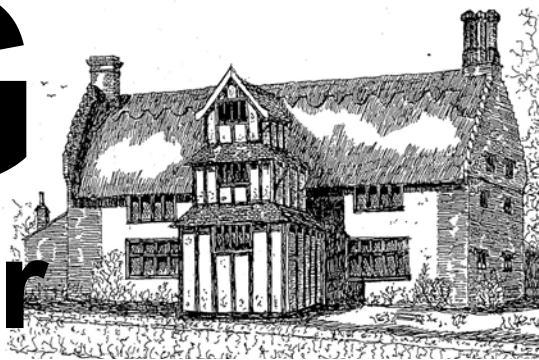


# NHBG newsletter



Spring 2007  
Non-Members: £1.00

NUMBER THIRTEEN  
www.nhbg.org.uk

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group



## Contents

Chair .....	2
VAG Winter Conference December 2006 Houses of Mud and Earth.....	3
NHBG Visit to Bradfield Woods. July 2006.....	4
Timber Framing.....	6
Harleston.....	8
Things Ain't What They Used To Be .....	8
17 Broad Street: A Dated Joint .....	8
Tour of Great Yarmouth.....	9
Dovecotes in Norfolk and Elsewhere .....	10
South Door, St Michael's Church, Istead.....	12
Gazebo at Baconsthorpe Old Rectory.....	14
Digest of Buildings Visited 2006-2007 .....	16
Book List .....	17
NHBG Committee.....	18
Book Review .....	18
NHBG Committee.....	18
Tacolneston Project .....	19
<b>Summer Events 2007.....</b>	<b>19/20</b>

*Last summer may be a long time ago but here is proof of very warm, sunny weather and memories of a very happy and fascinating day (see p. 4).*

National success: Susan and Michael Brown, Paul Rutledge and Adam Longcroft, the principal authors involved in the New Buckenham Project for which the Group shared first prize in the Pitt Rivers Award, are here joined by Elizabeth Rutledge, representing New Buckenham. The prize was a handsome trophy (seen here) and the opportunity to apply for funding for further work by the Group.

# chair

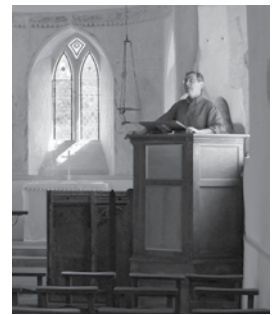
I told you in the last Newsletter that it was going to be a good winter of meetings, didn't I? Members who had not heard Oliver Rackham before were impressed and inspired by his account of the organic connection of buildings and countryside, and I was intrigued to see that when 'Time Team' came upon the remains of a dovecote recently it was John McCann's research that was quoted. Rick Lewis and Peter Brimblecombe gave us fascinating expert insights and the three speeches at the members' meeting gave excellent accounts of original research. As I write I am looking forward to Rod McKenzie's discussion of RAF historic buildings, particularly since I live in one.

As you will see in this Newsletter, the Tacolneston project is well under way with a lively and well-attended inaugural meeting and we have submitted our application to 'Awards for All' for a grant to pay for the dendro. Members are in contact with projects in



Harleston and Little Walsingham among others and as you can see from the digest of houses visited we are continuing to spread our net widely. The range and depth of the Group's research will be seen in Journal Number Three, which is due to appear in April. I think you will find the same variety of interest in the Summer Programme; do make a point of attending the AGM at Wolterton Hall, it should be a memorable occasion.

Michael Brown  
Chair



*Our Chair spreading the good word at last year's AGM. This year's will have a more elite, secular flavour.*



## Annual General Meeting

Wolterton Hall,  
Wolterton, Norfolk  
Saturday 16 June  
2.00 pm

Papers will be circulated  
nearer the date

*It takes a woman to go where no man dares...  
Where were these intrepid members?*



## Vernacular Architecture Group Winter Conference December 2006

### Houses of Mud and Earth

Sue Brown

This year's winter conference dealt with the construction, conservation and documentary research concerning various forms of earth and mud walling. Unfortunately there was no speaker on the subject of clay lump, which tends to be the form we see in Norfolk.

Ray Harrison spoke about the construction methods employed with examples from Devon and Leicestershire. Basically 'cob' is subsoil mixed with fibre and water; the proportions depend on the subsoil used. The mix is placed on a foundation wall or sometimes directly on the ground and is raised in two to three feet 'lifts' with forks and then left to dry until the next day. Typically the buildings would have an A frame roof which developed from being set low in the walls to sailing over the top of the walls; cob walls have little tensile strength. Generally cob was used for first phase industrial buildings like potteries or backhouses, however Bowhill near Exeter with a fabulous early fourteenth century roof is now a grade 1 listed building. After the second world war Alf Thomas brought the necessary skills back into use and Devon has some interesting new buildings being constructed.

Chris Dyer has researched accounts from the middle ages although building material terms are used without precision. Most of his accounts record boundary walls and the references show widespread use through sixteen different counties. Workmen were paid a complete rate by the 'perch' (16 ft 6 inches). In 1402 eleven perches cost thirty three shillings with twelve carts of straw at extra cost. The work was done by labourers or sometimes tenants but not specialists. Much of the expenditure was for maintaining or renewing existing walls, not for building new walls; in Covent Garden and Lambeth Palace a section was repaired every year.

David Smith said that in the Leicester records the town walls (?of mud construction) were discussed as being in a state of decay as early as 1340. He illustrated a variety of forms including church walls, field buildings and some lowly buildings.

Neil Finn showed mud walling used with light timber-framing in Lincolnshire. The timbers are exposed on the outside and look like a very open box framing with reversed assembly for the wallplates. Originally the walls below the mid-rail were of solid mud construction; very little of this walling survives but evidence can be seen by the lack of peg holes or wattle fixing in the soffit of the rail. Sometimes there was no sill and the posts were supported on pad stones. These stones are also evidence for the original walling. Attrition rates were probably high but there are dated examples from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Willy Graham (an American member) was showed us mud construction on the Chesapeake frontier. Archaeology has found the line of the original Jamestown palisade (1607). The buildings had earth fast posts and clay wall construction on foundations of brick or flint that had been used as ballast. Lavish buildings were described as 'silly and unnecessary' as extravagant building put

the enterprise at risk. He described several buildings evidenced mainly from archaeology that were based on buildings from the Old World but designed with invention to make them suitable for the Chesapeake landscape. Houses usually needed repair after ten to fifteen years mainly due to termite damage.

Peter Childs continued the Devon theme where there is no rural timber-framing but only cob or poor quality stone that needs an earth mortar. Where there is no stone plinth there is no archaeology but a cob building was found in Wallingford castle (Oxon) buried under a moat spoil heap in 1250. In Devon there are gentry houses from the fourteenth century; plain on the outside, showy on the inside, with the tradition of mud construction continuing to terrace houses in the nineteenth century and modern houses being built at present.

In Scotland Chris McGregor sees turf dwellings, the oldest surviving example of turf construction being the Antonine wall. Generally the buildings have a light timber-frame covered in turf or cut peat with a loose netted thatch. Sometimes a laid thatch will have a turf ridge. The hooded chimney (lum) has a light timber framework; one example of infill was eighteen layers of paper!

Linda Watson referred to the conservation strategy taught as part of an M.A. course at Plymouth University. To keep cob building buoyant you need both repair and new buildings.

Peter Messenger and Nina Jennings outlined their research on clay dabbins on the Solway Plain. Clay is as durable as stone if it is properly maintained. In the sixteenth century the local population built in clay as there were no resident landlords to either dictate building types or to construct grander houses. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the resident bailiffs started building in stone presumably for status.

Judith Alfrey closed the conference with her work in Wales where the mud walling is called 'Clom'. Nineteenth century observers gave clom buildings a bad press but it seems that it was not a building material of last resort but more to do with self-building and the hierarchy of the family, examples given were building for a sub-tenant or for a lower status family member, perhaps a widow. They survive as relegation houses used as barns etc. but, like Devon, there are two-storey later terraces. There can be a hierarchy of materials with stone fronts and clom rear elevations. They are not necessarily unsophisticated buildings but the social and economic context needs recognising.

Lively discussions ended each session with several contributions from Dirk Bouwens (of Norfolk). I left the conference with a greater understanding of the techniques and types of building involved and the resolution to examine our own Norfolk buildings in greater detail.

#### Bibliography

John McCann, *Clay and Cob Buildings*, Shire  
Adam Longcroft, *Medieval Clay-walled Houses: A case study from Norfolk*, Vernacular Architecture, 37, 2006



## NHBG Visit to Bradfield Woods. July 2006

Steven Thomas



*The picture above is a fifteenth century illustration of fellers at work. The tree has had its branches removed and is being roped into a certain direction; note the costrel on the floor containing refreshment.*

*The photo below shows the various stages of coppicing in Bradfield Woods: a cleared area, a number of years growth, and standard trees in the background.*



On a sunny Saturday a small party from the NHBG set off on a foreign tour to Suffolk and Bradfield Woods National Nature Reserve. These are mostly ancient coppice woods and one of the best examples of alder plateau woodland to be found in the country.

Our guides for the day were Andrew Moore and Rick Lewis who provided an entertaining and informative commentary on woodland management, traditional and modern milling methods and timber use. After a brief overview of the woods history Andrew explained the differences between modern systems of 'high forest' management and the traditional practice of coppice rotations. The species diversity of the trees at Bradfield was also explained and occasional mention was made of the traditional uses to which the various trees would have been put.

Of particular interest were the discussions about the way in which the medieval woodsman and carpenter seemed to have a better understanding of native timber and traditional woodland management techniques and how this knowledge was applied to providing timber for building construction. For example, in a coppice with standards compartment (or fell), the coppice growth ensures a standard with a clean butt of around 16 – 18 feet. It is no surprise then to find the average wall height of many buildings and indeed the bays sizes relate well to this 16 – 18 foot range. Andrew also highlighted how much of the



*Andrew is indicating the growth of tree rings in a section of a trunk to a rapt audience.*

timber used in traditional buildings may well have come from coppice stools on first or second rotations and many studies of historic buildings have demonstrated the small size of most timber members. In medieval buildings there was also a strong link between the way a tree grows and the use it can be put to. In growing, a tree lays down different types of tissue depending on whether it is under tension or compression. When milled or converted correctly the natural pre-stressed nature of the wood can be used to strengthen the building, for example in joists or rafters.

In the afternoon we looked at the milling and processing of wood into timber. Rick gave an outline of the various historic tools used in traditional processing and how these left different marks on the timber which can help with dating, as well as an understanding of how the timber was produced. We were then treated to a few demonstrations of wood processing with Rick running through the initial stages of converting a birch log into a post by notching the sides and then hewing off the waste. Rick and Andrew used a trestle to begin to saw a log, which could have been used for planking. Where the workers are positioned in relation to the log gives rise to the commonly used phrases 'top dog' and 'under dog'.

Andrew finished the day by talking about the need to use green timber in most structural repairs as the historic joints were designed to cope with the push and pull of the wood as it dried and natural shrinkage movements occurred. He then used the portable saw to mill a few logs to demonstrate the movement in the timber when the natural tensions established in growth are released.

The trip to Bradfield Woods was both interesting and entertaining. It demonstrated how far removed we have become from



a detailed understanding of one of the most common natural materials used in historic buildings. The ability to identify and understand what timber products can be produced from living trees is a skill and a knowledge that few now possess. All those involved with historic buildings need people like Andrew and Rick to pass on their skills and keep the knowledge that they have accrued alive for the future.

For those of you who are interested in learning more about Bradfield Woods, its ecology and historic development is mentioned in a number of books by Oliver Rackham including: *The History of the Countryside*; *Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape* and *Ancient Woodlands*. Bradfield Woods are also mentioned by George Peterken in *Woodland Conservation and Management*. Some information on the chemistry and properties of wood and timber is provided in Brian Ridout's book *Timber Decay in Buildings: The Conservation Approach to Treatment*.



*Andrew (under dog) and Rick (top dog) using saw with great skill on a high trestle in the place of a saw pit.*

## Timber Framing Rick Lewis

One of the things I am asked to explain most often is the technique of scribing, in essence it is a very simple process and with practice becomes an extremely accurate and efficient way of marking out joinery. Having said that, it is unlike any typical modern day setting out process and people often struggle to grasp the concept so hopefully I can clear the fog a bit?!

Hand converted timbers even if they are hewn/sawn very neatly will have irregular surfaces and odd dimensions. What should be a stud of 6" wide by 4" thick could actually be 6 1/8" at one end and 5 3/4" at the other. The thicknesses could be equally differing and it may well be twisted and bent (if it has been sawn down the pith line: a face halved timber, it will almost always be bent).

With timbers like this it would be very difficult for a modern day joiner easily to produce a framed building as he would wish to assume everything was straight and true. Modern ways of working rely on this and to ensure it is possible the timbers would first be planed all round to become straight and dimensionally accurate. The joiner would also prefer that the timber was stable so it would usually be kiln dried as opposed to fresh green stuff. With materials like this all of the joinery can be standardised and everything can be cut to known lengths.

Prior to the nineteenth century hand converted timbers (although it seems some water/wind driven saw mills existed) were easily utilised by the carpenter as the methods for setting out were very different to those taught and used today. Timbers were largely accepted as they were and a carpenter was much more connected to the woodlands and the tree itself, indeed they often did the actual felling. Timber was a precious resource and our forefathers developed a much keener understanding of their material in order to use it to best advantage.

Most joints in a historic frame will therefore be unique as each interaction between two slightly differing timbers will produce joinery of varying dimensions. To that end most items are numbered to enable swift and efficient assembly on site of all these parts. With the use of extra hands as labourers at a frame raising the potential for incorrect assembly is high; what at first glance looks like a stack of studs all of the same size is in fact a carefully labelled pile of timbers that each have only one position into which they will fit.

Given that this is the end result, how do we get there? Where do we start?

Each timber is assigned a position in the frame, often before it has even been felled. Each is then oriented for best effect, sometimes it is purely aesthetics that governs this i.e. the waney/sappy face can go towards the outer face in a rendered frame. First and foremost a timber is oriented to maximise its structural properties to best effect. Sometimes we see halved timbers (that are invariably bent) placed horizontally with the bow upwards as it is then stronger. Also we often see large groups of knots placed on the upper face of horizontals as here they will be in compression and thus less prone to failure.

Once we have decided how to place our timbers the exact intersections between them can be fixed. Frames were built on packers on the ground and each timber is laid one over the other in a piled lay-up. The irregularities of each timber at each intersection can then easily be marked from one to the other with simple tools; usually nothing more than a plumb-bob, an awl and perhaps a set of dividers.

With each joint marked in this way we can then remove the layers and work on them as individual timbers cutting all the necessary mortices, tenons and laps etc. Having done this we can then put them back together as an assembled two-D frame and test that all the joinery fits and is neat enough etc. Once any necessary adjustments have been made (sometimes none are required, it is tight and neat first time!) the components can be numbered accordingly and all the secondary timbers can be stacked to one side as they are finished with. The primary timbers (posts, plates, ties etc.) are kept to hand as they exist in more than one plane and have joinery in both planes. Thus after completing the sidewalls the posts are switched through 90 degrees (assuming the building is square in plan) and they are used again in the crossframe lay-ups.

Using one of the many variations of scribe techniques a carpenter can confidently use irregular timbers to create a regular frame that sits level and comes together neatly and efficiently.



Fig. 1 German illustration from 1446, a wall frame is completed and the brace peg holes are drilled. Note that it is laid over another previously completed frame that sits on packers.



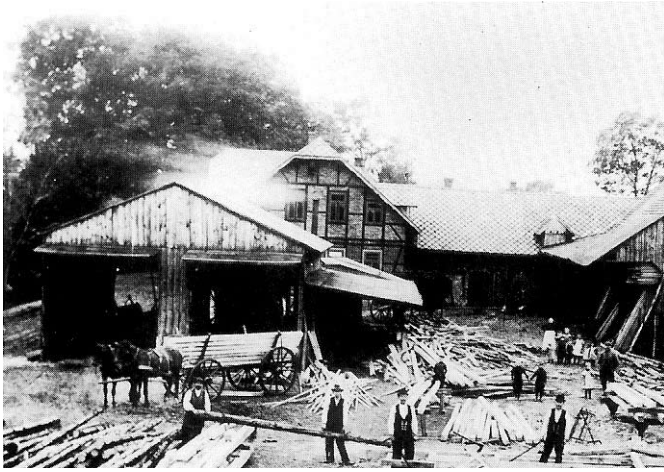


Fig. 2 A German carpenter's yard from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> cent. In the background the timbers arrive by horse and cart, in the foreground there are several frames laid over one another.

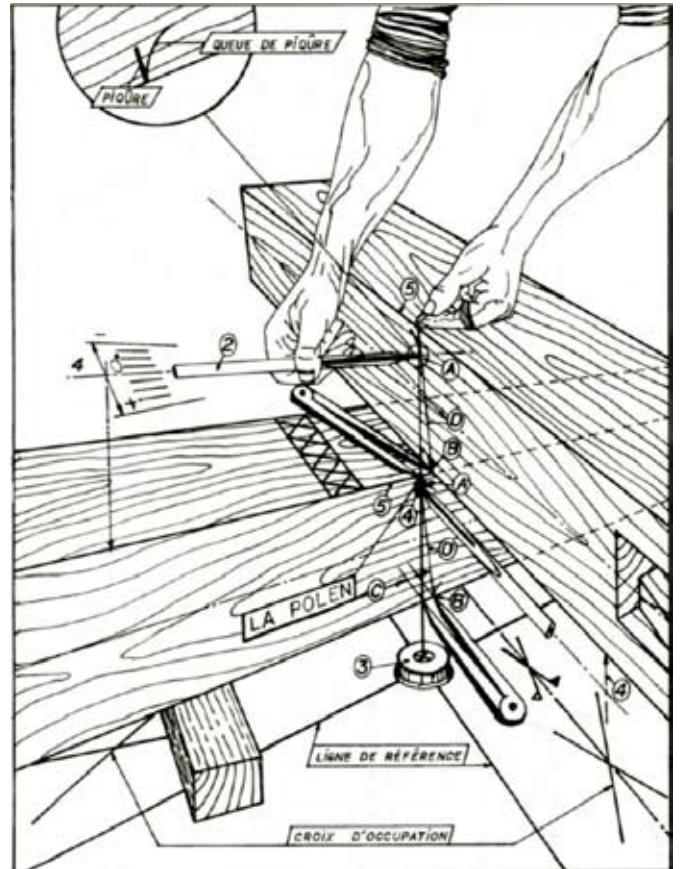


Fig. 4 A close up of the scribing process. The dividers measure the deviation (from vertical as shown by the plumb line) in each timber; each joint can then accurately reflect the actual timbers at the exact position. Only the pencil is out of place for pre 19<sup>th</sup> century scribing.

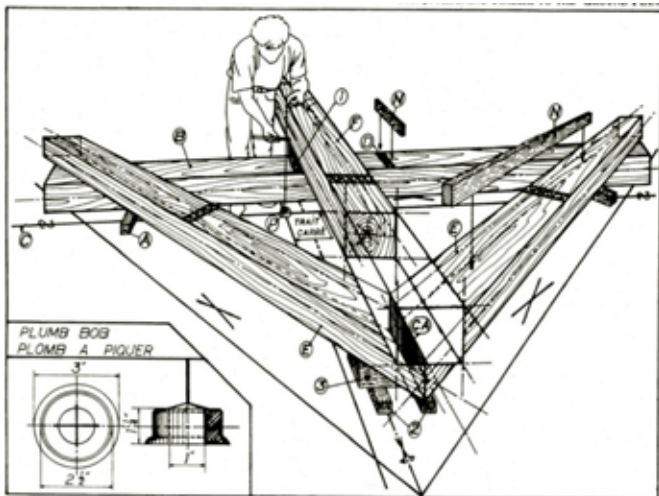


Fig. 3 French Compagnon carpenters' excellent illustration of timbers laid over chalk lines to scribe a simple king posted truss.



Left: a Nuremberg Housebook of 1533 shows timber having been notched and the hewing commencing, note framing in the background.  
Right: the same happening last summer



## Harleston

### Things ain't what they used to be Jacob Ecclestone

A second group of members made an evening visit to Harleston to see the Merchant's House and Mark Kenyon's amazing home/office, which had been the high spots of our Harleston Day in 2005 (see *Newsletter 10*). As before, we met for coffee at Jane and Roger Elton's Merchant's House (Fig 1), formerly Bank House, which appeared to be all Georgian elegance and fine proportions, but which was originally something quite different – a high status late 15<sup>th</sup> – early 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed building (Fig 2). During recent restoration, a blocked up cellar was discovered, full of box after box of hundred-year-old cheques. In all, 27 loads of rubbish were carted out!

The building has had many lives, including one (possibly two) as a public house. Mark pointed out that the landing was in some ways similar to that which we had seen at the Saracen's Head in Diss (see *Newsletter 12*). An internal mullion was presumably on an external wall at some time. Was the landing part of a gallery from which people could look down on cock fighting or other pastimes taking place in the yard below? Had it been a pub when first built?

The magnificent ceiling in the main bedroom had been cleverly disguised under cardboard when the Eltons bought the house eight years ago!

Up in the roof space was evidence of how the Georgians practised their tricks to please the eye: 'a pin-and-tuck approach', as Mark explained, where a new façade was deliberately designed to mask the old and to present a modern appearance. "The best way to see Georgian Harleston is to look down or look behind" advised Mark. Indeed the town has only one genuine Georgian building, all the others including the Merchant's House being 18<sup>th</sup> century brick facades disguising earlier timber framed buildings.

Just how much earlier was brought home to us when we walked a few yards round the corner to Mark's home. No elegant façade here, just an unremarkable little terrace house with a door and a shop window on the ground floor. The 'shop' is now a store room for Mark's collection of panelling and old timbers, but as we moved into the back part of the house the centuries peeled away.

First we came to the foot of a magnificent staircase, then on, under a massive joist into the kitchen. Mark, who dates the building to the early years of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, showed us traces of ochre on the timbers, and the peg holes which were evidence of a loom built into the north wall under a window.

The stairs led us up to a great landing, now open to the roof. When Mark began restoration work, the 700 year old roof timbers were thick with soot, the staircase was enclosed and a ceiling covered the landing and obscured the raised aisled-hall roof. All is now open, beautifully restored in elm and testimony to the skill of the men who built this raised aisle house, and – more recently – the men who restored it.

The last room we crowded into was Mark's office-cum-studio which he shares with a friendly poltergeist, which plays tricks by moving his drawing instruments around. The fine summer evening then ended – (perhaps appropriately!) – in a spectacular thunder storm.



Fig. 1  
Merchant's House in  
2006



Fig. 2  
Merchant's House c 1700  
(drawing: Mark Kenyon)

### 17 Broad Street: A Dated Joint Sue Brown

This assemblage of storey post and principal joist comes from 17 Broad Street Harleston Norfolk. It was recently dendro dated by Ian Tyers under an Awards For All Lottery Grant to Harleston and District Historical Society.

17 Broad Street is only part of a building and the remainder may be in number 19. (15 Broad Street is a much earlier building). It is unusual in that the frame is of oak but the side wall has primary bracing, a later form of bracing often seen in softwood. This symmetrical bracing extends into the original attic; the wallplate is about 12 inches above floor level. The principal rafters (not in line with the storey posts) are birdsmouthed onto the wallplates and the staggered tenon purlins are shaved. The illustrated joint with its lamb's tongue chamfer stops and decorative brackets is at both the ground floor junction and the first floor junction.

When Michael and I first saw this house in February 2003 we thought it might be late seventeenth century. Ian Tyers asked us to have another look at the building before he revealed the dendro date and we moved it into the first quarter to mid eighteenth century; Ian had four bark-edge dates of Spring 1769! This is most important as it is thought that by the eighteenth century carpentry had degenerated and the use of softwood had taken over. It is an exciting result.



Illustrations by Ian Carstairs



## Tour of Great Yarmouth, with Dona Watson, Heritage Guide, September 2006 Emilie Vince

In the morning the group visited the Smokehouse Museum and Potteries. This extraordinary grade II listed building was constructed piecemeal around a central courtyard, over the course of 300 years. Its owners, the Heigho family, would collect ship-wrecked timber from the beach in order to extend the building, providing working space for those involved in the processes of gutting, smoking and packing herring. In an engaging tour by owners Karen and Ernie Childs we visited the smoke rooms themselves, built into the very fabric of Yarmouth's medieval town wall, and still reeking of smoke and fish.



*Smoke House: believe it or not, real ships' timbers gathered from Yarmouth Beach over the years.*

The extensive town wall proved to be another star of the day's tour as Dona guided the group around its perimeter, describing its fortification against the Armada, its protective role against 19th century bodysnatchers, and its progressive incorporation into the foundations of Yarmouth's domestic buildings. Following a path once taken by Lord Nelson as he visited the Royal Naval Hospital the group marvelled at how comprehensively local builders incorporated the wall into their constructions.

The afternoon provided a visit to the second Royal Naval Hospital, converted into living accommodation by Kit Martin



*Royal Naval Hospital: the clock tower which is where the members on page 2 were exploring*

after being decommissioned by the NHS in 1993. Designed by William Pilkington in 1809 and built in Somerleyton brick around a large quadrangle, the building functioned as a complete community in its heyday, housing its own fire engine. Jenny Livingstone guided us through the building's history from its initial use by 600 wounded men from the Battle of Waterloo, to its later incarnations as army barracks and NHS psychiatric hospital. The group visited the site of the operating theatre and one of the former wards.

The day was rounded off with a tour of the Norfolk Column, built by William Wilkins to commemorate Nelson's battles. Dona explained the extensive restoration of the monument, including work recently undertaken to remove tons of sand blocking its drainage system, and the re-mortaring necessary to stabilise the colossal structure.

Our thanks to Dona Watson for sharing her knowledge of and enthusiasm for Great Yarmouth.



*Two aspects of the walls being recycled. There is certainly a definite record of a change in the building history in the one tower on the right.*



## Dovecotes in Norfolk and Elsewhere

### John McCann



*The dovecote at Thornage Hall, built 1728, with the Hall beyond.*

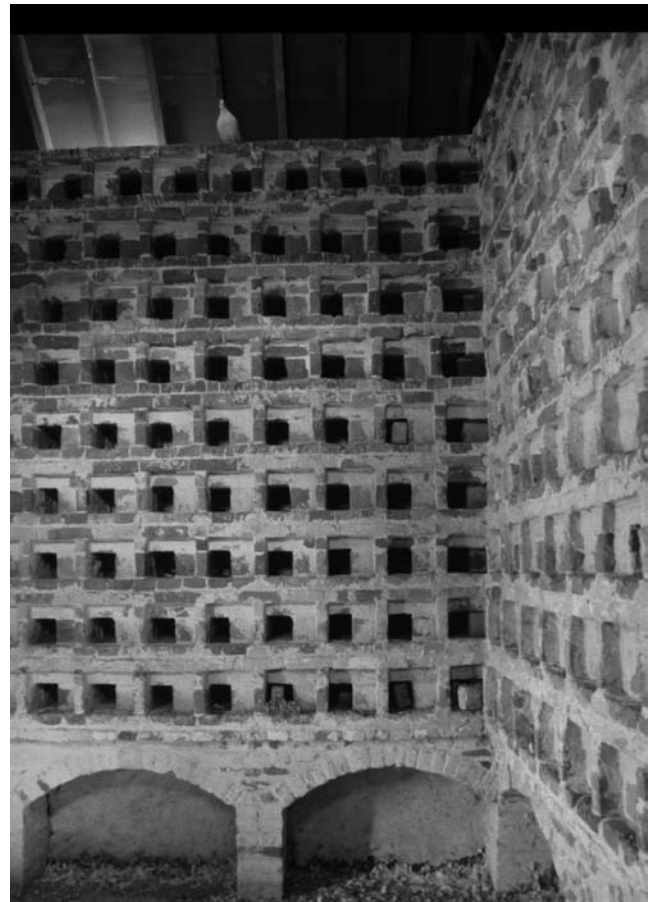
John McCann said his interest in dovecotes had arisen from an historical study of clay lump - which proved to have been developed from shallow slabs, used to form the nest-boxes of dovecotes in East Anglia.

Dovecotes were built to provide their owners with a luxurious food, the tender meat of unfledged young pigeons. The birds were domesticated from blue rock doves (*Columba livia*), which in nature inhabit steep cliffs; all their instinctive behaviour is derived from that environment. John showed colour slides of several dovecotes in Norfolk, some of which had been restored by the Norfolk Dovecotes Trust, which has closed down. At Thornage Hall, built in 1728, the original doorway is only 4½ feet high, typical of many. Until that period the doorway was always small, so that the keeper could block the aperture with his stooping body as he entered. Later dovecotes have doorways of normal domestic size, primarily to suit the classical proportions adopted by architects. A shallow rounded ledge high on the building was provided for pigeons to perch on



*The doorway at Thornage Hall is only 4 ft 6 ins high, as in most early dovecotes, so that the pigeon-keeper could block it with his stooping body as he entered.*

in windy conditions. At Bayfield Hall and Brooke the nest-boxes are raised three feet above ground on brick arches, to be above the reach of brown rats. These rats were introduced to Britain between 1720 and 1730, and had spread throughout lowland England by the mid-eighteenth century. Therefore the brick arches provide a useful indication of date. Earlier, nest-boxes would have been provided from near ground level, as they are at Earlham Park, Norwich. At Brooke the upper bearing of a revolving ladder survives, although the remainder has gone. At Kenchester, Herefordshire, there is a similar upper bearing, and the lower bearing has survived also, a stone slab on which an iron plate had been fitted. The original revolving ladder of an octagonal brick dovecote at Cockfield Hall, Suffolk, survives complete.



*The interior of the dovecote at Bayfield Hall. The nest-holes are raised on brick arches to be above the reach of brown rats, which were introduced in the middle of the 18th century. Note the absence of alighting ledges.*

In 1698 Roger North described the design of an octagonal dovecote at Rougham Hall as he built it. This may be the first revolving ladder (often mistakenly called a potence) in Britain; all known examples are eighteenth or nineteenth century. North

described a glass lantern 'and a slitt of 6 inches was left next the foundation of this superfabrick for the doves to enter'. This critical dimension recurs in the louvers of dovecotes at Castle Hedingham, Essex, at Kelston in Somerset, and at others in Herefordshire, where parallel inclined boards at this interval are fitted to keep out the larger birds of prey, while freely admitting the pigeons.



*The interior of an early 19th century dovecote at Thickthorn Hall. Note the revolving ladder, and nest-holes of clay lump specially moulded to shape.*

A late dovecote at Thickthorn Hall, Norfolk, has nest-boxes made of pairs of clay lumps, each with a hemispherical depression, to form a cavity for the pigeons; this also has an original revolving ladder. The octagonal brick dovecote at Kirstead Hall has a perching ledge of rounded profile, similar to that at Thornage Hall, and a restored louver. At Earlham Park the dovecote has been retained by the local authority, but with a restored louver of absurd design. Some of these buildings have a narrow alighting ledge to each tier of nest-boxes, some do not - an example of how pigeon-keepers strove to provide optimal conditions for the pigeons, but often came to different conclusions about what they needed.

Two examples were shown of dovecotes in Suffolk which retain the original 'pipe', a wooden chute two feet square, smooth inside - an ingenious device against sparrowhawks. These predators are small enough to pass through the six-inch slots of the louver, but unlike pigeons they cannot fly up vertically. Therefore if a sparrowhawk entered the dovecote it could not get out. For the same reason the dovecote was built without tie-beams, so that the predator had nowhere to perch. The alighting ledges were intentionally too narrow for a tree-nesting bird of prey.

Dovecotes can be of any size, any plan shape, any building material. We were shown a very large Tudor example at Willington in Bedfordshire, owned by the National Trust, which retains its original roof and four 'pipes', and a very small timber-framed one at Bentham in Gloucestershire. The earliest firmly-dated dovecote in Britain is at Garway in Herefordshire, built by the

Knights Hospitallers in 1326. It has a unique dished roof with a central aperture through which rain drains into a round cistern in the floor. In Herefordshire there is no need to conserve water, but there is in the Mediterranean climate, so this design was probably copied from an original in the Mediterranean region - perhaps in Rhodes. Excavating archaeologists find these central cisterns at other early dovecotes, perhaps also derived from this Mediterranean tradition.

The four-gabled type of roof occurs on dovecotes of every material, nearly always in the seventeenth century. The earliest example known is at Kelston, Somerset, built in 1590 by Sir John Harington, better known to posterity as the inventor of the water closet. He may have invented this roof design also. Its particular merit is that it provides sloping surfaces facing in every direction, where the pigeons can perch in sunlight and out of the wind. There is a variant of this design with six gables at Lower Slaughter in Gloucestershire.

Some examples survive in England of a defensive device against polecats, which could climb up the corners of some rectangular dovecotes and enter at the eaves - a projecting stone slab high on each corner. Examples were shown at Westington, Gloucestershire, and at Egleton, Rutland. They are more common in France, where the stone marten, a species related to the polecat, remained

common until much later.

There was a lively question session afterwards. Some points which emerged: there is no evidence that the eggs were eaten; the guano had many uses, as fertiliser, in tanning, and in the manufacture of saltpetre for gunpowder; pigeons are instinctively attracted by white surfaces; and as dovecotes were always associated with a luxurious lifestyle they became symbolic of high social status, and so were displayed prominently, usually visible from the entrance drive.



*Dovecote built by the Knights Hospitallers in 1326 at Garway, Herefordshire*



## South Door, St Michael's Church, Irstead TG 365205

In the summer we visited a house at [Pennygate](#) near Barton Turf with Jackie Simpson. After lunch we visited [Irstead](#) Church and we were intrigued by the handsomely ornamented south door. The church guide describes the door as 'rare and original, dated by the ironwork to about 1290' and [Pevsner](#) says that the ironwork is typical of the mid-fourteenth century. The front of the door seems to be complete to ground level but on the rear there is a lower modern panel. The hinges, decorative on the front and plain to the rear, clasp the door and are continuous pieces of metal. The wooden [doorlock](#) with its scribed lines and the latch with its end scribed may all be the same assembly and could date from the seventeenth century (see *Linda Hall: Fixtures & Fittings*). On the rear of the bar above the lock is the evidence of the original [backplate](#) seen as a circular groove.

But our attention was particularly held by the appearance on two of the boards of carpenter's numbering in Arabic numerals. The second and fourth planks are numbered (2) and (4) and the ledges of the portcullis structure are numbered upwards from (4) to (8), with 1,2, and 3 missing and 5 indistinct.

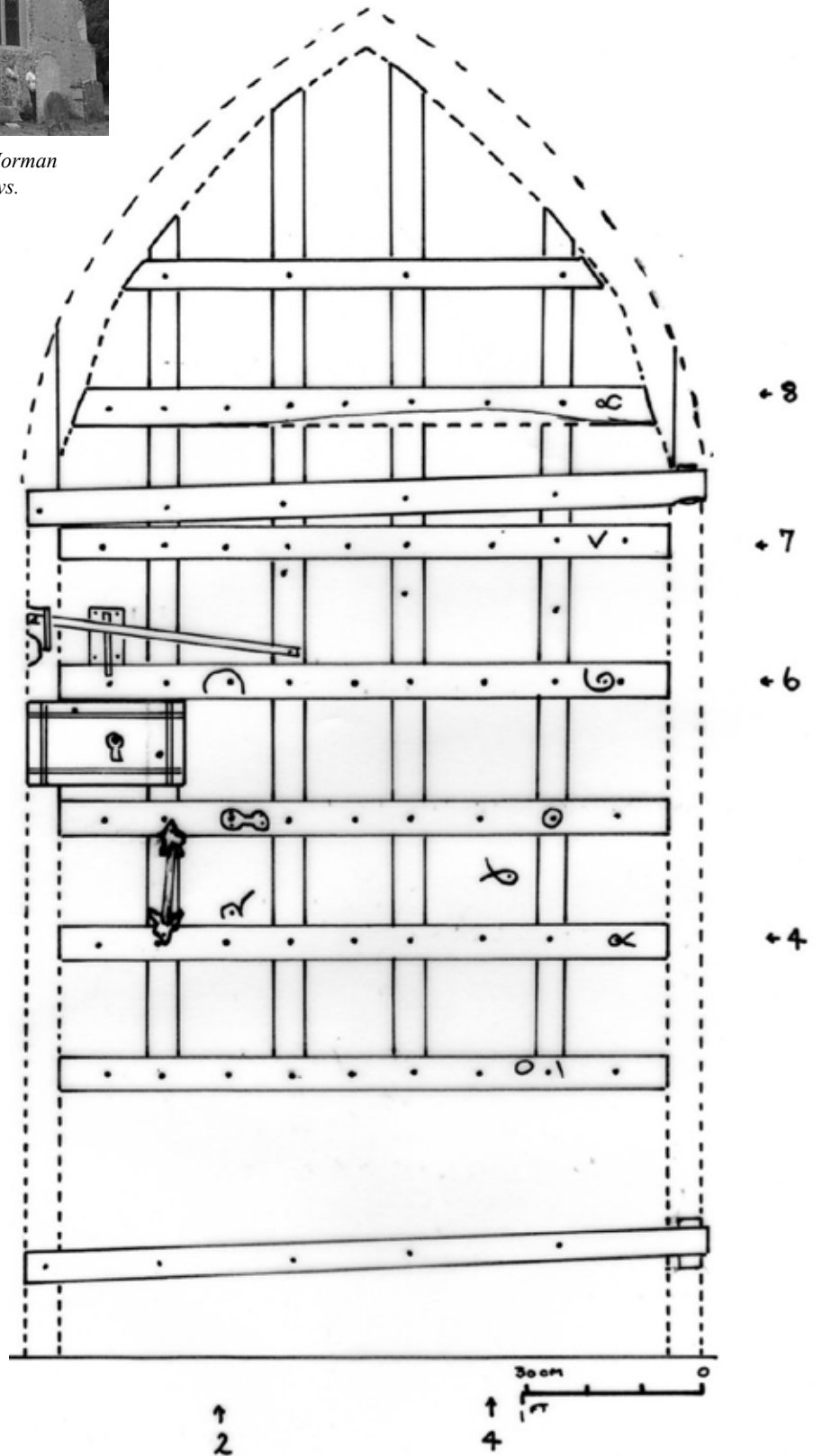
If the door indeed dates from around 1300, does the appearance of Arabic numerals suggest that the craftsman who made the door had a relatively high level of education for that date? The decoration of the door matches that of the hinges and though some of the lower ledges have been replaced, the door seems to be mainly original.

Susan & Michael Brown





St Michael, Irstead: early 14th C west tower; Norman fragments on inside of north and south doorways. (Pevsner and Wilson, Norfolk 1)



Surveyed & drawn by Jackie Simpson  
Scale used 1:10 on A4  
Drawing inked by Susan J. Brown  
November 2006

## Gazebo at Baconsthorpe Old Rectory Michael & Susan Brown October 2006

Here's a curiosity for you. When Tessa and David McCosh generously opened the gardens of Baconsthorpe old Rectory in June in support of the National Gardens Scheme we were intrigued by the rustic summerhouse or gazebo (*photo 1*). This takes the form of a rough octagon and is constructed from historic timbers of some distinction. After some puzzling these resolve themselves into sections of the principal components of a richly decorated ceiling, the mouldings suggesting an early fifteenth century date. The walling consists of sections of eighteenth century panelling, randomly assembled.

A visit to the neighbouring church makes things clearer. The chancel and nave ceilings look suspiciously smart and Pevsner reveals that a restoration was carried out in 1868-1869 by S.S.

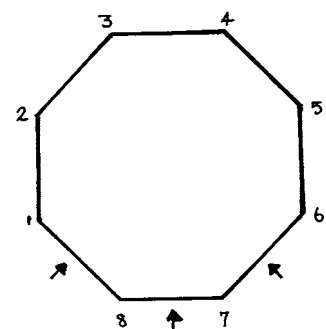
Teulon. The gazebo components presumably came from the former ceiling of the chancel and the panelling from box pews tidied out at the same time. Posts 1, 2, 5 and 6 (Fig. 1) on the plan seem to be sections of the ridge piece (Fig. 2), 3 and 4 the side purlins (Fig.3) and 7 and 8 unrelated timbers presumably replacing eroded original components. The open arcade at the front is formed by two of the camber beams (Figs. 4, 5, 6) which formed the apex of the ceiling, one of them split longitudinally to give two arches.

Presumably John Feilden, the rector at the time of Teulon's restoration, was motivated by piety or economy to embark on an exercise in recycling that assumes an extra little dimension in the light of the later history of the name in Norfolk architecture.



*Gazebo  
Baconsthorpe Old Rectory  
TG128368  
Surveyed by S. and M. Brown  
Drawn by Susan J. Brown  
October 2006*

*Figure 1  
Plan showing post location.  
Open arcade between posts 6 and 7, 7 and 8, 8 and 1 (Camber beams)*





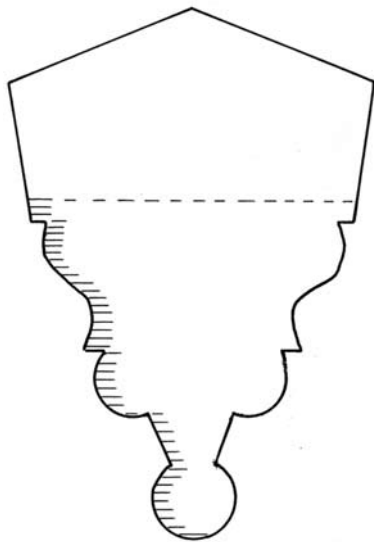


Figure 2  
Posts 1, 2, 5 and 6  
Ridge piece? (reconstructed top)  
Pairs of peg holes at 1ft 2 ins centres for rafters?

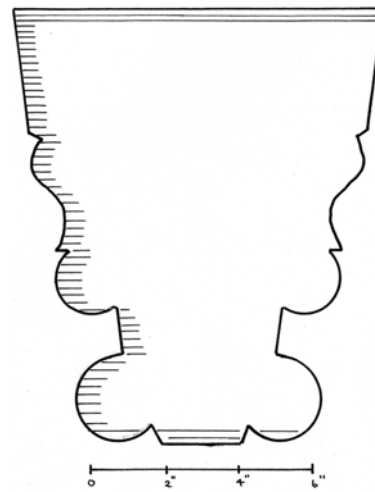


Figure 6  
Camber beam: between posts 7 and 8;  
also halved between posts 8 and 1,  
7 and 6



Central camber beam. (see Figs. 5 and 6)

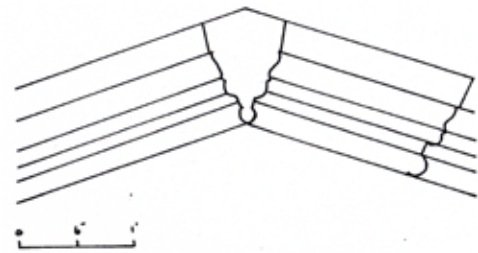


Figure 4 Reconstruction of camber beam with the ridge piece.

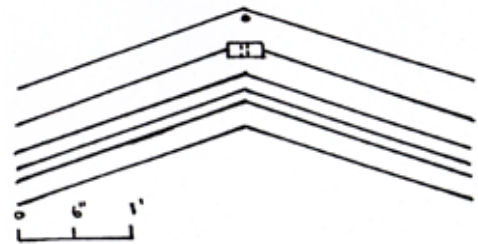
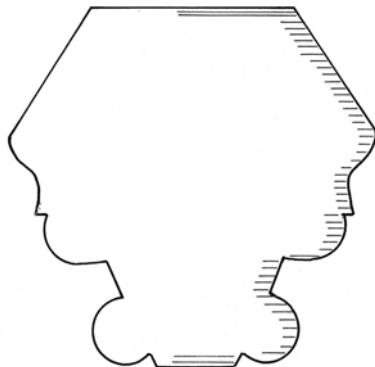


Figure 5 Camber beam 4 ft sections

Figure 3  
Posts 3 and 4  
Side purlins?  
3.5 ins mortices  
at 4 ft centres.



Post 3 showing the mortice (see figure 3).

## Digest of Buildings Visited 2006–2007

### **Gazebo Baconsthorpe, Old Rectory**

A summerhouse constructed in the nineteenth century from the moulded fifteenth century timbers of the chancel roof.

### **St. John's Farm, Belton**

A two-cell 1.5 storey brick house of about 1700 with interrupted tie-beams and original dormer windows.

### **Clay Cottage, Cranworth**

A tripartite lobby-entrance house of about 1600 with face-halved and counter-bladed scarf joints and a dated extension of 1709.

### **Saracen's Head Diss**

Roofs of front and rear sections:

The rear range of 1.5 storeys with upper floor open to the roof of two tiers of tenoned purlins, the upper tier clasped by cambered collars. The front range of three storeys with its elaborately moulded ground floor timbers has an original windowed attic and a roof of two tiers of tenoned purlins, the upper tier clasped by straight collars. Both roofs probably original and of late sixteenth century date.

### **Three Bells, Ditchingham**

A tripartite seventeenth century lobby entrance house of 2 storeys plus attic with an apparently original king post roof.

### **Bachelors Barn, Edgefield**

Recent barn conversion of an eighteenth century brick and flint threshing barn.

### **Thatched Cottage, Fersfield**

A two-cell medieval 1.5 storey timber-framed house with surviving smoke bay at one end. Converted in the seventeenth century into a lobby-entrance plan.

### **The Rookery, Fundenhall**

A large tripartite seventeenth century lobby-entrance timber-framed house clad in eighteenth century brick with Regency interior to the ground floor.

### **Pump Cottage, Gayton**

Late eighteenth century brick and flint house of two storeys in village street with interesting yard and wash house arrangement.

### **The Old House, Harleston**

A lobby entrance house of three storeys with possibly original cellar and rear stair tower; the roof of two tiers of shaved purlins with inverted arch windbraces dendro dated winter 1626.

### **Well House, Hingham**

A tripartite town house of about 1700 remodelled in the Regency period with the services in the rear section, retaining many of its original features.

### **Friday Cottage, Little Walsingham**

A medieval non-domestic building of high quality with painted decoration to the moulded floor joists and floorboard soffits: large lower and upper rooms suggest original purpose as an inn.

### **2 Hall Lane, North Walsham**

A mid-seventeenth century town house with original attic and evidence for dormer windows. Interesting survival on ground floor of nineteenth century butcher's shop fittings.

### **19A Colegate, Norwich**

Rear (service) range of late seventeenth century Octagon House, 19 Colegate, including well and cellar.

### **Manor House, Old Catton**

Surviving jettied hall and service range of a sixteenth century house of high status with later rear wing oversailing the original range to create a jettied gable and encompassing an archaic timber stair of solid treads.

### **Berry Hall Farm, Pennygate**

A much-rebuilt brick and flint house of about 1600. Magnificent nineteenth century brick barn with eight king post trusses.

### **Manor Farm, Pulham Market**

Tripartite timber-framed late sixteenth century house with regionally unique plank-and-muntin internal structure and original first floor corridor.

### **60 Norwich Road, Tacolneston**

The rebuilt parlour end of number 60a (The Old House). Three handsome storeys include an interesting arrangement for framing the chimney stack.

### **Keepers Cottage, Walcot Green**

A tripartite lobby-entrance house of about 1600 of 1.5 storeys in a moated site with face-halved scarf joints and lamb's tongue and notch chamfer stops, evidence for a diamond mullion window.

### **Insurance Cover— all members should be aware of the following:**

When involved in an NHBG activity, members are covered by the NHBG Insurance. This covers liability to third parties for damage to third party property, ie the legal liability of the NHBG for any amounts it becomes liable to pay as

damages for Bodily Injury or Damage caused accidentally, including legal costs. The excess is £250. The insurance DOES NOT cover 'member to member' liability.

That is, if one member accidentally injures another. Most members will have cover on their household insurance.

If a member feels the cover is insufficient for their needs, then it is their personal responsibility to obtain adequate cover.

It is worth pointing out that members have a "duty of care" in looking after themselves and others.

### **Help with the NHBG Web Page Needed**

The Group has a web page which has been looked after by Nicola Robinson since the Group's inception. The web page is accessed by a number of people for a variety of reasons and it is, therefore, a very important piece of the Group's publicity material. Nicola would very much appreciate some help, not only to maintain it but also to expand its parameters. There may be some new members who have experience of web designing. If so, and you have time and the desire to help the Group, then do please contact Nicola to talk about how you could help. She can be contacted through the web page:

[www.nhbg.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.nhbg.fsnet.co.uk).

Any offers of support would be greatly welcomed both by Nicola and the Committee.

Essex Historic Buildings Group  
Herts & Essex Architectural Research Society  
Day School in Memory of Adrian Gibson, MBE  
Saturday 28th July 2007

### ***Digging out the Facts: A Tribute to Adrian Gibson***

At Cressing Temple Barns, Braintree, Essex

Cost: £20.00 (Ploughman's Lunch extra at £7.50)  
Bookings: Ian Greenfield, Yew Tree Cottage, Stan-  
brook, Thaxted, Essex CM6 2NL  
Tel: 01371 830416

Archaeology of Timber Houses before late 12th C...  
Dr M Gardiner  
Timber-framing and its Competitors in Europe: from the  
Antique to the Modern... Dr Chris Currie  
Dendrochronological Typologies for East Anglia... Ian Tyers  
The Geometric Designer at Cressing Temple... Laurie Smith  
Six Hundred Years of Royal Roofs... Dr Lee Prosser

***Fill a car with friends and go; it is well  
worth the excursion to foreign parts!***

## **Book List**

Barnwell, P.S. & Airs, M., (eds) (2006) Houses and the Hearth  
Tax: The Later Stuart House and Society, Council for British  
Archaeology, Research Report 150.

Slocombe, P., (ed) (2006) Architects and Building Craftsmen,  
Wiltshire Buildings Record.

Lynch, G., (Revised edn, 2006) Gauged Brickwork: A Techni-  
cal Handbook, Donhead.

Shacklock, V., (ed) (2006) Architectural Conservation: Issues  
and Developments, Donhead.

Caffey, H., (2006) Almshouses in the West Riding of Yorkshire  
1600-1900, Heritage Marketing.

Thompson, M., (2006) Ruins Reused: Changing Attitudes to  
Ruins Since the Late Eighteenth Century, Heritage Marketing.



## Newsletter Editor

Although George and I have been unable to get to many meetings and visits since August I know that all were much enjoyed and well attended; indeed some were over subscribed, so we have some ‘reprises’ this summer. Our thanks to all our contributors—we depend on you a great deal and always welcome letters and suggestions - and criticisms!

Once upon a time we hoped to live in Kirstead Hall, and I have a vivid memory of going round it in the Great Freeze of 1963. It was in a sad state of dereliction, but the sun shone on the snow, and in spite of the fallen beams and no floors in the east wing, the house was surprisingly warm and welcoming. It has since been beautifully restored by successive owners. I look forward to our visit on 28 May.

Alayne Fenner  
Newsletter Editor

## Book Review

COUNTRY & CITY: Norfolk Record Society Vol.  
LXX for 2006. 259pp

The three papers which make up this invaluable volume deal with material which is of direct relevance to our study of post-medieval and early modern buildings in Norfolk.

The **Wymondham** Town Book 1585–1620 is here published in full with an enlightening introductory essay and a glossary by John Wilson, former committee member of the NHBG. The Town Book contains the accounts of “The Seventeen”, the trustees responsible for administering the property of the religious guilds after the Dissolution transferred them to the townspeople. It is a rich store of hard information about building and maintenance practices and costs exactly in that period that NHBG researchers have found to be particularly rich for rebuilding in south Norfolk.

The Ordinances of the Norwich Carpenter’s Company 1594 and 1684 also are documents of central relevance to building practice at this significant period, put expertly into the context of the relationship between guild and city authorities by the author Philip Howard. John Aldrich of Eaton’s Farm Accounts 1663–1667, edited here by Andrew Hickley, give a detailed insight into the practices and costs of farming in Norfolk at a time of innovation and change in agriculture, and of considerable building activity in the countryside. It is documentary information such as is found in these three documents that can be complemented by dendro dates to give us the objective references we need to anchor our opinions on buildings in this crucial period.

Copies of this very useful book, price £12 plus £3.50 p&p may be obtained from: The Hon. Secretary, Dr. G.A. Metters, 29 **Cintra** Road, Norwich. NR1 4AE (e-mail: [alan.matters@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.matters@btinternet.com)).

Michael Brown

## NHBG Committee

**Michael Brown** *Chairman/Publications*  
*‘Woodlands’, Bylaugh Park, E Dereham NR20 4RL*

Tel: 01362 688 362 [h]

**George Fenner** *Deputy Chairman*  
*13 Heigham Grove, Norwich NR2 3DQ*

01603 620 690 e.mail: [g.fenner@macunlimited.net](mailto:g.fenner@macunlimited.net)

**Lynne Hodge** *Committee Secretary*  
*Tannery House Worthing, Dereham NR20 5RH*  
01362 668847 e.mail: [lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk](mailto:lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk)

**Sue Shand** *Treasurer*  
*Tibenham Farm, Long Row, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1PD*  
01379 677677 e.mail: [sushand@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sushand@hotmail.co.uk)

**Ian Hinton** *Membership Secretary*  
*The Old Rectory, Barnby, Beccles, NR34 7QN*  
01502 475 287 [h] e.mail: [ian.hinton@tesco.net](mailto:ian.hinton@tesco.net)

**Sue Brown** *Buildings*  
*Woodlands, Bylaugh Park, Dereham NR20 4RL*  
01362 688 362 [h]

**Mary Ash** *Winter Programme/Publications*  
*107 St Leonards Road, Norwich, NR1 4JF*  
01603 616285 [h] e.mail: [mary.ash@ntlworld.com](mailto:mary.ash@ntlworld.com)

**Jill Napier** *Summer Events/Publications*  
*62 Norwich Road, Tacolneston, NR16 1BY*  
01508 489469 [h] e.mail: [jcnapier@hotmail.com](mailto:jcnapier@hotmail.com)

**Alayne Fenner** *Newsletter Editor*  
*13 Heigham Grove, Norwich NR2 3DQ*  
01603 620 690 e.mail: [a.fenner@macunlimited.net](mailto:a.fenner@macunlimited.net)

**Rosemary Forrest** *Newsletter*  
*3 Highlands, Costessey, NR8 5EA*  
01603 742 315 e.mail: [forrest.rosemary@gmail.com](mailto:forrest.rosemary@gmail.com)

**Adam Longcroft** *Publications*  
*Centre for Continuing Education, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ*  
01603 592 261 [w] e.mail: [a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk](mailto:a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk)

**Richard Coulton** *West Norfolk*  
*Little Ketlam, Low Road, Pentney, King’s Lynn PE32 1JF*  
01553 691 661[h]

**Karen Mackie** *Tacolneston Project*  
*44 Norwich Road, Tacolneston NR16 1BY*  
01508 488467 e.mail: [karen\\_mackie@btinternet.com](mailto:karen_mackie@btinternet.com)

**Tom Townsend** *Documentary*  
*74 Park Lane, Norwich NR2 3EF*  
01603 664186 e.mail: [tom.townsend@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:tom.townsend@norfolk.gov.uk)

**Diane Barr** *Documentary*  
*24 The Shrublands, Horsford, NR10 3EL*  
01603 898928 e.mail: [diane.barr@btinternet.com](mailto:diane.barr@btinternet.com)

## The Tacolneston Project: Karen Mackie

At the end of 2006 we launched our new recording project centred on the village of Tacolneston. This South Norfolk parish has a large number of surviving timber-framed buildings. The Boileau family, who are better known for their land holdings at Ketteringham, once owned the estate of Tacolneston. They sold the land and 56 cottages in 1920. Nearby, New Buckenham revealed the nature of building in a town; Tacolneston will allow us to compare this with a more rural parish. It is again intended that we combine the evidence of buildings recording, documentary evidence and some dendro-dating to help us build a picture of these vernacular houses.

To launch the project a meeting was held in Tacolneston in December. This enabled us to introduce ourselves to villagers and to explain the nature of the project proposed. Ian Tyers was there to explain dendro-dating and Sue Brown outlined the house recording process. Despite being close to Christmas we had an excellent turn out and villagers were fascinated by the displays we had prepared showing scaled drawings and a number of old documents referring to the village. Adam Longcroft provided a historical context to the village, which falls within the wood-pasture region with its characteristically small farms. We were

highly delighted at the end of the evening when we found eight householders had agreed there and then to let us look at their houses.

Since the meeting the process of surveying buildings has commenced. To date we have visited six buildings. These demonstrate that Tacolneston was a vibrant community throughout the last 400 years. We have seen a 16<sup>th</sup> century two-storey dwelling and 1½-storey 17<sup>th</sup> century dwelling. Some houses remain largely as built, others appear to have had their roof raised or changed. Several properties have been extended, with a new bay or outshot added. We have found evidence of pine imported from the Baltic being used in a clay lump building. This building also has a contemporary separate outbuilding to the rear. One house even had its external walls replaced by clay lump whilst the original chimneybreast and associated ceilings were retained. The months ahead should reveal more exciting discoveries.

**If anyone is interested in contributing to the research process they should contact:**

Karen Mackie on 01508 488467.

---

## Summer Events 2007 (continued from page 20)

### A Walking Tour of Wells...Mike Welland

Date: Saturday 14 July  
Time: 10.00 am – 2.30 pm  
Cost: £6.00 Non-members £12.00  
Limit: 20  
Food: B-Y-O  
Contact: Penny Clarke (01263 833280  
e.mail: [pennyclarke@sizzel.net](mailto:pennyclarke@sizzel.net)

A walking tour of Wells with Mike Welland from the Wells Historical Society. This will begin at the parish church. Parking is available at Church Plain or the Polka.

### Workshop: Photographing Houses...Steve Cole, English Heritage

Date: Saturday 21 July  
Time: 10.30 am — 4.00 pm  
Meet: Tibenham Farm, Long Row, Tibenham  
Cost: £10.00 Non-members £20.00  
Limit: 20  
Food: B-Y-O  
Contact: Karen Mackie (01508 488467  
e.mail: [karen\\_mackie@btinternet.com](mailto:karen_mackie@btinternet.com)

Steve is the chief photographer for English Heritage in the Eastern Region. This is planned to be a hands-on day when you bring along your own cameras (of whatever sort), tripods, and, if you have photographic lights—brilliant, those too! We shall then find out how to produce just the shot of a dateable feature.

### A guided tour of Harleston and Harleston Museum...Mark Kenyon

Date: Saturday 28 July  
Time: 10.00 am for 10.30 am start 4.30 pm  
Meet: Harleston Museum  
Cost: £10.00 (including lunch)  
Limit: 20  
Contact: Carol Nutt (01379 640007  
e.mail: [carol.nutt@phonecoop.coop](mailto:carol.nutt@phonecoop.coop)

This walk around Harleston will be looking at a different part of the town – not just what you can see when you drive through – but at what is hidden behind. We will also be including the latest research done by the Harleston Historical Society and some dendrochronological dating.

### The Rookery, Fundenhall...Susan and Michael Brown

Date: Tuesday, 21 August  
Time: 6.30 pm – 8.30ish  
Cost: £5.00  
Limit: Members Only  
Food: Wine and nibbles  
Contact: Susan Brown (01362 688362)

The owner has invited the Group to study this early seventeenth century house and has generously said that we may all get to grips with its building history. It is a lobby entrance timber-framed house which has been Georgianised. It was a display house with a great show of windows which may have been mainly oriels at first floor level and probably glazed.

## Summer Events 2007

The cover photo reminds us of what we shall be doing in summer 2007: getting out and about. Please complete your application forms for these events and send them to the organiser of the particular event along with your cheques. The recording day in April does not have an application form, contact Sue Brown direct. Also, we do need you at the AGM: no charge, an elite introduction and tour, tea and scones before the business...

---

### Hands On Recording Day at Fundenhall

Date: Sunday 15 April  
Time: 10.00 am–4.00 pm  
Food: B–Y–O  
Contact: Sue Brown 01362 688362

A member has kindly volunteered her house for a group recording session. The day will be suitable for all levels of experience. Do take this opportunity to work in a team and further, or start, your recording skills. Please contact Sue Brown in the first instance and let her know of your interest. You will then be notified with all the details of where the house is and what you may need to take with you other than some lunch.

### Three Norfolk Church Towers with Dominic Summers

Date: Saturday 5 May  
Time: 10.30 am – 3.00ish  
Cost: £5.00 Non-members £10.00  
Limit: 25  
Food: Pub or B–Y–O  
Contact: Ian Hinton 01502 475287  
e.mail: [ian.hinton@tesco.net](mailto:ian.hinton@tesco.net)

Those who attended the Members' Evening will know that Dominic will make us aware of a multitude of intriguing detail about church towers. It is hoped to visit Salle, Cawston and Irmingham.

### Kirstead Hall, nr Brooke

Date: Monday 28 May  
Time: 3.00 – 5.00 pm  
Cost: £6.00  
Limit: 25 Members Only (see below)  
Clothes: **Wellington Boots and clean house shoes!**  
Contact: Tony Wright (tel: 01603 452041)  
e.mail: [tonywright@nfk2.freemove.co.uk](mailto:tonywright@nfk2.freemove.co.uk)

This is an E-plan hall, probably built for Thomas Spooner who owned the house in 1626. with seventeenth century origin. There are stepped gables and mullioned and transomed windows. The interior has some original panelling and the staircase has turned balusters with acorns on the newel posts. There is also a dovecote in the grounds, one to which John McCann drew our attention in the winter, and also some barns which we may be able to view.

**Please Note: The owners have requested a list of names and the professions of visitors for this event. Please give these details to Tony when booking this event.**

### Loddon

Date: Saturday 2 June  
Time: 1.30 – 4.00 pm  
Cost: £6.00 Non-members £12.00  
Limit: 25  
Contact: Karen Mackie (01508 488467)  
e.mail: [karen\\_mackie@btinternet.com](mailto:karen_mackie@btinternet.com)

A tour of Loddon with Loddon Historical Society. This is a Georgian market town with some interesting surprises. The parish church contains one of the few representations of St William of Norwich, the boy saint supposedly murdered by the Jewish community in the twelfth century.

### Bacon's House, Colegate & Queen of Hungary, St Benedicts, Norwich

Date: Thursday 7 June  
Time: 6.30– 9.00 pm  
Cost: £6.00 Non-members £12.00  
Limit: 12  
Contact: Jill Napier (01508 489469)  
e.mail: [jcnapier@hotmail.com](mailto:jcnapier@hotmail.com)

A return to the Queen of Hungary in St Benedicts for those who missed it last year. The house of a lesser Norwich merchant, probably involved with the leather trade, it contrasts with Bacon's House, once a grand merchant house located in Colegate and now divided into three separate premises. We will be able to visit part of the house.

### AGM and Visit, Wolterton Hall

Date: Saturday 16 June  
Time: 2.00 – 5.00 pm  
Cost: FREE  
Food: Tea and Scones

Lord and Lady Walpole have kindly invited us to hold the AGM at Wolterton. First they welcome us and give us a brief talk with a tour of the house. The special exhibition this year has an 'Upstairs/Downstairs' theme highlighting the part played by the many people who have worked on the Estate in its long history.

Our attention has also been drawn to a concert by the Octagon Singers, in aid of John Grooms, in the grounds that evening. Tickets £10.00 including drinks and nibbles. If you would like to go, please phone: 01263 584175 / 768444. Members who would like to attend the concert are free to picnic in the grounds.

*(Continued on p 19)*