

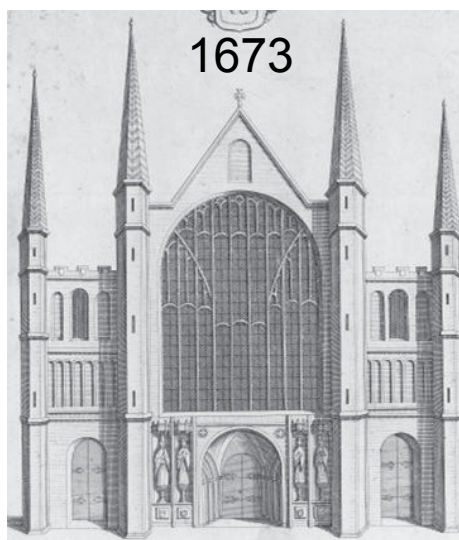
# Norfolk Historic Buildings Group Newsletter

Non members  
- £2.00



Number twentythree - Spring 2012

[www.nhbg.org.uk](http://www.nhbg.org.uk)



Unchanging?  
300 years of  
alterations to  
the four turrets  
on the west  
front of Norwich  
cathedral  
see page 6



## Contents

Chair/News .....	2	NHBG Committee .....	11
Sharps'n'flats - Flint building in East Anglia.....	3	The Georgianisation of Norwich.....	12
Another evening in Walsingham.....	4	1066 and all that Land Law .....	14
A recording assistant's report from Walsingham .....	5	Some thoughts on thatching methods.....	15
Norwich Cathedral in the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries.....	6	A Digest of Buildings Visited Since July 2011.....	16
Low side windows.....	7	Norfolk Rural School Survey goes on-line.....	18
Costessey Schools.....	8	Events, Courses and Websites .....	19
Deopham Tin School .....	9	<b>Summer Programme 2012 .....</b>	<b>20</b>
Article Index for Newsletters 1-22 .....	10		

# CHAIR

Welcome to Volume 23 of the NHBG Newsletter. As usual it provides a succinct summary of the Group's activities over the last 6 months whilst also flagging-up a wonderful summer programme of events and visits. One of the things which I think makes the NHBG so special is that it is such a broad church – we welcome those with interests in any aspect of the county's built heritage, and this is reflected in the contents of this edition of the Newsletter, which includes research on churches and cathedrals, as well as vernacular buildings, schools, thatch and flint, whilst also covering all periods, from the prehistoric to the twentieth century!

I think our winter programme has been a great success – attendance has normally been between 45 and 65 and the quality of presentations has been of a high standard. I particularly enjoyed the Members Evening in January which also gave some of the volunteers involved in our Norfolk Rural Schools Project a chance to share their research and their discoveries with a wider audience.

The summer 2012 programme (see p.20) has all the hallmarks of a 'classic' season of events and provides a tremendous opportunity to access buildings and sites of historic importance that are not normally open to the public. Lets hope for a great British Summer – or at least a dry one! Spring 2012 sees the final stages in the 2-year Norfolk Rural Schools Project led by Susanna Wade-Martins and myself, with support from 20+ volunteer recorders, many of whom are NHBG members. This is an exciting stage in the project and planning is now well-advanced for our end of project Conference (see pp 18 & 20) which will take place at the Assembly Rooms, Norwich on Saturday 23 June 2012. A ticket application for the conference is enclosed in this copy of the Newsletter. Susanna and I look forward to welcoming many NHBG members on the day!

*Adam Longcroft*  
*Chair, Norfolk Historic Buildings Group*  
*March 2012*  
a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk

## News

### Schools Project Exhibition Launch

The official opening of a new exhibition at the Norfolk Record Office called 'Building an Education: Norfolk Rural Schools c.1800-1950' took place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The exhibition was formally opened by a special guest – Dr Simon Thurley, the head of English Heritage, who was recently awarded a CBE for his contributions to conservation.

Members will no doubt remember that the NHBG is involved in the development of an ambitious English Heritage-funded project to record and interpret the surviving rural schools of the county, which is now led by Dr Susanna Wade Martins and our chairman, Dr Adam Longcroft and based in the School of Education & Lifelong Learning at UEA.

The project is now well-advanced and the exhibition includes some highlights from the research completed thus far. Much of the field work and recording is being done by an enthusiastic and committed group of volunteers – many of whom are NHBG members. The results of the project will be published as an edition of the NHBG Journal. Adam said that he was delighted with both the exhibition and the launch and complimented Jonathan Draper and his NRO team for their magnificent job of pulling together the photographs, documents and artefacts to create a cohesive and exciting new exhibition which will attract a great deal of attention. Adam pointed out that we all have experience of education and went to a school of some kind, so it's a shared, common experience that binds us all together.

Adam said that the exhibition would be open at the NRO until December. After the exhibition closes it will be moved to the Dept of Education foyer at UEA until April, after which it will be displayed at Gressenhall.



*Adam and Susanna talk to Simon Thurley, head of English Heritage, prior to the official launch of the Schools Exhibition*

There are more details of the school survey on pages 8 and 9, and the data from it which are being entered on the county Historic Environment Record - see page 18.



# Sharps'n'flats - Flint building hereabouts (18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011)

## Shawn Kholucy

For a million years, naturally occurring flint nodules were valued for blade production. The 600,000+ year-old flint axe found at Happisburgh, is the earliest evidence of Man's occupation hereabouts. That the parts of the brain used for fashioning a hand-axe overlap with that used to fashion a sentence suggests that that Happisburgh man had speech.

By comparison with the length of time that flint was used for fashioning cutting blades, its use as a building material is young. The Roman walls of Burgh Castle, 280 CE, show they used flint confidently interlaced with tile courses, faced with half-knapped flint. Despite not being seen as able masonry builders, several Norfolk church towers show that the Anglo-Saxons were experienced builders of flint (1). By the time of the Normans flint was part of the general building palette; although characterised by finely-wrought ashlar-limestone, hereabouts it is but a facing to the flint and mortar structure of the building; Norwich Cathedral is a flint building.

Flint abounds in East Anglia, rising to the surface in the boulder clay of the east, and in veins in the chalk of the west. In the absence of good quarriable building-stone, buildings of flint are more substantial than those of earth and timber. Consequently flint was used for the most important and durable buildings; religious-houses, churches, castles and by the 14<sup>th</sup> century for town walls.

Butley Priory's 1320-25 flushwork is the earliest known datable example. The flowering of flushwork patterning, of which 90% in Britain occurs in East Anglia, mostly in its eastern half, occurred during the Perpendicular period of architecture; in the 15<sup>th</sup> C.

By the Reformation, while brick-building was commonplace, flint-building continued. The well-galleted 1610 walling of Thetford's Fulmerston Almshouse shows that flint-building skills remained well-honed.

In the 1739 Holkham Triumphal Arch (2) and in the Euston Temple, William Kent used unknapped flint to imitate tuffa-stone rustication. Is this his ingenuity or had he seen it at Flitcham?

The 1784 imposition of the brick-taxes caused a resurgence in the use of flint for building. Farm buildings, boundary walls, cottages, houses, town terraces as well as elegant gentleman's residences and romantic follies were all built hereabouts in it. When the tax was repealed, in 1850, building in flint was common-place again. This, coupled with the growing interest in the Gothic style of architecture, reinforced its wide-spread use, continued by the Arts & Crafts movement, well represented here by the works of Detmar Blow at Happisburgh and Edward Schroeder Prior at Holt.

The use continued throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century; as jewels in brickwork beside Norwich Cathedral, 1955; unexpectedly adhering to Classicism in Norwich's modernist EDP building (3); in concrete panels; and to face blocks.

While the 1960s flushwork of Bury St. Edmunds cathedral follows the 19<sup>th</sup> century approach of arranging the knapped flints as crazy-paving, the 21<sup>st</sup> century flushwork of the tower, knapped by Simon Williams of Elmswell, follows the finer mediaeval approach of maintaining horizontal courses albeit of varying course height. The knapped diapering is a 21<sup>st</sup> century detail.

Despite the revealed early harled face on Rickingham Inferior's tower it was never rendered or pointed. Norman walls at Thornham Parva show that such walls were not always rendered; confirmed by the 1488 contract for Helmingham's 'black' tower. Six feet were to be built a year, and building only between Whitsun and September.

Flint church towers with huge east and west openings are effectively boxes on two legs. Flintstones are heavy, offer little bondability, next-to-no suction, and rely on the mortar between them. If we didn't have so many long-standing examples, our structural engineers would tell us that they cannot be; that building in flint is daft. Many such towers contain heavy sets of bells, when rung full-circle transmit high horizontal forces to their structures, at the free end of a cantilever!

It is said that we have more round church towers here than anywhere else in Britain because they are of flint, as corners cannot be formed in flint but Anglo-Saxon, and later, work hereabouts shows that early-on corners were formed of flint.

That most mediaeval church walls are battered questions the belief that they were built using shuttering. We build in flint without it. The shadow of basket-work formwork for the round windows at Hales, shows a commendable level of ingenuity, typical of that seen throughout the two-thousand-year-history of flint-building in East Anglia.



1  
*St Andrew, Little Snoring - Flint round tower - Saxon or Norman?*



2  
*Holkham Triumphal Arch - 1749*

*below left  
Twentieth-century flintwork on the EDP building*



Shawn Kholucy is a conservation architect specializing in flint buildings and is currently a SPAB guardian

## Another evening in Walsingham (24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011)

Susan & Michael Brown



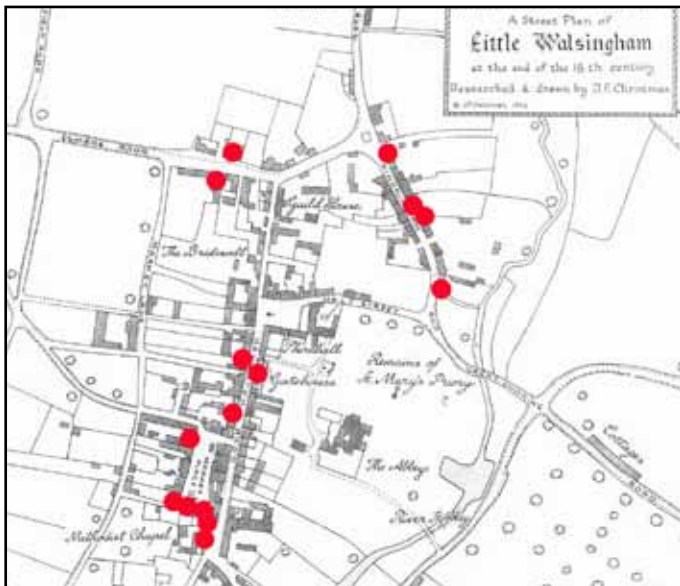
Part of the audience of over 60 people during Adam's introduction to the evening's talks

On the 24th November the second village meeting of the Walsingham project was hosted by the Walsingham History Society in the Village Hall. At a well-attended meeting, Michael and Susan Brown gave an outline report of the eighteen houses visited so far with a particular stress on those in Friday Market and the High Street, notably the Black Lion Hotel and 47-49 High Street.

As more houses are looked at a picture is emerging of buildings which do not conform to the styles of the houses seen in the Group's earlier projects, with many first-floor halls associated with crown-post roofs which may be pre-dissolution

pilgrim hostels. Our understanding of these buildings will depend greatly on accurate dating through dendrochronological investigation.

This talk was followed by Ian Tyers with an outline of what is involved in tree-ring dating and the difficulties for which we must be prepared when looking at Norfolk buildings, particularly in Walsingham where many of the timbers so far inspected show anomalous growth patterns. Lively questions and comments from the audience of over 60 village residents and NHBG members concluded an enjoyable and informative evening. The copious refreshments were provided by Mary Ash and her team and technology was under the expert control of Ian Hinton.



Properties surveyed before November and illustrated in the talk described here

Annual General Meeting  
Lincoln Hall, Hingham  
June 16th, 4:00 for 4:30  
4:00 pm tea & scones

*Don't miss*

after the Hingham Town Walk  
see page 20 for details

## HEMPNALL

Rumours of a new NHBG recording project in Hempnall have been doing the rounds recently. However, initial investigations have only just started, and will probably take the rest of 2012.

These will establish whether there are enough houses of interest which are different enough from our earlier projects to make undertaking a full-blown project worthwhile.

If this proves to be the case, measuring assistants should then start sharpening their pencils.

**There will be a guided tour of Hempnall on 1<sup>st</sup> September as part of our summer programme - see page 20 for details.**

**What did you do on your holidays?**

**If it included any buildings, why not share them by taking some photos and jotting down a few notes?**

**Alayne, our editor, can beat them into shape if necessary**



## A recording assistant's report from Walsingham

Anon.

*One of the stated aims of the NHBG is to train members who want to gain knowledge of the art of recording and interpretation of buildings. Susan & Michael Brown usually take members with them on visits when preparing initial reports and often when undertaking the main recording. Over the last 10 years, they have taken at least 40 members on such visits, here are the experiences of one such member:*

Excitement; a first formal visit by me to a Walsingham house! I am to meet Susan and Michael in Friday Market in the early afternoon. I am so prompt that I, and they, repair to the nearest café to discuss the findings to date at Walsingham and then ventured to wonder what the house would reveal. I also hoped Susan and Michael could make deductions when there.

First there was a quick assessment of the exterior and its context within the village. We seemed to be looking at an early nineteenth century façade – and this façade, I discovered, was the important word – with its sash windows. Apparently notably they had no ‘horns’ and were deeply set. ‘Why?’ I asked, not for the first time. Simple, they provided dateable evidence of a renovation which had had to accommodate a former jetty belonging to a timber-framed building. So, I had learnt to look beyond the façade and to seek clues about the earlier house.

Inside the house things became a little crowded as the three of us, and the owners, considered first the corridor entrance hall and then the ‘front room’ which was full of many of their belongings. Whilst this was an understandable situation in the home of a mature couple it meant that I quickly had to learn furniture-mountaineering skills as Susan threw me the end of a tape measure to enable her to measure the size of the room so that a sketch plan to rough scale could be made. Throughout this procedure I was avidly listening to the frequent comments by Susan and Michael about any hints as to the date of the building they may have found. Fortunately Michael was making the notes of the visit and taking photographs; I have been the ‘support’ in the past when I had been required to do all these tasks! In that room we found peg holes and taper burns. The former features provide a whole host of evidence in timber-framed buildings and have to be logged in great detail.

During all this time the owner was putting forth his own views on the history of the property. Owners often have very firm views on the history of their properties and I learnt that they may not always be in accordance with our experts’ views, but conversely, that owners do often have valuable information or photographs of a house prior to an alteration. Owners must be listened to, it is after all their house we were invading, and so Susan and Michael took a lot of time explaining their own findings and reasonings. These thoughts changed as we progressed through the house as their ideas became more fixed with the growing amount of evidence.

It was my turn to have a fascinating talk with the owner whilst Susan and Michael disappeared through a cupboard into the roof space for quite a long time. If at all possible, the ‘support’ does get into the attic to hunt for the joinery clues to be found in an original roof. Very often this is a dusty and acrobatic task

as I observed on seeing the roof explorers emerge and hearing their report.

**Note to self:** remember to wear old clothes on next house visit but to ensure that they were not bad enough to deter the owner from allowing me to roam around their home.

At the end of the visit, which took more than two hours, we all discussed our ideas and findings with the owner and he was assured that an initial report would be sent to him very shortly. This report would be drawn up by Susan and Michael along with a sketch floor plan.

Exhausted, we left the house but only to re-examine the exterior once more with the knowledge this time of what was behind that nineteenth century façade before heading for the café/bar for a recuperative latté/wine/beer and final analysis.

Three principal facts about visiting a property with the NHBG had become clear to me:

- (i) it was so very important to engage with the owner fully;
- (ii) quick mind, sharp eyes, and speedy pencil were needed to note building features whilst so engaged; and
- (iii) photographs and a sketch floor plan were vital to help interpret the initial written report.

As a support groupie you also need to be able to listen, take instruction, and be nimble, all at the same time.

*Training days have been organized in the past and will be so again, when time, and the weather allows.*

ED



*The final analysis outside - after a long time inside the building, a restorative libation awaits at The Norfolk Riddle in Walsingham. (The image is pixellated to protect the identities of those present, none of whom is the writer)*

Photos: Michael Brown

## Norwich Cathedral in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (6<sup>th</sup> December 2011)

### Owen Thompson

My research on Norwich Cathedral in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries began almost twenty years ago when, as a mature student at UEA, I was asked by Roberta Gilchrist, the then cathedral archaeologist, to do some research in advance of restoration work on the west window. I was very soon aware of how little has been written about the fabric of the cathedral in this period. The principal resources for my research are the Dean and Chapter archive in the NRO and pictures of the cathedral, such as Fitzpatrick's drawings, Cotman's paintings, illustrations from the Illustrated London News and photographs.

People often assume that not much has changed over the centuries since the middle ages: this is far from the truth with each successive generation adding, removing or restoring parts of the building. For instance, comparison of various illustrations, corroborated by written documents, reveals that between the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and the present day there have been six distinct arrangements of the turrets at the west end (*five of which are illustrated on the front cover*). One of these phases was necessitated by the entire west window becoming unstable in the 1870s. Part of the medieval tracery replaced at this time is now a garden ornament at Ketteringham Hall.

Archaeology may be able to record the changes in a building, but not always is it able to furnish the motivation for such changes. The arrangement of the steps near the altar was changed in 1832; Dean Pelew's diary for July 1st gives us the reason: "To approach this [the altar] there were six stone steps surmounted by the altar rail enclosing a large area within which the priesthood and congregation are accustomed to assemble promiscuously to celebrate the sacrament. The three uppermost of these steps were removed further eastward..."

What I find particularly interesting about this is that the start of the Cambridge Movement, which advocated a return to a more medieval form of service, is said to have had its origins as the result of the Oxford Assize sermon delivered by John Keble on July 14 1833, almost exactly one year **after** the changes to

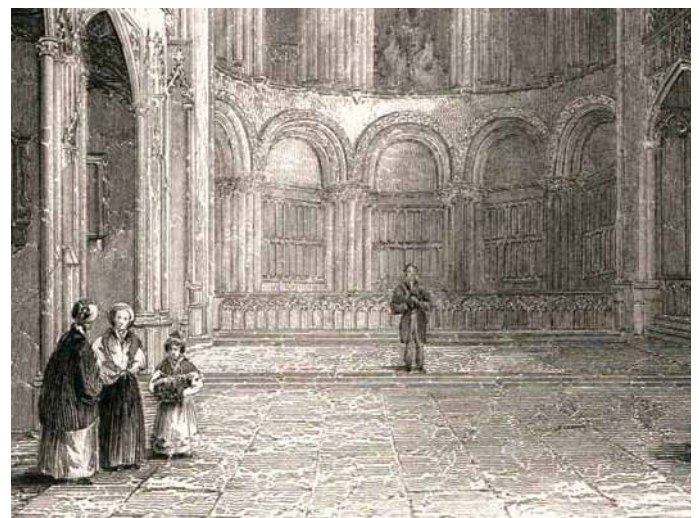
the steps in the Cathedral. Is this change to the steps, reserving the area east of the altar rails to the ordained clergy, an even earlier implementation of the ideas of this movement? Pelew was appointed Dean in 1828 and almost immediately started a programme of altering the physical layout of parts of the church, principally the south transept, with Salvin as the architect, making provision there for a vestry for the layclerks, and bringing more discipline to the way services were conducted. The change to the altar rails is of course part of this whole move, but seems to be the first alteration to the fabric that is part of the liturgical arrangements.

How should a cathedral look? Since the dissolution of the monasteries Norwich Cathedral had acquired a number of accretions in the form of houses built up against it at the west end, over the cloisters and around the south transept. The Norfolk Record Society volume on the Parliamentary Survey of 1649 and numerous illustrations help build a picture of just how many there were. By the early nineteenth century this was seen as spoiling the visual appreciation of the building and a slow process of clearing them away started. Salvin's 1830s restoration of the south transept was part of this, but those at the west end can still be clearly seen in an engraving of Professor Willis's lecture in 1847, of which it was reported that "the principles of Gothic Architecture in his hands is a subject which even interests ladies"! The walls of one at the south east end of the cloisters, over the Dark Entry, survived to be incorporated into the recent building of the present library.

The builders' year-end accounts are a fascinating insight into the day-to-day work on the cathedral, whether the dangers involved, working six and a half days a week for thirteen weeks, the mistakes made, and how they spoke. "Pammments", a word I have been familiar with for forty years, suddenly revealed itself to me as a Norfolk contraction when I read a bill where a builder was charging for a quantity of 9" x 9" "pavements"!



*Pre 1832 changes to the altar steps as shown in a section of the painting by John Sanders in 1780*



*The altar steps after the changes, taken from Winkles 'Cathedrals of England and Wales' Vol II London 1838*

Apart from freelance documentary research, Owen Thompson also works as a Development Officer for The Churches Conservation Trust, looking after 40 churches in Norfolk and Suffolk.



## Low side windows (Members' night -12<sup>th</sup> January 2012)

Ian Hinton

There have been many (over 20) explanations over the last 170 years put forward for the rather odd openings often found in chancel walls in churches. Generally known as “low side windows”, they were definitely low, but they were not windows in the sense that they were glazed, but openings which were closable by a wooden shutter. Most of these openings have been blocked up, or glazed, for decades, if not centuries, but the remains of hinges for the shutters are frequently still found on the inside. The openings vary in size from a few inches wide to three feet square and some are elaborately decorated with carved stone gratings.

Their purpose remains a mystery, but since as many as one half of all medieval churches had one; their use must have once been common knowledge, but as with many medieval traditions, it was never written down.

The most frequent of the many explanations put forward by the Ecclesiologists of the early Victorian groups in Oxford and Cambridge suggest that they were either squints for lepers to take Communion or for them to see the Eucharist from outside the church, or that the openings were to allow the sound of the bell which was rung at the moment of the Raising of the Host at the culmination of the Eucharist to be heard outside the church to alert those in the fields. Some extend this explanation to suggest that the bell was held through the opening to be rung outside the church. More recently it has been suggested that the openings were for more pragmatic reasons in that they encouraged ventilation to disperse the accumulated smoke from the multitude of candles that burned continuously in the church on the altar and before the many images of Saints, and there are records of glaziers' employment in the removal glass in fixed windows to diffuse smoke at specific services (in a church with no low side window).

Many of the other explanations stretch the imagination to breaking point and are rooted in a period when symbolism was sought in all aspects of churches and worship. They range from providing a representation of the wound in Christ's side on the Cross, allowing the priest to see an approaching funeral procession from inside the church, to providing a place to fire arrows through to defend the church against attackers!

These “windows” are found in a few churches of the Norman period, increasingly in churches of the thirteenth and fourteenth century and appear in churches built right up until the Reformation in the sixteenth century. This points to a requirement that ceased at the Reformation, which could apply to any of the first three reasons outlined above. There are many arguments against the idea of a lepers' squint, not only because lepers would not even



*There has to have been a reason for such a small opening in such an odd place - here at Aldborough St Mary, seen from the outside.*

have been allowed in churchyards, but because the leper hospital chapel at Burton Lazars in Leicestershire had a low side window and one would hope that lepers would be allowed inside their own church, so why would they need a lepers' squint?

Each of the remaining two explanations has its supporters, but, like all the best mysteries, it is unlikely ever to be resolved completely unless written evidence is discovered.

*Burlingham St Andrew - seen from the inside.*

*Photos: Ian Hinton*



Robin Forrest and I are researching low side windows in Norfolk. If you fancy a day out, with a pub lunch in genial company, contact me at the email address below

## Costessey Schools (Members' night -12<sup>th</sup> January 2012)

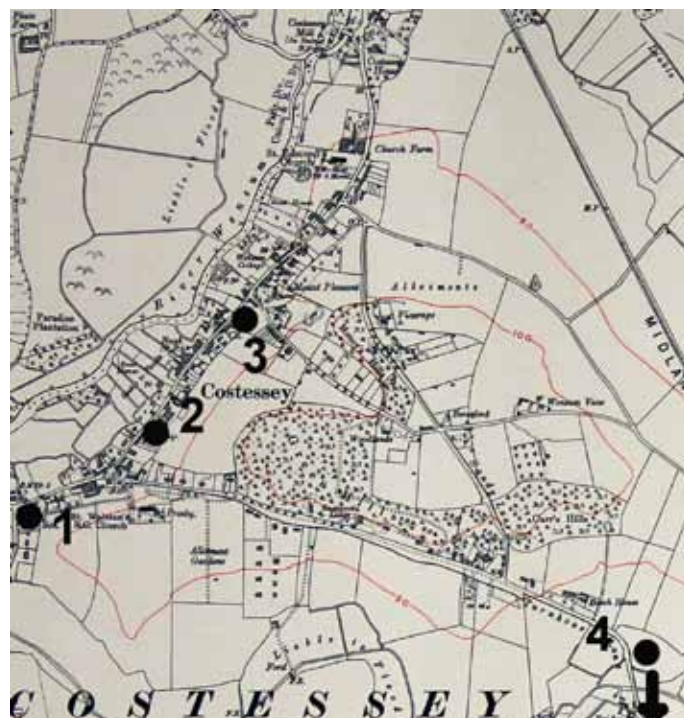
### Janet Eade & Mary Ash

Unusually, the village of Costessey had three schools for a period of over 30 years during the second half of the nineteenth century. This survey, undertaken as part of the Norfolk Rural Schools Survey, has highlighted how this came to be and how a Catholic landowner influenced education in the village.

The Manor of Costessey was granted to the Jerningham family in 1555 by Queen Mary and they remained Lords of the Manor and major land owners until 1919 when the estate was split up and sold. Initially Catholic parishioners worshipped in the family chapel until the Jerninghams financed a chapel for the villagers in 1831. The medieval parish church served the Anglican congregation and in 1822 a Baptist chapel was built on The Street and by 1851 there was also a Wesleyan Methodist chapel.

The Catholic church led the way in education, and in 1821 a school, St Augustine's, was built by Sir George Jerningham, **(1)** with provision for Protestant children to attend but not to be

taught the Catholic catechism. This clearly was not well received by the Protestants and in 1837 the Vicar arranged for a National School to open. **(3)**



The two surviving school buildings in Old Costessey are very different. St Augustine's Catholic School in West End is still a thriving Catholic primary school, the oldest in the county. First built in 1821, well before the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, St Augustine's appears to have been a single-storey, long East-West red-brick building with three classrooms plus cloakrooms [White's directory in 1845 gives its capacity as 120 children]. The two larger rooms, divided by a sliding partition, are under one roof with stepped gables, while the third room is under a slightly lower roof also with stepped gables. The dimensions given for these rooms allow 8 square feet per child in the larger main school rooms, and 9 square feet to the children in the third, the Infants' room.

The enlargements of 1871, following the Education Act, gave two more classrooms, both in wings extending towards the road, one for the main school and one for the Babies [Kelly's directory in 1900: 'erected 1871 for 200, average attendance 160']. The school plans from 1903 show a new 18' x 30' extension for the main schoolroom, and a 17' x 14'4" extension for the Babies. Both the Infants and the Babies' rooms have galleries, a useful device to allow small children to see over the heads of those in front of them, and also to 'corral' them off safely. At the same time as the school was enlarged, the teacher's house next door was extended to include a chapel, and nuns were 'imported' from St Paul's Convent, Selly Park, Birmingham to take over teaching duties. Looking through the log books, it would appear there was a quick turnover of teaching staff, but this was due to the system of pupil teachers, who spent a year 'learning on the job', then took an examination and were moved on. The nuns continued to teach at St Augustine's for well over a hundred years.

(cont. on page 9)



St Augustine's Catholic school (above)



National school interior now (right)

Baptist chapel, adjacent to British School site (below)



The Baptists opened a British School in the same year **(2)**.

All three schools survived until the Education Act of 1870 but then, for reasons at present

unclear, the Catholic School was extended and the other two schools closed, leaving the Catholic school as the only one until a Board school was built in New Costessey in 1929, which was ten years after the influence of the Jerninghams had ceased.



## The story of Deopham tin school (Members' night -12<sup>th</sup> January 2012)

### Iona Foliard

Schools made of corrugated iron (tin) were first mentioned in catalogues of the second half of the nineteenth century. By the late 1880s there were 24 firms, including Boulton & Paul of Norwich, making them.

In 1880 elementary education was made compulsory and when the school-leaving age was raised to 12 in 1899, the demand for school buildings increased considerably.

Many different tin school designs were available and they were advertised as being “quickly erectable and removable at small cost”. This fact was exercised particularly for one school which was built by Boulton & Paul and first erected in Sheringham in the early 1900s to alleviate overcrowding in the Council-run school. Sheringham built a larger school in 1906, so the tin building was taken down and re-erected at Gaywood in 1907, where it served for only one year before being moved again, this time to Deopham in 1908/9, where it was opened as a “temporary school for 35 children”. Evidently the frequent disassembly and re-assembly had affected the structure, as Building Inspectors reported in 1911 that “the temporary wood and iron building seems to be badly constructed. The walls and floor are not draught proof; though the walls have been patched up recently. The “tortoise” stoves are very unsatisfactory, smoking so badly that the room is at best undesirable. The unprotected windows also cause draughts”. This was emphasised during another visit by Inspectors in March 1912 when “the temperature inside was 40°F (4.5°C) ... with water dripping through the roof in many places”.

The tin school was replaced by a permanent school building in May 1924, so for a period of just over 20 years, this building provided school premises for hundreds of (cold) children in three different villages. Nearly 90 years later, the building is still in use on its final site in Deopham, but now as a house, with a few small additions such as a proper fireplace, and with much improved insulation and roof covering.



*Deopham school in the early twentieth century*



*The school building in 2011, now used as a house.  
(Photo:Karen Mackie)*

*Thanks to Mr & Mrs Coath, the current owners,  
for allowing us access.*

## Costessey Schools (continued from page 8) Photos: Robin Forrest/Mary Ash

The National school, off The Street, was built in 1837 for 80 Anglican children. It is set well back with a windowless wall to the road. Pupils would walk down a narrow path to the west and enter via a porch on the south. It is a one-roomed, single-storey building of red brick and pantiles. The south wall has three exceptionally fine large sash windows, and at each end there is a high pair of sashes, either side of a chimney breast; this simple building was well lit and well heated with two fire-places. There is internal evidence of three ventilator hatches in the high ceiling. The school was closed in 1870, and has since been used as a Toc H centre, and latterly as a large garden shed. The present resident is a tawny owl who perches on one of the three metal ties which cross the room at eaves level.



There is now no sign of the Baptist British

school which had opened and closed at the same time as the National school, and was situated next to the Baptist chapel, also in The Street. As mentioned above, a Board school was opened in New Costessey in 1929 (4) to accommodate children from the new village. This has yet to be surveyed.



## NHBG Newsletter Vols 1-22 Index

The articles are in approximately alphabetic order and occasionally separated by subject.

Back copies of most of the newsletters are available at 50p per issue

(+ postage for 'over 100gm large letter' - currently 92p, or by hand at meetings)

from Ian Hinton, The Old Rectory, Barnby, Beccles NR34 7QN or [ian.hinton222@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.hinton222@btinternet.com)

	ISSUE	PAGE		ISSUE	PAGE
2 Willow Road, Hampstead, London	7	6	Great Yarmouth : No 3 Broad Row	2	8
A Childhood Home	12	11	: Merchant Housing	5	14
Anchor: A contribution to the English Dictionary?	5	8	: visit	2	5
Anchor Ties/Tusk Tenons	20	12	Hall's Lane Barn	18	13
Arts & Crafts Architecture on the Norfolk Coast	6	3	Harleston : visit	10	4
Aylsham : visit	11	5	: visit	13	8
: 18 Red Lion Street	11	7	: 7 Broad Street: A Dated Joint	13	8
Baconsthorpe: Old Rectory Gazebo	13	14	Hempnall visit	4	6
Bamham Broom Old Hall visit	16	13	Hemsby Barn	10	11
Barningham Hall visit	18	11	Heydon Hall and village visit	16	6
Basic Timber-Frame Terminology	6	12	Hindolveston: Partially Timber-framed House	3	15
Bayfield Hall visit	22	5	Historic Wallpaper	15	7
Beccles visit and Leman House	18	6	Houghton Archive, the	12	4
Binham Priory and village visit	16	3	House & Home in Prehistoric Norfolk	15	3
Blakeney church - possible Columbarium	18	5	Houses of Mud and Earth: VAG conference	13	3
Boulton & Paul pre-fabricated buildings	2	15	Ightham Mote	5	10
Bradfield Woods visit	13	4	Ketteringham visit	8	4
Bricks : in History	5	9	King's Lynn : 1100-1700	1	2
: in Eastern England	8	2	: visit	2	7
: in East Anglia: Functional or Cultural	11	3	: visit	16	11
Brooke barn, Norfolk	2	10	Kings Head cottage, Banham	4	4
Burston: Bridge Green Farm report and doc. evidence	12	14	Kirstead Hall visit and documentary evidence	14	6
Castle Acre Priory and village visit	18	8	Lime Day, Dorset Rural Skills, Blandford Forum	15	12
Churches : Alignment of Medieval Rural	3	8	Little Walsingham: visit	8	5
: Loddon church	4	2	: timber conv. in Friday Cottage	19	13
: Sedgeford church	5	8	: Friday Market visit	22	4
: Porch Roof at All Saints Old Buckenham	9	11	Loddon visit	14	14
: South Burlingham St Edmund	9	4	London Houses 1100-1600	21	10
: New Buckenham St Martin's	9	10	Mannington and Itteringham villages visit	22	10
: Aisle survey	10	16	Mannington Hall & Wolterton Hall visit	5	6
: Arcade mouldings	11	12	Map of distribution of properties recorded by the group	11	16
: Swaffham Church	10	7	Mathematical Tiles	7	10
: South Door, St Michael's, Irstead	13	12	Meadow cottage visit	4	12
: Three church towers	14	4	Medieval Gildhalls	9	8
: Cley, St. Margaret's building history	15	6	Medieval Shops	9	9
: Four Norfolk Roodscreens	16	4	Methwold and Northwold visit	4	9
: Glaven Valley churches visit	18	4	Military structures of the Suffolk coast	17	3
: Towers in Norfolk	19	15	Moulded Stair Treads	10	2
: 4 churches in N Suffolk and S Norfolk	21	3	Neatishead: Sunnysdene, Three hammer common	18	12
: Church extensions	21	14	New Buckenham : visit	2	3
: Diaper work in stone decoration	21	15	: Rosemary Lane cottage report	2	13
: Medieval churches of Norwich	22	15	: Gable Cottage, Marsh Lane	4	14
: Three marshland churches	22	12	: Dendrochronology Project	6	16
Clay-Lump Buildings: proposed census	3	7	New Hunstanton: Art Nouveau in the Detail	9	7
Cressing Temple barn	6	6	Norfolk Buildings - Documentary Sources	5	15
Cromer : A Late Victorian Seaside Town	10	8	Norfolk Earthworks Survey, the	5	13
: One of Cromer's Oldest Houses	7	14	Norfolk medieval stained glass	19	7
Dating Scarf Joints	5	11	Norfolk's Anglo Norman Castles: Form and Function	7	9
Decorative Plasterwork	5	7	Norfolk's Native Building Stone	11	8
Dendrochronology	7	4	Norwich : Pleasure Gardens	3	9
Diss : visit	8	3	: Domestic building 1750 to 1800	3	14
: visit	12	6	: Heigham Grove visit	3	3
Doing different: Historic Buildings in Norfolk	1	3	: George Skipper	4	10
Dovecotes in Norfolk and Elsewhere	13	10	: King Street visit	4	13
East Barsham Manor & Old Rectory, Great Snoring	6	7	: Great Hospital visit	6	8
East Tuddenham Old Hall visit	8	8	: A Mayoral Residence of the mid 18C	6	11
Essex HBG Study Day at Cressing Temple	10	14	: an undercroft	7	8
Flint day school	17	6	: The Octagon Chapel	7	3
Flintwork in East Anglia	3	2	: Cathedral laser survey	11	4
Fornsett End: Chestnut Cottage	9	12	: Britons Arms and the Q of Hungary	12	13
Foulsham visit	20	6	: Churchman House visit	12	8
Fundenhall: The Rookery	15	10	: Hospital	17	10
Ghost Airfields of Norfolk	14	3	: Small late-medieval houses	17	8
Gissing: The Old Post Office	12	10	: Greenhouse and Curat's House visit	19	3
Godwick : Barn visit	7	7	: Castle as a prison	21	12
: Barn ruminations	8	6	: Cathedral Close visit	22	9
Goldsmiths' Premises in East Anglia 1500 1750	15	4	Old Hall South Burlingham a Reprise	10	9
Gowthorpe Manor visit	10	15	Old Hunstanton visit	9	6



## NHBG Committee

## Newsletter Index (cont)

	ISSUE	PAGE
Oulton Chapel	8	9
Overstrand visit	17	4
Paston Barn and Church visit	12	3
Patronage of Modernist Architecture in Norfolk	3	4
Photographic Day	14	10
Plan-forms smaller Post-Medieval Houses in Norfolk	1	4
Probate Inventories: their use	3	6
Pulham Market : Manor Farm	14	12
: Manor Farm	15	8
: Manor Farm	19	8
: Common edge houses visit	20	8
Pulham North Green	19	12
Railway Buildings in East Anglia	21	13
Rainthorpe Hall visit	12	12
Raynham Hall visit	10	9
Recording a South Norfolk Farmhouse	6	12
Redenhall Church	10	6
Roman Buildings in West Norfolk	3	5
Rushall: Priory Farm	7	15
Ryston Hall visit	20	4
Schools project : launch	16	15
: update	20	10
Sedgeford visit	6	2
Sir John Soane in Norfolk	19	4
Skirting Boards made from Tiles	7	2
South Burlingham Old Hall Documentary Evidence	9	5
South Lopham: Primrose Farm	4	5
Stiffkey Hall	5	3
Stoke Holy Cross: Blackford Hall	5	12
Sussex Cinq Port houses	19	5
Swaffham visit	10	6
Tacolneston : The Dower House	8	10
: Dower House, Points to Note	10	10
: Beech Cottage	11	10
: the documentary evidence	14	16
: Project update	15	17
: Orchard House	20	9
Thetford : visit	6	9
: The Ancient House	10	17
Thomas Ivory (1709 1779) Architect of Genius?	7	5
Tibenham Farm	5	5
Tile at Solomon's Temple, Welborne Common	9	14
Timber Framing	13	6
: in Denmark	22	6
: Timber-framed Chimneys	15	11
To Build a Malthouse	9	15
Toll Houses in Norfolk	21	9
Tools of the trade	3	6
Tumbling - in	9	2
Two Ornamental Cornices	7	12
Vernacular Houses in the Norfolk Landscape	3	12
Vernacular traditions From E Anglia to New England	10	3
Wallpaper at Narborough Hall	8	15
Walpole Old Chapel	21	4
Wattle & Daub/Clay Lump Day	8	9
Wattle and daub days: 16 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2001	2	4
Waxham Great Barn	10	12
Weald and Downland Museum visit	12	17
Wells : visit	5	2
visit	14	8
Wingfield College and church visit	16	12
Wisbech and Tydd St Giles visit	18	3
Wolterton Estate buildings	17	7
Worstead village visit	16	8
Wymondham : property maintenance 1590-1640	3	10
: Wymondham visit	6	4
: 33-43 Damgate	16	9
: visit	22	3

*The Committee always welcomes fresh input, enthusiasm and commitment. We are always in need of someone with expertise in, or interest in, Publicity.*

*Do think about joining us. Lynne Hodge (01362 668847) would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining.*

**Adam Longcroft** *Chair & Journal Editor*  
School of Education, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ  
01603 592261 [w]  
e.mail: a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk

**Alayne Fenner** *Deputy Chairman & Newsletter Editor*  
24 Mount Pleasant, Norwich, NR2 2DG  
01603 452204 [h]  
e.mail: alayne.fenner@btinternet.com

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

**Sue Shand** *Treasurer*  
The Poppies, Church Road, Shelfanger, Diss IP22 2DL  
e.mail: sushand@hotmail.co.uk

**Ian Hinton** *Newsletter Production & Membership Sec.*  
The Old Rectory, Barnby, Beccles, NR34 7QN  
01502 475287 [h]  
e.mail: ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

**Michael and Sue Brown** *Buildings*  
Woodlands, Bylaugh Park, Dereham NR20 4RL  
01362 688362 [h]

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

**Dominic Summers** *Summer Events*  
17 Alan Road, Norwich, NR1 2BX  
01603 663554 [h]  
e.mail: d.summers1@btinternet.com

**Jackie Simpson** *Web Page*  
The Chestnuts, Church Road, Neatishead NR12 8BT  
01692 630639 [h]  
e.mail: jackie.g.simpson@btinternet.com

**Diane Barr** *Documentary Research*  
24 The Shrublands, Horsford, NR10 3EL  
01603 898928 [h]  
e.mail: di.barr@btinternet.com

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

**vacancy**

**vacancy**

# The Georgianisation of Norwich (8<sup>th</sup> February 2012)

Sarah Clough Edwards

Georgian Norwich (1714-1837) was a city of great prosperity whose wealth came from largely from the cloth industry with significant exports of cloth to the continent. This prosperity encouraged immigration from the countryside into the town and so the city grew in size as the population increased. Blomefield's city map of Norwich of 1741, close to the beginning of the Georgian era reveals a city with both houses and a large amount of agricultural land and other green spaces set within the encompassing city wall. By 1827 and Bryant's map of Norwich it is clear that the built environment had extended to fill the area within the walls



*Bryant's map of 1827 - Norwich inside the walls is full!*

For the wealthy this time of prosperity allowed them to build new houses in the emerging Georgian style, a style of simplicity and proportion with strong symmetry and prominent doorway surrounds. An example of this type is Cambridge House (26 Tombland); this Georgian mansion was constructed in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the impressive door surround being added towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



*True Georgian style - Cambridge House, 26 Tombland*

*All photos by the Author*

A second option, for those who could not afford to build an entirely new house was to Georgianise their existing building, that is to clad the building exterior with a new façade in the new style thereby concealing the older structure. Georgianising was a budget option which was predominantly driven by a desire to be fashionable, although it has also been suggested that the cladding of timber framed buildings also afforded a measure of fireproofing at a time when the Great Fire of London (1666) was a relatively recent event.

Georgianised buildings can be identified by a number of features which distinguish these structures from entirely Georgian construction. In the early Georgian period the jettying which is common in Stuart house design was not always entirely concealed, instead the façade was stepped back with an upper and lower section, an example of this can be seen at 28 -30 Elm Hill, a 17<sup>th</sup> century structure which was refaced in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.



*28-30 Elm Hill - bricked-up, symmetrical, front, but still displaying the earlier jetty*

Another signifier of Georgianisation is that of a distinct and separate façade which does not relate to the structure behind. An example can be found at 18 Haymarket Street, currently occupied by McDonalds.

*18 Haymarket*





## The Georgianisation of Norwich (continued from page 12)

### Sarah Clough Edwards

In the early seventeenth century 18 Haymarket St was a public house called the Abraham Offering Up His Son and by 1619 was simply called Abraham's Hall. By 1763 the building was called the George and the Dragon and it continued to function as a pub until the 1970s. The façade of this structure projects strongly at its upper edge with a high parapet concealing the roofline behind, the façade also lacks the overarching symmetry which is central to true Georgian buildings. The flank wall also displays earlier features such as a brick arch over a large opening and an earlier diagonal roofline, betraying the building's heritage.

On King Street house number 79 presents a fine example of Georgianising on a grand scale. The five bay frontage is clad with a symmetrical façade emphasised in the central bay with a Serliana surmounted by a Diocletian window. The most obvious identifier that this is not a true Georgian construction is the three gables of the earlier façade which now project as 'gables' from behind the Georgianised frontage.



79 King Street (left)

95 Pottergate (above)

31 The Close (right)

Those wishing to identify further Georgianised constructions within Norwich should, as a starting point, seek out buildings which lie within the old city walls, in areas with other jettied structures, sporting a high parapet and with a distinct division between the façade and the remainder of the structure.



These few examples of Georgianised construction exemplify some of the identifiers which distinguish a Georgianised building from a fully Georgian construction. Further Georgianised buildings may be found across Norwich with Pottergate and The Close leading to Ferry Lane providing some very good examples.

Dr Sarah Clough Edwards has lectured at both Reading and UEA on a variety of art and architectural history topics and now runs private adult education courses and lecture series in Norwich.

## News

### NHBG methods gain a wider audience

Although the NHBG is widely known for its award-winning journals, some of the processes underlying the recording and interpretation work that forms the backbone of the journals were explained to a wider audience recently.

Our Chairman, Adam Longcroft presented a paper entitled *A decade of research into vernacular architecture in East Anglia: community projects, volunteer-led research and the work of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group* at the conference on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Cambridge University entitled **'Recent Research in Vernacular Architecture: The rural building traditions of the poorer sort, 1600-1900'**.

Adam detailed the background and importance of the sort

of work that we do in our research, particularly in areas such as Tacolneston, studying the form of surviving smaller houses, pointing out that the research had highlighted discoveries such as the pattern of smoke bays that were still being built in this type of house a century after they were thought to have gone out of use and been replaced by brick-built stacks. He also outlined how we go about the educational and training elements during these projects, training members in the art of recording.

The conference also examined the details and contexts of smaller homes in other parts of the country, including mud-built rural homes in Wales, Manx cottages, bastles in Cumbria and Social housing of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

# '1066 and all that' Land Law (Part I - tenure)

Chris Ash (Members' night -12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012)

**DEFINITION: Tenure**

The holding of land on certain terms and conditions; the manner in which the law allows a person to hold land.

*Norman property law and its subsequent development fundamentally affected the way the English countryside developed; morphing slowly from its patterns of large ownerships and communal farming on open fields to enclosures and the development of rich yeoman farmers with their fine houses dotting the landscape - in other words as part of changes from a feudal to a money-based economy.*

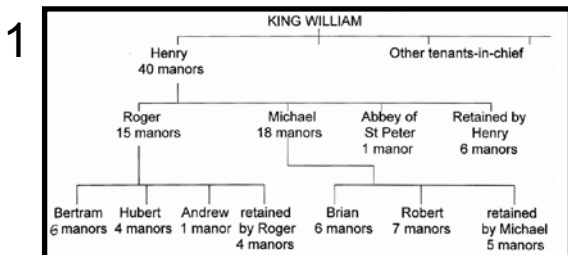
William the Conqueror imposed an unusually perfect feudal structure upon an unappreciative nation. The distribution of land in 1066 amongst his backers and cronies gives rise to the following proposition set out in the leading traditional text book on the law of real property: Megarry and Wade, first published in 1957 and now in its 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (2008):

Crown Ownership. Although in practice land is commonly described as owned by its various proprietors, English land law still retains its original basis, that all land in England is owned by the Crown. A small part of that land is in the Crown's own occupation and such land has been described in a recent statute as "demesne" land: the rest is occupied by tenants holding either directly or indirectly from the Crown. In England all land is held of a lord, and allodial land (i.e. land owned independently and not 'held of' some lord) is unknown.

It may come as a surprise to many "owners" that they are technically tenants, that "freehold" does not mean absolute ownership. Indeed, the typical arrangement for happy couples is as joint tenants under a trust for sale which imposes a duty to sell should the relationship cease to be quite so happy!

There was no such thing as a free lunch where William was concerned. Monarchs do not give traditionally; they grant in exchange for services. By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, The Conqueror had created 1500 tenants in chief.

In exchange for a grant of land the tenant in chief was obliged to render services to the king. In Diagram 1, below, Henry has been granted 40 manors as tenant in chief. In return Henry has to provide 30 knights. In order to do so he in turn grants Roger 15 and Michael 18 manors in exchange for them providing most of the knights. Henry himself will hire some knights and of course serve personally. One manor is granted to the Abbey of St. Peter in exchange for the saying of mass on Tuesday and Thursday for his (Henry's) soul. The remainder, his demesne, he keeps for himself.

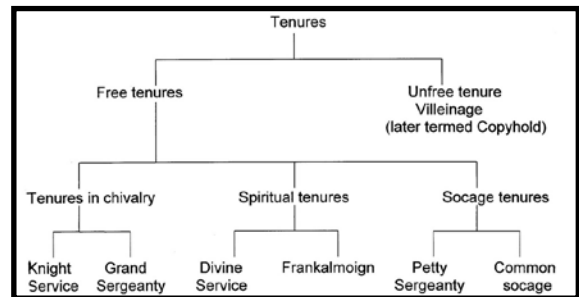


In our fictional example Roger and Michael both grant manors to their followers, again retaining some for their own needs. Andrew has one manor; he is in possession of the land. He has seisin or is said to be seized of the land.

Feudal service became to a certain extent standardised.

Knight service (see Diagram 2), with the evolution of more sophisticated financial mechanisms and the impracticality of providing the necessary armed horsemen immediately when the monarch went to war, became replaced by an obligation to pay money (Knight scutage). Others included the duty to perform some honourable service for the king's person (grand sergeanty) and the obligation to say prayers and say masses etc (Frankelmoign or divine service depending on whether it was for general prayers and masses or specific masses at definite times) Each of these types of service was known as tenure (tenere: to hold). The commonest type of tenure was known as socage, a residual category of free tenure that was neither military nor spiritual.

2



So far nobody has done any work under this system! Andrew, it will be remembered, has one manor. He retains some land for himself and grants the rest to tenants of his own. He needs men to work on his demesne land. For example Percy is obliged to plough his (Andrew's) land for 14 days a year. Baldric on the other hand is obliged to perform 4 days labour a week; the nature of the work is not specified. Nowadays he would be best described as a general labourer. Percy is a free tenant, holding by the free tenure of common socage. Poor old Baldric on the other hand holds by the unfree tenure of villeinage. The overwhelming majority of those working the land were "Baldrics". They had no redress to the Royal Courts or legal rights to the land. If ousted by the lord they had no redress. T'was ever thus!

There was in time a fundamental change to unfree tenure. Custom arose in each manor that land should not be forfeited. The "custom of the manor" became the "law" of the manorial court. From the fifteenth century, beginning with the Court of Chancery, the Royal Courts began protecting villeins against their lords, applying the custom of the manor which when proved would be enforceable at common law. Thereafter "tenure in villeinage" became "tenure by copy of the court roll". By the end of the sixteenth century it became one of the commonest forms of tenure, known universally as "copyhold".

It is not possible in this short article to chronicle the gradual reduction in the numbers of types of tenure. Highlights include the statute Quia Emptores 1290, still in force today, which prohibits alienation by subinfeudation (the granting of tenure to subtenants) and the Tenures Abolition Act 1660 which converted all tenures into free and common socage with the exception of frankelmoign and copyhold.

Part II of Land Law, covering estates (which refers to how long the tenure dealt with here can be enjoyed) will appear in Newsletter 24 in September.



## Some thoughts on different thatching methods

Ian Hinton

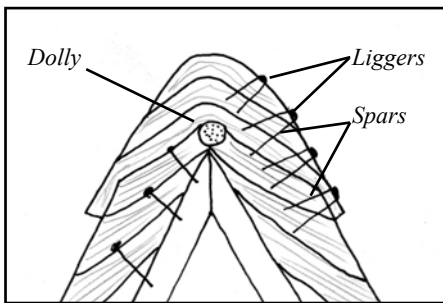
Last winter's lecture on Danish timber-framing by Alan Eade (reported in *Newsletter 22*) included a reference to the Danish method of retaining the thatch on the roof ridge - by the use of "crow's beaks" of timber or turf.



Danish "crow's beaks" (Robin Forrest)

This highlights several major differences in the methods used in parts of Britain to hold down the thatch at the ridge and over the whole roof generally.

In mainland Britain, at the top of the roof, where the thatch coats from both sides of the roof meet, a roll of straw, or **dolly**, is laid along the ridge to act as a former for three or four layers of thatch laid over the ridge and held down by horizontal split-hazel **liggers** which are in turn anchored by split-hazel **spars** or sways which are twisted and bent to form staples and pushed through the straw.



This treatment was simple in early buildings but has developed into an ornamental art with intricate patterns cut into the ridge layers, which are often replaced after 10 or 15 years. Much of

this detail is required because the roof slopes steeply (at 50-55 degrees) to allow the water to run down the straw stalks without penetrating through to the inside and the steep angle at the ridge makes the bending of the thatch difficult.

### Isle of Man

There are few remaining thatched buildings on the Isle of Man (as the island is made of slate), but there are some preserved eighteenth-century crofts at the Cregneash Folk Museum, and a few buildings elsewhere, which are still thatched in the original style. Isle of Man thatched roofs are of a far shallower pitch (at around 30 degrees) than those in Norfolk, which means that the ridge is less of a problem as the thatch can be run straight over the ridge without the need for complicated detailing. The shallow pitch is still effective at keeping out the water as the



Shallow-pitched Isle of Man roof

base coat is of turf (green side up).

The method of holding down the thatch on the Isle of Man is also different. It is not clear whether this is because hazel was unavailable for making spars or whether they might penetrate the base layer of turf or whether frequent south-westerly gales on exposed sites are the cause, but the thatch is held down by rope over the top of the final thatch coat. Originally, a twisted straw rope was used at approximately fifty centimetre intervals both horizontally and vertically. Each of these ropes is looped round and tied to pieces of slate projecting from the wall beneath the eaves and round the gable ends.



Straw ropes and projecting stones on the gable end and beneath the eaves

Photos and thatching diagram : Ian Hinton



Apparently, the original straw ropes have about the same life expectancy as the thatch coats (10-15 years), so all would be replaced at the same time. Overall, the thatch is thinner here than in Norfolk and the horizontal ropes appear to emphasise the fact that thatch is laid in courses.

The use of projecting stones to tie the thatch down means that buildings that were once thatched, but are now slated or tiled, can easily be identified by the projecting stones that were once used as the anchor points, rather like the steeply-pitched Norfolk roofs which are now covered in pantiles.



A previously thatched roof (with raised eaves as well)

More to be found at: [thatch.org](http://thatch.org), with links to youtube thatching demonstrations

[gov.im/mnh/heritage/musems/cregneashvillage.xml](http://gov.im/mnh/heritage/musems/cregneashvillage.xml)

## A Digest of Buildings Visited Since September 2011

*This is a digest of all 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. This list is to inform members of the work undertaken on behalf of the Group.*

Sue Brown.

### Hill House, Wrenningham

A late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century, two-storey red-brick house built in Flemish bond with a central lobby entry. A large nineteenth-century extension is built to the rear.



### Black Lion, Little Walsingham

A building of multiple phases. The probable earliest phase has an unusual queen-post roof; the upper purlin is clasped by a shorter queen post which has a spur connecting it to the principal queen post. This roof is truncated to the west. There is a stone lancet window in the east gable wall. Below in the south wall is a stone cusped window with grooves for glazing. The front (east) range is in two phases of the sixteenth century. The rear (south) range is seventeenth century extending into the eighteenth.



*Black Lion, east front and unusual queen-post roof*



### 4 Friday Market, Little Walsingham

Probably only half a house (no. 3 is probably the other half). Originally a continuous jetty facing the market, refronted with sash windows in the nineteenth century. The roof structure, a collar rafter roof with the collars removed, survives with adaptations.



*4 Friday Market: side elevation*

### Plumtree Farm, Carleton Rode

Originally a hall with two service rooms, probably of the sixteenth century. One of the service rooms, with its large window, may have been used as a parlour. Extended in the seventeenth century from the service rooms (in line) to form a kitchen with hearth.

### 48 Mount Street, Diss

A two-celled timber-framed house with diamond mullion windows. Probably sixteenth century, with a nineteenth-century front.



### Lime Tree Cottage, Hempnall

A three-celled, mid-sixteenth-century, one-and-a-half-storied transitional house with an original cross passage and chimney stack with staircase in the service bay. The thatched roof is hipped at both ends and has twin side purlins, the lower pair clasped by collars. The house is externally rendered and has later additions at the rear.



*Photos - this page: Michael Brown, Hempnall - Ian Hinton  
next page: Knight Street - Lynne Hodge, Richeldis' House and Hempnall - Ian Hinton*



## A Digest of Buildings Visited Since September 2011 (cont)

*This is a digest of all 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. This list is to inform members of the work undertaken on behalf of the Group.*

Sue Brown.

### Richeldis' House, 1 Common Place, Walsingham

Facing down the High Street it was originally jettied to the west and south on both the first floor and the attic floor. Timber framed throughout with close studding and large-section timbers. Glazed windows. Probably late fifteenth or early sixteenth century.



*Richeldis' House, side (west) elevation*

### 2 Common Place, Walsingham

A small two bay house which has a flint and brick ground floor with jetty and timber framing to the first floor. Incorporating a stair to the rear leading to a first floor corridor. Queen post roof to the west and collar rafter roof to the east which may have held a gable to balance number 1 Common Place.

### 3 Common Place, Walsingham

A small two bay house which has a flint and brick ground floor with jetty and timber framing to the first floor. A late sixteenth or early seventeenth century side purlin roof.

### 6 Common Place, Walsingham

Very similar to number 2 above with jetty and side purlin roof.

### Stella Maris, Holt Road, Walsingham

Two storeys in flint and brick with a stair tower to a first floor corridor and attics. The east attic range has two original dormer windows to the south and one to the north. Probably seventeenth century. Attached to the east is a later seventeenth century building which was probably a service range.

### Pilgrim Hall Shrine Site, Walsingham

Originally a flint barn of four and a half bays. Probably seventeenth century. A well made roof with queen posts has been raised with several courses of eighteenth century bricks.

### 24 Knight Street, Walsingham

Now with a nineteenth century brick front there is evidence for a former timber-framed first floor with jetty. The ground floor has one bay to the north and the two southern bays have roll-moulded principal joists and mantle beam. There are remains of a high quality roof not fully examined. The roll moulding suggests the sixteenth century or earlier.

### Refectory at the College of Clergy, Knight Street, Walsingham

This building has flint and rubble ground floor walls and a timber-framed first floor with jetty and oriel windows. The first floor is of three bays with a separate chimney bay. The northern bay was a separate unheated chamber with an oriel window to the east and a large bay window with jetty to the west. Queen posts with sharply defined jowls are pegged to the tie beams and clasp a trapezoidal purlin. Probably mid to late sixteenth century. A later wing was added to the south west in the late seventeenth century.



### 23 Knight Street, Walsingham

Two storeys in flint and brick with centre and south end stacks. A stair bay between the hall and south parlour. A queen post roof of the early seventeenth century is above the south range. The roof above the north range has side purlins. There is a later seventeenth century or early eighteenth century outshut with its own stair to the west.



### The Long House, Hempsall

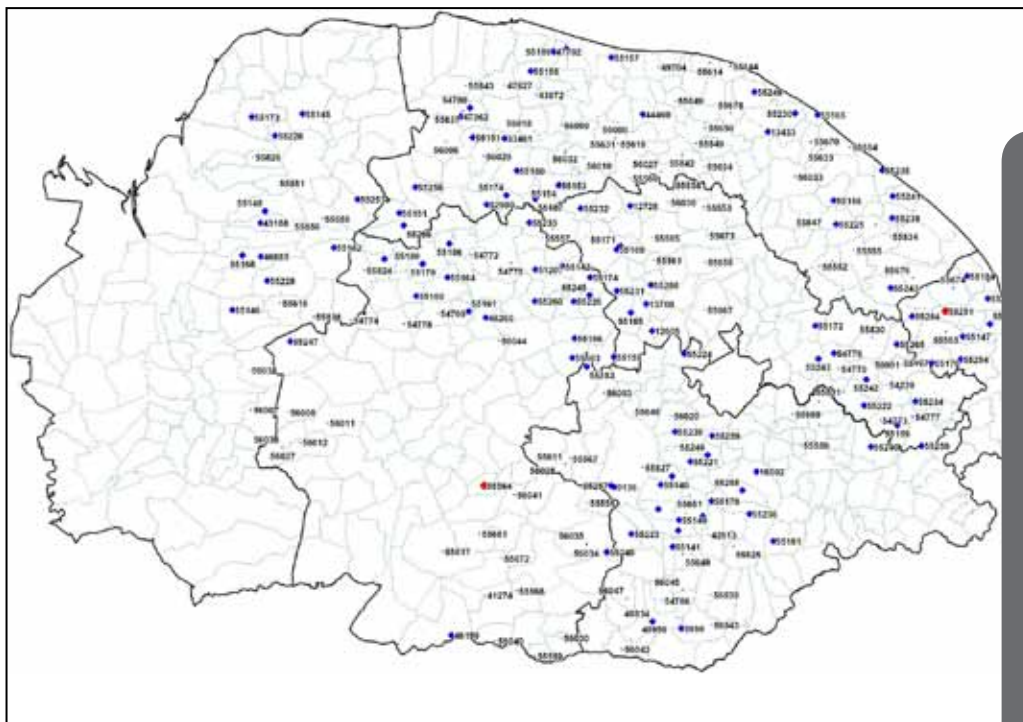
The Long House is a four-celled, timber-framed building of two storeys, adjacent to the church and facing the medieval market place. A complicated building history with many changes. The roof throughout is of double in-line butt purlins, but may be a replacement. The northern half of the roof houses a 9m-long, two-section octagonal post, of unknown provenance or purpose, resting on the tie beams.

The current building seems to be basically late-sixteenth or early seventeenth century, with indications of an earlier structure.



# The Norfolk Rural Schools Survey goes online

Susanna Wade-Martins



**Norfolk Rural Schools Conference -**  
**The Assembly House, Norwich,**  
**June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012**  
**9:30 - 5.00**

booking details:  
 Send a cheque for £15 per ticket with your address & email on the form to:

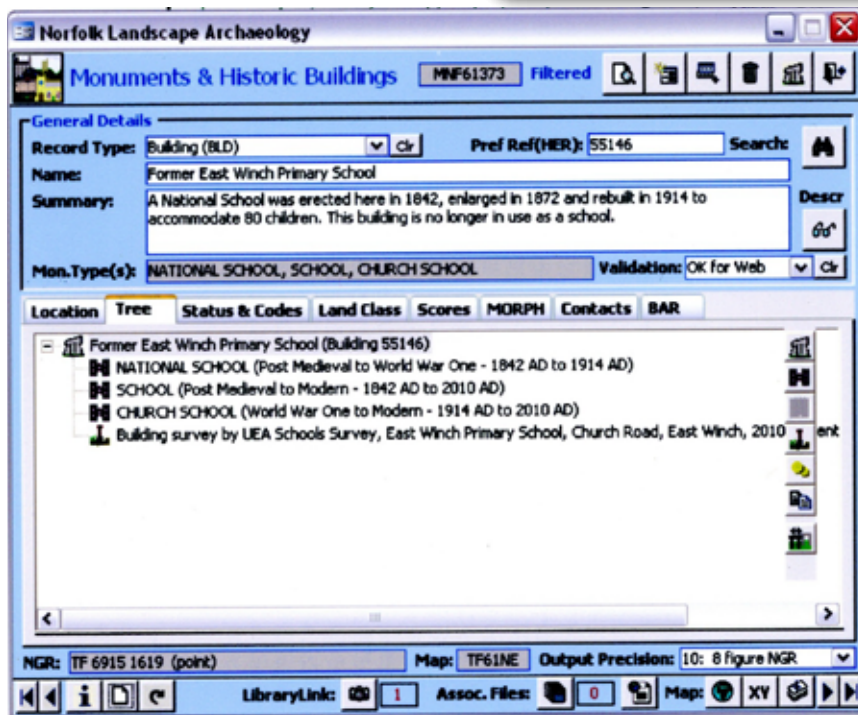
Adam Longcroft  
 School of Education & Lifelong Learning  
 UEA  
 Norwich NR4 7TJ

Work on the Schools Survey is nearing completion. Over 350 surveys have been logged on the database and there are many more in the pipeline. We hope to complete the fieldwork part of the project within the next few months allowing time to write the report before the end of June, when it is due with English Heritage.

*Map of the Norfolk schools entered on the HER database by December*

Progress so far has been impressive with recorders not only spending a considerable amount of time in the field, but also in the NRO and ferreting around locally to find out information about particular schools. The final report will include contributions from individual researchers on particular aspects which have interested them.

An important outcome of the project is the uploading of the material onto the County HER (Historic Environment Record). So far about 250 sites have been submitted to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and all these should be available on the system by the end of January. A further 80 have recently been sent to NLA and we hope that all will be with them by the spring. We are then planning an evening with the Group at Gressenhall when we can all see how the material can be manipulated to produce distribution maps using key words from our pro-forma. The full value of a county-wide survey such as ours (which would not have been possible without a large and enthusiastic group of participants) will we hope, then become apparent.



*An example of the sort of summary information which is available from the Norfolk schools survey, via the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, to researchers across the world*



Below is a series of events/websites from all over the country that may be of interest to Historic Buildings Group members. If there are any events that will take place after September (the next newsletter) or websites that you would like to share with others, please let me know.

## NORFOLK

### GRESSENHALL HISTORY FAIR

In the grounds of Gressenhall museum on **Sunday 3rd June** between 10am and 5pm, celebrating the Diamond Jubilee by stepping back to the 1950s. Free to Museum Pass holders and Friends of Gressenhall, otherwise £9.10

### ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Coinciding with the Festival of British Archaeology, the Historic Environment Service is holding an Archaeology day led by NHER experts, in the grounds of Gressenhall museum, on **Sunday 22nd July**, 10am to 5pm, same rates as above.

### HARVEST DAY

Watch heavy horses bringing in the harvest and see traditional farming techniques on **Sunday August 5th** at Gressenhall between 10am and 5pm, same rates as above. See:

[museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Visit\\_Us/Gressenhall\\_Farm\\_and\\_Workhouse/index.htm](http://museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Visit_Us/Gressenhall_Farm_and_Workhouse/index.htm)

---

## NORFOLK & SUFFOLK

### CHURCH PHOTOS

Simon Knott has been visiting and photographing the churches and places of worship in Norfolk and Suffolk for several years - 876 in Norfolk and 688 in Suffolk so far. His commentaries are often amusing and are usually comprehensive. See:

[suffolkchurches.co.uk/churchlists.htm](http://suffolkchurches.co.uk/churchlists.htm)  
[norfolkchurches.co.uk/mainpage.htm](http://norfolkchurches.co.uk/mainpage.htm)

---

## SUFFOLK

### Suffolk Historic Buildings Group Day School "The Country House"

at Lavenham Guild Hall on Sat 13th October. Contact:  
[charmian.hawkins@beaconplanning.co.uk](mailto:charmian.hawkins@beaconplanning.co.uk)

### INSTITUTE of HISTORIC BUILDINGS Traditional Building Courses

at Orchard Barn, Ringshall:

Timber framing 16-20 April, Traditional building hands-on 26-8 April, Flint walling 16 May, Clay lump 23 & 28 May

For Details, Prices and Booking, go to:

[www.orchardbarn.org.uk](http://www.orchardbarn.org.uk)

---

## CUMBRIA

### RAILWAY AND RELIGION TRAIL

The Methodist Church and the Churches Trust for Cumbria have created a Railways and Religion Trail. Part of the Western Dales Faith Trail, it takes in 12 small chapels and churches and explains their history in relation to the development of the railway.

Details here: [www.ctfc.org.uk/visit-churches.html](http://www.ctfc.org.uk/visit-churches.html)

## ESSEX

(Essex Historic Buildings Group)

### THE WEALDEN HOUSE : Medieval homes for rural yeomen and urban craftsmen

Day School at Cressing Temple Barns on **Sat 2nd June**: Speakers Nat Alcock, David Martin, Martin Higgins and John Walker. Cost £22

Bookings to Miss LC Burnell [info@ehbg.co.uk](mailto:info@ehbg.co.uk)

### ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFT SKILLS COURSES.

Day and weekend courses in:-

Lime Plastering - 20/4/12;

Timber frame repairs - 9-11/5/12

Flint wall repairs - 20-22/6/12

COST - Approx £100 per day

ALSO

Half-day Continuing Professional Development (CPD) lectures between September and February on building maintenance subjects - COST - £55

All these courses are run by Essex County Council - a full brochure and booking form can be found at:

[essex.gov.uk/Activities/Heritage/Documents/Repair%20Course%20Programme.pdf](http://essex.gov.uk/Activities/Heritage/Documents/Repair%20Course%20Programme.pdf) (%20 = space)

---

## GENERAL

### WALLPAINTINGS INTERPRETATION PROJECT

The Churches Conservation Trust have launched a Wallpaintings Interpretation Project, with new photographs and much useful interpretative material. Available here:

[visitchurches.org.uk/wallpaintings](http://visitchurches.org.uk/wallpaintings)

### DIGITAL ATLAS OF ENGLAND

A privately-funded not-for-profit project established in 2006 to undertake the photographic documentation of England's architectural and artistic heritage using digital photography.

The current archive includes just over 335,000 digital images (as of December 2011) covering two thirds of England's villages and towns. The aim is to complete the country within the next ten to fifteen years. The entire collection of over 700,000 digital images will then be made available to the public and researchers. There are many links to county-based digital image sites.

see: [digiatlas.org/](http://digiatlas.org/)

---

## OXFORD

### SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY STAINED GLASS IN OXFORD

Over the weekend of **11-13th May** is a weekend school at Rewley House, Oxford, organised in association with the Ecclesiological Society. The topic is seventeenth-century stained glass in Oxford. For details and to book go to:

[www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses)

## Summer Programme 2012

A full programme for the Summer! If booking by post, please use the forms provided to book the events with a separate cheque for each event, even if going to the same person AND don't forget the SAE.

Email booking as an alternative is fine and tickets will be despatched by email where possible, to save costs, but until we have the ability to handle money electronically, we have to rely on the cheque and postage for payment.

We have attempted to avoid having limits on numbers attending, but at some venues we have no choice. Dominic Summers

### Stiffkey Old Hall Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May

*Time:* 10:30am (morning only)  
*Meet:* Stiffkey Old Hall  
*Cost:* £10  
*Limit:* 30 (members only)  
*Walking:* Stairs and garden  
*Food:* Red Lion, for those staying on  
*Contact:* Rosemary Forrest  
01603 742315  
forrest.rosemary@gmail.com

Started in 1576, on the site of a medieval house, but never completed, this Hall was built by Nicholas Bacon in the style of Norfolk vernacular but is based on Italian ideas with passages serving rooms. There are three wings, six towers and a gatehouse. The hall and its terraced garden has recently been renovated. Our guides will be the owners and the architect involved with the renovation.

We will be guided around Hingham by a local historian and will have the opportunity to visit a number of interesting local buildings. Hingham had a market in the Middle Ages, but never grew in the same way as Wymondham or Attleborough. The parish church, St Andrew, is a very fine and comparatively rare example of early fourteenth century ecclesiastical architecture in Norfolk. It contains one of the finest late-medieval tombs in the country

### followed immediately by: Annual General Meeting

*Time:* 4:00 pm tea & scones,  
4:30 pm AGM  
hall open from 3:00 pm.  
*Meet:* Lincoln Hall, Hingham  
*Food:* Please return ticket, or email  
Dominic, for catering numbers  
*Contact:* Dominic Summers  
d.summers1@btinternet.com

### Hindringham Hall Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July

*Time:* 2:15 pm  
*Meet:* Hindringham Hall  
*Cost:* £15  
*Limit:* 40  
*Walking:* Some  
*Food:* Tea & biscuits after tour  
*Contact:* Lynne Hodge  
01362 668847  
lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk

The Hall dates largely from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and replaced an older building on the site. However, the medieval moat survives in its entirety. We will be shown around by the owners and after the tour there will be the chance to wander the famous gardens.

### Church Farm, Alburgh Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August

*Time:* 6:30 pm  
*Meet:* Church Farm  
*Cost:* £5 (members only)  
*Limit:* No limit  
*Walking:* Stairs  
*Food:* Drinks and nibbles  
*Contact:* Sue Brown  
01362 688362

Bill & Sandy Jones have invited us to their home for an evening of merriment - and also to have a look at their fine timber-framed house.

### Hempnall village walk Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September

*Time:* 10:30 am  
*Meet:* to be confirmed  
*Cost:* £8  
*Limit:* No limit  
*Walking:* Yes, some distance, mostly level and paved, some stairs  
*Food:* BYO or Pub lunch (see below)  
*Contact:* Ian Hinton  
01502 475287  
ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

We will be led by Mo Cubitt, author of "Hempnall: A treasure trove of history", in a walk round the village with access to at least one house. The houses in the village are being examined in the hope that Hempnall may form a future recording project. Currently the village pub does not open at lunchtime, but with enough requests on the tickets, it may open especially for us.

### Coggeshall - Barn and houses

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June

*Time:* 10:30am  
*Meet:* Grange Barn, Coggeshall  
*Cost:* £17:50  
*Limit:* 20 (members only)  
*Walking:* Around the village  
*Food:* Pub or BYO  
*Contact:* Rosemary Forrest  
01603 742315  
forrest.rosemary@gmail.com

We have been invited by Essex Historic Buildings Group to visit Coggeshall with them. The Group are currently undertaking a recording project there and have promised us a tour of the thirteenth century Grange Barn and six houses in the town. This is a great opportunity to see with expert guides how Essex builds vernacular buildings.

### Hingham town walk & Church

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June

*Time:* 2:00 pm  
*Meet:* Lincoln Hall, The Fairland,  
Hingham NR9 4HW  
*Cost:* FREE  
*Limit:* No limit  
*Walking:* Yes, mostly level and paved  
*Contact:* Dominic Summers  
01603 663554  
d.summers1@btinternet.com

Booking is not necessary, but contact Dominic Summers for any enquiries.

### Norfolk Rural Schools Conference

(organized by UEA)

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 9:30-5.00

The Assembly House, Norwich

Book direct - see page 18 for details

### Three Broadland Churches

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July

*Time:* 10:00 am  
*Meet:* All Saints, Catfield  
*Cost:* £8 (members only)  
*Limit:* No limit  
*Walking:* Uneven churchyards  
*Food:* BYO or Pub lunch  
*Contact:* Dominic Summers  
01603 663554  
d.summers1@btinternet.com

These three churches, that range from the architecturally modest, Catfield, to the grand, Ingham, are full of interest. There are the marvellous roodscreen and the wall painting at Catfield; the breadth of architectural details, the splendid font, another fine screen and, most notable of all, the painted Doom from the reign of Mary I at Ludham; and the architectural grandeur of Ingham, together with two very fine medieval memorials – the de Bois and de Ingham tombs.