking up details of buildings and events that are new to us. It will also provide a further opportunity to share knowledge and interact with individuals, academics, other historic buildings groups and organisations/companies that have an interest in historic buildings. In the first few days of operation we have already been contacted and asked to help identify a possible Bolton and Paul building!

So if you're on twitter, follow us @NHBGroup and share and like our posts!

Cover photo:

Part of the pre-AGM tour group at Bungay Castle.

Photo: Rosemary Forrest

Winter lecture programme 2019/2020

All meetings will be held at The Diamond Centre, Sprowston @ 7.00 for 7.30pm.

The small fee at the door for winter lectures of £2 per member is to be continued. The rate for non-members will continue to be £4. The charges do not apply to members' night in January.

Friday 11th October 2019

Tim Howson

Georgian Cottages in Maldon

Tim is the Conservation Officer for Maldon DC in Essex and is a long-time committee member of the Essex Historic Buildings Group. He has published articles on the buildings of Maldon and timber-framed buildings in Essex.

Wednesday 13th November 2019

Philip Venning

Old buildings: Myths, mistakes & oddities

For many years, Philip was the Chief Executive of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and also served on the expert panel of the Heritage Lottery Fund and was Vice President of the Historic Churches Trust.

Wednesday 4th December 2018

Mark Gardiner

Before the earliest standing timber buildings: Archaeological evidence for houses from the tenth to the twelfth centuries

Mark Gardiner is Reader in Heritage at Lincoln University and is on the editorial board of the VAG. He has written widely on the archaeology of medieval buildings, including peasant houses and first-floor halls, as well as on the historical landscape and trade patterns in the North Atlantic.

Friday 17th January 2020

Members' evening

A chance for members to outline their own research:

Jess Johnston: title tbc

Ian Hinton: Telling the time on churches
Scratch dials, Sundials and more

Boulton & Paul project update

Wednesday 12th February 2020

Alan Metters

Men (and some women) of property in early-modern King's Lynn

Alan has been on the council of the Norfolk Record Society for many years and Hon Sec since 2003. His doctoral thesis was about the rulers and merchants of King's Lynn, later published as The King's Lynn Port Books.

Tuesday 10th March 2020

Borin van Loon

Ghost Signs

Borin is an artist and illustrator who is leading a project on lettering on buildings. In an earlier age, painted advertisements, often on the gable ends of buildings and elsewhere, were once a common sight in our towns and villages. Borin will explore their history and show us examples of what remains - many of which we pass by every day without really noticing.

St Quentin Room, Diamond Centre, 57 School Rd, Sprowston

SATNAV - NR7 8TR



Four Churches in West Norfolk (May 11th 2019) Ruth Pearson

A day full of surprises – mostly pleasant. One less pleasant was how changeable the weather can be in May but, undeterred, 18 members of the group visited 4 interesting historic churches in close proximity, surrounded by beautiful, tranquil countryside in a little-visited area south west of Swaffham. These were part of rich west Norfolk's array of small manors, each with their own church. Ian pointed out that areas with a lighter soil could support a larger population than a heavier soil as it was easier to till, hence a greater number of manors. He also explained that churches were often originally built by the manorial lord "for profit" rather than exclusively religious reasons. All the villagers paid tithes – 10% of their produce - to the lord of the manor who paid for the vicar. Many churches were later donated to Religious Houses who held masses to "save the souls" of the donors and their families.



The iron and bronze chest/altar of 1835

Adjacent is a lovely village green and attractive wisteria-bedecked cottages opposite the entrance, all built on the green after enclosure. The remains of two other churches still exist in the fields as well as the redundant church in Shingham, another hamlet in the parish.

right:

The tower arch and high-level door in the nave west wall.

The door must be very close to the bell sound-hole seen above the roof ridge in the photo on the left

below:

One of a series of wisteria-clad cottages built on the green adjacent to the church, presumably by the estate of Beechamwell Hall when it was emparked



St Mary's Beechamwell from the south-east

Photos: Euan Pearson

Beechamwell - St Mary

We first visited St Mary's Beechamwell, said to be one of the prettiest village churches in Norfolk (see front cover) and the only survivor of four that once existed, and believed to be over 1,000 years old. It is grade 1 listed and mentioned in the Domesday Book. The nave corner shows the characteristic "long and short" work of the Saxon period and the round tower, probably Saxon, had an octagonal section added in the fourteenth century with flushwork giving the impression of windows.

The chancel has been extended and possibly renewed, a north aisle added, with the chapel as a later addition. An intriguing item is an iron and bronze altar/chest dated 1835 - designed and donated by John Motteux, a member of the family who were Lords of the Manor. He restored the chapel in 1830s. Another interesting feature is the door-like opening off-centre high in the west wall of the nave. Many reasons were put forward as to why this was there.



Saxon long and short work



Barton Bendish - St Mary

We then headed for Barton Bendish which still boasts 2 churches - St Mary's on the outskirts of the village and St Andrew's, the current parish church, in the heart of the village. Blomefield's History of Norfolk records 10 manors in Barton Bendish

St Mary's, fortunately now in the hands of the Churches Conservation Trust, was declared redundant in 1974 and belonged to what is now Barton Hall to the immediate north of the church. The chancel is slightly bigger than the nave, which was truncated when the tower collapsed in 1710. You enter from the

west through “one of the finest doorways in England” (Pevsner) with cotton reel and birds’ beaks decoration, brought from the third church - All Saints (immediately opposite St Andrew’s) - after its demolition in 1785, purportedly to help repair the nave after the tower collapsed. Included in its unusual features are box pews with simple benches inside and a wall painting on the south side of the nave which appears to be a woman (St Catherine) set upon a large wheel. A small communion table which replaced the altar, dated 1633, is ornately carved.



Barton Bendish, St Mary



*The author, using the font as a writing desk
left: the west door which was moved from the demolished All Saints in 1785*



top: Barton Bendish St Andrew

left: the early seventeenth-century alms box

right: the south door - on the cusp of the Romanesque and Early English periods - around 1090



above: the 1633 Communion table

Barton Bendish - St Andrew

St Andrews belonged to the long-demolished Bainard Hall, immediately to the west of the church. It is no more than 400 metres from St Mary’s. Amongst the interesting features of St Andrew’s are the 3-stage tower, the Early-English and Romanesque late eleventh-century south doorway, with the typical Norman decoration but on the cusp of the gothic period, with a slight arch rather than the usual semi-circular head. There are also fourteenth-century floor-tiles in the sanctuary and an early seventeenth-century poor-box.

At one time there were two other chapels in the parish as well as the three churches. Both of these seem to have been abandoned as part of The Reformation.

Lunch beckoned, so some members returned to their cars for a picnic but as the weather was more like winter, several of us retreated to the warmth of the newly re-furbished Berney gastro pub to enjoy “posh chips with truffle oil” and other tasty snacks. What intrigued me about the area was the fact that almost all the houses looked large and prosperous with little evidence of workmen’s cottages. Had these all been demolished?

Gooderstone - St George

We then drove to the rather grand St George’s in Gooderstone - last on our list. Like most churches, it had taken 20 to 30 years to build, with a massive tower and Ian pointed out the stages of each year’s build, allowing for the flint to settle and mortar to harden before another layer could be added: painstaking work, especially as in many cases the flint had been knapped in situ.

Inside, the lovely late fifteenth or early sixteenth-century benches, complete with huge knots, had been given later backs decorated with cut-away tracery. The figures on the bench ends suffering from the iconoclasm of the Puritan period.

The magnificent rood screen, featuring the twelve apostles and four Latin Doctors, rises high into the wide chancel arch, and is backed by six misericords indicating that this was a collegiate church, with a group of priests performing similar functions to those in chantry chapels.



St Georges also contained an elaborate 500-year-old much-used alms box which enabled us to contribute our widows' mites as we left.

Ian and Dominic had done magnificent research for the visit and produced colourful and informative handouts – adding a great deal to our knowledge and enjoyment. Many thanks to them and all the team for making it another fascinating and memorable outing.



the elaborate fretwork pew backs



rustic seat planks and cut-off figures on the bench ends



top: the base of the Rood Screen

left: The Alms box carved from the solid

right: Three of the six misericords in the chancel, backing on to the screen



Barton Bendish and Beechamwell parish research has been published in the East Anglian Archaeology Series

Rogerson, A., *et al*, Three Norman Churches in Norfolk EAA 32, 1987

Rogerson, A., *et al*, Barton Bendish and Caldecote: fieldwork in south-west Norfolk, EAA80, 1997

see also: Batcock, N., The Ruined and Disused Churches of Norfolk, EAA 51, 1991

Administration

Planning for the VAG Spring Conference 2021

As was mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, the national Vernacular Architecture Group is holding its April 2021 Spring Conference in Norfolk, hosted by the NHBG. It presents the opportunity for the hosts to showcase their work and reveal the specific vernacular architecture of their county.

The conferences take the form of three days of trips to examine various aspects of the local vernacular, with evening lectures to complement what has, or is to be, seen.

A small sub-group of the NHBG committee (Ian Hinton, Lynne Hodge, Mary Ash, Anne Woollett and Jess Johnston) are in the process of setting up outlines for the daily visits - including careful planning of lunch, coffee and toilet stops.

Currently, the likely plan would be for one day to be spent in Lynn, with its many medieval warehouses, houses and buildings associated with the valuable trade with Europe (those were the

days!). A day spent looking at the many medieval buildings of Norwich, perhaps concentrating on those recently brought to the fore by the C.J. Sansom's novel about Kett's Rebellion in 1549 which refers to so many buildings and locations in detail. The third day will be spent examining some of the timber-framed houses in south Norfolk - in Hempnall, Tibemham and Pulham - moving on to the market town of Diss with its many timber-framed market-related structures.

Needless to say, herding all these vernacular architects is going to take a significant amount of organizing, both on the day and beforehand. If you are prepared to assist in any way, please let one of the organizers know. Similarly, if you would like the national experts to visit your house, please let one of us know - the contact details are on page 2 of this newsletter.

Hempnall study update for village residents (June 25th 2019)

Ian Hinton



(Some of) The "Seventeenth-Century" Houses of Hempnall

- Ian Hinton (Norfolk Historic Buildings Group)



After the talk is over, the important matter of tea and biscuits

With publication of the results of this seven-year survey approaching, it was decided to present a summary of the main findings to the residents of Hempnall, with the hope of gaining a few more houses to survey and include in the results.

On a warm summer's evening, 39 people gathered in the excellent Mill Centre in Hempnall for a presentation of a summary of the research and findings so far. Three new houses were added to our list over tea and biscuits after the show, and hopefully sufficient interest to attract more owners to invite us in.

The dendrochronological study of a selection of the houses starts next week with high hopes of being able to date some of the older parts of the buildings that our research has re-discovered, including two open halls, the original Manor House and possibly a relocated Guild Hall converted for use as a house.

Administration

AGM Report - Anne Woollett

The 2019 AGM took place with 25 members in the soon-to-be-replaced Bungay Community Centre after a walk around Bungay on a really hot day with local historian Chris Reeve who explained the plans being developed to link the castle with the rest of the town and a new museum (see separate report in this issue). This was followed by a viewing of Rose Hall and drinks kindly provided by NHBG members Michael & Maureen Davies.

After soup (cold) and rolls in the Community Centre, the meeting's agenda covered the usual business of electing an officer (this year the Vice Chair - Alayne Fenner) and re-electing the seven eligible current committee members with two new members - Jess Johnston and Owen Warnock - still leaving the committee one short.

The Chairman's annual report commented on the stable membership numbers, listed our achievements in research and outreach and noted the benefits that the Facebook Page had brought the group by introducing a wider audience to our work and encouraging people to come to the winter events. To extend this reach the NHBG has recently started a Twitter account. Our partnership with INTO at UEA has come to an end, and alternatives are being considered for the winter lectures, but that it was proving difficult to find an affordable option. Ian concluded by thanking the committee members and everyone who has helped throughout the year, without whom the group would not function as well as it does.

The Annual Accounts were presented by the Treasurer which showed that the NHBG continues to thrive financially

although the dendro analysis of some Hempnall houses and the forthcoming Journal about Hempnall will use part of our reserves. Our reserves at the year end were up almost £1200 to £14,681. Membership income rose slightly over the previous year and a small surplus arose from Summer and Winter events, but expenses were slightly higher this year due to the purchase of a new laptop. The value of the remaining copies of Journal 6 were written down, as sales had covered the printing costs.

As a result of investigations of similar local groups during the year, the accounts were examined by a suitably experienced member rather than commercial accountants (the Constitution allows for either method). Long-time member Peter Milne volunteered for this role after an appeal in the newsletter - he also examines the accounts of local charities. His report concluded that "the accounts were kept to an appropriate standard". A vote of thanks was given to Maggy and Peter.

There was discussion about how to proceed in finding an alternative venue which would allow us to continue the policy of spreading our winter talks over different week nights, as many village halls already have regular mid-week bookings. Discussions as to a preferred evening took place, with Friday a possibility. Concerns were expressed again about the membership quorum required at the AGM (10% of paid up members), the committee will look into it during the year and report back next year.

Ian thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting finished at 2:15.

Discover Building Stones (May 18th 2019) Maggy Chatterley



Part of the group at Halvergate church listening to Tim's initial explanations about rock types, with examples laid out on a convenient grave-slab

Photos: Ian Hinton

A group of NHBG members met outside St Peter & St Paul's church, Halvergate where Tim Holt-Wilson, an extremely knowledgeable and approachable local geologist showed us some samples of geological material we might find in the church walls we were to examine.

Tim is currently working on the Community Archaeology Project in the Broads area - Water, Mills & Marshes - and is looking at the geological aspect of churches. Several questions are being investigated, including how much of the material was sourced locally and how much was brought in from elsewhere (including as ships' ballast)?

Examination of the stones can also give indications of the conditions that they passed through. For example, nodular flints can show various degrees of battering and weathering and they can be patinated in a great variety of colours reflecting their life history. They can be 'chattermarked' by being battered in a storm beach environment.



Stongly chatter-marked flint from a beach environment

Tim explained that the Broads area is marshy lowland flanked by upland plateau areas founded on glacial deposits. It is at the crossroads of many geological influences. Glacial till was brought by ice from the mainland of Britain and from the North Sea basin bringing rocks from Scotland and Scandinavia. Before that, rivers had different channels, the proto-Thames originally started in Wales and went out to sea in the area of Happisburgh and Cromer and was moved southwards several times during glaciations. There is the usual rubble sourced from

local fields, mostly flint but also erratic material derived from Pleistocene glacial and pre-glacial fluvial sources ('boulder clays', sands and gravels) and from early Pleistocene marine crag sediments. Tim had helpfully compiled a handout with details of the various sedimentary rocks (flint, limestone, mudstone and sandstone), igneous rocks (crustal rocks with a chemistry ranging from those rich in silica (from continental crust) to those rich in ferro-magnesium minerals (from oceanic crust) and metamorphic rocks transformed by heat and pressure in the earth's crust.

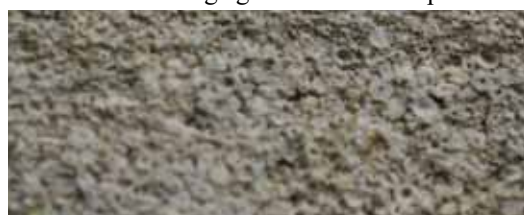
Eager to start the practical work we started by looking at the stones in Halvergate church, guided by Tim and using various magnifying instruments either brought by the participants or loaned by Tim. Soon we were engrossed in finding various types of stones and speculating where they had come from and what had happened to make them as they are today.



Close study using highly-magnifying hand lenses



What choices had the builders made? At Halvergate there were limestone quoins, but where did they come from? - possibly from the Peterborough area and brought by boat. Much of it was Oolitic limestone, pale yellow cemented with calcite spar, and composed of rounded ooliths looking like fish-roe, often containing fossil shells and star-shaped crinoid ossicles. Reader, we later found one with a crinoid ossicle, although not at Halvergate! Looking at these ooliths brings home the life, or more correctly, the deaths of these marine creatures from long ago in the Jurassic period.



Spherical ooliths.

3cm scale

At St Andrew's, Wickhampton, we found several pieces of dark grey Rhenish lava, used between Roman and medieval times for quern stones. At Reedham there was a lot of re-used Roman materials ('Roman brick' and blocks of silver carr - a tough rock with silvery-grey grains - mined from the Castle Rising area of West Norfolk and used at the Roman fort at Brancaster).



3cm scale

Tim's handout provided a handy classification of brick types. 'Plateau brick', the commonest type, is made from stony glacial brickearths (sandy clay, with chalkier clays giving white bricks and sandier ones giving orange bricks). 'Alluvial brick' is stoneless with a uniform texture outside, and was made from clays in the valley bottoms - it may sometimes contain organic and sulphurous matter which gives rise to a black, bubbly interior during firing. 'Roman brick' is typically longer and thinner than later bricks, and may be of either fabric.

Reedham, where we ate our lunch in the churchyard, also threw up an exciting find. In various walls we had been looking at pieces of ferricrete, an orange-brown, gravelly sandstone cemented with iron oxide. It is an ironpan or bog iron deposit and contains fragments of flint. It should not be confused with the carstone of West Norfolk which dates to a time before flint was formed. After lunch one of our members pointed out a huge piece of ferricrete used as a gatepost in the wall surrounding the churchyard.



right:

two examples of ferricrete containing small pieces of flint which have been stained brown because of the iron present



3 cm scale

The final church we visited as a group was St Mary's in Hassingham, the fourth of six churches on the map that Ian Hinton had usefully provided along with a handout with a very brief history and architectural description of the churches. In the end we made it to four of the churches as the interest generated meant that time ran away with us.

Re-used broken quern stones

left: the long thin piece across the centre of the picture found at Hassingham

centre:
A piece on edge, showing the pecked underside, at Wickhampton

right:
A more complete specimen found by Jan & Lin Bensley the following day in Buckenham church (photo Jan Bensley)



above:

an 'alluvial' brick displaying its bubbly interior resulting from the burning away of the organic matter

right:
a poorly-mixed 'plateau' brick containing small stones

3cm scale



A small party went on to Tunstall with Tim to look at this church which was abandoned after The Reformation. The nave roof collapsing in 1705 and the chancel converted to a chapel. An even smaller group went with him to look at the rocks to be found in the neighbouring fields to see if the current mix of surface stones matches that found in the neighbouring church.

With only two ways in to the area, from the A47 to the north and Reedham Ferry to the south, it feels very isolated and peaceful today - as shown by the amount of birdsong we heard, including a nightingale - very different from what it must have been like in earlier times when the rivers that surround it were the main forms of travel and transport.

Thanks particularly to Tim, and also to the weather for not raining, for making a most fascinating day.



Other finds on the day:

above left:
A flint marked by acid action from decaying plant roots

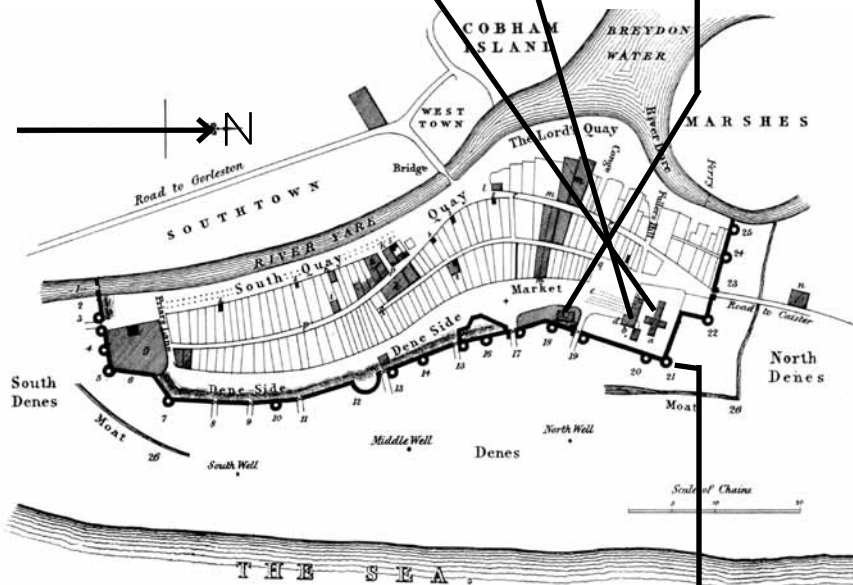
above:
a section through a piece of columnar basalt (like the Giant's Causeway)

above:
one of many pieces of reused church stone - this one from a window mullion

Yarmouth Old Town Walk (June 1st 2019) Sue Rawlings

Eighteen of us made our way by various means - delayed train, detoured bus, or car (for which parking suggestions were very helpful) to Yarmouth, where we met our guide Gareth Davies at St Nicholas' Church. He took us on a fascinating walk around the medieval town, following the walls to the merchants and row houses at South Quay, now maintained by English Heritage. At stops along the way, he passed round illustrations showing what Yarmouth and its walls might have looked like in medieval times.

Built on a continually growing sandbank, the shape of the town was defined by the river and its entrances from the sea (havens). The original St Nicholas' Church was built in 1101 by Herbert de Losinga, together with a Benedictine Priory, but replaced by a new structure in 1330.



Map from "Yarmouth is an antient town" - see panel next page

A bachelor aisle, unfinished due to the Black Death, was demolished in 1650. The Priory was disused for many years before becoming a school and now a community centre. The church was heavily bombed in World War II with rebuilding completed in 1956.

Yarmouth was granted its charter by King John in 1208, and in 1261 Henry III gave the town the right to enclose itself with a wall and ditch. The townspeople were required to provide labour and murage towards the work. It took 26 years to raise the funds and another 111 years to finish building (putting current problems with raising funds for local projects, and the overruns of modern large projects into perspective!). There were 15 or 16 towers, of which 11 remain, but only the first – King Henry's tower at the north end – had corners, the rest being built in a cheaper rounded shape. Although up to 4 or 5 metres thick, the walls were unable to withstand cannon fire and in places were ramped up with earth. The second longest town walls after York, they are currently maintained by Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust and the Borough Council.

We progressed from King Henry's tower to the Hospital tower adjoining the site of St Mary's Hospital built in 1278 to cater for pilgrims. After the Dissolution it became a workhouse and later a school. This area was once closer to the sea, where inshore fish catches were landed on the beach. The town's square street pattern was dissected diagonally by tracks going to wells and the jetty (the 3 wells can be seen on the map between the town and the sea).

At Market Gate we saw the arches in the wall with archer slits. The town gates were all demolished in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. At the site of New Gate, the Duke of Norfolk had a ravelin built to withstand cannon fire. Together with a mound built on the other side, this put a strain on the wall. Deanside was kept as a military zone until the eighteenth century and it was possible to see along the wall to the far end a mile to the south.

In King Street, the edge of the old town, we saw the last remaining timber jettied building (no. 160). It is 500 years old and was becoming delapidated through lack of repair, so the Town Council compulsorily purchased it in order to preserve it, and is now being renovated in conjunction with the Great Yarmouth Historic Trust.

Photos:
Maggy Chatterley,
unless stated
otherwise



160 Yarmouth Road, scaffolded front and rear whilst undergoing extensive repairs





*Hospital Tower,
adjacent to St
Mary's Hospital*

We moved on to look at the exterior of the Tolhouse, arranged as a first-floor hall. It is the oldest civil building in Yarmouth, probably built in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and has been used as a base for those setting taxation levies and holding courts (including the infamous Yarmouth Witches Trial, when Witchfinder General Mathew Hopkins caused 5 witches to be hanged). The gaol behind it was in use until the 1870s. The Tolhouse carries the coat of arms granted by Edward III in recognition of Yarmouth providing 4 fighting ships.

*Yarmouth
Tolhouse on
Middlegate Street*

*Photo:
Sue Rawlings*



The Yarmouth Rows are a series of narrow medieval alleyways built to slope down the east and west slopes to allow drainage. Most were no wider than a cart and they were mostly destroyed by bombing in World War II. The names of these alleyways were constantly changing, so to avoid problems they were numbered in 1804 from 1 in the north to 145 in the south. There were actually 154 Rows as some were half-rows and two (Market Row and Broad Row) retained their names. Row 6 was known as Bodysnatchers Row after 1827 (although the body snatcher had actually lived in Row 3!). Kittywitches Row was the narrowest at 18 inches wide at one point.

*Row 116 shown in a
pre-war photograph*

Photo from:

http://www.ourgreat-yarmouth.org.uk/page_id__54.aspx



There were some fine houses with gardens among the Rows, the smaller and poorer houses being mainly towards the northern end. Thanks to English Heritage, who opened the houses specially for us, we were able to see the interiors of the Merchants House (built 1603-5) and Row 111 House. Both had been altered in the eighteenth century, with rooms being divided, staircases and fireplaces moved and windows enlarged. However they both retained original floorboards and panelling and (in the Merchants House) an excellent example of an early 17th century plaster ceiling, with puzzlingly asymmetrical decoration.



*Above:
The fine, elaborate early seventeenth-century
ceiling in the Merchant's House*

*Below:
The roof of the Row 111 House,
mostly resulting from the eighteenth-century alterations*



Thanks to our guide Gareth, to English Heritage for opening the houses and for the English Heritage guide, and to Dominic and Maggy for arranging a very interesting tour.

More detail of Yarmouth's history can be found in "Yarmouth is an antient town", revised in 2001 by Michael Boon and Frank Meeres

Bungay Town Walk (June 29th 2019) Hilary Newby-Grant

On a beautiful late June Saturday, with the temperature nudging 30 degrees, 25 of us met our guide, Chris Reeve, at the Butter Cross in the centre of Bungay. He was to prove an entertaining and informative host.

Bungay was an important trading centre dating back to before the twelfth century when the castle was founded by Hugh Bigod. The Saxon town boundary earthworks are interrupted by the outer bailey earthworks of the Norman castle.

It developed into a centre for tanning, leatherwork and brewing. By the nineteenth century the town's 3500 inhabitants had 300 public houses at their disposal, hence the moniker "Boozy Bungay"!



The Butter Cross

Chris pointed out a plaque on the far side of the square which marks the seat of the fire which engulfed the town in 1688. After 8 hours virtually nothing remained of the timber houses and when smouldering furniture was carried into St Mary's Church partial devastation was the predictable result. A national appeal led to the reconstruction of the town which prospered until the closure of the railway in 1953, after opening in 1866, as one of the early Beeching cuts. This and the silting up of the River Waveney in the 1930s led to the town's gradual decline as a major centre.

We moved on to the King's Head at the edge of the main square. This semi derelict building was a celebrated coaching inn during the Georgian period but, in fact, dates from Tudor times.

The Bungay Society and Museum Service has acquired the building, along with the capacious Oddfellows Hall which is situated behind the King's Head, in the courtyard. This was made possible by a £500,000 endowment left to the town. Bungay has some exciting and ambitious plans for the site over the next few years. The concept is for the Oddfellows Hall to form a Heritage Hub for the town. It has a history of hosting concerts and dances, many of which were frequented by American servicemen during the Second World War. Inside we saw a huge room which

was once the dance hall and downstairs there is an enormous walnut bar dating from the 1930s/1940s. It is hoped that this can be reused in some way in the future. Apart from housing the museum, educational and craft courses would take place in the hall. A parallel scheme to develop the King's Head would possibly see it return to its role as a hotel. Both buildings are Grade 2 listed and have considerable potential.



Odd Fellows Hall - The Bungay Society's community project

(Photos: Maggy Chatterley)

We then walked to Bungay Castle, which is only just behind Oddfellows Hall. Hugh Bigod, having built the castle by 1173 fell foul of King Stephen who crushed his revolt, and when Henry II marched his army to seize the castle Bigod paid a fine of 1000 silver marks, forfeited his lands and title of Earl of Norfolk and was sent on the Crusades. The castle was in a ruinous state by the fifteenth century and when Robert Mickleborough became the owner in the mid 1760s his project of selling off the fabric for road mending and building did not help.



One of the imposing castle gatehouse towers

In its heyday the castle is said to have been 3-4 storeys high and its walls were up to 22ft thick. Although a ruin, it is picturesque and one can see sections of wall which show how deep they were.

In 1987 the Duke of Norfolk gifted the castle to the town and it is hoped that Heritage Lottery Funding will help to develop the site which includes plans to open the Mine Gallery beneath it to the public (originally an attempt to undermine the walls). A diorama in the castle cafe, through which one enters the grounds, depicts the castle in its prime.

We then visited the grounds of St Mary's Church. The church lacks a chancel and abuts the ruins of a Benedictine Priory founded by Bigod's wife. It serves nowadays as a venue for concerts and entertainment. Across the road from the Priory stands a row of Georgian-fronted older houses which are thought to have survived the fire in 1688.



*right:
the magnificent west front
of St Mary's*



Returning back towards the Community Hall we passed through a typical East- Anglian loke - very narrow and with house entrances opening on to it.

Towards the end of the morning we were shown around Rose Hall by its hospitable owners, Maureen and Michael Davies. Built by John Ironson in 1580, its current Georgian facade (complete with its "Hand in Hand" fire insurance plaque - founded in 1696, now succeeded by Aviva) overlays the Tudor original and the house probably faced the road when it was built.



*Rose Hall .
A Georgian facade over a
Tudor house - with its Fire
Insurance plaque
prominently displayed*



In the entrance hall the panmments and the wall panelling date from 1739. The dining room was previously a winter garden and the kitchen has retained its original Tudor gable end wall. The music room, built on in 1840, is 14ft high. High enough to accommodate the organ it was built to house. The organ is still in use, having been moved to the United Reform Church further up the road. The drawing room retains its gracious, Georgian proportions. Michael provided us with a fascinating insight into Rose Hall's unusual history.

After a hot morning seeing the town we were all very appreciative of the Davies' welcome refreshments and marquee before crossing the road into the hall for this year's soup and AGM (see the separate report).

Thanks to Chris, Michael and Maureen for providing an excellent way to spend a summer Saturday morning.

Chris Reeve is a local historian and author and Curator of Bungay Museum



*above:
the remains of the Priory behind St Mary's church*

*right:
Holy Trinity's tower*



The Saxon Church of the Holy Trinity, only a few yards from St Marys, dates from the eleventh century and also shows Norman influences. The round tower, complete with herringbone stonework, reflects its history and inside is a window commemorating St Eunice - unique in the country.

Dyson's Farm and Summer Party (July 13th 2019) Owen Warnock



The group at the start of the tour in front of the prominent porch, when Michael was talking about the barn

The Group's Summer Party was hosted by Mui and Mark Ribbands in their lovely house and grounds at Dyson's Farm, Tibenham. A warm sunny English summer afternoon meant that members were able to combine a detailed inspection of the house itself with a relaxing picnic in the colourful garden.

Michael Brown started by commenting on the adjacent barn, which, probably contemporary with the house, showed how robust timber-framed buildings are, as it was still standing despite two of its tie beams having broken.



The inside of the barn, showing one of the two broken tie beams that have pushed the wallposts outwards

The House

The house is a substantial version of a typical South Norfolk farmhouse. Clearly at least one owner in the late 1500s spent a lot of money on this house – perhaps all in one go or maybe in a couple of rapidly succeeding stages. From the outside, the visitor is immediately impressed by the two-storey porch bearing the first of many carved spandrels distributed throughout the house. The porch appears to have been added to the existing house, since the porch chamber overlaps a window on the main north wall and the porch as a whole leans away from the house. The north wall of the house also has another substantial external door

Upstairs in the porch, looking towards the house, showing it to be a separately-framed structure



*Photos:
Ian Hinton*

which, although now walled up in on the inside, leads to a lobby adjacent to the stack, between the hall and the parlour. Since the porch entrance opens into a screens passage which separates the other side of the hall from the service rooms, we appear to have a house combining the two main sixteenth-century forms – both a screen-passage tripartite house and a lobby-entrance house.



The two spandrelled service doors leading off the cross passage

Once inside we were able to see the considerable amount of wood, and money, used in this building: close studding, closely-laid and very substantial joists and mullioned windows with roll mouldings. It seems clear that the hall was always a ceiled room, but the hall chamber above was a different matter.

The substantial close studding and joists in the hall



The hall chamber was constructed to be a very impressive space: while it is now divided into three bedrooms which all have ceilings, it was originally a large chamber open to the roof. The part of the roof over the hall chamber is more elaborate than

the rest of the roof, containing braces to the tie beams and the collars. Clearly this room was a public one and was designed to impress.

The house has two stairways, one a winder staircase between the hall and the parlour on the far side of the chimney stack from the lobby entrance, and the other a straight flight, possibly not original, to the south of the service rooms. What is now a study still clearly bears the



Part of the large curved brace of the roof over the hall chamber

signs that it is formed out of what were the traditional buttery and pantry next to the screens passage.

Perhaps the most intriguing part of this lovely house is the parlour end of the building. A rhomboidal-mullioned window and the steeply-sloping floor and ceiling of the parlour chamber show that the end of the house sank by a foot or so at some stage. The puzzle is that the roof line above the parlour chamber is level and the roof is clearly contemporaneous. More investigations are needed. Could it possibly be that the house sank before the assembling on site of the roof timbers was completed? Surely not?



The parlour chamber - the wall-plate showing the amount of sinking at the parlour end

One possibility mentioned by Michael was that the original house may have only consisted of hall and services, with the parlour end being added soon after - possibly at the same time as the porch - as unusual carpenters' marks made by a gouge were present in both, but not in the house. Members of the Group enjoyed the discussion ending in suggestions of a wide range of possibilities as to the phases of construction of this building.

The similar gouge-made carpenters' marks (CCCC in the parlour chamber, XCC in the parlour-end roof and CC in the porch)



With our minds thoroughly stimulated, members proceeded to enjoy the Ribbands' beautiful garden and grounds while consuming a delicious afternoon tea. Thanks to everyone responsible for a lovely afternoon.



Relaxing in the colourful garden afterwards, with the ever-present, well-behaved, smooth-coated Foxterrier - Polly



The dendrochronologist, Ian Tyers, visited several buildings in south Norfolk for the NHBG recently, including Dyson's Farm, with the prospect of establishing build dates through coring some of their timbers. Unfortunately the timber used in this house was fast-grown and in many cases consisted of whole trees, so was likely to provide too few annual growth rings to result in a date. The timbers in the barn however, might produce sufficient rings, but the building is in too fragile a state to drill into!



Summer Visit

The Priory, Magdalen and Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen church (August 7th 2019) Lynne Hodge



About 30 of us assembled in the garden of the Priory on a lovely sunny afternoon in August in front of this imposing sixteenth-century building built of brick. The visit was to be split between the house and the magnificent church next door. The house runs north/south and is positioned immediately west of the large bank which holds back the waters of the River Great Ouse. The groundplan is tri-partite with services in the northern crossing, a hall of three bays and a parlour above an original cellar. The present front door is in a relatively new opening on the west front but there is evidence that the main door originally faced the river, entering at the lower end of the Hall. The river indeed was the trade route for the goods presumably dealt in by the owner of the house.

Our hosts, Nick Balaam and Liz Pye, are archaeologists and have located the footings of several structures on the site. They gave us an introductory talk on what is known about the house. It's not certain why the house is called the Priory although there had been a nunnery somewhere in the parish. The house was condemned in the 1950s and used for housing chickens but fortunately was rescued in the 60s. The restoration included building a breeze-block wall internally, re-using some joists from the present kitchen in other parts of the house and removing some timbers which can still be seen in other houses in the village. All the windows are twentieth century, those in the south gable have brick hood-moulds. On excavating, they found the remains of a building to the west with a large hearth which may have been a detached kitchen and the garden has been planted to reflect its position. On the east face, towards the river, what may have been the foundations of a stair tower were found by the Hall wall.

The inside of the house had some beautiful features, including a vaulted ceiling with terracotta ribs over the original entrance. The cellar under the parlour was vaulted and also has terracotta ribs. The hall is now partitioned but the massive common joists with corner roll-mouldings and the principal joist with large roll-mouldings are visible. The parlour has been divided to form an entrance hall with a modern stair but again the ceiling is in situ and has a principal joist with elaborately carved vine and ribbon decoration.

On the first floor the short wall posts from a central tie beam

*The vine-carved
principal joist in
the parlour*

*and roll-moulded
principal and
common joists in
the hall*



*Photos:
Ian Hinton*

are visible which proves that the building always had solid walling rather than a timber frame. In the attic there are no less than 5 crown posts with a sequence of carpenter's assembly marks. The crown posts are undecorated although the lower edge of the tie beam has a roll-moulding similar to the common joists on the ground floor. Each crown post has six brackets: two downward curving brackets to the tie beam, two to the collar and two to the collar purlin. The roof is not smoke-blackened which implies that there was always a chimney and that the Hall was always ceiled.



*The wall-post and
brace supporting the
tie beam on which
the crown post sits*

*One of the five large but
undecorated crown
posts in the roof*



There was much discussion as to how the building was used. The rooms with the flashiest carved timbers are on the ground floor so is this where the (merchant?) owner entertained? Did he deal in wine which was kept in the cellar? Ely and the Cambridge Colleges are upriver. Was the upper floor used as a warehouse as the unadorned crown-posts resemble those in

King's Lynn warehouses? Was wool stored there for exporting along the nearby river? Are the common joists in the Hall so massive because something was stored in the chamber above or are they just for show?

The day also included a visit to the adjacent church, which was reached from the bottom of the Priory garden (see below).

Back at the house we were treated to tea and biscuits by our kind hosts and we were able again to sit in the sun and conjecture about the use of the house and its history. Another successful NHBG visit for which our thanks to Nick and Liz.

The upper storey of the house viewed from the adjacent riverbank



Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen church



The parish of Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene was noted by Blomefield to be “waste and desolate fen with no habitation or ground that yielded profit in 1181”. Draining the marshland in the thirteenth century obviously had an effect as the Wiggenhalls together were the fifth-richest parish in the county in 1334, paying as much tax as Swaffham and Thetford combined.

The tower of the church is the oldest part, possibly part of the original church - vicars are recorded after 1227 - the lower section consists of layers of limestone, silica-bound stone and carstone, with more brick and flint towards the top, possibly extended when the current nave and chancel were built. Almost entirely built of brick in around 1330, this is a huge church for a parish with few residents, reflecting their prosperity. Before the nave was built, the ground had been raised considerably, effectively burying the base



of the tower - was this because of a flood, or to provide a surer footing for the lofty walls?

A series of bequests in the 1430s saw all the windows in the nave, chancel and clerestory replaced, with four-centre-arched Perpendicular examples, except strangely, the East window, which retains its Early English intersecting tracery (also shown on Ladbroke's drawing of 1822). This campaign also included the current porch. There are two rood-loft stairs, one each side of the chancel arch, fully integrated into the building and the doors are extremely high up - well over 20 feet above ground!

The roof is described as alternating queen-post and hammer-beam, although strictly speaking it is a false-hammerbeam roof, as there are no posts above the beams, only arched braces.

One of the spandrels beneath the tiebeam for the queen posts and the false hammer beam, with angel, behind it



Church photos: Maggy Chatterley

Many of the upper lights of the windows are filled with fifteenth-century stained glass with many images of popes and bishops. Four panels of the rood screen remain in the church, these too are unusual in that they show the four gospels as evangelistic symbols - winged beasts - rather than the traditional Saints.

Stained-glass bishops

and

Evangelistic symbols



Crabhouse Priory

This nunnery was the only occupant of the parish in 1181 but it was sited further south. It was granted to the first Prioress Lena with later references to a mill and farmery, although it does not appear in the 1291 Pope Nicholas taxation. In the fourteenth century a hall, stables and bakery were built. Obviously a prosperous institution, the great barn and conventual church were rebuilt in the 1420s. By the time of Cromwell's commissioners' visitation in the 1530s, there were only four religious persons present (History of the County of Norfolk Volume 2).

A Digest of Buildings Visited Since March 2019

This is a digest of the Norfolk houses which the NHBG has been invited to look at and to prepare brief reports on. These are ALL private houses and NO contact may be made with the owners in any way except through the Committee. These summaries of those reports are to inform members of the work undertaken on behalf of the Group.

Lynne Hodge

Dalton House, Station Road, Swaffham



The building is of six bays and three storeys in Flemish bond with sash windows, without horns, of the early 19th century. Dalton House comprises the 4 northernmost bays. The overall floorplan is L-shaped with Aston House, the southern 2 bays, also having a rear wing - apparently contemporary with the first phase of the building, built in English-bond brickwork in narrow bricks.

The house appears to have late 17th century origins as a single pile building parallel with the road with chimneys in each gable end with, originally, an unheated central room and a rear wing. The diapered north gable and the transverse ceiling joists also point to a date earlier than the façade would suggest. Presumably the original doorway was in the centre of the façade but when the house was remodelled in the early 19th century with a symmetrical and fashionable three storeys, a new entrance porch in the Greek style was made at the side, opening into a new grand staircase hall. The eaves were raised at this time to make a more useable attic space. The entrance porch, staircase, plaster ceilings, windows and shutters and many of the internal doors date from this remodelling.

Lynne Hodge

Nelson House, Hempnall

Nelson House, formerly The Lord Nelson PH was built in the mid nineteenth century on The Street facing almost due east, opposite the Church.



The main range consists of three cells in red brick, painted at the front, with a chimney stack on each end wall and one just to the rear of the central axis. The roof is of a shallow pitch with deep plain eaves overhangs in the Regency style, and is covered in slates, although the owner reported finding a lead sash weight with 1852 scratched into it. A two-storey red-brick bay window has been added later in the nineteenth century in the centre of the front wall and now houses the main entrance. There is a two-storey red-brick extension on the side, north, wall built up to the site boundary. The front corner is rounded and the whole displays conflicting dating indicators. The building's listing suggests that the extension was built after the main range, and the polychromatic brickwork used in the parapet walls appear to confirm this, but the window arches are skewback with raised central sections designed to replicate key stones and have modillions between the arches and the windows - as well as two platbands running right round the extension - all apparently earlier features.

Ian Hinton

Brick Kiln Cottage, Morningthorpe

Brick Kiln Cottage is located at the north end of Brick Kiln Lane, isolated from the village and facing westwards. It is sited on the clay of the Beccles series and the nearest property to the south was once a Brick



and Cider Makers according to the First Series Ordnance Survey map, and a large empty pit lies to the north of the property.

In its current ownership since the 1990s, it was originally three single-storey and single-cell cottages, the northernmost of which was replaced at some time by a two-storey section which is wider but shorter than the original cottage - the original footings to the north were unearthed by the owner.

All the walls are brick, laid in Flemish bond. There were once three doors and three windows in the front and rear facades, under shallow half-brick arches. The roof is covered in red pantiles with the occasional glazed black tile.

The rooms were always ceiled, with chambers in the roof lit by dormers in the rear roof plane. All the timber in the houses is pine, including the single in-line butt-purlin roof. There is no firmly datable evidence in the construction method or material, but stylistically, the single storey part appears to be of the late eighteenth-century, whilst the two-storey section appears to be of the early nineteenth century, and the whole constitutes an unusual survival of a group of 'workers' cottages of this period, mostly in their original configuration.

Ian Hinton

Lyndhurst, Broaden Lane, Hempnall

Lyndhurst is the one surviving example of four, probably all clay-built, cottages. It is mostly of two storeys, has an L-shaped floorplan, the earliest part aligned roughly east-west, gable-end-on to Broaden Lane, with an outshut on its north side. It is built on what was once Coles Green.



The western gable end of the earlier two-celled range, adjacent to the road, is brick clad, but is clay-built inside according to the owner, and is built on a brick plinth.

The eastern range appears to be wholly of the early twentieth century, pebble-dash rendered with brick quoins and window surrounds, with a large bay window at the southern end. The southern wall of the earlier range has been pebble-dashed with brick window surrounds to match the later range.

Part of the ground-floor northern wall of the earlier range is still built in clay and is not brick faced. Little of the original construction is visible inside, apart from the axial principal joist in the western room which is a substantial portion of a tree, approximately squared and probably oak but painted. The common joists are sawn-square pine.

The documentary evidence refers to a newly-built cottage in 1778. This date would appear to match the earlier range of Lyndhurst. The fact that part of the north wall of the first range inside the outshut is still only of clay shows that the brick cladding came later, perhaps at the same time as the brick outshut was built on the north wall.

The raised floor level and roof level of the eastern room in the earlier range may have coincided with the building of the twentieth-century partrange in order to simplify access into the new taller range.

Ian Hinton

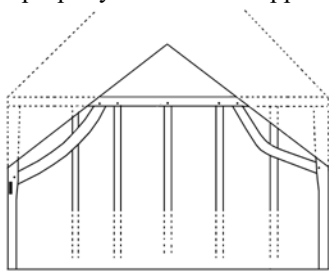
Garage at Spring Mead, Hempnall

This building is currently used as a garage and store for a house built in the 1990s.

Inside, the western wall has the truncated tie beam and studs of a taller building. The eaves have been lowered to single-storey level, but the tie beams, corner braces and the jowling of the corner posts demonstrate that the eaves were once some 90cm higher.

In one wall is a three-light ovolo-mullioned window and stored in the building is a four-centre-arched, spandrelled doorway.

This building appears to have been the parlour and stack bays of a larger two- or three-celled building, the remainder demolished when the next-door property was built. It appears to have been of some quality, built with large timbers and a deep two-hearthed stack. If the glazed window belongs here it probably indicates a seventeenth-century building, whereas the spandrelled doorway would point to an earlier building, if original.



Ian Hinton & Anne Woollett

1-4 Tooks Common, Ilkeshall St Andrew

This is a tripartite post-medieval house currently divided into three households. Numbers 1 & 2 are combined and occupy the parlour cross-wing and most of the hall, number 3 occupies the rest of the hall, the cross passage area and part of the service end and number 4 takes up the remainder of the service end up to the line of the original end of the house. The parlour cross-wing exhibits most original features.



The parlour itself has a large transverse principal joist with sunk- quadrant mouldings and no chamfer stops. The same moulding runs round the cornice with plain shield shaped chamfer stops. In the parlour chamber the same moulding appears on the tie beam which supports a floor of common joists with shallow scratch mouldings, largely hidden by the later ceiling but exposed in the bathroom. There is a late sixteenth century hearth in brick with a shallow four-centred arch and relieving timber above. This ensemble of features characterises this as the prestige room of the house dating from the late sixteenth century.

The rest of the house shows no original features below the level of the wall plate except for the hall hearth. This has a mantle beam, chamfered and with shield stops, which shows

many scratched graffiti, some of them identifiably apotropaic 'witch marks' designed to deter the entry of witches' familiars via the chimney. The rest of the evidence for the original house is found at roof level. In the west wall plate at this point there is a damaged scarf joint, eighteen inches long, edge-halved and splayed with under-squinted abutments.

The most likely interpretation of this evidence may be that this is a house of the very late sixteenth century built all at the same time by a prosperous owner.

Susan & Michael Brown

The Poplars, Bressingham

This house seems to be on the standard eighteenth-century plan of a central hallway entrance, containing the stair and with single pile rooms entered from it on either side. This impression is misleading.

The central hallway is in the form of a cross-passage with the modern stair to the right in the same area as the original whose shadow can be traced on the studs of the wall. The room to the left is evidently the parlour of the house rather than a service room, even though it is entered from the cross-passage.

Above this parlour is a chamber with unusual elaboration marking it as the prestige room of the house. The wall plate chamfer is formed into an 'eyebrow' over the end (south) wall window and above the bay of the rear wall meeting the chamfer on the jowled post at a neat right angle. This post is balanced by its counterpart in the front wall with a large jowl in each case aligned along the wall plate rather than along the tie beam which they support. The principal joist of the ceiling has shield stops with a small notch. The ceiling is plastered to conceal the common joists. Tenons in the face of the original window jambs show that the room had oriel windows on the south and east sides. These features together suggest a date around 1600 for this part of the building.

In the south west corner is a small formerly unglazed window with the remains of part of its (evidently original) sliding shutter, perforated with auger holes for ventilation when closed: a possibly unique survival.

The presence of the landing is an unusual feature in a house of this date, similar to a small number of houses in the area south of Norwich which show an innovative approach to planning the private parlour end of a traditional house. The landing allows entry to the rooms either side of the stair without having to pass through any rooms on the way.

The attic above the parlour chamber has a roof of tenoned in-line purlins with small wind braces in the end bays. There is original provision for a dormer window to the east and purlins are shaved where they meet the principal rafter. These are later features which may suggest the roof is a late seventeenth century replacement for a sixteenth century original. The attic above has a roof of in-line tenon purlins, not shaved, so perhaps of a different period to the parlour wing roof.

Interpretation of this house is complicated by the unconventional arrangement of the basement-mezzanine-attic north end. The south half of the house is recognizable as a high-grade parlour end of about 1600.

Susan & Michael Brown



Shutter with auger holes



HOUSES



CLUBHOUSES



PUBLIC BUILDINGS



BOULTON & PAUL BUILDINGS

Pamber End Boating Pavillion, Poringland
(Hants) *IH* Devon *MC* Village Hall *IH*

Woodhall Spa Tennis Pavillion, Saxlingham
(Lincs) *IH* Dorset *MC* Chapel *RF*

Boulton Rd, Bowls Pavillion, Hellesdon
Norwich *IH* Norwich *IH* St Paul *RF*

Horning *MC* Henton Mission,
Hempnall *IH* Oxon *IH*

Carrow House Railway
Conservatory *WWW* crossing,
Halesworth
WWW

Photographers
IH Ian Hinton
MC Maggy Chatterley
RF Robin Forrest
WWW Internet



Mundesley Sanatorium *IH*