

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group Newsletter

Number forty
Summer 2020

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20th-Anniversary Issue



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NHBG members grazing	rear cover

A message from the NHBG Committee

This fortieth edition of the NHBG Newsletter has been prepared ahead of schedule for two reasons; normally it would be printed and distributed in September to report on the Group's summer visits and advertise the forthcoming winter programme of lectures. The unique set of circumstances that the pandemic has resulted in has stopped the summer programme this year. In addition, it is our twentieth anniversary, so the committee felt it was time to review our progress so far and reminisce about some of our previous events undertaken in less strange times.

The research for the last two summer visits, which we had originally hoped would still run, has been ongoing, so it was decided to publish this as two "virtual" summer visits, in lieu of the real ones, so that everyone can participate vicariously. Similarly, the treasurer's work on the preparation of the accounts for the last year which are normally presented to the AGM, has also continued, so the summary figures and her report are included here. Other matters normally discussed at the AGM are noted below. It is the best that we can do in the current circumstances.

We are still preparing for a full programme of winter lectures, but these may have to be run differently from previous winters - only time and the evolving regulations will tell. Next summer's programme should run as normal, with Wangford Hall and perhaps the four churches amongst them.

In the meantime, keep yourselves safe, and thank you for your continued support, which allows our research and its publication to continue.

Let us hope that things return to normal as soon as possible.

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Facebook Group

Administration

VAG Spring Conference 2021

The VAG committee has decided to continue with the proposed 2021 Conference in Norfolk as planned on 13-17 April - all else being equal - and to postpone the 2020 Manchester Spring conference until April 2022.

Hempnall Journal

Journal 7, about the houses of Hempnall, went to the printers at the beginning of May. At the time, the printers were unsure as to when it would be completed, due to their much reduced staffing and the need to use third-party inputs.

Those members who responded to the initial email that requested expressions of interest will be contacted when the volume is printed and ready for distribution. For everyone else, the details on how to purchase a copy are set out on page 10 of this newsletter.

VIRTUAL AGM

Movement restrictions and social distancing will make an Annual General Meeting impossible to convene this year.

Each year, one of the four ex-officio posts is re-elected in rotation. The committee proposes that the election for this year's post, the Chair, is postponed for a year. Ian Hinton is prepared to stay in office for another year if there are no objections or volunteers.

The committee is also elected each year. If there are no new volunteers, the current committee members are prepared to serve for another year, but, as we are two members short, additional members are always welcome.

The accounts for the year have been prepared by the Treasurer and are set out on the next page. They have been inspected by the Independent Examiner appointed by last year's AGM - long-time member Peter Milne. Peter has also agreed to stay on as examiner for the following year.

Please address any questions on the accounts to the Treasurer at maggy6@btinternet.com.

Any comments, suggestions or objections to the actions proposed above should be addressed to the Chair at ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

Administration

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

Income and Expenditure Account

Income	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	£2,977	2977	3,260	3260
Summer visits	£1,255		1,625	
Winter lectures	£284		376	
Outings and Entrance fees		1539		2001
Journal Sales	£49			
Journals surplus/(loss)	£49		-318	-318
Book Sales surplus/(loss)	£17	17	49	49
Donations	£10	10	0	0
Interest	£12	12	4	4
	£4,604	4,604	4,996	4,996
Expenditure		2020		2019
		£		£
Printing 2 newsletters	£615	615	385	385
Summer visits	£498		866	
Winter lectures	£512		345	
Committee meeting	£70		70	
Meeting & Event Expenses		1,080		1,281
Post, stationery exp	£353		416	
Post income	-£11		-8	
Postage, Stationery		342		408
Website costs	£1,452		1,068	
B&P research	£53		63	
Other society subs	£95		95	
Laptop			571	
Software	£228			
Banner/travel etc	£167			
Other Expenses		1,995		1,797
	£4,032	4,032	3,871	3,871
Surplus (Deficit) for year		572		1,125

Balance Sheet

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets		0		0
Currents Assets				
Stock		18		18
Books				
Journals		0		0
Bank				
Current a/c	£6,702		11,218	
Reserve a/c	£8,532		3,444	
Grant a/c	£1		1	
Cash at bank		15,235		14,664
		15,253		14,681
Current Liabilities				
Accrued Expenses				
Net Assets		15,253		14,681
Represented by:				
General Fund				
Balance brought forward		14,681		13,556
Surplus/Deficit for year		572		1,125
Balance carried forward		15,253		14,681

Treasurer's Report

The group started the year with £14,663 cash in the bank accounts and ended with £15,235, an increase of £572.

A surplus was generated from Summer Visits 2019 of £757, the same as the previous year.

Variations with earlier years

Winter Lectures 2019/20 resulted in a loss of £228 which was mainly because we now have the expense of room hire. The previous year at UEA INTO we made a small profit of £31 as INTO waived room hire charges and several speakers refused to take a fee. 130 members attended the Winter 2019/20 talks at the Diamond Centre compared with 156 in the previous year at UEA (both figures exclude members' nights).

Newsletter printing costs rose slightly as a result of the use of full colour. Software costs in 2019/20 included a programme to scan out-of-print journals for digital storage and an upgrade for that used for newsletter/journal design.

The group spent also £83 on a pop-up banner celebrating 20 years of NHBG activity which was to be shown at the AGM this year but this will have to be postponed until next year.

Maggy Chatterley

“As Independent Examiner, I have reviewed the accounting records from which the accounts have been prepared. In my opinion, the accounts have been prepared on an appropriately conservative basis and the NHBG's financial state continues to be very sound”

Peter Milne

Membership Report

At the end of last year, we had 248 members - a number that has remained fairly stable for many years. Membership currently stands at 214 (end of May 2020). Fifteen members resigned or moved away during the year and 19 members have been reminded that their subs have not yet been paid, so are currently pending.

Maggy Chatterley

Winter lectures 2020/21

Work arranging our winter lecture series continues. Unfortunately, under the current circumstances the likely situation towards the end of the year is still unclear. We are hoping that things will be closer to normal by then and we are able to return to The Diamond Centre, otherwise we will have to reconsider how to proceed.

Currently Mary is working towards lectures on:

How Norfolk is different in its vernacular building traditions from other areas of England

The plague in Norfolk (rather close to home currently)

Norfolk church porches

with others in the pipeline...

If you have any suggestions for subjects or speakers, Mary will welcome them - mary.ash@ntlworld.com

Twenty years of summer visits to 73 buildings

To help re-kindle a few memories of summers past when we could still mingle freely! - 73 buildings we have visited as part of our programmes.



King's Head Cottage, Banham 2001



The Pleasaunce, Overstrand 2003



Ketteringham Hall Farm, 2004 & 2018



Meadow Cottage, Alington 2002 & 2013



Stiffkey Hall, 2003 & 2012



Old Hall, East Tuddenham 2004



Primrose Farm, South Lopham 2002 - before restoration



The Old Rectory, Great Snoring 2003



Godwick Barn 2004



Tibenham Farm, Tibenham 2002



Overstrand Hall, 2003



South Burlingham Hall, 2004



Mannington Hall, 2002



East Barsham Rectory, 2003



Raynham Hall, 2005



Wolterton Hall, 2002



The Ancient House Thetford 2003, 2017



Gingerbread Cottage, New Buckenham 2005

Twenty years of summer visits to 73 buildings



Guildhall, New Buckenham 2005



Brittons Arms 2006



The Manor House, Worstead, 2008



Hemsby Hall Farm Barn, 2005



Churchman House 2006



Heydon Hall, 2008



Crossing Temple Barn, 2005



Bayleaf, Weald & Downland 2006



Barningham Hall, 2009



Waxham Barn 2005



Kirstead Hall, 2007



Lemn House, Beccles 2009



Gowthorpe Manor 2005



The Rookery, Fundenhall, 2007



Elm Tree Farm, Pulham, 2010



Rainthorpe Hall, 2006



Wingfield College, 2008



Manor Farm, Pulham, 2010



Paston Barn 2006



Barnham Broom Hall, 2008

Twenty years of summer visits to 73 buildings



Ash Tree Farm, Pulham 2010



The Manor House, Itteringham 2011



The Chestnuts, Hempnall, 2012



The Old Rectory, Foulsham, 2010



Hindringham Hall, 2012



The Old Nag's Head, Holme Hale, 2013



Westfield Farm, Foulsham, 2010



Stonham Street Coggeshall, 2012



South Elmham Hall 2013



Ryston Hall, 2010



Hempnall House, 2012



Orchard House, Bramerton, 2013



Bayfield Hall, 2011



Church Farm, Alburgh 2012



Ketteringham Cottage, Sloley, 2014



Friday Cottage, Walsingham 2011 & 2017



College Farm, Thompson, 2014

Twenty years of summer visits to 73 buildings



Four Seasons, Tacolneston 2014



Ware Hall House, Wells 2015



Lincoln Lane Farm, Sixhills 2018



Letton Hall, 2014



Wiveton Hall, 2016



Heath Farmhouse, Fakenham, 2018



St Catherines, Norwich 2015



Brisley Hall, 2016



Northwold Manor, 2018



St Mary's Farm, Tacolneston, 2015



The Tudor House, Diss, 2016



Dyson's Farm, Tibenham, 2019



Strangers' Hall, Norwich 2015



Shropham Hall, 2017



Rose Hall, Bungay 2019



Diss Iron Works, 2016



Holman House, Aylsham 2017



The Priory, Magdalene, 2019

What we have done in 20 years

We recorded buildings...

with many aspects - from close examination of details, measuring them, noting them down and drawing up the results.



Susan (in 2003) & Michael Brown (in 2007) seem to examine details more closely than most of us.



Details matter..



whether in timber (2007) or stone (2013)



above:
Adrian measures the eaves at Heath Farmhouse in 2016



Discussions...



above:
Ian discusses details with Jan, David and Peter in 2002



right:
Sue discusses details with Mary and Di in 2007

We studied photography...



In 2007 - Tutored photography by Steve Cole, the English Heritage photographer, on a sunny day at Tibenham Farm.

Below is the subject for this assembly



Notes and drawing up...



Two studies in concentration - Lynne in 2007 and Billy? in 2012

What we have done in 20 years

We got muddy...



Making clay lump in 2001, guided throughout by Richard Hyde - Diana and ? making clay lump



Karen and Dirk Boewens building one of the clay lumps into Richard's shed



Wattle and daub in 2001 - ? and Richard mixing the daub and Carol and ? beginning the application



? rendering the completed daub



Richard doing some elementary pargetting on the completed daub.

We knapped and used flint...



left: Roger and Carol putting Richard Hyde's knapping lessons into practice in 2008

below: Alice and Anna with our trial wall



below: ?, Carol and Dominic put the entire process into practice on the broken churchyard wall at Deopham (which is still standing!!)



We studied stones in walls and floors...

In 2019, with geologist Tim Holt-Wilson (right).

He, Carol and Hilary (below), are all adopting suitable positions for the churches which they were studying



Our publications over the 20 years

As well as the bi-annual newsletter, the NHBG has published seven journals of our research into Norfolk buildings.

Publication of our long-term research projects was one of the principal aims of the group when it was set up. The volumes are made available to members at below the cost of printing which is one of the benefits of membership. The cost of dendrochronology is high (even with occasional contributing grants) as are printing costs for short runs, but your membership subscriptions fund most of these costs.

Most of these journals are still available, some now at remaindered prices, although their contents are as relevant now as they were when they were first printed.

To buy a copy, email maggy6@btinternet.com or write to The Treasurer at 134 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0SB.

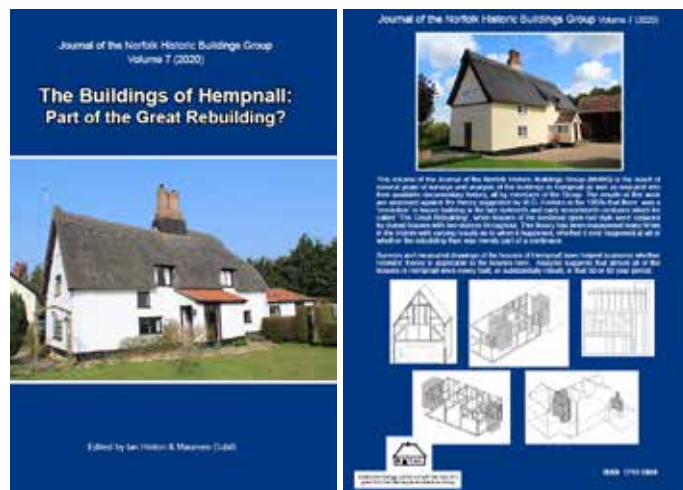
NHBG Journal 7 - Hempnall "launch"

Our latest Journal on the buildings of Hempnall is the product of eight years of research in the field and many more years of research into the available documentary evidence. We had originally hoped to publish it in 2019, but was delayed when the committee decided to apply for a grant from the VAG to partially offset the cost of the dendrochronological investigation. The VAG approved our request in March 2020, but by this time, the necessary additional fieldwork was not possible due to movement restrictions. Without knowing how long movement restrictions would apply, it was decided to publish the research as it stood and publish the results of the dendro work as an addendum when they became available.

In the past, our Journal launches have been located in the village where the research took place, but restrictions have prevented that this time. Each of the house owners will have a copy as a thankyou for their part in the project.

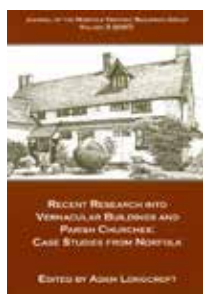
The result is detailed research into 45 houses in and around Hempnall that has thrown new light, not only on these buildings but also on the applicability of WG Hoskins' 1950s theory of "The Great Rebuilding". In it he proposed that there was a concentrated period around the end of the sixteenth century when the old medieval style of open-hall house was swept away either through their adaptation or their replacement with new houses in the new style with floors throughout and chimneys.

The volume is 200 pages long, with over 800 colour photos, maps and measured drawings. It is now available to members for £8 per copy (well below the cost of printing) and £15 to non-members.



Hempnall - Journal 7

200pp, colour through, 800+ illustrations.
 £8 for members,
 £15 for non-members
 £4 p&p if necessary



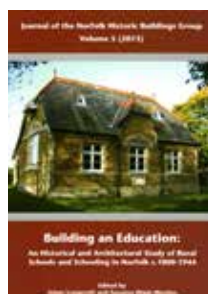
Journal 3 (2007)

Research into Norfolk's Buildings
 (Available to members for £5)



Journal 4 (2009)

Tacolneston -another award-winning publication
 (Available to members for £5)



Journal 5 (2013)

Norfolk Schools (In conjunction with UEA and English Heritage)
 (Available free to members)



Journal 6 (2015)

Little Walsingham
 (Available to members for £8, non-members £12)



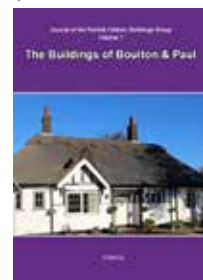
Journal 1 (2002)

Setting out our research agenda for the future
 (Out of print - available as a scanned pdf)



Journal 2 (2005)

New Buckenham - National-award-winning publication
 (Out of print - available as a scanned pdf)



Research is ongoing on the Buildings of Boulton & Paul, but has stalled on Norfolk's Medieval church arcades - but we hope to publish both in the future

Dendrochronology in Norfolk

Dendrochronology has been an integral part of our major projects since the NHBG's inception. The dating of key elements of the buildings that we have surveyed has been a contributing factor to the conclusions of each of our studies. Each has added to our knowledge and interpretation of particular features and styles in Norfolk.

Not all samples are able to produce a date. If the measurements taken between the tree rings do not match the reference chronology, then no felling date for the tree can be suggested. However, the readings taken are stored and can be re-assessed at a later date if a sample is taken in another building in the future which does date and which can be matched to all or part of the stored sequence.

If a sample does not have the outside edge of the tree (bark edge) but the join between the heartwood and sapwood is present, then a range of dates can be applied. The more sapwood that is present in the sample, the shorter the estimated date range for felling. Given that oak is always worked "green", the felling date for a tree will be within a year, at most two, of the date of the building.

In New Buckenham, dendro was able to date The Old Vicarage to 1451 and two of the jettied buildings built encroaching into on the marketplace to 1473. Tying these innovative houses to an unexpectedly early date was key to part of the interpretation of the town's development, as documentary evidence of these buildings was not available before 1529. It also dated Pinchpot to 1629, a classic two-celled lobby-entrance house of the early-mid seventeenth century.

In Tacolneston, timbers in eight houses produced dates. The main conclusions pointed to the slower pace of development in rural areas, with timber-framed chimneys still being built in many houses, including one dated by dendro to 1645, many years after the adoption of brick-built chimneys elsewhere. Despite this, three of the houses possessed fine crosswings, each dating to the early to mid seventeenth century, an apparent overlap between archaic and modern.

In Walsingham, four buildings were sampled, several producing long sequences of tree-rings. Unfortunately none could be matched to the reference chronologies, although two produced internally consistent samples so may be dateable in the future. The samples from 47-49 High Street were prepared and sent for radio-carbon dating, which resulted in an estimated date between 1470 and 1495. The features in this building were seen in many others in the town, dating them by inference.

The current study in Hemphall is still awaiting the dendrochronological investigation.

Norfolk Results Summary

This is a summary of the results of all the successful dendrochronological investigations in Norfolk. Undertaken by various dendrochronologists, the results are published each year in the journal of the VAG. Here, Michael Brown has pulled all the results for the county together, and identified the various features of the building which can be linked to the specified date.

1283 HEMSBY BARN

Timber-framed barn. Two tiers of through purlins, both with collars. Queen posts to lower tier of through purlins. Curved braces from arcade posts to arcade plates and tie beams. Curved passing braces from wall posts through arcade posts to tie beams via notched lap joints.

1355 -1360 DENTON - LODGE FARMHOUSE

- 1 Tripartite in-line plan with storeyed parlour end.
- 2 Raised aisled hall - square-set aisle plates - square crown posts & four-way braces.
- 3 Canted oriel hall windows. High end display framing: cornice mouldings & canopy. Moulded studs with recessed infill. External wall framing. Internal display bracing. Unglazed mullion windows.

1380 -1381 INGHAM - GRANGE FARM BARN

Passing braces (slots). Ties arch-braced to wall posts: shallow jowl or upstand.

KING'S LYNN - ST. GEORGE'S GUILDHALL

1397 - 1430 Rafters
1417-1457 'Floor Beams'
Common rafter trusses with scissor braces

1401 BRESSINGHAM-OLD BOYLAND HALL

- 1 Timber-framed wing of Manor House (Moated)
- 2 Two tier queen-post roof(?)
- 3 Two storeys with three-bay 'great chamber'. Jettied side and gable & dragon beam. Close studding. Brick gable ends.

1405 -1430 THETFORD ABBEY FARM COTTAGE

- 1 Aisled barn
- 2 Queen-post roof trusses - jowled queen posts with curved braces to collars: posts not pegged to tie beam (later?). Square-set purlins housed between posts and collars. Upper and lower arcade plates on the tie beam spurs. Long splayed scarf joints with under-squinted abutments and facekeys.

1427 NORWICH -DRAGON HALL, KING STREET

- 1 Two storey trading hall of seven bays.
- 2 Moulded crown-post roof & four way braces. Long upward braces. Canted tie beams.
- 3 Close studding. Moulded jowls and wall plates. Spandrel tracery (dragons). Oriel windows (evidence).

1414 -1439 THETFORD -ABBEY FARM BARN W. END

- 1 Priory building : unheated? Court Hall?
- 2 Crown posts: moulded to central chamber with four-way bracing. Others plain with longitudinal braces only, no ridge piece. Cambered tie beam. Medium length jowls to posts.
- 3 Integral floor forms jetty with brackets. Jowled feet to storey posts of jetty. Unglazed diamond-mullion windows & shutter rebates. Scarf joint - edge-halved & splayed with square abutments.

1433-1458 LANGLEY WITH HARDLEY- LANGLEY ABBEY FORMER STABLES

Jettied upper storey. Clasped-purlin roof with curved wind braces and arch braces to the tie beams.

1437-1463 OXBOROUGH -OXBURGH HALL, ROOF WEST RANGE

Arched-brace collar trusses

1451 NEW BUCKENHAM - OLD VICARAGE, CHAPEL STREET.

- 1 Open Hall & open service end (divided) with cross-passage: Guildhall?
- 2 Crown post roof with sooting. Long gunstock jowls to posts : moulded capitals to decorative engaged wall shafts. Flying tie beam.
- 3 Long edge-halved scarf joint splayed with bridled abutments and two edge pegs. Unglazed windows with pegged mullions.
- 4 Scribed carpenter's marks.

1473 NEW BUCKENHAM - OAK COTTAGE & YELLOW COTTAGE

- 1 Tripartite plan with cross-passage. Floored jettied hall and service and parlour ends.
- 2 Plain crown post roof with simple chamfer over the hall.
- 3 Long jowls to posts. Long edge-halved and bridled scarf joint. Roll mouldings. Oriel windows to the front. Unglazed pegged mullion windows to the rear.
- 4 Floor joists with diminished haunch soffit tenons
- 5 Shield and step chamfer stops. Scribed carpenter's marks. Four-centred arch door heads.

1470-1495 WALSINGHAM - 47-49 HIGH STREET

- 1 Pilgrim Hostel -first floor hall

- 2 Moulded crown post roof with four way braces. Face-halved scarf joint in the purlin.
- 3 Jettied front and rear, first floor hall, jowled feet to storey posts. Face-halved scarf in wall plate.
- 4 Massive floor joists rebated for boards. Shield chamfer stops.
- 5 External stair evidence.

1518 BLAKENEY -THE OLD RECTORY

- 1 Flint and brick
- 2 Three heavily moulded and painted principal joists

1510 - 1535 ALDEBY - ALDEBY HALL

Now in central range of eighteenth century house.

1533 -1536 THETFORD ABBEY FARM BARN E. END

Four eastern bays - Plain crown posts: braces to purlin only. Cambered tie beams. Very short jowls to posts.

1532 -1540 THETFORD -THE BARN ABBEY FARM

No information

1543 (Spring) TACOLNESTON -TACOLNESTON HALL

- 1 Tripartite house, one and a half storeys, floored from outset with two service rooms. Upper rooms missing.
- 2 No roof evidence
- 3 Very close studding

1540 -1568 THARSTON AND HAPTON - MARSH VIEW AND SCHOOL COTTAGE

- 1 Tripartite plan and cross passage. One and a half storeys.
- 2 Queen post roof with king stud in service partition. Wind braces. Clasped trapezoidal purlin. Housed face-halved scarf in purlin.
- 3 Arch and inverted arch braces. Unglazed lozenge mullion windows in parlour. Unglazed diamond mullions at service end.
- 4 Two timber-framed chimneys. Edge-halved scarf joints in wall plates. Scribed carpenter's marks.

1546 -1582 FORNCETT END, 18 BENTLEY ROAD

- 1 Tripartite plan. One and a half storeys. Floored Hall.
- 2 Queen post roof with wind braces, diminished principals clasping purlins. Long sloping jowls.
- 3 Face-halved bladed and housed scarf joint. Lozenge shaped unglazed mullions. (see Hapton.)
- 4 Principal joist on girt rather than post. Square section common joists with soffit tenons.
- 5 Single storey backhouse with splayed scarf joints, shield stops, four centred doorhead with spandrels, face-halved, bladed and housed scarf joint.

1558 1563 TERRINGTON ST. CLEMENTS 14 EMORS-GATE

Mid-rail wall plate, tie beam, two straight braces.

1551-1579 OXBOROUGH-OXBURGH HALL NORTH RANGE EAST ROOF

No information

1573 NEW BUCKENHAM - THE OLD SWAN, KING STREET

- 1 Floored hall, service end and parlour
- 2 Side purlin roof and wind braces. Long jowls to posts, inverted arch braces.
- 3 Lateral stack. Medium length edge-halved scarf joint.
- 4 Five scribed carpenter's marks. Shield and bar chamfer stops

1574 -1585 PASTON GREAT BARN

Twenty bays alternate tie beam and hammer beam. Queen struts to lower of two collars.

1583 - 1584 WAXHAM GREAT BARN

Diapered brick gables and wall. Twenty trusses alternately queen struts and hammer beams. Three tiers of tenoned purlins.

1583 -1584 KING'S LYNN-MARRIOTS WAREHOUSE

No information.

1579 -1598 GARVESTON - GUNTON'S FARMHOUSE

House with clasped purlin roof with queen struts and wind braces. Hollow chamfered mullion windows.

1593 - 1594 LODDON -HALES HALL

- 1593 -1594 Hall roof
- 1594 Hall ground floor and ceiling east end
- 1417 -1442 Hall ground floor and ceiling west end (reuse?)
- 1470 -1495 Hall ground floor and ceiling mid-section (reuse?) 1490 - 1515 Gatehouse passage.
- 1594 Bothy
- 1410 - 1435 & 1468 - 1493 Bothy extension (reused)

1594 -1595 TACOLNESTON - OLD MANOR FARM-HOUSE - KITCHEN

No date for original hall section.

- 1 Tripartite house with elaborate parlour end.
- 2 Raking struts to side purlins
- 3 Close studding, edge-halved and bridled scarf joint.
- 4 Moulded ceiling joists, shield chamfer stops.
- 5 Unglazed mullion window.

1579-1615 TACOLNESTON - OLD MANOR FARM-HOUSE - PARLOUR END

- 1 Experimental parlour end: two-storey cross-wing with first floor corridor & display staircase. (Original attic and winder stair by the stack.)
- 2 Roof - two tiers of purlins, upper clasped with wind braces, lower tenoned. Early original dormer windows.
- 3 Close studding, internal inverted arch braces. Face-halved scarf joints. Glazed ovolo mullion windows.
- 4 Elaborate chamfer stops - sunk quadrant mouldings.
- 5 Scribed and chiselled carpenter's marks.

1597 TITTLESHALL- GODWICK GREAT BARN

Brick walls. Roof eleven alternating hammer beam & queen strut trusses. Arch braced hammer beams. Arch braced tie beams with rafter struts, collars & three tiers of purlins.

1598 ASLACTON - EAGLE FARMHOUSE - PARLOUR END

- 1 Experimental cross-wing in two storeys with attic & cellar.
- 2 Two tiers of tenoned purlins, wind braces to upper tier.
- 3 Close studding, glazed windows with ovolo and unglazed with diamond mullions
- 4 Elaborate chamfer stops with notches.

1605 -1630 LANGLEY WITH HARDLEY- LANGLEY ABBEY, WEST CLOISTER

Roof two tiers of tenoned purlins with collars to principal rafters.

1615 PULHAM MARKET - MANOR FARM

- 1 Tripartite house with primary floored hall and attic. First floor corridor. Twin service rooms and chambers.
- 2 Two tiers of tenoned purlins with wind braces.
- 3 Close studding. Plank and muntin partition walls to corridor, service rooms, service chambers and screen. Shield chamfer stops. Inverted arch braces. Glazed mullion windows with contemporary sliding shutters (dated 1599+)

1601-1637 OXBOROUGH -OXBURGH HALL, EAST RANGE OF NORTHERN ROOF

No information

1614 -1626 ALDEBY -ALDEBY HALL BARN

Brick. Eight bays. Two storeys with attic. Two tiers of side purlins.

1624 NEW BUCKENHAM - PINCHPOT, CHAPEL STREET

- 1 Symmetrical lobby entrance house with central stack and winder stair. Primary attic. Later service end.
- 2 Windows glazed at front, unglazed at rear. Face-halved scarf joint. Inverted arch braces, straight braces and ogee braces. Decorated jowls.
- 3 Edge-laid joists with diminished haunch soffit tenons. Shield and notch chamfer stops.
- 4 Elaborate plaster ceiling (fragments only). 1626 -1627 (winter)

1626-7 HARLESTON -THE OLD HOUSE.

- 1 Lobby entrance plan with cellar and stair tower.
- 2 Two tiers of shaved tenon purlins. Undiminished principals. Inverted arch wind braces.
- 3 Four-step/bar run-out chamfer stops.

1617 -1640 TACOLNESTON - ST. MARY'S FARM-HOUSE, CHENEYS LANE. (1628 DATE ON CHIMNEY)

- 1 Tripartite house with former cross passage. Experimental parlour end cross wing dated to 1617 plus 10 years. Primary attic plus two storeys. Winder stair by the stack.
- 2 Staggered tenon purlin roof (one tier) with inverted arch braces.
- 3 Glazed windows. Tudor arch doorheads with decorated spandrels.
- 4 Shield chamfer stops with notch. Bar and shield chamfer stops. Sunk quadrant moulding.

1617-1640 TACOLNESTON -TACOLNESTON HALL

- 1 East and west cross-wings added to earlier hall house. Two storeys with cellars.
- 2 Tenoned purlin roofs with inverted arch wind braces. East wing has arched collar and lower tier of staggered purlins.
- 3 Glazed ovolo mullion windows. Face-halved scarf joints.
- 4 Elaborate and ogee chamfer stops with notches. 1645 (Spring)

1645 FORNCETT ST. MARY - RIVERSIDE FARM

- 1 Tripartite house with cross passage and timber-framed chimney originally. One and a half storeys.
- 2 Queen post roof with king stud in the service partition.
- 3 Unglazed diamond mullion windows. Arch and inverted arch braces. Face-halved scarf joint in wall plate.

1640 -1663 TIBENHAM -TIBENHAM FARM BARN

Five bays not aisled. Arch braces to straight tie beams. Former roof had collars, tenoned purlins, wind braces (principal rafter evidence)

1685 FELBRIGG - FELBRIGG HALL, SAMWELL WING

No information

1748 OXBOROUGH-OXBURGH HALL, EAST RANGE SOUTHERN ROOF

No information

1769 (Spring) HARLESTON - 17 BROAD STREET

- 1 Single cell house in market infill. Primary bracing structure in oak.
- 2 Staggered shaved tenon purlins. Decorative brackets and jowls.
- 3 Small section, vertically-laid common joists. Ogee chamfer stops.

(Virtual) Summer Visit

Wangford Hall and church (previously scheduled for July 25th 2020) Clive Baker



Photos by Clive Baker

Wangford Hall from the south-east (above) and the west (below right)

Listing Text (1984)

House. Late C16 with alterations of C18 and mid C19. Hall range and 2 cross-wings. Timber framed and rendered. Glazed pantiled roofs with crested ridge tiles and bargeboards with undulating soffits and ridge finials. C19 axial and end chimneys of red brick; the axial chimney has 4 octagonal flues on a square plinth. 2-light mid C19 casements with hoodmoulds. 1-storey pantiled C19 entrance porch with carved bargeboards and ridge finial. Arched doorway with square hoodmould, framed and battened C20 door. Ovolo-moulded 1st floor members exposed internally. At the rear are C18 and C19 parapet-gabled extensions and alterations of flint rubble with red brick quoins; a further mid C19 gault brick kitchen extension to rear. Wangford Hall was the home of Sir Robert Wright (d.1689), Chief Justice of the Kings Bench to James I; afterwards also of Sir John Holt, Lord Chief Justice in 1689.

Introduction

Our visit to this isolated house on the edge of Lakenheath airbase would have begun with an introduction from the Hall's owner, Philip.

It is a once-grand house that has had many changes of use and has suffered through many different owners. The history and decline of the building and its status can be traced from high-ranking hall house, through a general farmhouse, a Georgian dwelling, a Barnardo's home during WWII and lastly as a school for troublesome boys.

During these changes, rooms had been sub-divided to provide additional bedrooms and bathrooms and toilets were inserted into Tudor extensions at the rear of the house, in typical lurid 1970s colour schemes. All of this done with no sensitivity to the origins of the building.

Even the once-magnificent garden, which had been redesigned by Gertrude Jekyll as one of her last commissions, has all but disappeared.

More recently, many of the internal walls have had their modern plasterboard removed as part of a "Building at risk" historical assessment, revealing many original details.

As a result, we would have been able to piece together a very different history from the official version contained in the DOE listing (see panel).



Detail

It was uncanny looking at the cover photograph of the *NHBG Newsletter* Issue 39 (Krons Manor, Hempsall) as there are so many similarities, though in mirror image, with Wangford Hall. Although I have not seen inside Krons, and the Study document has yet to be published, I imagine the interiors are also similar. At Wangford the Solar and Parlour show many of the building's earliest details: wind-brace mortises, jettying, moulded window surrounds, wattle and daub, and large-section close-studding. This last feature is particularly fine as the studding is particularly large in profile and so close together thus displaying the high ranking nature of the hall. The internal wall sections of wattle and daub appear to be very early. Although only briefly glimpsed (I have yet to venture through all the roof spaces – but only a matter of time!) the crown post, from the hall section of the house, is again high quality. In the hall area there are also glimpses of original framing and possibly original paint colouration.

These features all point to a date long before the “late sixteenth century” shown in the listing: a much more likely date would be more than a hundred years earlier. The later re-buildings and re-facings had masked its origins.

The gentrification, in the eighteenth century has masked many of the details of the hall section whereas in the parlour/solar the later lathe and plaster was removed, during the previous ownership, in order that a historical survey could be undertaken. The results of that survey indicated that the hall's Listed date was probably incorrect and that 1480's might be more realistic rather than late sixteenth.

The seventeenth century saw considerable alterations with chimney insertions, staircases, extensions and a general remodelling. These continued in the late eighteenth- or early nineteenth century with a further extension and a complete refacing of the building. It is probably at this time that a cistern was constructed for the storage of roof rainwater with the nearby hand pump, linked into the tank, providing the water supply for the adjacent kitchen area. The shallow roof arch of this cistern is most impressive though its full splendours have yet to be revealed as I have not yet fully accessed the interior - again only a matter of time!

Close to the cistern is the entrance to the ice house which is probably contemporary, or just a little later; the brickwork is of a different, and slightly inferior, quality. Winter ice from a nearby lake (known to have existed) was probably used as Scandinavian ice would have been too far away and there being no suitable navigable waterways nearby. It is probable that the banked earth or melted water from this adjacent ice house may have led to the deterioration and eventual need to rebuild the original timber-framed parlour/solar rear wall. This rebuilt brick wall had an opening, now bricked up, into the ice house though by this stage it was probably no longer an ice house but, being so close to the main chimney stack and main staircase, was used as a coal store.

In the twentieth century one further extension was added, at right-angles to the hall probably incorporating a pre-existing but detached service area. Another twentieth-century feature that changed the surroundings was the commissioning of Gertrude Jekyll to design the gardens. This was one of her last commissions (she was nearly blind by this stage) and although her designs survive, few, if any, of the plantings remain.

Some of the features indicating the building's true age



above:

Close studding made up of large-section timbers

right:

Deep jowls on a corner post

below:

Large-section common-rafter roof, with fine decorated octagonal crown post with a rustic crown purlin and collars

bottom:

Elaborate sunk-quadrant moulding on the inserted principal joist in the hall, with shield stop and very large nick



During WWII Wangford Hall became a Barnardo's home for London evacuees and subsequently an agricultural school for 'problem' boys. It was during these periods that the house suffered its most drastic internal changes and eventually, when empty, featured on the 'Buildings at Risk' register.

The adjacent barn, still belongs to the local Estate, is a magnificent building in chalk, but is suffering from considerable collapse.

To emphasise the remoteness of the house, the concrete block with multiple pulleys (pictured right) was part of the electricity generating system for the house. Each day, the weight was wound up by hand to be released to turn the generator as it descended slowly.

Perhaps for the same reason, remoteness, Wangford Hall does not appear in Pevsner, Burkes, or Suffolk Houses building guides and has largely been overlooked. It is now time to rewrite its history!



This heavy concrete block is part of the electricity generating system for the house

Photos by Clive Baker

Clive is a member of SPAB and led their tour of the house last year

St Denis, Wangford (Ian Hinton)

The church of St Denis Wangford, standing on the northern edge of Lakenheath airfield, was declared redundant in the 1970s. It completely isolated apart from Wangford Hall. Lakenheath village is located just to the west of the airfield and is served by the church of St Mary's. Since redundancy, St Denis has been used by the New Beginnings International church, an American southern baptist branch, as a place of worship for the large contingent of American servicemen from the neighbouring airfield. The church is kept locked with no keyholder information available.

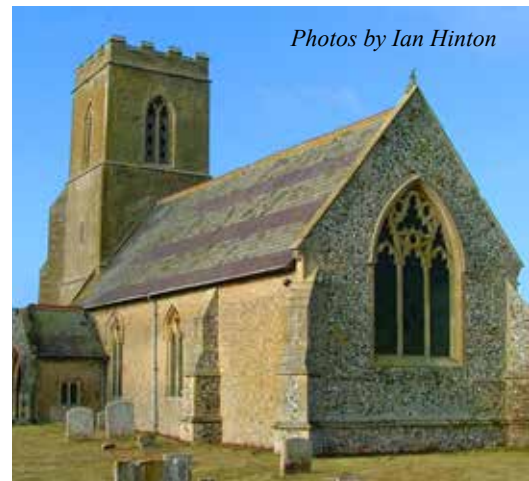
Wangford was already largely depopulated by the mid nineteenth century; the 1841 Census recording only 46 people, compared with neighbouring Lakenheath with 1,759 and Mildenhall with 3,730.

Both Munro-Cautley and Pevsner refer to twelfth-century doors in the north and south walls of the nave, with single orders of pillars and cushion capitals. The northern door is hidden by several modern portacabin-type buildings and the southern door is covered by a later porch which has been refaced in knapped flint as part of the Victorian restoration. Anne Riches records this episode as a "thorough" £1000 restoration at the expense of Mrs Norman of Brandon Hall in 1875. The tower seems to be the only part which was not in need of restoration at the time. As part of the work, stained glass was placed in all the windows - since removed. Norman Scarfe in the Shell Guide refers to the thirteenth-century east window, which Bryant, in 1912, dismisses as a "poor window of the early nineteenth century" - some time before the main restoration of the church.

Inside, there is a brass inscription to Dorothy Francklyn of Wangford Hall in 1596 - she was the daughter of Robert Coke and sister of Edward Coke, Elizabeth I's Attorney General.

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 White's 1844 Suffolk, 1970, David and Charles



Photos by Ian Hinton

above:

St Denis from the south-east, showing the east window which has differing opinions on its origins

left:

the south porch, refaced in the 1875 restoration

below:

the north wall hidden by modern administrative buildings



(Virtual) Summer Visit

Church Day (previously scheduled for August 15th 2020)

Dominic Summers & Ian Hinton

We (would have) visited the churches in four Norfolk parishes in central Norfolk, which had been selected to illustrate the differences in the way churches developed as a result of different levels of their parishioners' prosperity over the centuries.

The table below shows the relative situations in those parishes at certain key times:

1086 from the Domesday survey

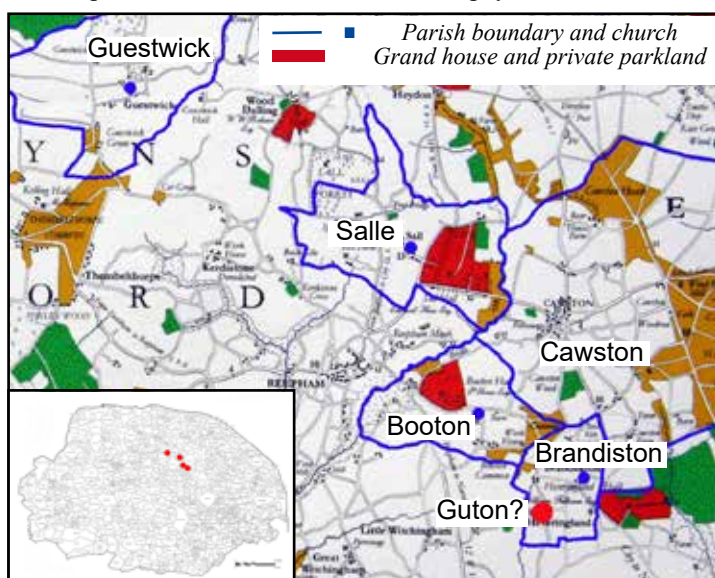
1254 Norwich Taxation, calculated as one tenth of the value of ecclesiastical incomes - tithes and rents etc.

1334 and 1449 Lay Subsidy payments - taxation to fund the 100 Years War - based on the value of moveable goods of residents - allowing relief after the Black Death for parishes that were impoverished.

1553 Henry VIII's Valor Ecclesiasticus - another valuation of church income and receivables.

1664 Hearth Tax - based on the number of hearths in houses in the parish of those who could afford to pay.

Domesday 1086	Guestwick	Salle	Booton	Brandiston + Guton		Cawston for comparison
Free men	3	18.5	1	4	19	10
All men	6	52.5	7	4	48	75
arable acreage	74 acres	590 ac	120 ac	52 acres	593 ac	1360 acres
ploughs	2.5	16.5	1.5	1.5	10	29
meadow	5 ac	14 ac	2 ac	7 ac	33.5 ac	20 ac
woodland	15 ac	40 ac	24 ac	9 ac	90 ac	2250 ac
Church (glebe)			1 (9 ac)			
1254 Church tax	£10.0.0	£26.0.0	£8.0.0	£10.12.0	Not	£20.0.0
1334 lay subsidy	£4.5.0	£7.0.0	£2.12.0	£3.11.0		£12.0.0
1449 lay subsidy	£2.18.4	£7.0.0	£2.8.0	£3.11.0	taxed	£10.0.0
1553 Valor Ecclesiasticus	£5.8.11½	£12.18.11½	£8.0.4	£8.14.10½		£16.3.0
Hearth Tax 1664	Guestwick	Salle	Booton	Brandiston		Cawston
1 hearth	4	8	7	1		47
2-3 hearths	11	14	8	3		29
4-5 hearths	1	1	1	2		23
6-8 hearths	2	3	1	2		11
9+ hearths	1	2				1
TOTAL houses	19	28	17	8		111
Approx church size	30x15m	47x19m	35x8m	17x12m		47x18m



The four parishes, shown on Andrew Macnair's redrawn version of Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk
<http://www.fadensmapofnorfolk.co.uk/>

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 Valor Ecclesiasticus Vol III, 1817



The church of St Peter and Paul at Salle is famous as one of the grandest and most ambitious churches in East Anglia. Its grandeur is emphasised by its near isolation, a handful of estate houses, a small village hall and a cricket pavilion the only buildings within sight.

The church that we see today was entirely rebuilt from the beginning of the 15th century. There are two aisles, north and south transept chapels, both very large, two-storeyed porches to north and south, a vast chancel and one of the tallest towers in Norfolk². The church is very large, with a wide nave and aisles separated by a high, spacious six-bay arcade supported on slender quatrefoil piers. This arrangement opens up the interior space, which together with large aisle windows and a high clerestory makes the church lighter than most of its contemporaries.³ It was

2 The upper stage of the tower was clearly added later than the rest and does not follow the design of the stages below. This work can be dated by patronal inscriptions on the parapet to the second decade of the sixteenth century.

3 It must be remembered that before the Reformation, the church inside would have been divided into different guild and chantry chapels, probably with parclose screens, and there would have been multiple focuses on various altars and devotional images.

1 Full discussions of the material evidence for the patronage of the church can be found in: Fawcett, R., and King, D., 'Salle Church', *Archaeological Journal*, vol 137 (1980), pp 332-5, and Duffy, E., *Saints, Sacrilege and Sedition; Religion and Conflict in the Tudor Reformations*, London, 2012, pp 83-109.

designed in the style of friary architecture of the 14th century and should be compared with the rebuilt Blackfriars in Norwich and the earlier rebuilding of the nave at Attleborough (which seems to have taken after the Blackfriars in Thetford).

Entering through the west door, a grand processional entrance flanked by two large feathered angels swinging censers carved in low relief, one enters a large space under the tower rather like a narthex. A large ringing gallery above carries a crane from which hangs the massive font cover, stripped of its imagery. The font shows images of the seven sacraments, and in its general form if not figure carving, is similar to other seven-sacrament fonts at South Creake, Binham and Cley, all grand churches. It can be approximately dated by a dedicatory inscription on the base to the 1480s.⁴ Many other fifteenth century furnishings remain, including the painted dado of the rood screen, a wine glass pulpit and a fine set of carved stalls in the chancel that suggest the presence of a choir or, at least, a large number of clerics associated with the church.

The splendour of Salle church invites speculation as to the nature of its patronage. Valuations and taxation records from the Domesday survey onwards indicate that the parish was relatively wealthy and productive (see table) when compared with most of its neighbours. (Cawston was larger and, ultimately, more productive). However, this cannot explain the ambition and scale of the construction campaign in the first decades of the fifteenth century that was necessary to build the church. It outstripped the level of patronage in larger and wealthier parishes throughout Norfolk that were also engaged in church rebuilding projects at the time. Fortunately, clues as to why this may have been so can be found in the fabric of the building, especially as little documentary evidence of donations or bequests to the church survives.

There is a remarkable heraldic frieze over the west door. Other than the arma Christi, shields with the Instruments of the Passion, and the Royal arms which date the frieze to between 1406 and 1413⁵, there are the arms of a number of local gentry and minor aristocracy: Brewes, Ufford, Roos, Mauteby, Morley and Kerdeston. All these families, along with the Briggs, whose arms are prominently displayed on the south porch and higher levels of the tower, and the Boleyns, whose arms feature in the glass, had greater or lesser manorial interests in Salle⁶. Apart from the Lords Morley, and to a lesser extent the Kerdeston family, both older money, these were all wealthy families on the way up. What makes the rebuilding of Salle church remarkable and very unusual, is that they all seem to have agreed to pool their resources and submit to a coordinated plan for the new church. Even if certain areas or the church were associated with an individual patron – the south porch and aisle were the work of Thomas Briggs as shown by his very visible arms and initials, for example – the individual parts of the church were constructed within a unified framework (the obvious exception being the chancel, which was financed by Sir Robert Brewes, the patron of the living, in the 1440s). A glance at the mouldings and the base course of the plinth of the church, which extend unbroken around the west tower, nave and both porches, indicate that it was laid out in one campaign and to one design. Again, this is unusual. The great majority of churches that were improved or rebuilt during the late middle ages were done piecemeal as funds became available, resulting in buildings that display evidence of multiple building phases. The great church at Cawston, less than

two miles from Salle is one such example. The very expensive rebuilding of the tower at Cawston, funded by Michael de la Pole, 2nd Earl of Suffolk and one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the country, was taking place just as Salle church was being rebuilt. It is tempting to think that the concerted efforts of our ambitious group of local squirearchy were motivated, at least in part, by a desire to match such aristocratic patronage. And it is the particular nature of the parish of Salle at the beginning of the fifteenth century, that it contained five manors that interested so many wealthy and willing potential patrons, that is one of the keys to understanding the church we see today.



above:
The lofty nave
and slender
piers



above:
Part of the heraldic
frieze over the west
door and one of
the censer-bearing
angels in the
spandrel



right:
One of the angel
head stops



left:
one of the
many carved
images under-
neath the seats
of the
misericords

4 Nichols, A.E., *Seeable Signs, The Iconography of the Seven Sacraments, 1350-1544*, (Woodbridge, 1994) pp 345,6

5 The new style Royal Arms (3 fleur-de-lis per quarter, rather than semy of fleur-de-lis as previously) were introduced in 1406. There is also a shield of the Royal Arms with a label, indicating the arms of the first son, i.e. the Prince of Wales, who ascended the throne as Henry V in 1413.

6 Blomefield, Francis. "Eynford Hundred: Salle." *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 8*. London: W Miller, 1808. 269-276. *British History Online*. Web. 21 May 2020. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol8/pp269-276>.

Guestwick



The first thing you notice about St Peter's, Guestwick, is the position of the tower, standing at the east end of the north aisle, butting up against the north side of the chancel. Towers at the west end of north (or less commonly south) aisles are frequent enough (Cley, Sloley, Brandiston, and so on) and usually indicate that a former nave was repurposed as a side aisle after a new nave had been built next to it. At Guestwick, this cannot have been the case, and a closer view of the material of the tower reveals a more complex and much rarer story.

On the outside of the east wall of the tower there is the trace of a gable and significant disturbance in the flint rubble lower down the wall. So, there was clearly another part of the building, a chancel, originally proceeding east from the tower. Archaeological excavations in 1982 and 1983 established that it had an apse.⁷ To the west, it is possible to make out the voussoirs of a low arch, mostly obscured by the present north aisle, set in a wall containing large pieces of ferricrete/iron-bound conglomerate/ferruginous conglomerate. This arch confirms that the original building continued to the west of the tower, as a west nave. So, this was a centrally placed tower, but not in the sense that it was lifted above the nave or crossing of the rest of the church. It stood foursquare on the ground and was accessed east and west by low arches cut through its walls. This is a typically Saxon plan – a tower nave.⁸ The Norfolk Archaeological Unit date the tower to the end of the 11th century, believing it to be a Saxo-Norman continuation of an earlier form.⁹ The use of large flints for quoins and some evidence of long-and-short work at the corners of the tower may argue for a slightly earlier date.¹⁰



Roof scar of the original chancel in the tower wall, with bricks partially filling the old chancel arch

When the old church was taken down and a new church built directly to the south, it was decided to leave the tower standing.

7 Rogerson, A. and Williams, P. 1987. 'The Late Eleventh Century Church of St. Peter, Guestwick'. *Three Norman Churches in Norfolk*. East Anglian Archaeology. Rogerson, A. et al.. No 32 pp 67-80

8 Sometimes referred to as turriform churches. Most notable examples are St Peter's, Barton-upon-Humber; and All Saints', Earl's Barton.

9 Norfolk Heritage Explorer, NHER number 3131, www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk, accessed 21st May 2020.

10 The upper stage of the tower is from the 15th century.

It was accessed through a small door in the east wall of the north aisle, from which it was otherwise blocked, and can have played no part in the liturgy performed in the rest of the church.

The present church was mainly built at the end of the thirteenth or beginning of the fourteenth century with further campaigns later in the fourteenth and in the fifteenth centuries. Unfortunately, there is no documentary evidence to give precise dates. There is a nave with aisles to north and south with similar four-bay arcades carried on octagonal piers with shallow capitals and arches with two orders of chamfered mouldings. This rather generic arrangement is difficult to date by style alone and could have been built at any time from the middle of the thirteenth to the middle of the fourteenth century. The present clerestory was added later, probably towards the end of the fourteenth or beginning of the fifteenth century. The aisle windows would seem to have been replaced around the same time. The fifteenth century chancel windows were clearly inserted into an earlier wall; there is a very obvious break in the material of the wall at sill level. Inside the chancel, there is a very fine corner piscina with a double arch and very delicate curvilinear tracery. This particular style suggests that it was made in the second quarter of the fourteenth century and may give a clue as to the date of the whole chancel.

The original tower church may have been built before Guestwick became a parish. Both the name Guestwick (Geghestueit – the clearing belonging to Guist), as well as information in the Domesday Book, suggest that the parish was probably carved out from the larger settlement of Guist nearby. It may have started life as a manorial chapel. Although the parish was not large and never became wealthy, sufficient funds were available for patrons to continually improve and add to the church through the later middle ages.



Booton



St Michael and All Angels, Booton, is the product of the wealth, taste and imagination of one man. The Reverend Whitwell Elwin, the rector of the parish, both designed and paid for the new church at the end of the nineteenth century and the result is a building quite unlike any other in Norfolk.

Booton had been a poor parish throughout the middle ages. Valuations (see table) had consistently placed it below its neighbours in terms of population and productive wealth. The advowson seems to have passed through a number of hands, including a minor branch of the Warenne family, and ended up in the possession of Henry Calthorpe, who was buried in the

church, at the end of the middle ages.¹¹ Ladbrooke's drawing of the church, made in the 1820s shows a modest building with a small chancel and a north porch. There was no north aisle, but the arrangement of the south side of the nave is unclear. There were two large windows in the north wall of the nave that appear to have had perpendicular tracery. The drawing seems to show that the tower was situated to the south of the main axis of nave and chancel, which may suggest that there had been an earlier nave somewhat to the south.

The church was entirely rebuilt in the last decade of the nineteenth century by Elwin. His family had bought the advowson of the church together with the lordship of the manor in 1713 from the Laver family as part of a marriage settlement and had held it ever since. He inherited the living in 1849 from his cousin, a few years before becoming editor of the *Quarterly Review*. He had no architectural training, but, after deciding to rebuild his church, embarked on a wide-ranging tour of cathedrals and great churches which provided models for many of the details of the finished building. This approach characterises the church with an eclecticism that may shock the purist, but results in a playful eccentricity (Lutyens thought it "very naughty but built in the right spirit"¹²). Particularly notable are the two slender western towers set, improbably, on the diagonal, a fine angel hammerbeam roof, and the large trefoil opening set above the chancel arch, a direct quote from Lichfield cathedral. It helps that the masonry is very good too, especially evident in the west and priest's doors – the Reverend certainly did not skimp on the details.¹³

His ideas about Gothic seem to emulate those of the Cambridge Camden Society and the Oxford Society for the Promotion of Gothic Architecture which resulted in so much rebuilding in the Middle-Pointed style from the 1830s.

11 Francis Blomefield, 'Hundred of South Erpingham: Boton', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 6* (London, 1807), pp. 352-359. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol6/pp352-359> [accessed 19 May 2020].

12 <https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-michael-booton.html> accessed 21 May 2020

13 For full details of the architecture, see the Historic England listing entry <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1342776> accessed 19 May 2020; and the Booton entry in the Norfolk Churches website by Simon Knott, <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/booton/booton.htm> accessed 19 May 2020



The trefoil opening above the chancel arch copied from Lichfield Cathedral

Two very eclectic Gothic door designs at Booton - both Decorated-period in design but wrapped in square Perpendicular-period labels



Brandiston

The church, which stands at the end of one of the runways of RAF Swannington (a WWII airfield where Mosquitoes were once stationed) is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and has a quiet simplicity. The parish of Brandiston was once joined with Guton, which at the time of the Domesday survey seems to have been quite a substantial settlement. However, Guton largely disappeared from historical records by the end of the thirteenth century with only Guton Hall bearing testament to its existence today. Without Guton, Brandiston remained a poor parish. The advowson was held by the Gyney family through most of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the period during which the church was largely rebuilt.¹⁴

The quatrefoil arcade piers have mouldings which suggest they were built between 1300 and 1360. The three-light east window has a curvilinear cusped five-petal design and a two-light window in the north wall has a curvilinear cusped four-dagger or petal design. These are similar in style and would be consistent with the dating for the arcade. Three large three-light windows in the south wall have identical arch mouldings, which strongly suggest they were built at the same time. All three seem to be contemporary with the construction of the wall, to judge from the flint and brickwork which surrounds them. However, the outer windows have a conventional Perpendicular design of the later fourteenth or early fifteenth century, whereas the central window has curvilinear tracery with a five-petal design, very similar to the west window. These two, very different, designs are conventionally held to be from different periods and this unusual juxtaposition may represent a transitional phase. The possible overlap with the dating of the arcade and west window, whose style suggest early to mid-fourteenth century, would hint at a date for the construction of the new nave to the middle or possibly third quarter of that century.

14 Blomefield, Francis. "Eynford Hundred: Brandeston and Guton." *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 8*. London: W Miller, 1808. 195-200. *British History Online*. Web. 24 May 2020. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol8/pp195-200> Care should be taken with this entry as some information about the parish of Bintree appears to have been confused with Brandiston.



Quatrefoil arcade piers and cusped east window tracery at Brandiston





Saracen's Head, Wolterton 2002



Strangers' Hall, Norwich 2015



Royal Oak, Laxfield 2010



North Elmham, 2017



Tannery House 2016



South Lopham 2002



Friday Cottage, Walsingham 2011



Schools Conference, Assembly Rooms 2012



Letton Hall 2014



Thorpe St Andrew 2017



Tannery House, Worthing 2016

NHBG Members enjoying themselves - eating and drinking - as usual!



Fakenham 2018



Beccles 2009