

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

Newsletter

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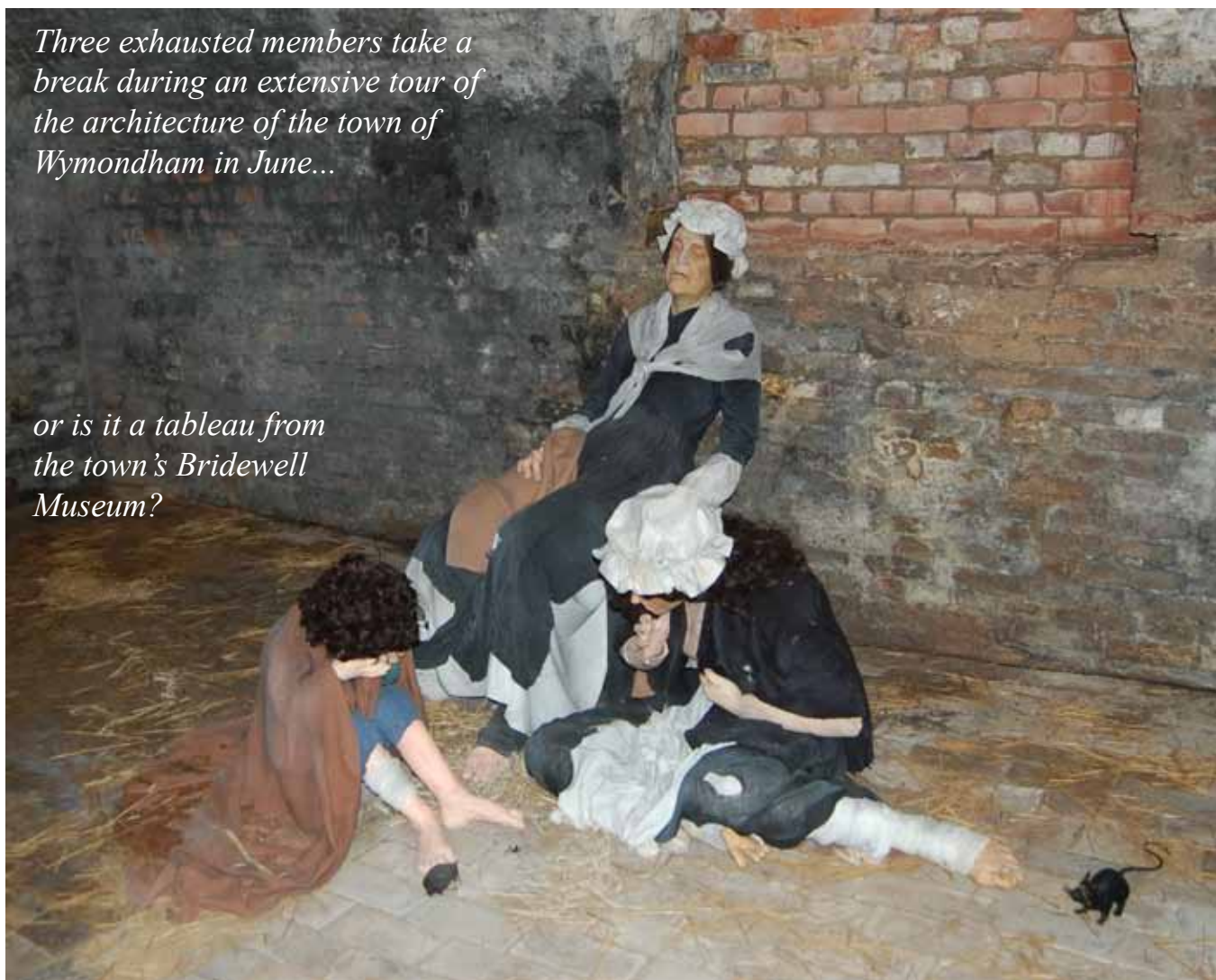


Number twentytwo - Autumn 2011

www.nhbg.org.uk

Three exhausted members take a break during an extensive tour of the architecture of the town of Wymondham in June...

or is it a tableau from the town's Bridewell Museum?



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CHAIR

Welcome to Volume 22 of the Newsletter of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group. Although it may not be immediately evident, this is the first edition of the Newsletter for our new Newsletter editor, Ian Hinton. Many of you will have had contact with Ian since he has served as our Membership Secretary since the group was first established in December 2000. I am delighted that Ian has agreed to take on the production role, whilst continuing his duties as Membership Secretary. I am sure that, like me, you will be impressed by Ian's first Newsletter which he has carefully designed to ensure continuity with previous editions whilst introducing some new features. On p.18 Ian draws attention to the tremendous work of Rosemary Forrest who produced the previous 21 volumes with Alayne Fenner. Rosemary's IT skills and flair for design helped to make the NHBG Newsletter one of the best publications of its kind I have ever come across – it has, arguably, been the Group's most effective 'ambassador' over the past decade, attracting considerable praise from many quarters and persuading new members to join the Group. Rosemary has been a fantastic asset and I am sure you will wish to join me in thanking her for her sterling contribution to the life and work of the Group. She plans to continue working for the group, but will not be on the committee.

Our long-term project in Walsingham continues – progress has been very good since the project was launched last year and you can see some of the fruits of our research on pages 4 and 17. It is fast becoming evident that the buildings of Walsingham are profoundly different from those which we have come across anywhere else in the county, with many buildings incorporating rubble-built ground floors, crown-post roofs and large, undivided, first floor chambers – chambers which appear to have functioned as communal dormitories for the pilgrims visiting the shrine. I am genuinely excited by the complex and idiosyncratic structures we are beginning to uncover (many are disguised under later brick frontages) and as I suspected from the start, the surviving buildings of Walsingham promise to shed important new light onto the nature of the town and the nature of the pilgrimage phenomenon in the Middle Ages. The NHBG is a broad church and encompasses a wide range of buildings and members with different interests.. The content of this volume once again reflects this diversity, with a study of Norwich churches sitting comfortably alongside a study of Victorian school houses and a fascinating analysis of the timber-framed buildings of Denmark. Long may this diversity continue....

Adam Longcroft
Chair, Norfolk Historic Buildings Group
July 2011
a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk



NHBG Journals

Copies of the award winning NHBG Journals are still available at a reduced price to cover printing costs.

No 2 The Historic Buildings of New Buckenham, 2005

A study of the Norman planned town of New Buckenham: historic buildings within the landscape context, dendrochronology of a limited number of houses, documentary evidence, and a full gazetteer of houses visited.
£8.00 + £4.00 Postage & Packing

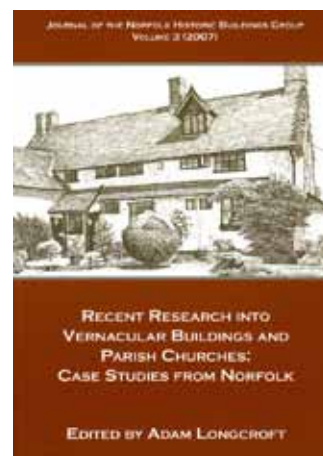
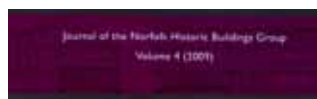
No 3 Recent Research into Vernacular Buildings and Parish Churches : Case Studies from Norfolk, 2007

Fourteen essays into different aspects of historic secular and religious buildings in Norfolk.
£8.00 + £4.00 Postage & Packing

No 4 The Tacolneston Project : A study of historic buildings in the claylands of south Norfolk, 2009

The Tacolneston study summarises the historic buildings of the area with landscape context, dendrochronology of a limited number of houses, some documentary evidence, and a full gazetteer of houses visited.
£10.00 + £4.00 Postage & Packing

Copies will be available at the winter meetings (post free!)



Available from:
Ian Hinton
The Old Rectory
Barnby
Beccles
NR34 7QN
(cheques to NHBG)

Wymondham Town Walk (visit 14th May 2011)

Bill Jones

This was our first outing of the year and it was nice to be out and about again after the winter. We met at the Bridewell Heritage Museum. After tea and cakes made by the lady volunteers, a good start, Mr Eric Thorburn took us around the building and gave us its history. We were told that one of Henry VIII's palaces was converted into a house of correction; it was called Bridewell Palace and thereafter all houses of correction were called 'Bridewells'. We viewed the basement, the oldest part being the 'Dungeon'. The group were surprised at how spacious the cells were and although it is believed it was one person to each cell, Mr Thorburn was able to pack eleven of our group in, although thankfully couldn't then close the door. We were told that prisoners were kept in very poor conditions and we were shown sets of the wrist and leg shackles that they had to wear for the duration of their sentence. Over the years many improvements were made to the building and different phases were pointed out to us. In 1878 it was closed as a prison but the Police continued using it and part became the Magistrates' Court, but this closed in 1991, and it now has some excellent exhibits relating to the History of Wymondham.

We started our walking tour of the Town guided by John Wilson. He pointed out buildings of interest to us and when we reached the Market Cross he told us the story of the great fire that swept through Wymondham in June 1615 and how it had been started by three Gypsies. We then visited the building which is now Warners Estate Agents, which is jettied and believed to be a building that survived the great fire, Mr Warner Snr. gave us a tour of the building showing us a very complete set of carpenters' marks (16) that ran along one wall of the timber frame. He also pointed out a set of vertical 'taper marks' believed to ward off fire. The building was almost derelict when Warners acquired it and they have done a tremendous amount of work getting it to its present condition.

We then visited Becket's Chapel founded in the 12th century by William d'Albini as a chantry chapel dedicated to St Thomas Becket. It was rebuilt in the 14th century and then around 1570 it became a grammar school, but by 1870 it had become a Public Hall. From 1948 to 2008 the building was the Public Library and is now the Wymondham Arts Centre.

We had a splendid lunch at the Green Dragon, a fine late 15th Century timber-framed building that once served as a hostelry for visitors to the Abbey. It is the oldest inn in Wymondham with wonderful 16th century door and windows. After lunch Dominic took us on an interesting tour of the Abbey, and with his knowledge of such buildings helped us make

sense of the different phases of construction, and pointed out the many interesting features of the building. It was founded in 1107 and the church was to serve both parishioners and the Benedictine monks, but the two groups quarrelled over issues such as bell ringing which led to the building of the second tower. Inside is a very ornate gilt reredos which is dedicated to the fallen of the First World War. There is an amazing hammer-beam roof of the mid 15th Century with wonderful carved angels.

This was a great day out, and many thanks to Tony Wright for organising it and to those knowledgeable guides who showed us around.



Approaching the jettied Green Dragon for lunch



Details of the door and jetty (all photos Bill Jones- as well as the front cover)

An evening in Walsingham (visit 9th June 2011)

Susan & Michael Brown

When we were looking at the sixteenth and seventeenth-century houses in New Buckenham and Tacolnестon we found that they were almost exclusively timber-framed and conformed to some variation of the classic medieval tripartite plan of hall, parlour and service rooms. We soon found that in Little Walsingham things are very different.

Most of the houses that we have seen so far at the southern end of the town, on the west side of the High Street and around Friday Market, have ground floor walls of flint dressed with brick and jettied upper floors of timber-framing originally with crown-post roofs. The plans are also different, with just one partition wall on the ground floor and no evidence of original partitions on the first floor. Two of these houses were the venue for our visit on June 9th.

Friday Cottage stands at the south west corner of the market, next to the entrance to the former Friary. The Priory at the north end of the town was the main pilgrimage destination, but this must also have been a significant site and the house lives up to it with elaborately moulded principal joists still showing extensive evidence of a scheme of painted decoration featuring chevrons and a grape vine. There is evidence for a partition wall on the ground floor but the upper floor was open. The implication is that we are not looking at a conventional house but rather somewhere for the accommodation of larger numbers of people, in effect an inn.

We find a similar pattern at Dow House - 17 High Street. Here there is a handsome sixteenth-century doorway in the centre of the rear wall, leading now to a tiny courtyard but originally opening onto Friday Market, probably under a pentice roof incorporating an external stair to the large, upper room. As with Friday Cottage, this looks like an inn and we are beginning to think that most of the buildings in the medieval town were like this, hostels for the accommodation of pilgrims to the shrine.

A bonus for the evening was the opportunity to view the excellent exhibition 'Walsingham 950' (a time line 1061 - 2011) mounted by the Walsingham and District History Society. Unfortunately we could not do justice to the display because of limited time but several members were going to return during the weekend it was open. We ended the visit with refreshments in the beautifully restored environment of Friday Cottage. Our thanks go to Colin and Annie and to Tom for letting us invade their homes and being such welcoming hosts.



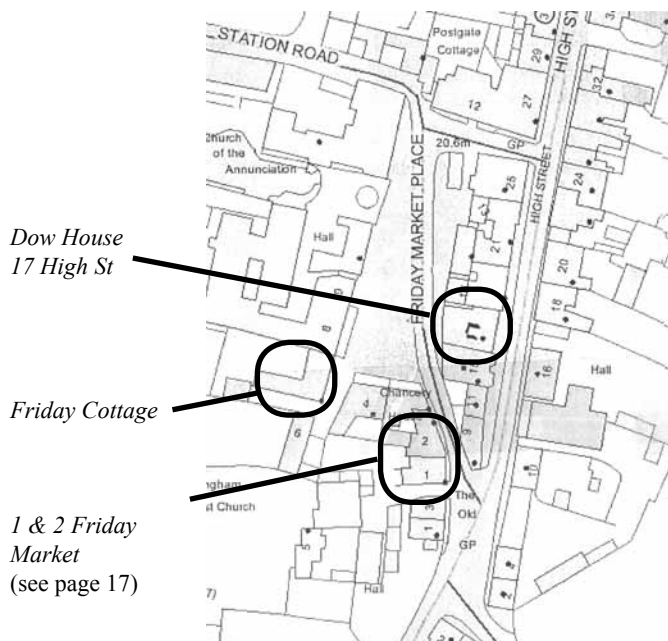
Friday Cottage - one of many buildings in Walsingham formerly used as accommodation for pilgrims to the Shrine.



Friday Cottage interior showing the principal axial joist, the interpretation of which featured in Newsletter 19. Also shown are some students of both vernacular architecture and finger-buffets.



Sixteenth-century doorway in the rear wall of Dow House (all photos Colin King)



*Dow House
17 High St*

Friday Cottage

*1 & 2 Friday
Market
(see page 17)*

Bayfield Hall (visit 29th June 2011)

Hilary Newby-Grant



Bayfield Hall's southern elevation (photo Rosemary Forrest)

Wednesday 29th June was a beautiful summer's day and perfect for a visit to Bayfield Hall in North Norfolk. The Hall is reached by a very long gravel drive, cutting through the parkland and skirting the lake. The approach is such that one expects there to be a rather spectacular building at the end but even if Bayfield Hall is a more modest house than expected its position within the park is certainly spectacular.

The glory of Bayfield Hall is its position in the estate, but no-one laid it out. What Humphry Repton and Capability Brown strived so hard to achieve on other estates is done here by nature. The only interference by man is a widening of the River Glaven in order to form a long narrow lake. In the nineteenth century Jodrell had a brick tunnel constructed to regulate the flow of the Glaven following the formation of the lake. The woodland on the estate is ancient and has been pollarded for hundreds of years. Several oaks are up to five hundred years old and one beech is the oldest in Norfolk, being three hundred years old which is a great feat for a beech tree.



The natural parkland setting of Bayfield Hall (photo Adrian Hodge)

The present house dates from the mid eighteenth century. In appearance the hall is classically Georgian, retaining its original ornate ceilings, shutters and windows with their fine glazing bars. The ground floor is a mixture of pampments and parquet flooring set on the earth floor. The stone steps in the inner hall, opposite the Long Room, are the only remains of an earlier house. The Hall was enlarged during the Victorian period with extensive building to the rear of the existing house. Consisting of three storeys, the uppermost storey now has a kitchen and several bedrooms which are now used for visiting film crews when the house is used for photo shoots. One might

have thought that this floor would have previously been the servants' quarters but these were actually situated above the stables and therefore it is probable that the rooms were devoted to children and nanny.

The first half of the twentieth century saw the demolition of the orangery and ball room and the two storey stable block being reduced to a single storey. In the 1950s the Hall narrowly escaped demolition altogether. From 1938 to 1943 the Hall was occupied by a Canadian Armoured Brigade. Bayfield hall then possessed a formidable wine cellar. The Brigade moved in and by the time the officers arrived the cellar was bare - leaving only tantalising labels of excellent vintages above the wine racks!

There is very little documentation relating to Bayfield Hall. This is due, in part, to the fact that the Hall has never been sold but has passed down the generations from one family to another. Previous owners have been the families of Repps, Jermy, Jodrell and Coke to name but a few before the Hall was inherited by Roger Combe's grandfather.

In Medieval times there had been a village around the former house and the village church, which is now a ruin and sits in an elevated, picturesque position to the east side of the Hall. What is now the main drive was once a Roman road which passed through the village and on to the coast. In those days the sea was far closer than it is today and the quayside was not far beyond the house. The surrounding village ceased to exist in the early eighteenth century and in about 1740 the road was closed and became the drive and a new road was built on the far side of the park where it exists today. Surrounding the estate, along the new road, runs a brick wall. By this time fewer men were needed to run the estate and the building of the wall gave work to thirty men for several years.

There has been human habitation here since records began and there have been many finds on the land over the years. A display case in the entrance hall shows many of these finds. Amongst them are flint tools from the Neolithic period, axe heads from the Bronze Age and Iron-Age and Roman coins.

It was lovely to visit Bayfield Hall and good to see the gracious house still lived in and loved today. Many thanks to Roger Combe and his family.



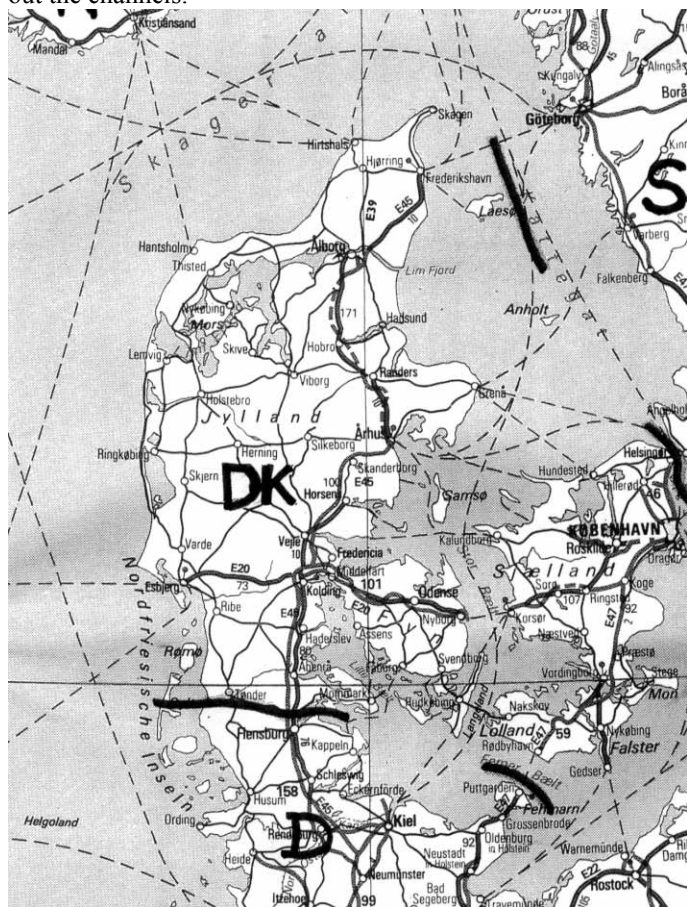
An introduction to timber framing in Denmark

(a summary of the talk by Alan given to the group in January, continued in March)

Alan Eade

Denmark is a small country with complex geography. The mainland, Jutland comprises a long peninsular stretching north from the border with Schleswig-Holstein, formerly also part of Denmark, at about the latitude of Newcastle to the headland Skagen roughly level with Aberdeen.

A large island, Funen, lies to the east, with a much larger island, Zealand, beyond. The capital Copenhagen lies on the eastern coast, bordering the Sound which separates the country from Sweden. Numerous smaller islands are scattered throughout the channels.



*The complex geography of Denmark
(all illustrations supplied by Alan Eade)*

Soils are alluvial throughout. Glacial erratics abound, and in the form of large granite boulders, were widely used as plinths and ashlar for early Romanesque parish churches. Flint and hard chalk occur locally. No other significant building materials were available, so timber construction was universal in earlier centuries. As in lowland England, early huts were of earthfast timbers with some use of stavework. ‘Log cabin’ construction was also used with horizontal timbers jointed at the corners (see A).



A - ‘Log cabin’ corner construction

Also, heavy horizontal planks were used, set between grooved uprights (see B).



B - wall planks grooved into uprights. Above the door are two more examples of the anchor-beam, or tusk-tenon, discussed in Newsletter 20

Timber-framed buildings in the countryside

Oaken framing of medium scantling was used, as in England, for farmsteads and workers’ cottages. Framing was square-panelled with wattle and daub infill and houses were single-storied with gable or hipped roofs.

The anchor-beam technique was widely employed with the projecting tenon having one or two pegs or ‘wedges’, see B. Wooden casement windows were universal and were gradually increased in size to fill the upper part of the panels between the studs. Later they were fitted to both inner and outer surfaces of the walls forming an early type of double-glazing. A greater area of window than found in England was commonly used.

Farm buildings of all sizes were typically arranged in a square to enclose the yard, often roughly paved with erratics, containing a well with characteristic counter-balanced pole and bucket, figure 1.

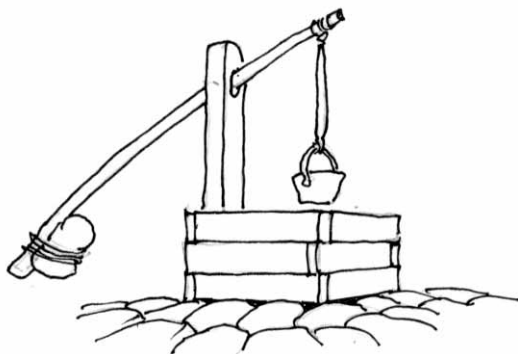


Fig 1

Accommodation for the farmer's family, workers and animals was arranged in contiguous ranges, together with barns, for working-space for threshing, storage, cart-storage and carpentry etc.. All doors opened on to the yard which had a heavy main gate opposite the dwelling-house which was barred at night.

Roofs, both gabled and hipped, were thatched with rye straw or water reed; in remote districts with heather and on some smaller islands with seaweed. Ridges were secured with 'crows beaks' - linked pairs of short, heavy timbers - or with carefully-placed overlapping turves, figure 2.



Fig 2

The cross-passage plan is seldom encountered, but rooms led from a short wide passage for tools, water-butts, clothing etc. and then led from one to another. The use of brick came early in Denmark, so brick-nogging was widely used in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, with panel widths adjusted to accommodate multiples of stretchers. Larger than average bricks were used for monastery buildings. Bricks were accompanied by the introduction of clay pantiles, typically slightly larger than those found in eastern England and universally used in recent times. Stands of oak were less extensive on the light sandy Danish soils than in lowland England. They were gradually exhausted as ship-building took its toll (Denmark sustained a substantial naval and mercantile fleet) and by the mid-seventeenth century constructional timber comprised mainly pine/fir imported from the limitless Baltic forests.

Timber-framing in towns

By the mid-seventeenth century, in the principal streets, single-storey housing was mixed with the two-storey merchants' housing, typically with a long range to the street with a vehicle entrance at one end leading into the yard. Windows filled most of the panels above the mid rail. Jettying was common with modest overhang and short, straight down-braces to the bressumer, as in C.

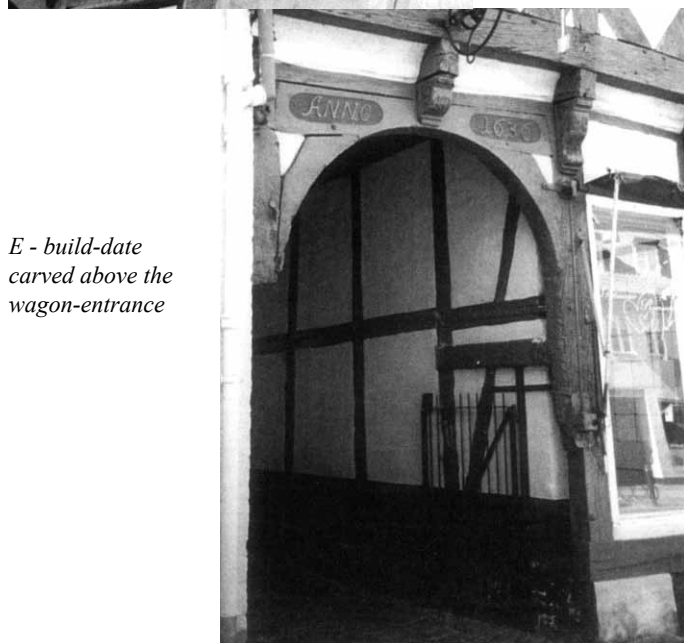


C - urban jettying, showing the 'panel-filling' windows

Short timbers, often finely carved, filled the gaps between the joists which often had brackets beneath the carved ends, see D. The build date was usually carved into the lintel of the wagon-entrance, as in E. The façade was often painted in a variety of colours, including greens, earth colours and pale purple.



D - elaborate carved jetty brackets



E - build-date carved above the wagon-entrance

Annual General Meeting

A brief report

Lynne Hodge

By the later seventeenth and eighteenth centuries most buildings continued to be timber-framed, houses of two or three storeys often having a central gable, large dormer windows or lucarnes, as in medieval Norwich. Walls were mainly lime-plastered and colour-washed and mansard roofs were often employed, see F.



F - Gables and dormers in town

By the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, timber framing, entirely in softwood, continued to be used with the facades of more prestigious buildings faced in stone, brick or moulded plasterwork. In cities such as Copenhagen, buildings up to six storeys are still in use, see G. Timber of vast scantling also framed warehouses with brick infill and columns of loading-doors and platforms set vertically. G. Timber of vast scantling also framed warehouses with brick infill; and columns of lading-doors and platforms set vertically.



G - Six storey buildings from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

Museums and places to visit.

The great Open Air Museum of some 130 relocated historic buildings set in varied environments lies on the northern edge of Copenhagen. Several other cities, eg Aarhus and Aalborg contain 'old towns' of many wonderfully-conserved timber-framed buildings either open to visitors or privately inhabited. In addition there are more than 50 castles, great houses and manor houses open to visitors throughout the country. A timber-framed touring holiday of Denmark is greatly recommended!

After an excellent tour around Itteringham, and following a delicious tea, including homemade scones and cakes, the 2011 AGM of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group was held at the Bure Valley Community Centre on July 23rd.

Adam Longcroft, Chairman, read his report of the previous year and thanked the committee for their work, including organising the winter programme of lectures and the summer visits to Norfolk buildings. Adam gave a special vote of thanks to Rosemary Forrest who is stepping down from the committee and giving up editing the Newsletter, a job she has done for the past 11 years. She was presented with two glass bowls from her fellow committee members in recognition of her sterling work for the NHBG.

Alayne Fenner was re-elected as Vice-Chairman, as were eight other serving members of the committee. Clive Baker was nominated and elected as a new committee member, but there is still a vacancy for anyone who is interested in helping run the group.

Adam also said that despite the group's successes, we still need someone to look after publicity to help spread the news of the group's events and other work.

Thanks were expressed to Maggie and William Vaughan-Lewis for their organisation of the morning and afternoon tours and for arranging the use of the hall.



OOOOOH SCONES! with acknowledgement to Homer Simpson (photo Ian Hinton)

Rosemary receiving her gift from her fellow committee members, presented by Adam. (photo Robin Forrest)



Documentary Research

Assistance on the Walsingham Research at the Record Office would be welcome. Help in identifying relevant documents in the archive and/or Latin or Secretary-Hand palaeography experience is needed
Contact Diane Barr - dibarr@btinternet.com

Cathedral Close (visit 8th July 2011)

Alayne Fenner

“Ups and downs” in the Close

This visit provided a tour of the archaeology of the Cathedral Close buildings. Unfortunately, three of us were latecomers and arrived, rather out of puff, upstairs in the Hostry as our guide Dr. Roland Harris, the Cathedral archaeologist, was concluding his introduction. We then descended and went through the vaulted parlour, where the monks could meet visitors from outside, and upstairs again to a long room over the west range of the cloister. I recognized this as the former coffee bar/ refreshment room by the row of double-splay Saxo-Norman windows and a length of interlaced arcading, originally on the exterior face. Dr. Harris explained that clumsy replastering at some time had rendered the Romanesque arches into two-centred ones.

The thirty five of us clattered down into the cloister at the Dark Entry and ascended to the great glass Refectory with its wonderful view over the Lower Close and the spectacular row of blind arcading, originally part of a wall passage. I was amazed to learn that the whole row was a reconstruction apart from one piece at the west end. From our exalted position we looked down at the remains of the excavated west end of the original building which was not covered by the new one. On regaining terra firma imagination was required, as we looked along the roadway between the cloister wall and the Deanery to the rather severe face of Salvin’s south transept. Originally it would have been filled with the eastern buildings of the cloister walk, of which the western Deanery wall was once part. The monks’ dormitory was above - some of its western windows survive. Then there was the site of the great Chapter House, to which the entrance from the cloister survives, and the Slype – the passage out from the cloister between the Chapter House and the south transept.

The west walls of the Deanery are a tapestry of the blocked shapes of doors and windows and (with the eye of faith) marks on the south wall indicated, according to Dr. Harris, that it was once the outside wall of the Reredorter, the monks’ loo. We then were let in to the Deanery, once the Prior’s lodging, and into the great room with thirteenth-century windows, which was originally open to the roof. When it was floored in the sixteenth century, a stairway, entered through a handsome perpendicular archway was created.

We then proceeded down the Lower Close past the picturesque terrace of houses which was once the Granary; part of a hefty arcade remains at the back of number 55 as the only witness to its former use. On we went, down Gooseberry Gardens, admiring the pretty post-Reformation houses, then back past the handsome seventeenth-century houses on the site of the Brewery. To our surprise, when we went into the charming cottage at the rear there was more arcading, and assurances from the owner, indicated that a substantial amount of the brewery had survived.

The road down to Pulls Ferry was once a canal used for bringing the building stone and later the produce of the priory’s extensive estates, up from the river to the Close. We ascended to the loft of a Victorian stable block en route to the fifteenth-century water gate where we had access to the room

above - its medieval roof long gone.

Finally we made our way back up to the Ethelbert Gate and ascended the stairs to the Norwich School Music Room above, formerly a chapel, which replaced the church of St Ethelbert, destroyed in the riots of 1272. Traces of some of the original Norman stonework can be seen on the inside of the archway.

It was a most successful afternoon and our thanks go to Dr. Harris, our most excellent and enthusiastic guide and to the owners whose properties we visited.



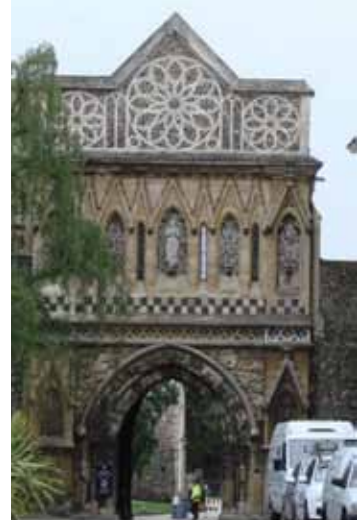
Blind arcading in the Refectory



Houses on Hook’s Walk

Ethelbert gate; one of four gates into the Close

(photos Bill Jones)



Mannington & Itteringham (visit 23rd July 2011)

Ian Hinton, Michael Brown, Anne Woollett

Prior to the AGM, a large group of members spent an interesting day studying housing at every level of rural society within a small geographic area. Despite enormous differences in scale, investment and purpose, there was one recurring theme throughout the day - that of alteration and adaptation.

Mannington Hall



Mannington Hall west front, across the moat (photo Ian Hinton)

Mannington Hall is believed to be based on a hall house built in the middle of the fifteenth century, after receiving a licence to crenelate. It was refronted with knapped flints in the middle of the sixteenth century. Whether the hall was ceiled over at the same time is open to question as evidence of an earlier large (hall?) window can still be seen in the curved line of flints with different material below it, implying that the window still existed when the wall was faced in flint.



*hall window ghost?
(photo Ian Hinton)*

Apart from the addition of a service range in the seventeenth century, substantial alterations have been made to the internal layout of the house over the years. Acquired by Horatio Walpole in 1736, changes were made to the house, and, in 1859, when the fourth Earl of Orford (of the second creation) moved to the house, it was extended to the east with grand rooms whose proportions follow the fashion of the

period. Other internal layout changes made at the time are reflected in the widows on the west wall - at different levels and executed in stone rather than terracotta. The moving of the staircases from the turrets at either end of the house to the central hall required the shifting of one of the principal joists about two feet eastwards to allow the required headroom above the stairs, leaving re-filled mortices.



*Filled mortices after the re-location of the principal joist to allow sufficient headroom above the new staircase
(photo Ian Hinton)*

The Manor House, Itteringham



The Manor House (photo Maggy Chatterley)

Dated convincingly on the facade at 1707, the Manor House encapsulates the character of the village, being the creation of a family of blacksmiths who rose socially as a result of prosperity founded essentially on service to the large neighbouring estates of Blickling and Wolterton. When this house was built, the smithy was moved to other side of the road, now the site of the village shop.

Land purchases from the Potts family of Mannington Hall, extended by purchasing Bintree Hall with its 70 acres, which also brought the Lord of the Manor title to the family, meant that ultimately the estate was 200 acres in all. In three generations, the Robins family had risen from village smithy to Lord of the Manor.

The frontage of the house is complex and on a grand scale, with six windows on each floor, a brick string course, rusticated corners in thinner bricks, and a complex doorway with stone column tops and shield above the door. The house is listed Grade II* and the listing mentions the fine door casing - "central six-panelled door underneath flat arch of gauged brick having stone keystone inscribed with cipher TRM (Thomas, d.1726, and Mary d.1725, Robins); doorway flanked by brick square pilasters surmounted by stone Corinthian capitals with



a segmental pediment and horizontal cornice in moulded brick flushed with lead containing a blank stone cartouche with festoons”.

“Flat arch of gauged brick ...”
(photo Anne Woollett)

Mention in the listing is also made of the open string staircase with carvings of huntsmen and hounds, and the “(part renewed) dog gate with barley sugar bars above open panels with original strap hinges”.



Applied carvings on the staircase string (photo Anne Woollett) and the original dog gate at the foot of the stairs (Rosemary Forrest)

Also mentioned are the original wrought-iron window catches (each of which is different), presumably made by the family themselves!

One of the ground floor window catches
(Ian Hinton)



At the side of Manor House are two brick cottages which at some point were incorporated into the main house and altered by raising the ceilings and roof. A narrow staircase and doors were inserted allowing access to the main house and making the whole building into a more substantial whole.



Cottages at the rear of the L-shaped house
(Ann Woollett)

Having passed into the care of the National Trust, the house now doubles as a family home and an antiques showroom and shop, with a holiday let in the rear range.

Itteringham Village

That there is no such thing as a typical Norfolk village was made clear by our surveys of New Buckenham and Tacolneston and our visit to Itteringham added yet another variation.

After an introductory talk outside the handsome village hall, our guide William Vaughan-Lewis led a large group of members down the sunken lane which is the main street to the village centre, dominated by the Manor House. Other houses such as Meadow House showed the pattern of change from independent farms at the end of the sixteenth century to cottage housing for workers servicing the estates in the eighteenth century. In our own times these cottages have re-coalesced into single houses for our more affluent contemporaries.



Meadow House; farmhouse --► cottages --► back to single house
(photo Maggy Chatterley)

A village school was built in 1846 by Revd. Robert Walpole accomodating up to 78 children in the 1880s. In 1969, like so many rural schools, it closed, and has now been converted into a comfortable home.



The converted school building
(Robin Forrest)

The antiquity of the settlement is clear from the church, where the fabric of the north wall shows early twelfth-century characteristics and the batter often associated with Norman work. The most mysterious feature is the ruined northern transept chapel with its raking put-log holes (or squints?) and a striking pink marble monument almost engulfed by an unusually sinister crop of nettles.

Each of the buildings mentioned in this piece has undergone considerable alteration or adaptation and, in the case of the school, a completely new use, in order to keep pace with the changing requirements of the economy, population levels and social structure.

The lowering sky spared us the threatened rain and ended the afternoon with a sprightly AGM (reported on page 8) and a sumptuous cream tea. What better way to spend a day?

Our thanks go to Lord and Lady Walpole and Nigel Slater for allowing us access to their homes and to Maggy and William Vaughan-Lewis for organising the visit.

More detail can be found in:-
Good Neighbours: Itteringham, Norfolk in the 18th Century,
by Maggy and William Vaughan-Lewis.
Available from the authors - vaughan-lewis@talktalk.net

Three marshland churches (visit 25th June 2011)

Richard Ball

We visited three churches situated on the edge of the Ouse marshes, Terrington St Clement, Wiggshall St Mary Magdalen and Walpole St. Peter. The group was led in a discussion which centred on the porches of each of the three churches by Helen Lunnon who is a PhD student at the University of East Anglia researching the architecture of medieval church porches.

All the porches are believed to have been built around the mid-fifteenth century although for none of them has any documentation yet been discovered. Terrington's porch (17ft 9in x 10ft 8in) and the south porch at Walpole St Peter (20ft x 11ft 4in) are amongst the largest porches in the county, whilst that at Wiggshall (11ft 7in x 9ft 11in) is a standard-sized Norfolk porch.

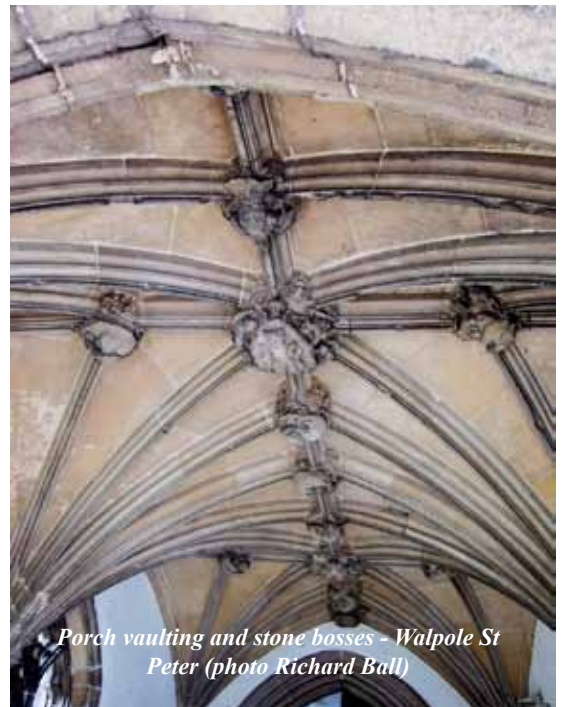
Walpole St Peter

The grandest church of the three is undoubtedly Walpole St Peter which has a north and a south porch. The north porch is single story, plain with a decorative battlemented parapet which matches that above the south porch, a much more elaborate building of two bays and two storeys, with angle buttresses. It has a grand front facade with niches which presumably once contained images, small coats of arms including that of Sir John Goddard, and a large and decorative window to the upper storey. The lower has a vaulted ceiling with bosses and windows that were once glazed (the grooves for the glazing are still visible).

No documentation has been found but both the north and the south porches seem to be contemporary with the main building. The Norfolk antiquarian Rev. F. Blomefield recorded seeing the date 1425 in the windows of the south aisle. That the porch was built around the same date is supported by the heraldry above the entrance arch which relates to Sir John Goddard who died in 1435.



The magnificent two-bayed, two-storied porch at Walpole St Peter (photo Ian Hinton)



Porch vaulting and stone bosses - Walpole St Peter (photo Richard Ball)



Helen explaining the multitude of roles that porches played as part of the church in mediæval times (photo Robin Forrest)



Terrington St Clement

Terrington St Clement has an ashlar faced south porch, finely made with well-proportioned external decoration, drawn and executed to fit the space with no awkward accommodations. There is no heraldry, which can help with dating, and neither personal nor religious symbolism in the decorations. Although the porch would appear to be of much the same date as the external appearance of the south aisle, into which it leads, it almost certainly was built as an attachment to that aisle, since the original buttresses of the south aisle wall are still visible where the porch attaches to the church (see photo). In 1426 Walter Goddard left £10 for a new window, and so it is likely that at this time the south facade was being rebuilt or altered and this seems the best date source we have for the building of the porch.

Terrington St Clement porch, built after the aisle - demonstrated by the butt-joint with the buttress (joint highlighted) (photo Richard Ball)

On the floor of the porch is a ledger slab (see photo). Helen Lunnon commented that in cases in Norfolk, church porches were the chosen site of burial for the patron of the building. If this were the case at Terrington also, the large ledger stone, originally inlaid with brass, would have dominated the interior of the otherwise undecorated porch.



Part of the ledger slab which dominates the porch floor at Terrington St Clement, showing the holes for the fixing of the original brasswork (photo Richard Ball)

Wiggenhall St Mary Magdelene

The church at Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen is built of brick. According to Brunskill and Clifton-Taylor, English medieval brickmaking began in the latter part of the thirteenth century¹. Of surviving brick buildings prior to 1550, over half are in Norfolk, Suffolk or Essex. There are only a few pre-Reformation brick churches, some of the best of these in Norfolk.

The south porch, too, is built of brick with ashlar archway, windows and quoin detailing. It was built either with, or very soon after, the south aisle, but seems to have been the result of a last minute change of plan as the eastern wall of the porch is built over a buttress. It is a two storey porch, and in that there is no visible change of the fabric between the two stories on the southern elevation it is likely that it always has been. It has been suggested that the upper room was once used as the village school. The floor to the upper storey no longer exists.

All decorative emphasis is to the front elevation of the porch, with rather unusual, for the period it is assumed to be, plain circular half columns to the entrance arch.

The south door into the church is flanked by two heraldic shields in the spandrels. These have been identified as the arms of Ingoldisthorpe and Howard. Sir Edmund Ingoldisthorpe died 1456 and it has been suggested that the doorway, and thus the porch, is of this period.

All three churches have a wealth of interesting features and are well worth going out of your way to visit.

One of many other treasures in these three churches - a "poppy-head" bench-end of three carved heads at Walpole St Peter (photo Ian Hinton)



¹ Ronald Brunskill and Alec Clifton-Taylor, *English Brickwork*, Ward Lock, 1977, pp 14-16.

Crossing Day School (16th July 2011)

Victorian Architecture: Essex and Beyond

Rosemary Forrest

The call of Crossing Temple Barns on a very wet July day found a select group from NHBG getting up to scratch with all things Victorian at a Day School organised by Essex Historic Buildings Group and Essex County Council Historic Buildings & Conservation.

Peter Minter, Bulmer Brick Company, reminded us that with the arrival of trains the distribution of brick over the whole country promoted the development of small local brick works into regional and national businesses. Improvements in the preparation of clay allowed for the design of ever more elaborate forms, such as the Gothic Revival, and the development of red rubbing bricks culminated in the building of St Pancras Station in 1874.

Kit Wedd, Alan Baxter & Associates, took us inside not only to look at the strict hierarchy of use and relative status of domestic space but also revealed the range of new materials, such as lincrusta and anaglypta. She also recommended that we visit Linley Sambourne House (18 Stafford Terrace) and Leighton House (Holland Park Road) in the Royal Borough of Kensington, London, to see interiors of the period.

Farm buildings were covered by Anne Padfield who showed how the increasing mechanisation and farming

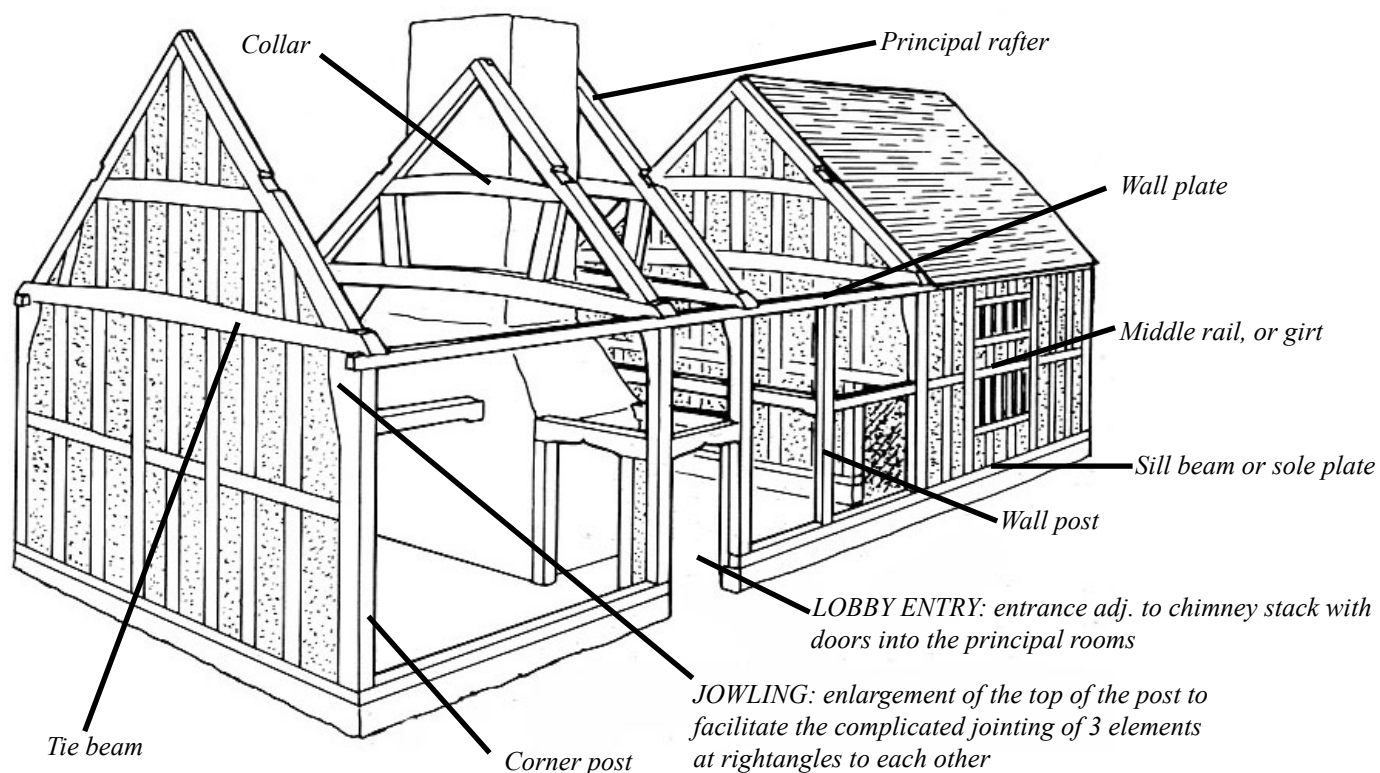
intensification was reflected in buildings and their layout but that some vernacular traditions were continued. The talk on workers' housing in nineteenth Century Essex by Tony Crosby looked more at urban industrial model housing but showed an interesting progression to better facilities for workers.

Of great interest was the talk, based on English Heritage's 2008-09 book *England's Schools* by Elaine Harwood on Victorian school buildings. She clearly and entertainingly set out the history of schooling and showed pictures, mainly of urban schools, illustrating the changes to buildings required by legislation and rising populations. When the Norfolk survey is completed there will be a matching rural study.

Finally Brenda Watkin introduced two Victorian architects: William White and George Sherrin. William White had a national reputation and was a writer and promoter of building science. However it was the houses of the Essex-man, George Sherrin, which came over as more exciting and challenging.

I would encourage NHBG members to look out for next year's Crossing Day School because it provides a different perspective on historic buildings in an historical – if cold – setting.

THE NAMING OF THE PARTS: the first of an occasional series



Drawing and definitions from *Recording Timber-Framed Buildings: An Illustrated Glossary*, NW Alcock et al., CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology No. 5, 1996, p 17.

The mediaeval churches of Norwich

(A summary of the talk given by Nick to the group in March)

Nick Groves

Norwich has one of the largest and most important collections of mediaeval churches in northern Europe, with thirty-one surviving medieval churches within the City walls. Altogether, the sites of a total of about sixty-one churches are known, serving an area of a square mile-and a-half.

The exact foundation dates of the various churches in Norwich are unknown, but most of them are of pre-1066 foundation. We do know that the three churches of Mancroft Ward - St Giles-on-the-Hill, St Peter Mancroft, and St Stephen - were founded to serve the French borough, itself established after the Conquest. It is notable that in comparison with others, their parishes are very large. The two St Georges (Colegate and Tombland) are probably late foundations too, as it was not a popular dedication until after the first Crusade (1096).

People often wonder why there are so many churches. Towns of a similar age to Norwich tend to have large numbers of small parishes – London had over 100 churches, and Thetford twenty-two. It is possible that some were established by private individuals, and remained the private property of their founder's family. Another theory suggests that it is an attempt to recreate 'Rome at Home', with its large number of churches. The true reason is, however, long since lost.

The original buildings would have been wooden, and much smaller than their successors. The remains of a hitherto-unknown one was uncovered behind the Anglia TV buildings in 1979. Most of the churches underwent several rebuildings during the Middle Ages – either being totally reconstructed (as St Andrew was, in 1506) or by having additions made to the original fabric (as St Miles Coslany). A very few – such as St Etheldreda – retain their Norman fabric, and there has been

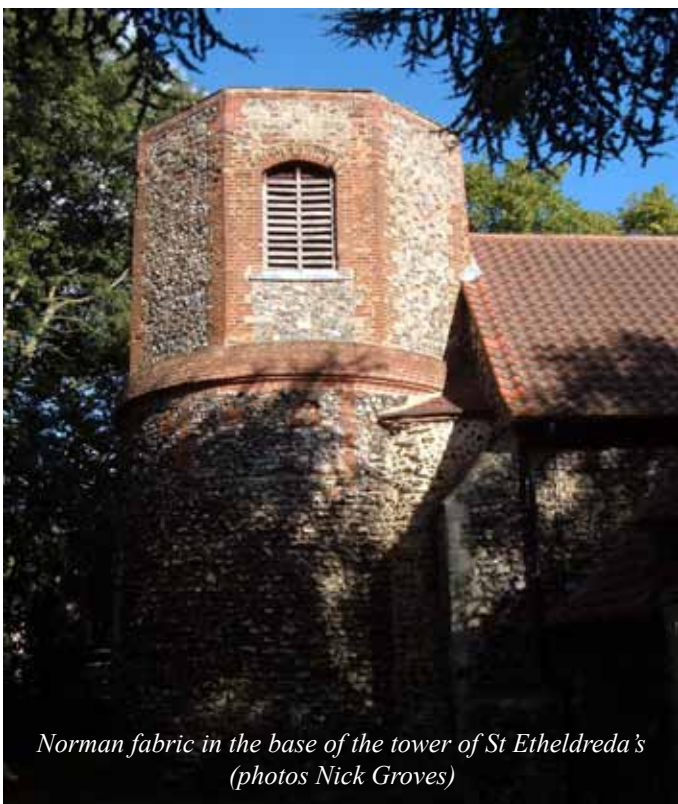
a significant amount of post-mediaeval building, such as St Augustine's red brick tower of 1685. St Stephen's is particularly interesting, as its rebuilding spans the 1530s, when the first stage of the Reformation was underway.

There was no real rationalisation of churches in Norwich until the Reformation when twenty-one of them were demolished. Even this may well have been a result of the valuable location of their sites, or their poor state of repair. Nothing more was done until the nineteenth century: one was demolished in 1884, and one closed in 1894. Three more were destroyed by bombs in 1942.

In 1971, a second major rationalization took place, leaving only twelve churches open for worship, four of which (St Augustine, St John Maddermarket, St John-de-Sepulchre, and St Margaret) have since been closed. The Norwich Historic Churches Trust was set up in 1973 by the City Council, with the remit of caring for the redundant buildings, and also finding acceptable alternative uses for them. St Peter Hungate, for example, had been in use as a museum since 1932, and was one of the first redundant churches in the country to be given an alternative use. Current uses include exhibition space, a probation centre, a bookshop, and an arts centre. The Trust has eighteen of the churches in its care, and three more (St Augustine, St John Maddermarket, and St Lawrence) are in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

More about NHCT and its work can be found at www.norwichchurches.co.uk

Dr Nicholas Groves, FRHistS; Education Officer & Trustee, The Norwich Historic Churches Trust.



*Norman fabric in the base of the tower of St Etheldreda's
(photos Nick Groves)*



*St Augustine's, Gildencroft; its tower rebuilt a century
and a half after the Reformation, in 1685*

Norfolk Rural Schools Survey update

Susanna Wade Martins

Visits to Norfolk schools continue with nearly 300 on the database, most of which have been submitted to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER). I am assured that it will not be long before we will be able to see the results of our labours on the HER website.

As ever, surprises continue to cause excitement. A photograph of the tin school at Deopham which was used from 1909 to 1929 has come to light. The building itself is now a private house.

We continue to be grateful to the owners of private houses which were once schools who allow us access and give permission for us to take photographs. The complex clock mechanism with a huge weight and pendulum in the sitting room at Hardingham which operated the clock on the face of the building was a surprise. It was installed as a memorial to the school's builder, Miss Edwards, in 1892. The owner told me that it did work, but was too noisy to have it going. Its tick must have dominated the school room and cannot have assisted learning!

The recording group had a most enjoyable summer outing to Sally North's Victorian school at Great Cressingham (www.victorianschool.com) where we formed our letters on slates with squeaky pencils, did our sums and sung a hymn or two accompanied by an accordion and harmonium. We all felt that the experience brought the buildings we were recording very much alive and were very grateful to Sally ('Miss North') for her hospitality. Further visits to schools as they are closed and awaiting re-use are planned for the autumn.

We continue to make use of the records at the Norfolk Record Office which also help us to understand conditions in the school. Recently I came across a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate on Fordham School written as recently as 1936:

There are 34 children aged between 5 and 14. They are arranged in two classes which share an unpartitioned room measuring 24 by 16 feet. The handicaps imposed by the building and the necessary wide age range of the children seriously restrict the scope of the training and make the task of teaching difficult. (NRO C/ED 69/3/2)

An exhibition entitled '**Building Education**', which will use documents from the Norfolk Record Office and objects from Gressenhall Museum as well as the records made by this NHBG survey, opens on September 19th in the Long Gallery at the Record Office at County Hall and will remain open for three months.

I hope that as many members as possible will make a point of going to see it.



Deopham's short-lived tin school



The 1892 clock mechanism at Hardingham. It is easy to understand why it is too loud to have it running



Hardingham School, now closed and converted into a private house (photos Susanna Wade-Martins)

A Digest of Buildings Visited Since April 2011

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

Sue Brown.

St. Elizabeth, Knight's Gate, Walsingham

A lobby-entry house of the early seventeenth century with a later service extension **(A)**

16 Knight Street, Walsingham

A lobby entry house of the late seventeenth century

47-49 High Street, Walsingham

Originally jettied to the front and possibly to the rear. An octagonal crown post survives in the roof **(B)**. Later brick front and extensions to the rear in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

4 Egmere Road, Walsingham

A single-cell, one and a half storey building in brick and flint of the late seventeenth century. A separate two-celled dwelling, probably eighteenth century to the rear was linked to make one building.

1 Friday Market, Walsingham

A first floor timber frame with jetty over a masonry ground floor. The first floor originally a single chamber open to the crown-post roof. Late seventeenth and eighteenth-century additions to the rear with a new brick facade and fenestration to the High Street **(C)**.

2 Friday Market, Walsingham

A first floor timber frame with jetty over a masonry ground floor **(D)**. Inserted central chimney stack and the position of front door moved to create lobby entry. The first floor originally a single chamber open to the crown-post roof. Late seventeenth and eighteenth-century additions to the rear with a new brick facade and fenestration to the High Street.

(photos Sue & Michael Brown)



EDITOR

This issue sees a change - Ian has taken over as editor from Rosemary, who felt that ten years at the helm was enough. I shall miss her but look forward to working with Ian. All the summer meetings have been most successful - and over-subscribed. It was a special pleasure to re-acquaint myself with the sublime church of Walpole St. Peter, which was the grand finale of the Marshland Churches day, and I particularly recall relishing the atmosphere of Walsingham in the gathering dusk of an early June evening. On that occasion Sue not only led us round the buildings and provided the delicious nibbles, but also wrote up the meeting as we could not find a volunteer! Luckily others have risen to other occasions elsewhere as you will see. Our grateful thanks to you all.

Alayne Fenner
Editor

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

As this is my first newsletter, produced in software that is new to me and using publishing terms which are completely foreign, please forgive any teething problems. Rosemary has made the Newsletter her own and is a very hard act to follow. I do not have her set of extensive connections yet, nor her ability to persuade people to do things that they don't really want to do, but I hope to achieve both of these skills over time.

Ian Hinton
Newsletter Production

Newsletter Request

Please do not forget that we are always looking for articles, items of interest, queries, photographs, or anything which has taken your interest to include in newsletters.

Alayne Fenner: 01603 452204
Ian Hinton 01502 475287

School survey anecdote

It was reported that two NHBG school researchers approached a house, which had been a school, and knocked on the door. They greeted the owner with the words, **“Don't worry, we are not Jehovah's Witnesses”**. The owner replied, **“But I am”**.

NHBG Committee

The Group has an exciting programme and many thoughts for future projects. The Committee would always welcome fresh input, enthusiasm and commitment. We are always in need of someone with expertise in, or interest in, Publicity. Do think about joining us. Lynne Hodge (01362 620 690) would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining.

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Vacancy

Courses, Day Schools and Information Sources

VAG Conference

The Eighteenth Century Town House

23th-25th September 2011

It will examine some of the new kinds of house built for urban life in eighteenth-century Britain. Themes to be addressed are likely to include types of accommodation, interiors and furnishings, and what they and other sources reveal concerning the ways of life for which the houses were built. For details, or to book, go to the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education website.

<http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/>

Remember:

The Group is a Member of the Vernacular Architecture Group and is willing to discuss the possibility of some financial support for any member wishing to attend a VAG conference or meeting.

Please speak to any committee member for more information

Go to the Norwich
HEART Website for
buildings-related
events in the autumn.

Heritage Open Days :
8th - 11th Sept 2011

<http://www.heritagecity.org/hods>



National Heritage List for England Search the list for any listed property

Heritage Protection Reform (HPR), has already seen many improvements made to the way EH designate and manage the historic environment. Two of the main aims of HPR include: creating a unified approach to the historic environment making the designation process more open and accessible. The National Heritage List for England is an important step towards the unified approach, as well as making the data more accessible. For more information go to: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/list>

Essex HBG

Essex Historic Buildings Group meetings are held on the first floor at Moulsham Mill, Chelmsford, unless otherwise stated, at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

Further information can be found at

[http:// www.ehbg.co.uk](http://www.ehbg.co.uk)

Friday 16th September, Lee Prosser, Abbot Moot's Barns, Hertfordshire.

Friday 21st October, Frank Woodman, The Pilgrim Inns of Medieval Canterbury

Friday 2nd December, speaker(s) to be announced

Historic Environment Research Conferences 2011/12

run by the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge

Landscapes of Anglo-Saxon Christianity

Saturday 5 November 2011

Venue: University of Cambridge, Law Faculty
Closing date for applications: 26 October 2011

Recent research in vernacular architecture: rural building traditions of the 'poorer sort', 1600-1900'

Saturday 25 February 2012

Venue: University of Cambridge, Law Faculty
Closing date for applications: 15 February 2012

Parks, Gardens and designed landscapes of Medieval Wales

Saturday 9 June 2012

Venue: Newnham College, Cambridge
Closing date for applications: 30 May 2012

Enquiries to:

Dr Susan Oosthuizen - by email on smo23@cam.ac.uk
or by post to HERC, c/o McDonald Institute for
Archaeological Research, Department of Archaeology, Univ
of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3ER.
Phone enquiries (office hours only) 0758 3151685

Winter Programme 2011/12

All meetings will be held in the INTO Building at UEA at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

INTO is located at the Bluebell Road end of University Drive (see map at foot of page). Parking (limited) is available in front of the building, otherwise in the main carpark (which is normally charged for).

The winter programme is free to members, non-members are welcome - £3 at the door.

Friday, 7th October 2011

Nick Hill (English Heritage)

JW Evans Silver factory, Birmingham

Established in 1881, J W Evans is one of the most complete surviving historic factories in the Jewellery Quarter. Behind the terraced house frontage, the workshops retain their original drop stamps and fly presses, and are packed with thousands of dies for the manufacture of silverware as well as the whole of the working equipment, stock and records of the business. English Heritage stepped in to rescue the factory in March 2008, after all other efforts to secure its future had failed. Phase 1 of the project, which commenced on site in April 2009, is tackling the repair of the building exterior, including full re-roofing. Further phases of the project will allow public access to this important site.

Friday, 18th November 2011

Shawn Kholucy

Sharps'n'flats-Flint building in E. Anglia

As a member of, and a former trustee of, SPAB, and from his work for the Churches Conservation Trust, Shawn has extensive experience and knowledge of flint building, the 'style typique' for much of East Anglia.

Tuesday, 6th December 2011

Owen Thompson

Norwich Cathedral in the
18th & 19th centuries

Owen will be looking at the sources of evidence available – paintings, diaries, official records, builders' bills, newspaper reports and photographs. He will also answer several unrelated questions: where does the Norfolk word "pamment" come from? Can we trust John Sell Cotman's paintings? How did some of the stained glass end up in Kent? and how did 15th century tracery become a garden ornament in Ketteringham?

Thursday, 12th January 2012

Members evening

A chance for members to present their own research to a receptive audience. At the time of going to press, the line-up is as follows:

Susanna Wade-Martins - update on the Norfolk schools recording project

Susan & Michael Brown - houses in Walsingham

Ian Hinton - church aisles in Norfolk

Wednesday, 8th February 2012

Sarah Edwards

The Georgianisation of buildings in
Norwich

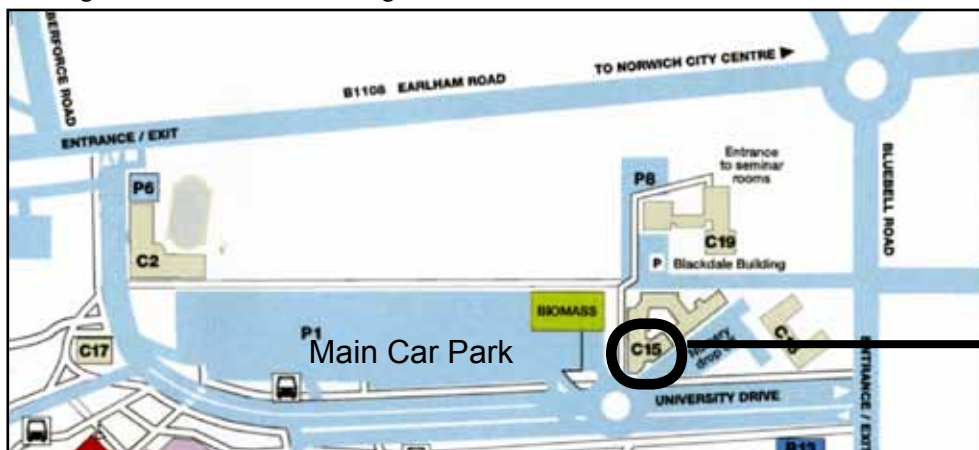
The Georgianisation of Norwich - during the Georgian period (1714 - 1837) - saw a massive change in the architecture of Norwich with the construction of impressive new structures such as the original Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the reconstructed Assembly House. The Georgian style was highly fashionable, but in many cases, rather than construct new buildings, house owners simply applied a Georgian facade to their existing structure and so were able to appear fashionable at a reduced cost. This talk will examine some of these fascinating buildings.

Tuesday 13th March 2012

Richard Harris

How to take a house down

Richard Harris needs no introduction, as Director of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum and as the author of the indispensable *Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings* (Shire Publications, 1978), he has been a leading light in the timber-framing world for many years. Arrive early or risk standing at the back.



INTO
building