

NHBG NEWSLETTER



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Norfolk Historic Buildings Group



Let us hope that this is not the end reading or else the roof will be rather wide...

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		NHBG SUMMER 200619/20

CHAIR

It has been a long winter but the Newsletter with the Summer programme is here and we can look forward to an exciting and extensive range of events for 2006. Not that the winter has been dull; we have maintained a high level of attendance at the evening meetings and covered topics ranging from the Laser Survey of Norwich Cathedral (see within) to Fixtures & Fittings, where Linda Hall sold every copy of her book.

The committee has been active as usual, re-assessing the strategy for the Group (see p.15 and starting to plan the next Journal. Do let me know if you have a research project under way (or in mind) with which we can help. Paul Rutledge has stepped down as our documentary research organizer; we will miss the guidance and expertise he has provided since the formation of the Group. Tom Townsend of the Norfolk Record Office has generously agreed to take on the role of documentary consultant for us and at the moment Sue Brown will co-ordinate activities. If you would like to get involved with research on the buildings we study do contact me or any committee member. On page 18 you will find Jill Napier's account of the VAG winter conference, which she attended as our representative. If you would like to be considered for the same role this year, a bursary is available to pay the fees. The conference takes place in Leicester on a Saturday and Sunday in December.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in June.

Michael Brown
tel: 01362 688362

A New Venture...
See page 18 for more details!

NHBG and Continuing Education, UEA Proposed Partnership Courses

- *Recording and Interpreting Standing Buildings
- *Tracing the History of Your House

Tutor:	Adam Longcroft
Duration:	10 weeks in the Autumn 2006
NHBG Liaison:	Karen Mackie
	karen@tacolneston.freereserve.co.uk
	tel: 01508 488467

The Use of Brick in East Anglia: Functional or Cultural

Paul Drury

November 2005

The traditional explanation for the notable regional use of brick has emphasised the dearth of local stone. But other factors, like supply, utility for particular tasks, and above all cultural affinity and its expression or rejection, are all important.

Local use and production began with a century of innovation, 1130-1230, involving widespread, rapid introduction and development of a wide variety of building ceramics, including 'great' and 'Flemish' bricks, coinciding with a period of rapid and general development in architecture and construction technology. 'Great' bricks are found from the Thames to the Humber, but production and use was localised. The best known are 'Coggeshall bricks', purpose-made for Romanesque architectural detail, but usually thinly plastered in imitation of stonework.

Large 'Flemish' bricks appear on the continent (and probably in England) by the beginning of the thirteenth. Flemish imports used at the Tower of London in 1278 were externally disguised by stonework. But exceptionally at Little Wenham Hall c1260-80 they were visible, combined with high status Caen stone. During the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, use of imported and local brick was widespread, but (unlike some but not all Hansa towns), expressed brickwork was very rare. Brick was used as backing to stone facing, an ingredient in rubble walls, or where there was a practical advantage eg vaulting cells, flues. Was this because only small quantities and varied sizes were available; or more likely, was it a cultural statement of difference from the adjacent continent?

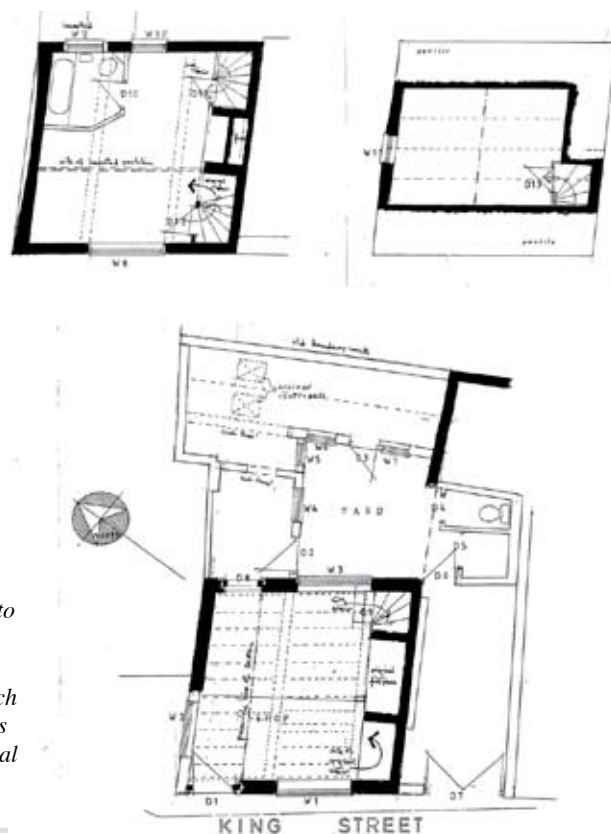
Things begin to change from around 1400. The external brick of the Cow Tower in Norwich (1398-9) suggests that a resemblance to a tower on the city wall at Utrecht was acceptable and desirable. There is rapid development of brickwork from the early fifteenth century. From the 1430s and 1440s, elaborately-decorated brick buildings appear. This begins as the import of craftsmen fluent in a fully-formed style in which brick as a material is a fundamental element; once assimilated, regional variation develops. The reason is patronage – by people who had connections with the Low Countries. Architectural change was accompanied by technological change, to 'Tudor' type bricks. By the end of the fifteenth century, brick was a high quality, high status decorative building material, confidently handled by English designers and craftsmen.

In the early sixteenth century, the interplay of material and style becomes interesting as Renaissance ideas and then design in the classical style are absorbed into the English brick tradition. From 1520s – 1540s, terracotta is an alternative to brick with stone dressings or moulded brick. The idea and the technology of terra cotta has become associated with Renais-

sance influences, but much of it is clearly gothic with few if any Renaissance details – eg Westhorpe Hall, Suffolk, 1526-33. Was the technological leap made independently of Italy (via France) in a late Gothic context, or was imported technology associated with Renaissance novelties applied to the practicalities of late gothic architecture? The north German tradition may be relevant, since occasionally this material is lead-glazed. Even when Renaissance details are used, it is mostly in a paraphrase of gothic design. The tombs try harder, but emphasise that this was primarily a courtier-level fashion.

The key to understanding relationships between style and material is people, patrons. At Hill Hall Sir Thomas Smith, when rebuilding in two phases, 1568-9, 1574-5, drew on the early French renaissance style of style of Francis I. His second phase used terra cotta (uniquely at this time in England) to achieve in the courtyard the same details as he had earlier formed in rubble and plaster. The material was probably adopted because of its potential to further develop his architectural creativity: in his second phase Smith produced a giant order as early as anyone else in Europe. Chemical analysis shows that the terra cotta was made locally; it was the skills to do so which were clearly imported.

Architecture and technology could be imported with refugees, like those that came from the Westkwartier of Flanders to Sandwich (Kent) from 1561, but the results differ from place to place. Anglo-Flemish houses in Sandwich and Yarmouth share a single cell plan and thin walls with wall anchors, but Sandwich has Flemish brick details and local carpentry, whilst Yarmouth has local masonry but distinctively Flemish structural carpentry.



Sandwich, Kent: An Anglo-Flemish house of 1603, with a similar plan and wall-anchors to the Yarmouth row houses. Both were the result of cultural links through migration, but Sandwich has Flemish gothic brick details and Yarmouth Flemish structural carpentry.

Laser survey of Norwich Cathedral

Phil Thomas

The talk was a summary of all the building recording work that took place at the cathedral between 1997 and March 2005 when Phil was the Archaeological Surveyor. He had already spent a year working on Windsor Castle recording the findings after the fire, and he came to Norwich expecting this new project, which included surveying the cloisters in advance of the building of the new Refectory, to last three months. However another survey was subsequently required to inform the design of the proposed Visitors' Centre on the site of the medieval Hostry, and in the end he spent two years surveying the whole cathedral. The fact that the surveyor was also an archaeologist certainly added value to his remit. He was then employed by the Dean and Chapter and is now Clerk of Works responsible for the hundred historic properties within the cathedral close.

Phil began with a slide tour of the cathedral, many of them taken from vertiginous points of view (cathedral surveyors need a good head for heights). The cathedral is enormous, 140 metres long and 315 metres to the top of the spire and took fifty years to build. The Romanesque roof collapsed when the spire fell in the fifteenth century and the wooden roof trusses, devoured by Deathwatch beetle, had, more recently, been replaced by concrete trusses. Evidence of the lost north chapel of St. Anne's showed on the outside north wall as a fossil roof line cutting into the blind arcading, as did the scars of the raised roof of the triforium.

The 200-year-old drawings of J A Repton were, amazingly, still used as a reference point until recently. These show beautiful views of the exterior and a superb longitudinal section of

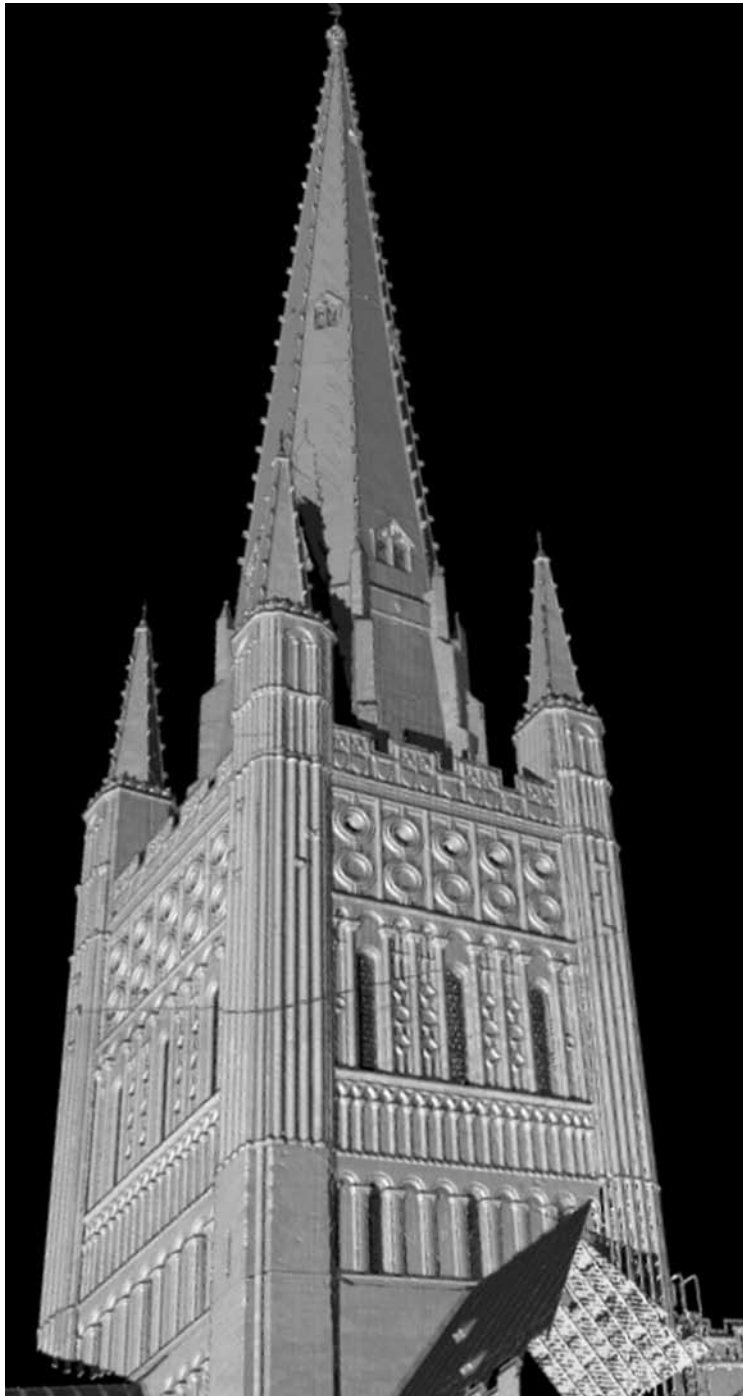
the whole structure, showing the nineteen internal levels, including the spire, the gallery where the mayors sat, and the south transept (later completely refaced by Salvin). A wonderful archive.

Phil's recording started as all of us still start, just as Repton did, with a tape measure and a datum line, but now he works with E.D.M. or Electronic Distance Measurement. This machine combines both laser and total station theodolite to take readings directly off the building resulting in plans and elevations of incredible accuracy. For the most remote areas such as the

spire, a 'laser scanner' was brought in.

Phil's methodology was to take a number of horizontal sections from the base to the golden cockerel on the spire, much, in fact, as Repton had done, but with infinitely greater speed. For example, the scanning of the spire took only two days! He also recorded all four sides of the cloister with rectified photographs and moulding profiles.

The final results were truly amazing to those of us used to working with a tape measure, clipboard and datum line. For instance every paving stone at ground level was clearly delineated, giving position, dimension and height above sea level if required, as was every other feature in this vast building. This pioneering project is the first accurate modern survey of not only Norwich but any English cathedral. The architecture of the cathedral is most beautifully laid bare, and such detailed knowledge will be invaluable for the understanding of the building for architects undertaking future work.



(Photo: APR Services)

Aylsham Visit – Sunday 4th September 2005 Roger Crouch



Current Market Place with infill to what was once a much larger Medieval market.

On a fine late summer day a group of sixteen members met for breakfast at ‘The Old Tea Rooms’ at 18 Red Lion Street. This building with its Georgian façade, including the obligatory (to Aylsham) pilasters, has recently changed hands, and while carrying out conversions to the property, the new owners have revealed many features of a high status Tudor building. We are grateful to Chris and Charlotte Barringer for their research into the construction and history of the building and the inevitable inconclusive hypotheses that these investigations present (*see their report on p7*).

Leaving Red Lion Street we passed along the Norwich Road, today the main access to the town centre, but constructed relatively recently in 1797, as part of the Norwich to Cromer Turnpike. On the east side of the road is the Manor House (c. 1550) purchased and enlarged by Bishop Jegon (c. 1611), and across the road ‘The Orchards’, an early Tudor revival building, built in 1847 after a design by the architect John Adey Repton for his brother, Aylsham solicitor William Repton.



No 18 Hungate Street. Parts of this survival date from c 1500, including an intact oak mullioned window.



No 18 Red Lion Street with Tudor building behind and late eighteenth century façade.



Hungate Street. The Medieval approach to Aylsham from Norwich. Probably several early Sixteenth Century properties survive.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Passing ‘The Orchards’ we turned right along Palmers Lane and right again into Hungate Street, the original highway into Aylsham from Norwich before the Turnpike. At number 18 we visited, in two groups, a small cottage - part of a building surviving from c. 1500, complete with a first floor mullioned window and possible evidence of a smoke chamber. Continuing back into town, we turned left into Penfold Street and then into Cawston Road, where we paused briefly at the Cawston Road Baptist Chapel, Aylsham’s only George Skipper building, (and, surprisingly, not in Pevsner.) Passing the Queen Anne period ‘Knoll House’, we entered Church Terrace and then the churchyard of St. Michael.

We also paid a visit to Spa Farm, of c.1600, on the southern outskirts of the town, where once there had been a functioning spa, from 1699 to 1829. It too is now brick-clad and has a massive six-flued chimney stack with diaper work and its original high quality roof.

At the end of this visit members of the group dispersed, it is hoped with the knowledge that Aylsham is not the red brick Georgian town that it appears to be, but that in its historic heart most of the buildings are far more ancient, with red brick skins concealing timber framing, as at Harleston. (see Newsletter 10) The frantic remodelling of the town in the late eighteenth century coincided with the coming of the Norwich Turnpike, and it is perhaps an irony that Humphrey Repton, who must have witnessed this transformation when he visited his family here, lies in the churchyard at the centre of this town of red brick, a building medium he shunned.

I would like to thank the house owners for letting the group have access to their homes, and Chris and Charlotte Barringer, the Browns and Vic Nierop-Reading for their constructive input, if not agreement, on aspects of the buildings.

(Mr & Mrs Ian Dunford – 18 Red Lion Street, Mrs Jane Turville Petre – 18 Hungate Street, Alan & Amanda Davies – Spa Farm).

Photos and text: Roger Crouch



An example of later Market Place infill showing at least three distinctive periods of construction.



George Skipper’s legacy to Aylsham. A small chapel on Cawston Road, typical Skipper pediments.



Spa Farm. Enigma of six flues for two internal fireplaces; could they indicate possible lost outbuildings at ground floor level?

(Note: When Susan and I visited Spa Farm on behalf of the Group in 2004 we were intrigued by the hefty six flue stack serving only three (at the most) hearths. The explanation that occurred to us is that it was designed to serve also three hearths of a parlour end that was never built. The unused hearths were sealed by the existing gable wall, the lowest level being broken into for use in the eighteenth century, no doubt in connection with the Spa.

Michael Brown)

18 Red Lion Street, Aylsham Chris and Charlotte Barringer

It is always very difficult actually to pinpoint a particular house in a street until the coming of Trade Directories (1793-1937), censuses and the Tithe map, and so the Barringers found in Aylsham. Early holdings frequently passed through families and became fragmented and unrecognisable later on. It is quite possible that nos.16 and 18 were once two separate urban sites, being joined under one roof and refronted in the early nineteenth century. The Barringers did an enormous amount of research; unfortunately no deeds were found, but references in Aylsham Lancaster Court Books and Court Rolls and rentals were used, although the relevant Court Rolls and books for 1604-8 and 1616-17 were not useable and the property successions were not clear. More work is needed on this period.

Number 18 seems to date from the early- to mid- sixteenth century, and was of high status, judging by the magnificent moulded beams, and was originally gabled to the street. It is not clear yet who actually built the house. However, what ties the early and later references together are the sometimes oblique references to a piece of land called the Olland. After 1725 'the Ollands' referred to a large property which covered the area of what became five properties on the Tithe Map of 1838. Red Lion Street was not known as a name before 1800 and the houses there are thought to have been on the eastern edge of the Market Place, backing on to the Olland and gradually nibbling into it.

In 1607 Thomas Halyfax sr. refers to "my newe mantion house", and 'the shoppe and shoppe chamber' but no location. His mother was Ann Clare widow, and the will of Thomas Cressie in 1613 refers to 'one close containing by estimation eleven acres sometimes Robert Clare's aforesaid.' Cressie already owned a messuage 'next Fairstead' and 'a parcel called Fairstead lying upon Hollande'.

In 1615 another Thomas Halyfax took up his holding of 'a messuage built up 5 spac with barn and stable 10 spac and le backside 1/2 acre in the market place in Aylsham. One piece of land called Leolland 2 roods. 2 pieces in 3 divisions of a toft or messuage called le Tyled House and a garden in the market place in Aylsham... an officinam (workshop) called le backhouse (bakehouse?) formerly held by Robert Clare'.

In 1619 another Thomas Cressy had a piece of land called le Ollandes of 11 acres formerly Robert Clare's, and 142 years later, in 1761 Thomas Bulwer gent. was admitted to "all that messuage and dwelling house with the houses, outhouses, yards and land called the Ollands thereunto belonging". Then James Diggins, a farmer, took it over from 1809 until 1850, when the holding included a butcher, a baker and a coal merchant, and left it to his son in his will in exactly the same words. Thereafter the business premises can be traced. An ironmonger's in 1892, Green's outfitters in 1937 and The Old Tea Rooms today.

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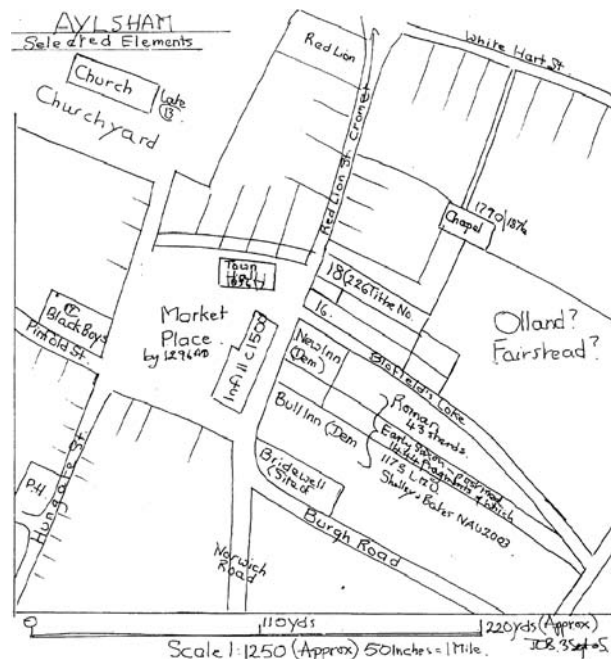
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Court Roll: Aylsham Lancaster NRS 10225

Aylsham in the Seventeenth Century (Summary of Aylsham Rental PRO E315/360) Aylsham Local History Society, Poppyland, 1988.

W.F.Starling (1851-1937) *Memories of Aylsham*, ed. R. Peabody. ALHS With thanks to Tom Mollard.



Aylsham Sketch plan from the Tithe Map of 1838: Selected Elements

Ground floor: Central Support for moulded beams



First floor: Fireplace—west facing (towards Market Place) stack top cut off

First floor: Tie beam and brace in front of stack—wall plate and ?window on south wall. Wattle and daub infill.



First floor: Fireplace—brick infill to west bay of which this brace and its partner survive. Looking east.

Photos and sketch map: Chris and Charlotte Barringer

Norfolk's native building stone

J.R.L. Allen

It perhaps comes as surprise to realise just what a variety of building stone sourced within the county is to be found in Norfolk's historic and vernacular buildings. Geologically, these materials originate in formations assigned to the Cretaceous period and to the more recent Pleistocene epoch. A variety of sandstones, chalks and flint have come from the former, while the latter has provided loose flint gravels, ironpans, and brick-making earths.

The oldest formation to have been exploited is the early Cretaceous Leziate Beds, a series of loose, off-white sands outcropping in the far west of the county from Heacham southward to Downham Market. Around Castle Rising, however, the sands include cemented horizons (Leziate quartzite) which were exploited from Roman times to the nineteenth century, as many buildings in the area testify. The Romans faced the fort of *Branodunum* with this dazzling stone, probably shipping it along the coast from the Babingley River, and also carried it, again probably by sea, to make a substantial building at Reedham on the Yare in east Norfolk. Both structures became a secondary source of the stone as the result of thorough robbing. The parish churches around Reedham include Roman Leziate quartzite, now weathered to iron grey, and along the north coast the stone can be traced in domestic and ecclesiastical buildings (e.g. St. Mary, Brancaster) from Holme-next-the-Sea as far to the east as All Saints at Warham. It is perhaps no coincidence that William d'Albini II chose the stone for his twelfth-century castle and church at Castle Rising.

Of much greater importance are two, slightly younger, early Cretaceous formations in west Norfolk, the Dersingham Beds, outcropping from Heacham to King's Lynn, and the Carstone, with a lengthy outcrop from the cliffs at Hunstanton southward to the valley of the Little Ouse. The Dersingham Beds are brown, ferruginous sandstones which, splitting readily into thin plates, yield the building material known as small or little carr. The Carstone, lying immediately above, gradually changes in character from north to south. In the north, especially around Heacham and Snettisham, the formation is a thickly bedded, foxy brown, ferruginous sandstone which can be worked and even moulded as large blocks, the big carr. The coarse, pebbly variety is known as puddingstone. Between King's Lynn and Downham Market, however, the formation is more like the Dersingham Beds, and was worked chiefly for small carr.

These two forms of carrstone, or 'stone from the fen', were extensively exploited in a variety of construction treatments from medieval times to the present day, and are found in ecclesiastical, public and domestic buildings over a wide area. The stone was used for early schools at March in the Fenland, fronts the Methodist Chapel in St. Ives, appears in an estate lodge near East Dereham, in a school at Gorleston-on-Sea, and in the Central Library at Great Yarmouth. Along with chalk and flint, it is used in housing developments taking place in the designated coastal zone of the west and north.

The towns of Hunstanton and Downham Market and

the parishes of the Sandringham Estate represent the epitome of carrstone use. Small carr from the Dersingham Beds dominates agricultural and domestic buildings in the latter parishes. Downham Market, with medieval origins, is the small-carr town *par excellence*, the stone (from the Carstone) appearing in many cottages and public buildings. New Hunstanton plays this role with respect to big carr, but in contrast is a planned late nineteenth-century settlement. Here big carr is seen in a rich variety of architectural styles and construction treatments: randomized (e.g. Town Hall), roughly coursed (many houses), snecked (e.g. Golden Lion Hotel, many villas), and sawn and rubbed as close-fitting ashlar (e.g. Princess Theatre). Perhaps the finest example of the latter treatment in the area, along with moulded big carr, is the stables (The Square) at Houghton Hall of the early eighteenth century.

The later Cretaceous Red Chalk and the Chalk proper - both fine-grained marine limestones - crop out to the east of the Carstone. Indeed, the Chalk underlies most of Norfolk as far east as Norwich. Material from the Red Chalk, a bed only about 1 m thick, is mainly limited to buildings local to Hunstanton. Rather than serving as the main construction material, it is more often used decoratively, as at St. Andrew, Little Massingham, and St. Edmund, New Hunstanton. Much more widely distributed is the Chalk proper, the harder layers of which yield clunch. Used judiciously, clunch responds well to weathering. It affords rough flooring when crushed, wall-core, and walling as either rubble or sawn blocks. Rubble and especially dressed clunch grace very many cottages and farm buildings along the north coast from Holme-next-the-Sea to Burnham Overy, and then southward along the valley of the Burne. Clunch abounds in a string of villages, such as Marham and Methwold, below the Chalk escarpment between Grimston (King's Lynn) and the Little Ouse.

As in East Anglia generally, flint is the most widely recognised building and decorative stone in Norfolk but also one of the most diverse. Buildings in flint - especially churches - are ubiquitous, but the stone is not common in settlements on the slopes overlooking The Wash and the eastern Fens. Flint originates in the higher beds of the Chalk, whence it can be dug as large, irregular nodules capable of being shaped by knapping. It has been extracted to a much greater extent, however, from Pleistocene water-worn, pebble-cobble gravels (mainly fluvial) scattered throughout the county, and from beaches along the north coast east of Weybourne. Whereas beach flints are grey, the dug cobbles are commonly iron-stained.

Chemical processes associated with the water-table have ensured that many of the Pleistocene sands and gravels distributed throughout Norfolk are strongly cemented with iron compounds to form a range of dark brown to almost black, massively bedded ironpans. These have often been mistakenly identified as carrstone, but can be distinguished by the presence of chips, granules or pebbles of flint and, in the case of

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the finest-grained, by a cindery, cavernous texture. Saxon and Norman church-builders in particular favoured these rocks for footings, walling, quoins and buttresses, as at St. Andrew, Great Ryburgh, St. Andrew, West Dereham, and the Bishop's Chapel, North Elmham. The stone appeared sporadically in domestic buildings up to the nineteenth century, as at Docking and North Runcton, but was never as plentiful as other materials such as big or small carr.

It would be inappropriate to conclude without some reference to brick and terracotta in Norfolk, a secondary material of considerable variety, demanding further research. Historically, bricks have been made from Cretaceous, Pleistocene and post-glacial clays in the west of the county and elsewhere from widely distributed Pleistocene brickearths. Up until the mid-twentieth century the industry was essentially local in organisation, with almost every parish in the nineteenth century possessing a yard. The few large manufactories were linked either to estates (e.g. Holkham) or to the biggest settlements (King's Lynn, Norwich). Fancy brickwork and terracotta was also produced for consumption within the county but, surprisingly, there is evidence (St. Peter, Stow Bardolph) that in Edwardian times terracotta building blocks were imported from as far afield as Bristol.

These materials, and the medieval-to-modern buildings of which they are composed, contribute irreplaceably to the rich character of the Norfolk landscape. They merit continued research and sympathetic care.

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- Allen, J.R.L. (2006) **St. Peter's Chapel, Stow Bardolph: Bristol terracotta in southwest Norfolk.** Norfolk Archaeology (forthcoming).
- Hart, S. (2000) Flint Architecture of East Anglia. London, Giles de la Mre.
- Lucas, H. (1997) **Neo-Gothic, Neo-Tudor, Ne-Renaissance: the Costessey Brickyard.** *The Victorian Society Journal* (for 1997), pp. 25-37.
- Lucas, R. (2000) **Brickmaking on Norfolk commons.** Norfolk Archaeology 43, 457-468.

Books to Read

Mennim, A.M., (2005) *Hall Houses*, Sessions of York. 278 pp, 307 ills. ISBN 1 85072 328 1

Hunneyball, P.M., (2004) *Architecture and Image-Building in Seventeenth-Century Hertfordshire*, Oxford University Press. 218 pp., 42 b&w plates, 12 b&w ills. ISBN 0 19 926386 8

Hall, L., (2005) *Period House Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900*, Countryside Books. 224 pp.442 b&w ills. ISBN 1 85306 742 3. £12.99

Palmer, M. & Neaverson, P., (2005) *The Textile Industry of South-West England. A Social Archaeology*, Tempus. 160 pp., 68 b&w photos & illustrations, 32 colour photos. ISBN 0 7524 3133 1

Carter, T. & Collins Cromley, E., (2005) *Invitation to Vernacular Architecture. A Guide to the Study of Ordinary Buildings and Landscapes*, The University of Tennessee Press. 120 pp., 90 ills. ISBN 1 57233-331-6

Robson, P., (1991, revised 2005) *Structural Appraisal of Traditional Buildings*, Donhead Publishing Ltd. 399 pp., more than 150 ills & b&w plates. ISBN 1 873394 68 3. £39.50

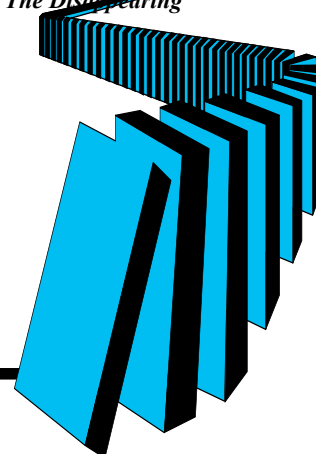
Suggett, R., (2005) *Houses & History in the March of Wales. Radnorshire 1400-1800*, RCAHMW. 344 pp., 284 ills & b&w plates. ISBN 1-871184-23-1. £30.00.

Gilchrist, R., (2005) *Norwich Cathedral Close. The Evolution of the English Cathedral Landscape*, The Boydell Press. 294 pp., 93 ills & b&w photographs. ISBN 1843831732. £30.00

Rodwell, K. and Bell, R., (and other contributors), *Acton Court: The evolution of an early Tudor courtier's house*, English Heritage (2004). xxii + 444pp, 20 plates, 279 figs, 59 tables, card covers. ISBN 1 873592 63 9. £75.

Adam Menuge, *Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Recording Practice* English Heritage (2006)

Symmons, C., & Harkin, S., (2004), *The Disappearing Irish Cottage: A Case Study of North Donegal*, Wordwell Ltd 102 pp, 164 colour photographs. ISBN: 186985778x



Beech Cottage, 103, Norwich Road, Tacolneston

Map ref: TM143951



Beech Cottage, Tacolneston (Photo: M Brown)



Beech Cottage, Tacolneston: sketch by owner, 2005

Interpretation

This cottage was probably built in the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century as a two bay single storey property, possibly with a lobby entry alongside the brick stack. When built it was open to the roof. During the eighteenth century flooring was put in to provide upstairs accommodation. Access to this may have been through a hatch into the S bedroom. Around 1800 a staircase was added to improve access upstairs.

External

This small timber-framed cottage is approx 12' 10" across by 25' 7" long. It has a thatched roof. The single storey external walls are rendered. A number of extensions join the house to the rear of the building. The cottage is adjacent to a small piece of land called "The Bleach" (Photo 1).

Internal

Ground Floor (Fig 1): The cottage comprises two bays with two fireplaces using a central stack. The fireplace is built in English bond, perhaps for strength. The bricks are fairly narrow. There is decorative ovolo moulding on the twelfth course of bricks from the bottom. There is evidence that a bread oven existed in both fireplaces. There is evidence of metal work for hanging pans on the mantle beam of the north room. It is likely therefore that this was the kitchen or general room and the south room was the parlour or best room. The walls are timber framing of quite a narrow scantling and there are inverted arch braces on the end walls (Fig. 2). Scribed carpenter's marks are visible on many of the studs (Fig. 3). There is evidence that a door once existed in the lobby entry position alongside the fireplace. This may have been the original door (see spacing in Fig. 4). Ceilings have been inserted into the house during the eighteenth century. In both rooms the common joists are resting on a clamp, and tenoned into a principal axial joist (Fig. 1 and Fig. 5) The ends of the axial joist in the north room rest on short timbers, which run between and are nailed to two studs. The principal joist in the south room is a compound joist with

sunk quadrant moulding. A pine staircase going up from the north-east corner allows access to the upstairs. This was built later than the inserted floor. There is evidence the ledge (for the common joists), which once continued to the corner of the room, has been subsequently cut through.

Upstairs: At the top of the stairs is a simple Georgian stair rail (Photo 2). There is evidence from peg holes of an earlier window near the top of the north end wall for ventilation purposes. The current window is an eighteenth century casement window. This is slightly lower down.

There are now two bedrooms in the roof void. The roof has two pairs of principal rafters, which are joined at the ridge by a tenon (Fig. 6). The collar is also tenoned in with two pegs on either side. There is a ridge piece running along the apex of the roof. The inline purlins have been shaved back (suggesting the later seventeenth century). They are tenoned into the rafters. There are chiselled carpenter's marks on the principal rafters. A tie beam adjacent to the stack, just above floor level, has two empty mortices consistent with a queen strut (Fig. 5) There is no evidence that these went in to the existing rafters and are not below the existing principal rafters. It is likely therefore that the cottage had an earlier roof.

Karen Mackie



Beech Cottage: simple Georgian stair rail

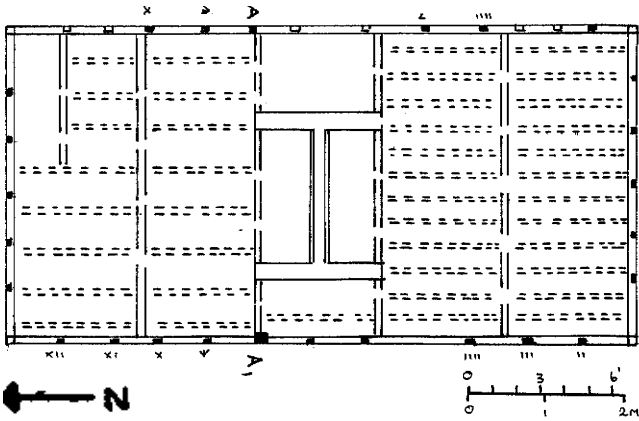


Figure 1 Ground Floor Plan

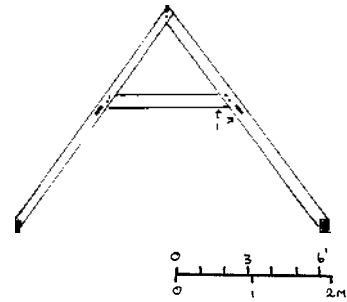


Figure 6 Principal Truss

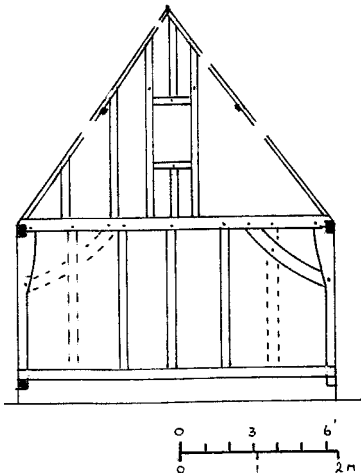


Figure 2 North elevation with inserted floor Gable Window

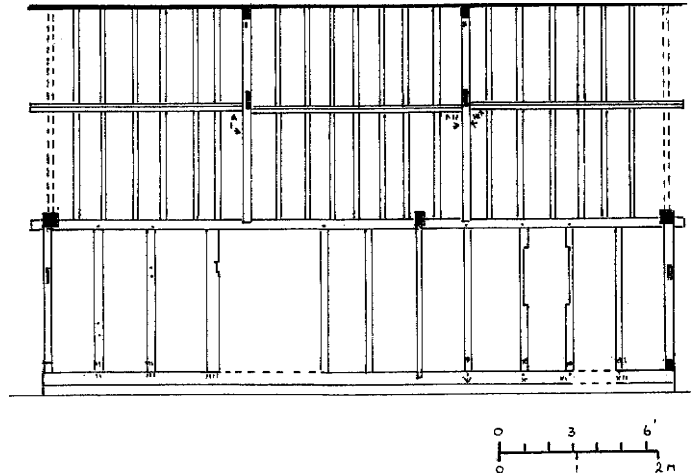


Figure 3 West elevation (internal) chimney not shown

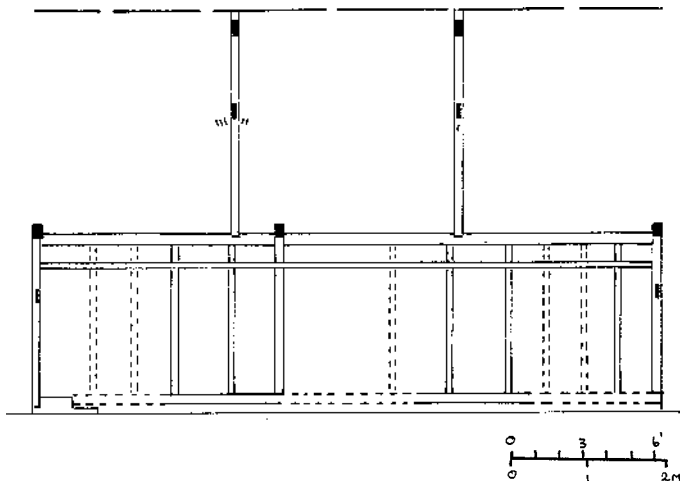


Figure 4 East wall (internal) with later floor clamp

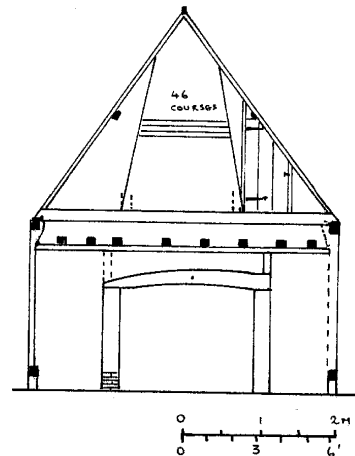


Figure 5 Cross-Section A – A' North Face

Beech Cottage, 103 Norwich Road, Tacolneston, Norfolk
 Figures 1-4, 6 Imperial
 Surveyed by S Brown, M Brown, R Crouch, L Hodge & K Mackie
 All Drawings finished by Susan J Brown
 December, 2005

Beech Cottage, 103 Norwich Road, Tacolneston, Norfolk
 Figure 5, Metric, Original drawing by Karen Mackie
 Surveyed by S Brown, M Brown, R Crouch, L Hodge & K Mackie
 All Drawings finished by Susan J Brown
 December, 2005

Moulded Pier Arcades Ian Hinton, NHBG Churches Sub-Group

This is an interim report of the activities of the rather grandly-named church and chapel sub-group during the summer of 2005. Our detailed research aims were set out in an earlier *Newsletter*, but briefly we are interested in the development of the moulded arcade pier in Norfolk churches and whether this can be linked to the work of specific masons or patrons.

We were motivated by the seminal work of Birkin Haward covering all the churches of Suffolk, also work by Richard Fawcett in Norfolk in the 1970s, who studied different details of mouldings, and more recently by John Blatchly and Peter Northeast in Suffolk and Norfolk linking specific flint features to named masons – some examples of which feature in all 3 of these works.

Rather than try and cover all the 60 churches that we have studied so far, or trying to summarise the research in this short article, I intend to pick out a few features that have interesting aspects.

Octagonal piers – although we are not actually recording these in detail, as there few differences that are likely to be identifiable, we have taken basic measurements of their dimensions. Almost all of them are regular sided octagons with each side measuring between 20 and 21 cm.. A good case can be made for these being cut at the quarry and bought by the church-builder “by the metre (yard)”. They weigh some 15% less than the square from which they were cut, making them cheaper to transport at a time when transport costs were considerably higher than the cost of the stone itself.

However, two octagonal piers are different, with very unequal sides – at Deopham and Diddlington. These weigh almost the same as the square from which they were cut, which begs the question, why not use an equal sided octagonal pier? As far as we know, this shape does not occur anywhere else in East Anglia.

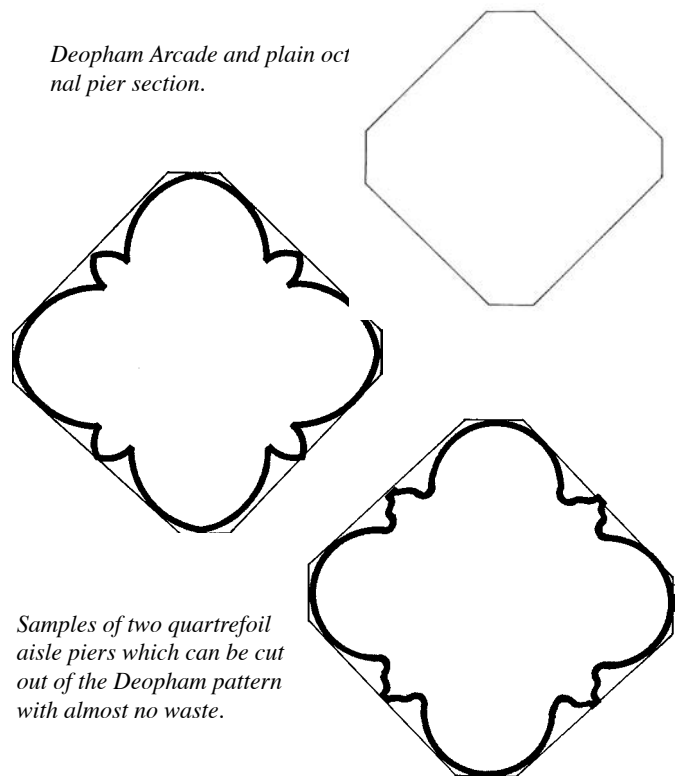
As more quatrefoil piers have been measured, we have noticed that almost all of them can be cut from this unequally sided octagon with minimal waste. Were these unequal octagons sold from the quarry as ‘blanks’ from which the on-site mason could cut the desired shape? This could explain the additional costs incurred in transport. If the patrons at Deopham and Diddlington ran out of money and could not afford the additional work by the mason, or if the mason was subsequently unable to perform the work, it would explain why the unadorned stones were erected in the arcades here, and perhaps why there are so few of them.

Haward classified all the pier cross-sections in Suffolk into fifteen groups. As you might expect, this being Norfolk and used to doing things differently, we have already identified five additional groups!

Surveying churches every Tuesday during the summer has proved an enormously satisfying project. We still have at least half the county to cover and will be starting again around Easter-time. We would welcome anyone who wishes to join us on our days out. Speak to Ian Hinton, George Fenner or Robin Forrest if you are interested.



Deopham Arcade and plain octagonal pier section.



Samples of two quatrefoil aisle piers which can be cut out of the Deopham pattern with almost no waste.

(Ian: 01502 475287 George: 01603 6206901 Robin: 01603 742315)

The VAG Winter Conference, Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey, December 2005 Jill Napier

The VAG Winter Conference 2005 re-examined W.G.Hoskins's famous and influential paper "The Rebuilding of Rural England, 1570-1640" published in *Past and Present*, 4, 1953.

Chris Dyer, who now occupies Hoskins's chair at Leicester University, opened with a critique of Hoskins's work but also praised the revolutionary approach to landscape and local history in the 1950's which has impacted on the discipline today. Dyer's own discussion developed the idea of the importance of the message – the plot and its boundaries – as an important social and legal unit which survived rebuilding, alteration and demolition over centuries. His discussion was followed by Mark Gardiner with an archaeologist's view of early medieval building plans and techniques based on a large scale examination of excavation plans from urban and rural sites in England. Gardiner noted a change in technique or development from timber buildings erected using a "post in trench" technology to a more flexible "post hole" technology which continued to be used into the early medieval period.

Surviving buildings, in both timber and stone, from this period were discussed by Nat Alcock. Eight early timber framed buildings survive from before 1200, dated by dendrochronology. They include the aisled halls Fyfield Hall and the Bishop's Palace at Hereford. The development of cruck framing followed (earliest dated example at Siddington, Gloucester 1245) but the survival of cruck buildings remains problematic. Those which provided height could be adapted later and survived; single storey buildings which failed to provide flexibility did not.

Adam Longcroft took us into the 16th and 17th Centuries with a discussion of possible developments in Norfolk. He noted that Hoskins's precise dating of the rebuilding of housing 1570 – 1640 and its links to a new, emergent middle class prosperity do not stand up to scrutiny. In Norfolk, as elsewhere (see Kent for example in S.Pearson, *Vernacular Architecture* 32, 2001),

significant changes in rebuilding were more varied; important changes occurred from 1660-1739. Areas where grazing was predominant and which were arguably less prosperous than predominantly arable farming areas show the same developments in housing stock. How representative are the buildings that have survived from this period in any case? Numbers of semi permanent buildings have failed to survive, where height and size have ensured the survival of others.

Adrian Green examined social and family reasons for the rebuilding of houses in the 16th and 17th Centuries. Key issues affecting housing he suggested were household size, infant mortality, adult life expectancy (about 42.7 years on average at its peak in 1581), family groupings – survival of widows – and the age and incidence of marriage. Before people became householders, they had to be economically secure. Adrian Green noted a correlation between marriages and the rebuilding of houses (sometimes celebrated by date stones).

Ian Goodhall's case study of Helmsley, 20 miles from York, provided an example of the rebuilding and development of what became an estate town "owned" first by the Dukes of Rutland in the late 16th and early 17th centuries and then acquired by the Duncan family.

The conference ended by considering evidence for rebuilding from Llansilin – Llangedwyn, Wales, and the consolidation of farm holdings as a response to changes in land tenure and the Glyndwr Rebellion and rebuildings and vernacular thresholds in Scotland. Both were beyond the remit of Hoskins's original focus and gave a wider perspective and fresh approach to perhaps one of the most influential and enduring "myths" of landscape studies and vernacular architecture.

Dereham Antiquarian Society

NHBG will be visiting Dereham this summer, but if you cannot join the Group on that date, do contact the DAS and find out more about the town.

Founded in 1953 and a registered educational charity, the DAS is Dereham's Local History Group. There is a winter programme with visiting speakers and, in the summer, afternoon and evening visits are arranged to places of historical interest.

There is also a quarterly newsletter. The Society supports and administers the Dereham Archive and the Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum, where members act as stewards.

Contact: Membership Secretary, Joan Cole, DAS, 18 Cemetery Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2ET. Tel: 01362 693688.

News and Views

Editor's Note

It is pleasant, as I look out on the snowy garden, to dream of wine and strawberries, and the merry throng of NHBG members that we hope will be disporting themselves there on 1st July. We shall be well into our summer programme by then which looks to be, as usual, full of good things. I would be so grateful if, perhaps as you book a place, one or two of you might offer to take notes or write a report on the day out that you have chosen. Please let me know. You'll be interested to know that in the current Volume 36 (2005) of Vernacular Architecture is a very nice review of the NHBG New Buckenham Journal by Christopher Dyer, with phrases like "deserves to be known outside Norfolk" and "a welcome model for other building surveys," plus one or two cogent criticisms. In the same volume Susan and Michael Brown and Ian Tyers contribute to an article on Tree Ring Dating. We are, as I write, coming to the end of the winter programme which has been most successful, drawing large audiences and a busy hum of conversation afterwards – always a good sign!

Alayne Fenner
01603 620690
a.fenner@macunlimited.net



Lunch at Besthorpe Old Manor Training Day

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group 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
Tel: 01603 620 690 [h]
e.mail: g.fenner@macunlimited.net

Lynne Hodge *Committee Secretary*
3 Aspen Way Cringleford, NR4 6UA
Tel: 01603 452186 [h]
e.mail: lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk

Sue Shand *Treasurer*
Tibenham Farm, Long Row, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1PD
Tel: 01379 677677[h]
e.mail: SUSHAND@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

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

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

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

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

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

Rosemary Forrest *Newsletter*
3 Highlands, Old Costessey, Norwich NR8 5EA
Tel: 01603 742 315 [h]
e.mail: forrest.rosemary@gmail.com

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

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

Karen Mackie *UEA Liaison*
44 Norwich Road, Tacolneston NR16 1BY
Tel: 01508 488467 [h]
e.mail: karen@tacolneston.freeserve.co.uk

Letter

Adam Longcroft recently received this rather uplifting e-mail from Janet and Malcolm Dyer of New Romney in Kent, who arrived there eighteen months ago from 1930s London Suburbia. They bought a house of apparent great age, so had it surveyed by Archaeology SE (UCL) who identified it as an early fourteenth century stone-built, single-aisled hall house, which stands substantially intact, apart from the replacement of the 'lower end' by a stone and timber jettied cross wing of around 1400, a fireplace, in lieu of the open hearth, of c. 1480–1500, and subsequent flooring over of the hall. "What seemed incredible to us is that it took two almost entirely ignorant people, (neither of us had ever even heard of such a thing as a 'Hall House') who had never lived in anything older than 1930 to uncover this!" It was apparently listed in 1951 as 'medieval', but the Dyers have since had it re-listed as Grade II*. "How many more buildings remain hidden and possibly threatened by demolition or redevelopment due to this inaccurate listing?", asks Malcolm. Indeed. "Hence our enthusiasm for your website. What a fabulous idea to have a countywide historic buildings group which appears so well researched and organised! We just wish such a thing could exist here." Adam thanked them for their kind words and pointed them in the right direction.

*Janet and Malcolm Dyer,
Plantagenet House,
West Street, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8DG
tel:1797361772.
E-mail: Mdyer004@aol.com*

ADVANCE NOTICE

Historic Farm Buildings Group Conference 2006

The annual Historic Farm Buildings Group Conference will be held from the **15th –17th September** and based at the Holiday Inn on the outskirts of Ipswich. Suffolk is well known for its wealth of timber-framed buildings set in beautiful countryside.

Saturday's outing will include a detailed study of the farms of one village and other sites in the Gipping valley to the north-west of Ipswich and on Sunday we will go to the southeast. We plan to include both typical and estate farms as well as some of the finest manorial sites in the county.

We will be introduced to the region in presentations by local experts and will hear from a local planning officer how he sees the future for these buildings as well as from DEFRA about their policies and the help they can offer. The conference will therefore be of interest to all those who take pleasure in farm buildings in general and are concerned for their future as well as those with a specific interest in East Anglian buildings.

The cost will be £190 to include accommodation to members and £210 for non-members.

An application form is available on the HFBG website (www.hfbg.org.uk) or from the organiser (scwmartins@hotmail.com).

Strategy Group

The Strategy group was given the brief of considering and reporting on the future directions that the Group might take. We split this into the broad headings of Membership, Education, Research and Publication. We met several times over the winter and reported to the Committee in January with a framework within which to take our future decisions. This is a very brief summary

Membership

It was felt that membership level was about right, and we should aim to keep the numbers between 200 and 300 and to try and involve and engage as many members as possible - to have an active, rather than passive, organization.

Education

We should aim to broaden our programme of visits and hands-on activities. We do need to retain the interest of current members and retain the membership of new members by ensuring that our programmes continue to stimulate. Whilst the independence of the Group is seen to be important, it was felt that the needs of the Group for a supply of experienced researchers could be improved by working in partnership with the University to train building recorders and documentary researchers, courses will be organized.

Research

The very high standard of the Group's work on New Buckenham and elsewhere must be maintained to retain the credibility this has gained us in the field.

Whilst, in theory, a balanced research agenda is ideal, it is recognized that research will always be limited by the number of active researchers, the time that they can spare and their individual preferences. Emphasis should be placed on the support that the Group can provide for individuals undertaking their own research.

Publication

The Group's most public face is its published output. Our newsletter and both the journals have received excellent feedback and reviews, we should strive to ensure that these levels are maintained. A publication sub-committee has been set up to discuss the format, content, and schedule for the next Journals.

Strategy sub-committee: George Fenner, Ian Hinton, Adam Longcroft, Jill Napier.



Spotted during a Churches and Chapels' expedition to the west: one of the wonderful pew ends dating to the fifteenth century at Wighenhall St Germans.

“The recorder’s experience” – Besthorpe Old Hall.

January 19 dawned, cold and wet. The members of the recording team made their way to Old Hall, following Sue’s instructions, ‘left after Attleborough industrial estate’. Perhaps like me, Nicholas Pevsner’s downbeat description had lodged in the mind. What a relief then, having penetrated the late nineteenth century exterior, to find such a wealth of timber detail inside.

In a quick overview, Michael identified a screens passage, ovolo mouldings, a ‘new’ house by 1536 and possible Manor court room. Upstairs everywhere was increasingly timbered, with studding and bracing puzzles to be solved in enfilade bedrooms, now also served by a corridor, evidently unusual for a sixteenth century farmhouse. Above, a clean roof – one long

floored space, with Queen strut bays - and here I stayed for an intensive experience amongst the roof timbers.

Around a dozen of us, led by Sue and Michael, covered details as varied as stained glass and heraldry, moulded ceiling joists, unusually constructed panelled doors, and identified the various changes to the fireplaces and chimneys. It is only through taking part in such an endeavour, that one learns new skills, techniques and, above all, terminology! Only this painstaking detail will reveal the puzzles to be resolved in establishing the phases of a vernacular building.

The upcoming exhibition will be both pleasure and revelation!

Adrian Parker

Distribution Map of Properties Visited

The map shows the distribution of the buildings, all but one being houses, which the Group has been asked to look at by the householders. There are gaps in the coverage, particularly where population is thin, but generally the distribution seems to be good with a range of types and dates. New Buckenham has been omitted to avoid the distortion of fifty houses in one spot (map by Robin Forrest).



Digest of Buildings Visited Recently (January 2006)

Belton, 1 Station Road South

A two-cell, one and a half storey brick house of the late seventeenth century, rendered and thatched.

Besthorpe, Old Hall

An early sixteenth century house (documentary date perhaps 1536) on a moated site, timber-framed and now brick-clad or rendered, with interesting internal arrangements involving a possible court hall and an early first floor corridor.

Diss, 50 Mount Street

A tripartite post-medieval house with an interesting moulded screen in the cross-passage and surviving early plaster treatment to the hearth of the hall chamber.

Ditchingham, Holly Bush Farm

On the site of an open-hall house (excavated central hearth), the west end may represent the survival of the original parlour. The roof raise (jowled queen posts) of the basic one and a half storey building has been managed by scarfing new jowled tops onto the existing posts.

Croxton, Croxton Farm

A seventeenth century tripartite house in flint and brick with a central stack serving hall and parlour (now demolished).

Hingham, 19 Market Place

The fragmentary remains of a one and a half storey post-medieval tripartite house with jowled queen post roof and seventeenth century rear extension.

Hingham, Cutbush Farm

A seventeenth century asymmetrical lobby-entrance house with queen post roof, timber-framed and thatched originally but now fronted with nineteenth century brick and roofed with shingles.

Harleston, 1 London Road

A grand nineteenth century brick facade hides the remains of an early sixteenth century timber-framed open hall house with queen post roof and a handsome inserted hall ceiling.

Holme-next-the-sea, The Old Farmhouse

An early seventeenth century tripartite house with a gabled parlour cross-wing; this building includes brick, flint, chalk and carstone in its walls.

Keswick, Honeysuckle Cottage

Now clad in brick, a late seventeenth century timber-framed lobby-entrance house with a brick wrap-around gable for display and a late jowled queen post roof.

Ketteringham, Hall Farm Cottages

An important late sixteenth century house in brick with a stair tower, original first floor corridor and an anomalous collar-rafter roof.

Ketteringham, 2 Wellgate Cottage

A late fifteenth century open-hall and service rooms with later roof raise, chimney stack and hall ceiling (and a possible passing-brace?).

Little Snoring, Tithe Cottage

A lobby-entrance house of the mid-seventeenth century with massive flint walls and an eighteenth century roof.

Mattishall, Clippings Green Farm

on a moated site, a late sixteenth century timber-framed house with the roof raised in the seventeenth century and eighteenth century extensions.

Tacolneston, 44 Norwich Road

The remnant of an early sixteenth century two bay timber-framed house of one and a half storeys concealed within the later brick structure: the lower part of a timber chimney survives.

Tacolneston, The Old House, 60a Norwich Road

This comprises the hall and service rooms of a fifteenth century open-hall house with formerly a queen post roof of some quality; the hall now ceiled, with an eighteenth century roof. The parlour is in the house next door, as yet unseen.

Tacolneston, Beech Cottage, 103 Norwich Road

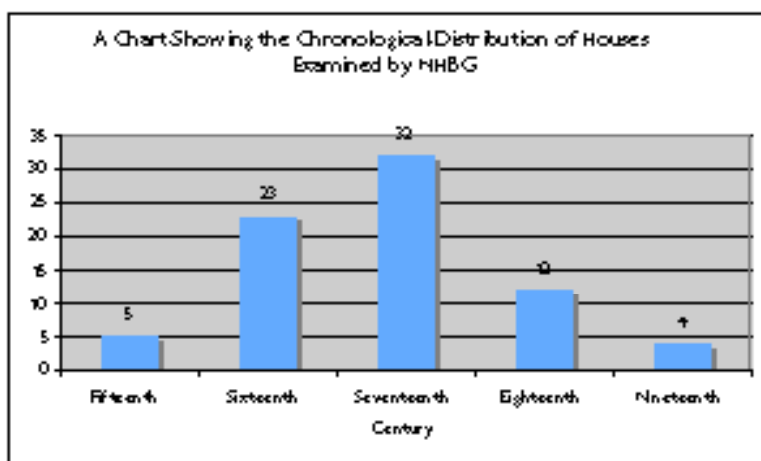
A tiny lobby-entrance house of the seventeenth century originally a single storey open to the roof but later floored, the queen post roof being replaced in the eighteenth century.

Thurgarton, Bridge Farm

A mid-seventeenth century lobby-entrance house in brick with contemporary roof and dormer windows and later re-cladding in the eighteenth century.

Wacton, The White House

A timber-framed tripartite house of the early seventeenth century apparently. Are the first and attic floors original or later insertion? A puzzle.



Day Schools

Essex Historic Buildings Group
Saturday 29 July 2006

Historic Buildings in Towns Medieval to Early Modern

Cressing Temple Barns

Cost: £18.00 (EHBG Members £15.00)

Lunch Extra at £6.00

Contact:

Ian Greenbeld, Yew Tree Cottage, Stanbrook,
Thaxted, Essex CM6 2NL

Town Houses 1100-1500..... Sarah Pearson
Planning in Towns of Medieval
& Early Modern Suffolk..... John Ridgard
London Town Houses in the
16th and 17th Centuries..... John Schofield
Shops and Guildhalls..... Leigh Alston
Inns and Taverns.....Janet Pennington

Suffolk Historic Buildings Group

Saturday 17th June 2006

A Wealth of Old Beams

at Lavenham

A day school to be held at Lavenham on the analysis of timber-framed houses—their form, function and dating. Speakers: Adrian Gibson, Anne Padfield, Leigh Alston.

Contact:

Jane Gosling, SHBG Hon. Secretary, 1 Lady Street, Lavenham
CO10 9RA, tel: 01787 247646. / www.shbgroup.plus.com

(Note: I believe Susan Brown (01362 688362) also has some application forms. These Day Schools are good days out, do go.)



Courses

NHBG and Continuing Education, UEA

Proposed Partnership Courses

*Recording and Interpreting Standing
Buildings

*Tracing the History of Your House

10 credit units

Tutor: Adam Longcroft
Day: Thursday evenings
Time: 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm
Duration: 10 weeks
NHBG Liaison: Karen Mackie e.mail:
karen@taolneston.freemove.co.uk
tel: 01508 488467

The Group is proposing, in the autumn, to undertake a new venture with UEA Continuing Education Department. It is hoped that by taking this action more members will be given the opportunity of gaining experience in both recording and tracing the history of buildings, thereby encouraging them to join the Group's recording and documentary work.

By working in partnership it will be possible for the Group to subsidise an individuals costs. The final details of charges have yet to be agreed. Initially we are looking at New Buckenham as a venue, or the University.

Karen Mackie (see contact details above) has undertaken to act as the applications contact for those NHBG members wishing to apply. Initially, it would be of assistance to the Group if anyone who feels they may wish to take part could contact Karen. She will then be able to tell you more about the proposal and it will given the Group an idea of the number of members who are willing to get hands-on. Each of the units will be of 10 weeks duration, and will comprise a combination of regular weekly evening classes and fieldwork (the latter will be on Saturdays). They will also carry university credits and will give NHBG members an opportunity to work towards a university qualification.



*Two ends of the same
tape measure in Be-
sthorpe Old Hall Roof*

NHBG SUMMER 2006

This year we have thirteen events; every effort has been made to hold them at weekends and in the evening. Places on some events are very limited particularly where they take place in private houses. Events are primarily for members and again we have to operate on a first come first served basis—so decide quickly! Should there be any spaces, the cost is double for non-members. Application forms are enclosed with the Newsletter and should be returned to the named contact. To help distribute the places fairly, please state whether your choice has a high or low priority. Thanks to Karen Mackie, Carol Nutt, Tony Wright, Penny Clarke and to Ian and Rosemary for their contributions.

Jill Napier (01508 489469 e.mail: jcnapier@hotmail.com)

Church Measuring Day led by Ian Hinton and George Fenner

Date: Saturday 22nd April
Time: 10.00 am - 3.00 pm
Meet: near Norwich, to be decided
Food: bring your own
Cost: £5
Limit: 12
Contact: Ian Hinton
(01502 475287 e.mail: ian.hinton@tesco.net)

Ever wondered what the Church & Chapel Group do? This is your opportunity to gain practical experience. If you so wish, Ian will help you to record a church and give advice on the all-important drawing up. George will guide you on how to study a church and the documentary sources. Location to be decided - but it will be near Norwich.

Diss Town Walk and Buildings (Repeat Visit from a different angle but the same good lunch spot)

Date: Saturday 6th May
Time: 10.30 am - about 4.00 pm
Meet: The Saracen's Head
Lunch: The Saracen's Head (included)
Cost: £16
Limit: 20
Walking: Lots of walking
Contact: Carol Nutt
(01379 640007 e.mail: carol.nutt@btinternet.com)

Meet at the seventeenth century Saracen's Head where coffee will be available (not included). Sue and Michael Brown will be surveying the building during our morning walk and we shall be looking at their findings after lunch in the Pub. Mark Kenyon will be the leader of the walk and it is hoped that visits to 3/4 buildings will be possible; one the Manor House which may have a sixteenth century centre.

Churchman House, Norwich

Date: Thursday 11 May
Time: 1.50 pm - 4.00 pm
Meet: Churchman House, St. Giles St, Norwich
Cost: £5
Limit: 20
Contact: Tony Wright (01603 452041 e.mail: tonywright@nfk2.freemove.co.uk)

Churchman House is now The Registrar's Office. This is an Eighteenth Century house, the home of the Churchman Family, Aldermen of the city of Norwich. The visit will be led by Vic Nierop-Reading, who will discuss the history of the house and will describe the renovation project which he led to convert the building to its present use.

Weald and Downland Museum, Sussex

Date: Saturday 20th May
Cost: £20
Limit: 25
Contact: Tony Wright (01603 452041 e.mail: tonywright@nfk2.freemove.co.uk)

A stunning collection of timber framed buildings re-erected on a beautiful site overlooked by the South Downs - this Spring treat will be led by master carpenter Joe Thompson, who is based at the Museum. Those wishing to go will be responsible for their own transport and accommodation. Tony will be able to help those wishing for transport and has a list of local accommodation.

Dereham Town Walk

Date: Friday 2nd June
Time: 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm
Meet: Bishop Bonners Cottage Museum
Parking: opposite the Museum in the Council car parking
Walking: yes
Limit: 20
Cost: £5
Contact: Penny Clarke (01263 833280 e.mail: pennyclarke@sizzel.net)

Visit will be led by Dereham Antiquarian Society. One of Norfolk's gems—this town walk will include a visit to the fifteenth century house, now Bishop Bonners museum, the magnificent parish church, and a guided walk around the town centre. Marvel at the number of public houses Dereham once had!

Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 10th June
Time: 2.00 pm

All welcome at the annual AGM to be held at Hales Church **BUT** do please come for the late morning and afternoon church explo-

NHBG Summer 2006 (cont)

Continued from page 19

ration with Ian and George at both Hales and Haddiscoe. Bring your own picnic lunch. More over...

Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 10th June
Meet: Hales Church
Time: 2.00 pm

All welcome at the annual AGM to be held at Hales Church **BUT** do please come for the late morning and afternoon also and, with Ian Hinton and George Fenner, explore:

Hales and Haddiscoe Churches

Date: Saturday 10th June
Time: 12.00 noon at Hales
Lunch: B-Y-O picnic before the AGM
Time: after AGM, at Haddiscoe
Limit: None at all; do come to part or all of the day but do come to the AGM
Cost: FREE; no booking
No WCs: Lots of hedges at Hales or there is a pub and a garage in Hales village.
Contact: Rosemary Forrest
(01603 742315 e.mail: forrest.rosemary@gmail.com)

The Old Post Office, Gissing, near Diss

Date: Sat 17th June
Time: 10.00am – about 12.30pm
Limit: 12
Cost: £5
Special conditions:
sensible footwear please!

Contact: Jill Napier
(01508 489469 e.mail: jcnapi@hotmai.com)

Experience the agonies and ecstasies of conservation, repair and extension of a timber framed building owned by a NHBG member using traditional processes and materials. Richard Hyde will be available to discuss and demonstrate clay lump work and lime plaster. There may be an optional afternoon visit to the parish church nearby.

Rainthorpe Hall, Florden, nr Norwich

Date: Sat 24th June
Time: 3.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Limit: 25

Food: Drinks and nibbles (included)
Cost: £5
Contact: Tony Wright
(01603 452041 e.mail: tonywright@nfk2.freemove.co.uk)

Rainthorpe Hall (cont.)

With a start date in the early sixteenth century this brick mansion has a polygonal stair turret with original winder, plaster ceiling in the Great Chamber, and early stained glass amongst its features.

The NHBG Summer Party

Date: Sat 1st July
Time: from 2.30 pm onwards-
Place: Craster House, 13 Heigham Grove, Norwich
Cost: £3.00
Contact: Rosemary Forrest
(01603 742315 e.mail: forrest.rosemary@gmail.com)

George and Alayne Fenner have generously lent us their house and garden for our first summer party : cakes, strawberries and wine. You may care visit to the Victorian Plantation Garden in nearby Earlham Road whilst in Norwich.

Queen of Hungary, St Benedict's St and Briton's Arms, Elm Hill, Norwich

Date: Thurs 6th July
Time: 6.10 pm until about 9.00 pm
Meet: Outside St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich
Cost: £6
Limit: 14
Contact: Jill Napier
(01508 489469 e.mail: jcnapi@hotmai.com)

The owners of these two houses recently opened for the Norwich HEART event have generously agreed to open them for us but numbers are very limited. The Queen of Hungary is a small Norwich merchant house: the Britons Arms a medieval beguineage.

Timber Management and Timber-Framing Techniques: a Walk in Bradfield Woods, near Bury St Edmunds

Date: Sat 15th July
Meet: 10.00 am until about 4.00 pm
Place: Bradfield Woods
Food: Pub Lunch (included)
Cost: £20
Walking: lots and bring boots!

Limit: 20
Contact: Karen Mackie
(01508 488467 e.mail: Karen@tacolneston.freemove.co.uk)

Timber Management (cont.)

Bradfield Woods belongs to Suffolk Nature Conservation and is well documented by Oliver Rackham. Rick Lewis, a traditional carpenter, and Andrew Moore will lead a guided walk and discuss timber management and framing techniques. Lunch at a local pub. Bradfield Woods, Felsham Rd, Bradfield St George, Bury St Edmunds. OS Landranger map 155/OS reference TL935581.

Harleston: The Merchant's House and Aisled Hall (repeat but more time)

Date: Weds 26th July
Time: 6.30 pm
Meet: The Merchant's House
Cost: £5
Limit: 10
Contact: Carol Nutt
(01379 640007 e.mail: carol.nutt@btinternet.com)

This visit will be led by Mark Kenyon and will allow a few members to look more closely at two of the houses, one with a raised aisle, the Group visited on its visit to Harleston last year. Recent research has ~~been published in the journal of the Society for Medieval Archaeology~~ and it is hoped that some of the results will be available for discussion.

Yarmouth: a Guided Heritage Tour

Date: Sat 2nd Sept
Time: 10.30 am - 4.00pm
Place: Smokehouse Museum and Potteries, 18/19 Trinity Place, off Blackfriars Rd, Yarmouth
Parking: parking available there in the morning
Lunch: your choice!
Cost: £16 to include coffee, guides, and admission to the Museum
Limit: 20
Contact: Karen Mackie
(01508 488467 e.mail: Karen@tacolneston.freemove.co.uk)

A tour of medieval Yarmouth in the morning to include St Nicholas Church will be followed by an afternoon tour of some unique buildings – the newly restored Norfolk Column, the Royal Naval Hospital Courtyard and Chapel. The two tours will