

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

Non members

£2.00

Newsletter



Number forty-three
Summer 2021

www.nhbg.org.uk

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CHAIR

After more than a year without many of the usual avenues for research available, such as Record Offices and house visits, we should be thankful for the times we live in. Desk-based research has been able to fill some of the normal gaps and enabled us to continue, as there is now so much access possible to previous research whilst sitting at the computer. Hard-to-find books can be read as digitised versions, many older manuscripts and documents have been photographed and are available in on-line archives as images, many out of print books can now be bought as print-on-demand reproductions, and so many houses can be examined internally via Rightmove photographs - all of which bring valuable information within reach, and have meant that work can continue. In addition, there have been any number of on-line lectures, many of them free. The downsides are that many of these avenues have been monetised, sitting behind paywalls, and are of course, only available to those who have the ability to get on-line.

However, there is little better than getting out in the field, or handling the original documents in Record Offices, and it is to be hoped that we will soon be able to return to those days.

The lock-down-walk photos that you have been sending in do indicate that there have been other advantages to the slower pace of life that has been imposed on us. It may take some time to return to the way things were - make the most of it!

Ian Hinton

Chair, Norfolk Historic Buildings Group

June 2021

ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

Committee Contact Details

Ian Hinton

134 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0SB

01603 431311 [h] e.mail:ian.hinton222@btinternet.com

Chair & Editor

Alayne Fenner

24 Mount Pleasant, Norwich, NR2 2DG

01603 452204 [h] e.mail: alayne.fenner@btinternet.com

Deputy Chair

Lynne Hodge

Long Acres, Saxlingham Road., Blakeney, Holt NR25 7PL

01263 741950 e.mail: lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk

Committee Secretary and Buildings

Maggy Chatterley

134 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0SB

01603 431311 [h] e.mail: maggy6@btinternet.com

Treasurer & Membership

Mary Ash

107 St Leonards Road, Norwich, NR1 4JF

01603 616285 [h] e.mail: mary.ash@ntlworld.com

Winter Programme

Dominic Summers

3 Speke Street, Norwich, NR2 4HF

07709 028192[m] e.mail: d.summers1@btinternet.com

Summer Events

Jackie Simpson

The Chestnuts, Church Road, Neatishead NR12 8BT

01692 630639(h) e.mail: jackie.g.simpson@btinternet.com

Web Page Database

Diane Barr

24 The Shrublands, Horsford, NR10 3EL

01603 898928 [h] e.mail: dibarr@btinternet.com

Documentary Research

Anne Woollett

The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepham NR10 4SJ

01603 870452 [h] email: anne.woollett@tiscali.co.uk

Web Pages

Hilary Newby-Grant

Ketteringham Cottage, Sloley, Norfolk NR8 8HF

01692 538383 [h] email: billnewby8@hotmail.com

Twitter Feed & Zoom master

Jess Johnson

Tin Barn, High Common Road, North Lopham IP22 2HS

01953 681408 (h) email: jessjohnston315@gmail.com

Twitter Feed & Zoom master

Owen Warnock

St Marys Farm, Cheney's Lane, Tacolneston, Norwich NR16 1DB

01508 481822 (h) email: oandrwarnock@btinternet.com

Paul Hodge (not on committee)

The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepham NR10 4SJ

01603 870452 [h] email: pt.hodge@tiscali.co.uk

Facebook Group

Notices

Sue Shand

Very sadly, we have to report the death of long-term NHBG member Sue Shand.

Sue was one of the founding members of the NHBG in 2000, and became Treasurer in 2003 - a role she continued for ten years, setting up procedures for the future and putting the Group's finances on a good footing. She was diagnosed with cancer towards the end of this period and subsequently suffered a number of recurrences of the disease between remissions with courage, humour and positivity.

When Sue was first a member her interest in NHBG was sparked by her own home which was an intriguing late sixteenth-century, timber-framed farmhouse in South Norfolk. Sue's generosity and curiosity allowed members to visit her home for initial recording, training sessions, meetings and social occasions. In those early days this freedom allowed recorders to widen their knowledge of plan forms, scarf joints and drawing skills.

Outside her interest in vernacular buildings, Sue's energy for netball transferred into her becoming an avid tango dancer. Threaded through her very full life in South Norfolk was her love of horses, especially Arthur, and her dogs, Molly and Jack.

The Committee and NHBG members are so grateful for all that she did for NHBG and will miss her lively input. We send our condolences to her son Tom and his wife.

Rosemary Forrest

Alayne Fenner

Alayne Fenner, our Deputy Chair since 2007, has resigned from the role that she took over from her husband George after his death. Her declining health means that she is moving to a care home in London to be near her family.

Apart from their extensive active research, and Alayne's role as newsletter editor for several years, the Fenners hosted NHBG committee meetings almost since the start in 2000. Alayne will remain a member, but will no longer be able to take an active part in the running of the group.

Together, Alayne and George have not only been mainstays of the NHBG, but they were involved in the wider field of the archaeology and history of Norfolk. Their work has been widely published in the NAHRG Annual and in several Norfolk Archaeological Unit volumes during the 1980s and 1990s., including numbers 32,44 and 49 on lost villages and churches. They were also active in the Centre for East Anglian Studies. Alayne's extensive documentary research of the Hobart family at Hales has recently been used as part of a new book on the restoration of Hales Hall.

Ian Hinton

Cover photo: Lime Tree Cottage, Hempnall - one of the subject for the talk on June 28th. (photo - Ian Hinton)

Until the position of Government restrictions for later in the summer is made definite, we have held off organizing any proper summer visits, except for the AGM (see pp 5-7)

Zoom talks

Monday, June 28th @ 7:30

Lime Tree & Poacher's Cottages, Hempnall - Ian Hinton

Wednesday, July 21st @ 7:30

Mills and Marshes - Alison Yardy

Tuesday, August 17th @ 7:30

Norwich Undercrofts - Terry George

Friday, August 13th @ 12:30 LIVE
12:30 (lunch), 1:30 AGM, then tours of the building) to be held at The Fox, Garboldisham.

The Fox is a sixteenth-century, timber-framed building with a queen-post roof. It is now operated as a community-run pub and they have kindly agreed to open exclusively for the NHBG at lunchtime, for lunch, a place to hold the AGM (indoors if wet) and to have a look at this building - restored for community use. If the restrictions change, we may have to revert to Zoom.

NHBG Research

Houses Visited since

August 2020

Unfortunately, we have been unable to visit any houses since August - apart from our own!!

Seen on lockdown walks

All Saints, Intwood

This is one of the quoins of the nave of All Saints, Intwood church - a twelfth-century build. The quoins are built entirely of cobble stones - flint and conglomerate, ably demonstrating that corners can be built of rounded stones (*as are several other churches in Norfolk, including Hethel, close by (ed)*) despite the comments in some early textbooks giving the lack of quoin stones as the reason for round church towers.



Cottage Orné

Gate lodge to Intwood Hall (c 1835). Literally, "decorated cottage". The term dates back to a movement of "rustic" stylised cottages of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries during the Romantic Movement when some sought to discover a more natural way of living as opposed to the formality of the preceding Baroque and Neo-Classical architectural styles. Occasionally it is described as "Gothic" by Historic England, as is Beehive Cottage in Ringland, (shown right) built in 1793.



Rosemary Forrest

Waterloo Pavilion

In the last Newsletter, Terry Wooller asked about this sculpture on the top of the Pavilion in Waterloo Park.

NHBG member, Clive Lloyd has guided us to page 63 of Richard Cocke's *Public Sculpture of Norfolk and Suffolk* for the answer (available online at: racns.co.uk).

The sculpture was unveiled in 2000 and made by the artist Alex Johannsen. The monkeys are using a camera, earphones and an old-fashioned telephone handset - three functions that could nowadays be performed by an iPhone.



Clive Lloyd

Photos by the submitting authors

Garden building in the grounds of former Bracondale Lodge

Now sited south-west of County Hall. This folly was built by Philip Martineau in 1804 incorporating late thirteenth century ironwork and doorframe from the Cathedral infirmary which was demolished in 1804. It was either designed by William Wilkins (sen), the architect of Bracondale Lodge, or by Humphrey Repton who designed the grounds.



Now only this arch remains - it is Grade II listed.

Chris Ash

Old generator house, Neatishead

This building has often intrigued both local residents and visitors who pass it on a country lane in Neatishead.

For many years it was in a sad condition but has recently been sympathetically turned into a smart dwelling.

It is in fact the old standby generator house, built in the 1950s for the RAF Neatishead radar station, which was opened in 1941. Great pains were taken to disguise its true function by building it to resemble a simple chapel. It has what looks to be a small bell tower with a plain rectangular structure attached which could be the main meeting room.

As it lies some distance from the radar station in a part of the main village, and has several houses near it, the ability to hide in "plain sight" was invaluable.

Jackie Simpson



Langley Park Lodges and Gates

Before we moved to Norwich, we used to pass these lodges on the A146 several times a week. At the time, I did not realise that they had been designed by Sir John Soane in around 1785 as part of the entrance to Langley Park. They were rescued by the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust in 1987 and restored to their former glory. The gates themselves were found in the neighbouring woods. They stand completely alone and are listed Grade II*.



Maggie Chatterley

Painting in Friday Cottage, Walsingham

Colin King & Ian Hinton

This note has been generated not by something seen on a lockdown walk, but something uncovered during a lock-down tidy up. Colin King has sent in pictures of a stud (shown next page) recently re-discovered in the attic of Friday Cottage in Walsingham.

Introduction

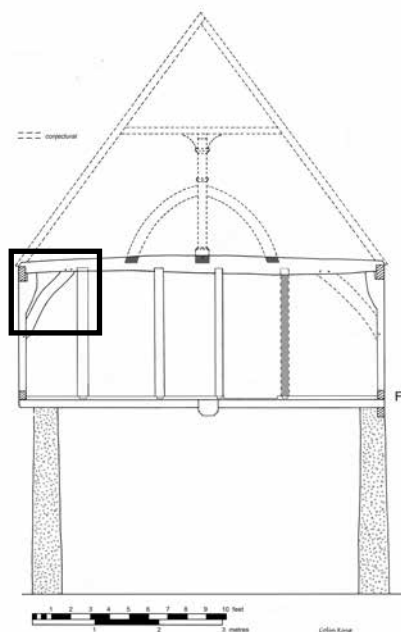
Several examples of painted themes were uncovered in houses in Walsingham during the investigations by Susan & Michael Brown for the NHBG Journal on the buildings of the town, published in 2015.

One of these was the spectacular painted principal joist and common joists of the ground floor ceiling in Friday Cottage, sited in Friday Market, immediately outside the Friary Gates. The decoration consists of acanthus leaves scrolling round a rod, sometimes called Jacob's Rod

Additional examples of painted decoration were uncovered on oak boards in the attic, involving similar schemes. It is not known where these were originally sited as the first floor was originally one room which was open to the roofspace displaying the four crown-post roof trusses. Susan & Michael concluded that the building was probably used as a pilgrim hostel, with the first floor providing sleeping accommodation for pilgrims, and that the upstairs room was subsequently divided by a nailed-in partition and the room ceiled over.

When the painting was done is unclear, as the studs of the later nailed-in partition (shown in the section below) dividing the first floor, also have paint designs on them (shown in the photo right). Andrea Kirkham has interpreted these as an imitation textile with a top border and alternating panes below. She thinks one of the designs is branching foliage that is seen in many high status textiles. She concluded that this decoration must be post-Dissolution - i.e. second half of the sixteenth century, or later. This would mean that it is probably associated with the subdivision

of the upstairs space, but Andrea added that a revisit would be required when conditions allow.



Above and below: Painting on the principal joist, showing acanthus leaves and the rod



Above: Painting on one of the common joists



far left: the section through Friday Cottage showing the nailed-in partition and the missing stud in grey

above: the remnants of the textile-based painted scheme on the reverse side of the wallpost and brace shown in the section

left: in close up



The stud in the attic

The stud recently uncovered in the attic appears to have been removed from the first floor partition (shown in grey on the section - bottom left) and is notched and pegged into one of the side purlins of the eighteenth-century replacement roof, to help support it. This stud also displays the remnants of paint on its surface and the dark lines appear to show a similar scheme to the textile-motif decoration on the other studs of the first-floor partition.

The stud is now approximately 15cm x 8-10cm (6" x 3-4") in size, although it was obviously larger in an earlier guise, as a bisected peghole can be seen in the right-hand face about 15cm below its joint with the purlin. Whether its use in the wall in the room below was its first use, or whether it had already been reduced in size by then, cannot be determined.

The timber appears to have been sourced from a hedgerow-grown tree indicated by its convoluted grain and large knots, and still shows one large hole and several smaller ones filled with plaster. There is also a scratched mark incised into the painted face of what appears to be part of a saltire cross, often used as an apotropaic mark, although if that is its use here, it is in an unusual position. Saltire Crosses are frequently seen on door latches where they bridge the opening between the door and frame, especially in churches, but including one domestic example seen in Lime Tree Cottage, Hempnall - allegedly to prevent access by the devil through the gap.

photos and drawing by Colin King



left: The stud showing the dark outlines of a painted scheme

centre: Close up show the contorted grain and plaster-filled holes

top right: the bisected peghole on the right side

bottom right: the partial saltire cross - possible apotropaic mark

The Cardinal's Hat, Reepham Anne Woollett

Not discovered on a lock-down walk but during a lock-down rummage through the house's paperwork. During lockdown I scanned these photos which were taken at the time of the renovation and handed down from owner to owner- not great images but welcome records of the house.

The Cardinal's Hat in Back Street is the oldest house in Reepham - the only one to survive the fire of 1543. The house was declared unfit for habitation in late 1960s but was brought back to life in 1970s.

Before work started, photos were taken of the house, both external and internal. The oldest part of the building is the timber framed section with close studding. The windows on the ground and first floor were in a poor state, some blocked up and some completely broken.. The windows were all remade and installed in the original spaces. The timber framing stands on a tall brick plinth. The second photo shows the rear of the timber framed section with a later 17th C brick-built rear extension with the stair turret, and a much later lean-to. Like the plinth, all the brickwork is now rendered.

The timber-framed range does not have a conventional floorplan - with no street door, so it probably had access from the rear courtyard, as it does now. It also has very unusual jetty posts, noted in Cecil Hewitt's *English Historic Carpentry* - the overhang is formed by the jetty posts at either end which are hewn from solid timber, rather than the jetty being formed by projecting floor joists and the mid-rails at the ends.



*Front elevation in February 2021
photo: Anne Woollett*



left: front wall in the 1970s



right: rear courtyard and 17th C stair turret

Annual General Meeting

Friday - 13th August 2021 (Lunch 12:30, AGM 1:30, Tours 2:00pm)
in, or outside The Fox, Garboldisham, Diss IP22 2RZ

Nominations are invited for the post of Chair and Deputy Chair.

Currently, the Chair is Ian Hinton, who is prepared to stand and continue in office if elected.

Currently, the Deputy Chair is Alayne Fenner, who is retiring from office.

Nominations for either post should be sent to Lynne Hodge either by email (lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk) (or in writing to - Long Acres, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney, Holt NR25 7PL) by Aug 1st 2021.

Nominations are also invited for up to ten ordinary committee members.

Nominations for any of the ten positions should be sent to Lynne Hodge (details above).

The committee would welcome new members to ensure that the group continues to provide what the membership wants. If you wish to find out what is involved, email Lynne (see above) or me (ian.hinton222@btinternet.com).

Nine of the current ordinary members of the committee are eligible, and prepared, to stand:- Mary Ash, Diane Barr, Lynne Hodge, Jess Johnston, Hilary Newby-Grant, Jackie Simpson, Dominic Summers, Owen Warnock and Anne Woollett. leaving one vacancy.

Nominations should be sent by email to Lynne Hodge (details as above)

Elections will be held if necessary.

The Fox at Garboldisham is a community-run pub and consists of a timber-framed building of the sixteenth century and is well worth a visit in itself. The pub and building are being opened especially for our group.

Every care will be taken with Covid safety, so please try and attend if you are able, as our constitution requires the election of officers and committee members at an Annual General Meeting where there are at least 10% of subscribed members present.

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group A.G.M.

to be held on Friday 13th August 2021 at 1:30 pm (after lunch at 12:30pm).

AGENDA

1 **Apologies for absence**

2 **Minutes of the 2019 A.G.M.** - overleaf

3 **Matters arising**

4 **Chairman's Report** The year has zoomed by without us having the ability to meet properly, but we have all learnt some new technology which has enabled some contact to be maintained. Lockdown last year did mean that the final editing of the Hempnall Journal could be completed easily and its publication has been received well. My thanks go to all the members of the committee for keeping things running behind the scenes and to all the NHBG members who have stuck with the group despite the severely altered programme. Things, as they say, can only get better.

5 **Treasurer's Summary Report** (see overleaf for the figures - with the independent examiner's report) Despite reduced income due to the pandemic and increased expenditure for printing extra newsletters and the Hempnall Journal, the group is still in a good financial position, with reserves only slightly down on last year.

6 **Membership Secretary's report** In all, we had 246 members at the end of the 2019/20 year and 245 at the end of 2020/21, which includes 26 who, in previous years, have taken membership in lieu of speaking fees etc.. Of the 219 who are subs-paying, all bar 24 pay their subs by Standing Order (for which thank you, it makes the job much easier and saves hours of work chasing non-payers) and all but 28 live in Norfolk.

7 **Election of Officers**

The group has four ex-officio posts, elected in rotation. Nominations were sought for the posts of Chair and Deputy Chair - their dates of election, Chair (2020), Deputy Chair (2021), Membership Secretary (2022), Treasurer (2023). As there was no AGM held in 2020, both Chair and Deputy Chair are to be elected at this meeting.

Nominations for the post of Deputy Chair - Owen Warnock has been nominated and is prepared to stand, any further nominations received will be announced at the AGM, and a ballot held if necessary

Nominations for the post of Chair - Ian Hinton has been nominated and is prepared to stand, any further nominations received will be announced at the AGM, and a ballot held if necessary

8 **Election of Committee members** (10 places)

In addition to the four ex-officio posts, there are ten committee posts up for election. The nine current ordinary members of the committee who are eligible, and prepared, to stand are:- Mary Ash, Diane Barr, Lynne Hodge, Jess Johnston, Hilary Newby-Grant, Jackie Simpson, Dominic Summers, Owen Warnock and Anne Woollett. Any additional nominations received will be announced at the A.G.M., and a ballot for all posts held if necessary.

9 **Approval of Annual Subscriptions** The committee proposes that the current rates are continued

10 **AGM quorum requirements** It currently stands at 10% of subscribed members (219 - i.e a quorum of 22). The committee feel that to reduce the requirement further could jeopardise the administration of the group, as undue influence could be exerted by a small group of members.

11 **Any other AGM business**

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2019 Norfolk Historic Buildings Group A.G.M. held on Sat 29th June 2019 at 1:30 pm at Bungay Community Centre NR35 1BH .

- 1 **Apologies for absence.** Adrian Parker, Maggie Vaughan Lewis, Bob Michel, Richenda Codling, Diana Maywort, Elsie Lack, Diane Barr, Lynne Hodge, Jackie Simpson, Dominic Summers, Bob & Carol Limmer
- 2 **Minutes of the last meeting.** Agreed as being a true record and signed.
- 3 **Matters arising.** To be addressed as agenda items.
- 4 **Chairman.** Ian Hinton reported that the Group continues to thrive, with membership at the current level for several years. The summer events, with visits to a wide variety of buildings, have been full or oversubscribed and winter lectures are well attended. Our partnership with INTO at UEA has come to an end and we will need to search for an alternative for our winter meetings. The Facebook page continues to engage outsiders in the work of the Group and to this end we have started a Twitter account managed by Jess Johnston. The website continues to bring in new members. The archive provided a valuable research resource for members.
Research is continuing on the houses of Hempnall. Archival research on Boulton and Paul is still ongoing. Finally the Chairman thanked the committee for their work in keeping the Group running.
- 5 **Report from the Treasurer.** The Group's finances are in good shape after a year although our dendro research in Hempnall and its subsequent publication will reduce our reserves. Good attendances at both summer and winter events have resulted in a modest surplus. Our reserves grew by almost £1200 during the year to £14681. Membership income rose slightly from the previous year, but expenses were higher due to the purchase of a new laptop to run the software for winter meetings. The value of the remaining copies of the Walsingham Journal were written down as sales had covered the printing costs. Our accounts were kindly examined this year by long-term member Peter Milne rather than being commercially audited, in line with other local groups. The examiners report is set out below.
- 6 **Membership.** The Group had 258 members including 26 who have taken membership in lieu of a fee for speaking.
- 7 **Election of officers.** The meeting unanimously elected Maggy Chatterley to continue in the position of Treasurer.
- 8 **Election of Committee Members.** Mary Ash, Diane Barr, Lynne Hodge, Hilary Newby-Grant, Jackie Simpson, Dominic Summers and Anne Woollett, current committee members who were prepared to stand, were re-elected unanimously. Additional committee members Jess Johnston and Owen Warnock were also elected.
- 9 **Annual subscriptions.** The meeting agreed with the Committee's recommendation that the annual subscription remains unchanged.
- 10 **AGM quorum.** The question of reducing the requirement for a quorum of 10% of the membership was raised at the last AGM. The committee discussed the matter and recommended that the 10% requirement remained as it ensured that the election of officers was overseen by as many members as possible. The meeting agreed with the recommendation.
- 11 **General Data Protection Regulations.** The Chairman explained that the Group seems to be a 'single purpose organisation' where members expect communication as part of the contract in return for the membership fee. The data held by the Group about individual members will only be used for communication about the Group's activities and it will not be released to anyone else without express permission. The meeting agreed with this approach.
- 12 **AOB.**
 - 1 The Chairman said that most members pay their fees by standing order. Those who do not renew their subscription will, in future, get ONE reminder and then their data will be deleted, after a reasonable period and another reminder, as per the new data protection regulations. The meeting agreed with this change.
 - 2 There was discussion about the future winter meetings and whether any one particular day would be better for members. After discussion, it was agreed to spread the talks over different evenings to offer the widest possible attendance.
 - 3 there was discussion about storage of unsold copies of the NHBG journals and Roger Crouch kindly offered to hold them.

The Chairman was thanked for all his work for the Group and the meeting closed at 2:15pm.

Independent examiner's report to the NHBG for the year ended 31st March 2019

I report on the accounts of the NHBG for the year ended 31st March 2019.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

This examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the NHBG and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the statement is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- 1 to keep accounting records of an appropriate standard and
- 2 to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met
- 3 or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter Milne, Independent Examiner, Norwich, Norfolk - 26th May 2019

Annual General Meeting

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group - Accounts for 2019/20 & 2020/21 for AGM

Figures prepared by Treasurer - Maggy Chatterley

Income and Expenditure Account

Income		2021		2020	
		£		£	
Subscriptions	£2,982	£2,982		£2,977	£2,977
Summer visits	£0			£1,255	
Winter lectures	£0			£284	
Outings and Entrance fees		£0			£1,539
Journal Sales	£1,025			£49	
Journals surplus/(loss)		£1,025			£49
Book Sales surplus/(loss)	£0	£0		£17	£17
Donations	£120	£120		£10	£10
Interest	£3	£3		£12	£12
	<u>£4,130</u>		£4,130	<u>£4,604</u>	
					£4,604
Expenditure		2020		2020	
		£		£	
Printing Newsletters	£1,228	£1,228		£615	£615
Summer visits	£0			£498	
Winter lectures	£298			£512	
Winter lectures prev. Year adj	-£73				
Committee meeting	£0			£70	
Meeting & Event Expenses		£225			£1,080
Stationery	£91				
Postage expense	£657			£353	
Postage income	-£115			-£11	
Postage. Stationery		£633			£342
Website costs	£288			£1,452	
B&P research	£0			£53	
Other society subs	£95			£95	
Journal costs (Print Hempnall)	£2,076			£0	
Software	£240			£228	
Banner/travel etc	£0			£167	
Other Expenses		£2,699			£1,995
	<u>£4,785</u>		£4,785	<u>£4,032</u>	
					£4,032
Surplus (Deficit) for year			<u>-£655</u>		<u>£572</u>

Balance Sheet

		2021		2020	
		£		£	
Fixed Assets			£0		£0
Currents Assets					
Stock Books		£18		£18	
Journals		£0		£0	
Bank Current a/c	£6,148			£6,775	
Reserve a/c	£8,551			£8,532	
Grant a/c	£1			£1.00	
Cash at bank		£14,700		£15,308	
			£14,718		£15,326
Current Liabilities					
Accrued Expenses	-£120			-£73.00	
		-£120	-£120	-£73	-£73
Net Assets			<u>£14,598</u>		<u>£15,253</u>
Represented by:					
General Fund					
Balance brought forward			£15,253		£14,681
Surplus/Deficit for year			-£655		£572
Balance carried forward			<u>£14,598</u>		<u>£15,253</u>

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- 2 to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records
- 3 or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter Milne, Independent Examiner, Norwich, Norfolk - 24th May 2021

Review of NHBG Journal 7 on The Buildings of Hempnall

published in Norfolk Archaeology (Vol XLVIII pt III 2020, p393)

This generously-illustrated volume is the fourth one-place study to be published by the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group, following on from studies of New Buckenham (2005), Tacolneston (2009) and Walsingham (2015). The focus of this new study is Hempnall, a rural parish in the claylands of south Norfolk, about ten miles south of Norwich. Thirty-eight buildings in Hempnall were surveyed, with another two recorded only by photographs, plus another six in the neighbouring parishes of Woodton (2), Fritton (2), Bedingham (1) and Morningthorpe (1). The Hempnall houses are divided into two groups, termed ‘town’ (a bit confusing as Hempnall is really a village with only a distant memory of a market) and ‘green’ properties, i.e. those around the now-enclosed areas of common pasture called Hempnall Green, Silver Green and Lundy Green. In both areas the majority of the houses were timber-framed or displayed evidence of having been timber-framed.

Preliminary chapters review the history of Hempnall and its context in terms of estate origin, markets, taxation, landscape and farming. This is followed by a review of the concepts of ‘vernacular architecture’ and the idea of ‘The Great Rebuilding’, the latter first put forward by Professor W.G. Hoskins in 1953. Hoskins’ proposal being that ‘between the accession of Elizabeth I [1558] and the outbreak of the Civil War [1642],

there occurred in England a revolution in the housing of a considerable part of the population’. This is followed by a review of the evidence for a ‘Great Rebuilding’ in Hempnall. Unfortunately some planned dendrochronology work was prevented by the Covid-19 pandemic, but stylistic dating did suggest that most of the surveyed buildings date from between 1575 and 1650, with only four being medieval open-hall houses that were substantially updated in this same period. This would accord with Hoskins’ idea of a Great Rebuilding and is similar to the findings in Tacolneston, but not at New Buckenham or Walsingham, where the buildings seemed to be older.

Subsequent chapters describe and illustrate features of the houses, such as floorplans, dimensions, chimneys, stairs, roof construction, walling materials, windows, ceilings, timber joints, ironmongery, wall paintings, carpenters’ marks and apotropaic marks, and the book concludes with an illustrated catalogue of the surveyed house.

Overall, this is a useful compendium of information about the buildings that characterise one area, but I would have liked stronger analyses of both the historical context and the survey data, with a closer examination of the links between the houses, their associated lands and their tenurial backgrounds.

Edward Martin



YouTube

Vernacular Architecture Group Virtual Spring Conference (April 17th 2021)

The Conference theme was East Anglian Buildings and seven speakers presented papers on the following topics:

The landscape context for East Anglian vernacular buildings - Edward Martin

Aisled and raised-aisle halls of East Anglia - John Walker

Meadow Cottage, Blacksmith’s Green, Wetheringsett: a sub-medieval farmhouse in pastoral Mid-Suffolk -Philip Aitken

Re-assessing The Great Rebuilding on the south Norfolk claylands - Ian Hinton

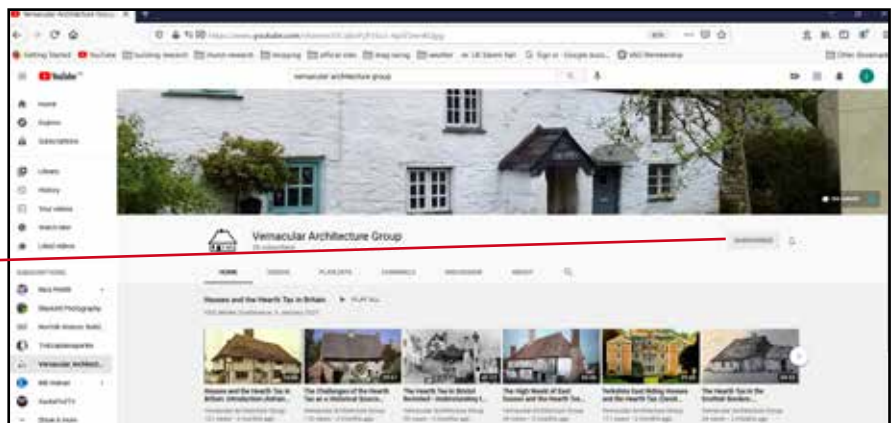
Norfolk domestic wall paintings: some preliminary comments on survival, style and colour, 1550-1700 - Andrea Kirkham

Some buildings of Debenham - Timothy Easton

No-one looks at Harwich - Elphin & Brenda Watkin

Six of these talks are available on the Vernacular Architecture Group’s Youtube channel, which can be accessed by typing <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqEePyR1Kc2-Ap5E0wnKQgg> in your browser, or by clicking Youtube from your browser, then typing “Vernacular Architecture Group” in the search field. This will list all the papers presented where the speaker has permitted recording, as well as the papers presented to the VAG Winter Conference on Hearth Taxes and other similar topics from other organizations.

It is best to “subscribe” to the channel for ease of subsequent access, which then allows you to list only those films posted by the VAG. After subscribing, click the notifications bell next to the subscribe button and you will be notified when a new film is added.



Underfloor archaeology at Oxburgh Hall (18th March 2021)

Anna Forrest

In 2016, without warning, a nineteenth-century dormer window slipped off the roof and crashed into the courtyard below. The survey work which followed revealed that Oxburgh's roof, dormer windows and chimneys required significant structural repairs. Work began in 2019 and will run until the end of 2021. Alongside the building works I've been leading an interdisciplinary research programme which has included paint analysis, wallpaper research, building recording, an historic graffiti survey and underfloor archaeology.



Figure 1 -
The ongoing roof work

There was a high chance of finding objects under the attic floors given the age of the building and we had planned to train groups of volunteers to sort through the debris and retrieve items in advance of structural repairs. Sadly, the pandemic prevented this, but we were instead able to commission freelance archaeologist Matthew Champion (who was already working with us on an historic graffiti survey) to undertake the work. After he had retrieved everything he could see, the remaining debris was hoovered into rubble sacks for future sifting, which we hope will be done by volunteers when circumstances allow.

The items that were found far surpassed our expectations. As well as the things we had imagined finding - newspaper fragments, nails, glass, cigarette packets, buckles, coins etc. - we made discoveries that span the entire history of Oxburgh. We now have 770 catalogue records, many of them comprising assemblages of multiple items. Everything was in remarkable condition having been protected from many of the agents of decay that would otherwise have damaged them, and many were concealed in debris which lay over a layer of lime plaster which drew out any residual moisture.

The rest of this article will summarise the most significant finds, which provide important evidence of the material culture of the Bedingfelds, the Catholic family who have lived in Oxburgh Hall since at least 1482. These items were found in the north-west range of the building, and we have rats to thank for saving many of them by using them for nest-building.

A fragile parchment leaf cut from a fifteenth-century illuminated manuscript was retrieved from rubble in the eaves by one of the builders (Fig. 2). It is written on good quality calf skin, and the text is distinct enough for us to identify it as part of the Latin Vulgate Psalm 39 (*“Expectans expectaui”*). Specialists who examined it in person and from photographs have noted that the leaf was cut from a bound volume which had side margins wider than the column of text, indicating an expensive book. The original dimensions suggest that it was from a psalter rather



Figure 2 -
Fragment of the
Latin Vulgate
Bible - Psalm 39

All images
© National Trust/
Matthew Cham-
pion

than a book of hours. The script and the form of the illuminated initials suggest that its likely place of production was the South Netherlands or Northern France, probably in the first half of the fifteenth century. The use of blue and gold for the minor initials (rather than the more standard blue and red) is an indicator of a reasonably expensive production; it is likely that further illumination featured elsewhere in the book. It is tantalising to think that this discovery is a remnant of a splendid manuscript, and many questions remain as to how it became detached from the manuscript and why it was in the location in which it was found.

In an adjacent room, two tiny fragments of hand-written Pre-Reformation music were found (Fig. 3). Here later boards had been laid over sixteenth- and seventeenth-century ceilings and the debris beneath had not been cleared when these new floors were laid. The fragments were examined by Dr David Skinner, Fellow & Director of Music at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, who was instantly struck by the similarity of the notation to that of a surviving part book of c.1525 in the British Library (Harley MS 1709), which is the earliest known written source of Thomas Tallis's music. Dr Skinner is in little doubt that they were created by the same scribe. The Oxburgh fragments may be from the Alto part book for, possibly, a grand polyphonic Mass in at least five parts. They raise the prospect of the Bedingfelds having fostered music-making on a fairly grand scale in the sixteenth century. The history of music at Oxburgh and the Bedingfelds' links to this have not, hitherto, been researched, and the discovery of these fragments has opened the door to a potentially vibrant world.



Figure 3 -
Fragment of sixteenth-century handwritten
music, possibly from a part book

A tiny nibbled scrap from a Tudor printed book was identifiable as being from the English translation of 'The King's Psalms', a text written in Latin in the first half of the sixteenth century by Bishop John Fisher, who was later executed by Henry VIII for upholding the Catholic doctrine of Papal supremacy. Fisher's original text was reworked in English in 1544 by Katherine Parr who politicised it so that the psalms were used as propaganda in Henry VIII's war against the Scottish & French. A couple of months after finding this fragment a small volume with a tooled and gilded calf-skin cover was found by the builders within a void under a dormer window (Fig.4). As well as the King's Psalms, it contained the Litany and a text entitled 'the Queen's Prayers', which was Parr's reworking of a translation of Thomas a Kempis's 'Imitation of Christ' with subtle Protestant overtones. The intact title page for the Queen's Prayers shows that this volume was printed by Henry Wykes, in London. Wykes had a license to print this book from 1566, and was the first person to print the three texts together in a single volume.

Figure 4 -
The tooled and gilded
calf-skin cover of
The Queen's Prayers



Micheline White, Associate Professor in the College of Humanities at Carleton University, Canada, has studied this text in detail, and was able to offer insights into the significance of the volume's discovery at Oxburgh. It is most likely to be Wykes' 1569 edition, of which there are surviving copies at both the British Library and the Huntingdon Library, but the Oxburgh copy is unique in including two prayers about the 'common plague'. Significantly, 1569 was the year in which, in the wake of the Northern Rebellion, members of the nobility were asked to sign a declaration of obedience to Elizabeth I's Act of Uniformity (and therefore acceptance of the Protestant Book of Common Prayer). Although Henry Bedingfeld refused to sign this, his ownership of a copy of the Elizabethan Litany within this bound volume could have been interpreted by his critics as willingness to accept certain rites from the Book of Common Prayer, despite his firm views.

We also found further tiny fragments of printed books from the 1590s. Some are extracts from 'Discourses of Warre and Single Combat, translated out of the French by J. Eliot' Printed by John Wolfe, London, 1591, and others are from the 1590 edition of book one of "The ancient, famous and honourable history of Amadis de Gaule", a chivalric romance from the Iberian peninsula, first written down c.1420. Dr Helen Moore, Associate Professor of English at Corpus Christi, Oxford, noted how interesting it is that the Amadis de Gaule fragments are from the English translation, rather than the French, which is what would typically be found in the libraries of great houses. She also explained that "there was a significant number of known or suspected Catholics amongst the readers of this romance, probably because it is set in Spain and is generically Catholic, retaining mention of the Mass etc." The evidence for these books raises questions about the possible presence of a sixteenth-century book room, or at least a collection of books.

Anna is a Cultural Heritage Curator for the National Trust and the Project Curator for Oxburgh Hall.
A recording of this talk is available on our Youtube channel for NHBG members, by using this link code. <https://youtu.be/vr8N6znILZM>

As well as revealing what the Tudor and Elizabethan Bedingfelds were reading and hearing, the finds have offered insights into what they were wearing. A rats' nest yielded over 100 fragments of silk, velvet, satin, leather, wool and embroidered fabrics. They appear to be from textiles that were being repurposed; collars, cuffs, seams and hems were cut off and discarded (and taken away by rats in due course) so that the main body of the textile could be reused. Highlights include a large piece of slashed black silk shot through with yellow (Fig. 5), possibly from a sixteenth-century sleeve, a fragment of blackwork embroidery – a technique used in the sixteenth century for detachable collars and cuffs but also, occasionally, for entire bodices - a two-tone basket-weave clothing fabric with metallic thread which looks to be late C16th in date, and a finely woven piece from a collar or cuff. These have been assessed by textile specialists from the National Trust and further comparative research will help us to date and understand the original form of these fragments.



Figure 5 -
Fragments of
sixteenth
-century
shot silk

Excavations in the King's Room in Oxburgh's gatehouse by our regional archaeologist Angus Wainwright have revealed clear evidence for two previous floors beneath the current one (Fig.6). After the removal of the earliest floor this high-status space appears to have been used as a workshop by carpenters, evidenced by surviving wood shavings and off-cuts of wooden mouldings which would appear to be seventeenth century in date. This evidence may relate to a period of repair after the Civil War when part of Oxburgh had been burnt by Parliamentarians and the whole house fell into disrepair. The open, centrally located space provided by the disused King's Room was perhaps the perfect area in which to prepare materials to repair the adjacent ranges of the house. Finds retrieved by Angus include fragments of early stained glass, some incorporating blackletter and another sherd perhaps part of a bird, and a sixteenth-century jetton which was found resting against some of the surviving timber from the early floor.

Our priority now is to commission conservation work to the most vulnerable of the items, for which we are pursuing potential sources of external funding. We hope to put some of the more robust items out on display as soon as circumstances allow. Given that only a small percentage of the attic floorboards were lifted, we can only imagine what further treasures remain to be discovered in the future.



Figure 6 -
Investigating earlier floors in the King's Room

Revisiting Krons Manor, Hempnall (20th April 2021)

Ian Hinton

Introduction

Krons Manor was one of the more complicated houses of the 40 or so that we surveyed for the Hempnall Project. The enforced lockdown of 2020 enabled a more detailed look to be taken at the hundreds of photographs that were taken at the time, supplemented by one or two new ones by the owners to fill in a gap or two, to enable the preparation of a Powerpoint presentation of the house for this talk.

The final result of this analysis is not very different from the conclusions I came to when writing up the entry for the Hempnall Journal, but some of the details which help explain its development can be fleshed out.

The original interpretation of the house was that it was built in four main phases –the first phase being a small late-fifteenth or early sixteenth-century, two-room, single-storey hall with a smoke bay between the rooms. This remains the case, but details have enabled this explanation to be reinforced and expanded. Also, I was unsure whether the second phase consisting of the larger one-and-a-half-storey range to the north originally had two or three cells, and whether the subsequent parlour crosswing was a rebuild of the original parlour, or a newly-built addition. It now seems most likely that the parlour crosswing was a new extension, added to a two-celled range which originally had an external chimney stack.

The other unanswered question concerned the southern extension which housed a stair turret and an external corridor to the first floor of the second phase. It appears that these two were built separately, with the stair turret being jettied.

Original range (Phase 1)

The smoke bay location was reinforced by examining the evidence of the many removed tiebeams at eaves level. Their spacing confirmed the 1.2m wide smoke bay, and placed the roof truss on a tiebeam exactly half way between the smoke bay and the gable end. All the remaining evidence for a similar layout in the northern room was removed on the west side when the external first-floor corridor was attached and on the east side by the lateral chimney stack.

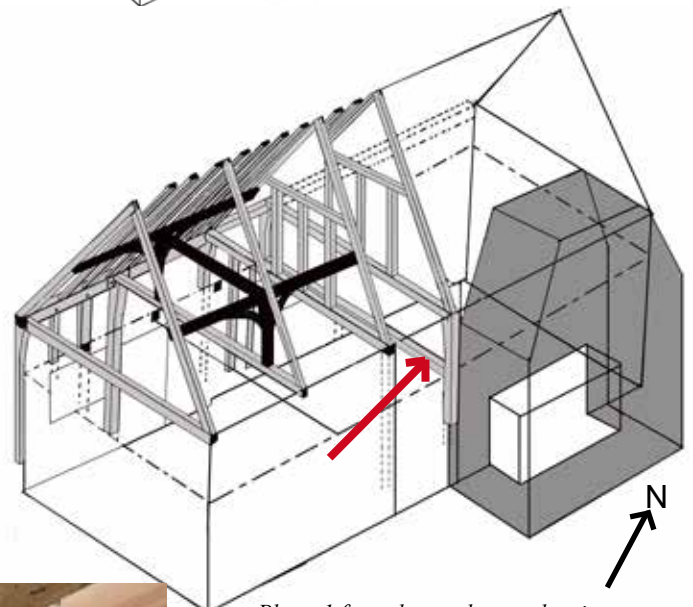
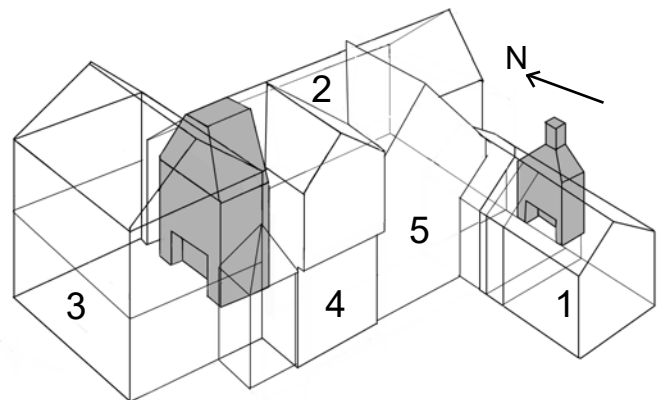
One rail across the room at the current floor level predates the flooring over of the hall as it is tenoned into the remains of a wall post at either end, and appears to have formed part of the smoke bay itself (shown on the isometric projection and photos below)

The empty pegholes roughly halfway up the common rafters confirm a queen-post roof rather than a crown post one.

The new lateral stack added to the northern room of the pair may have allowed the second phase hall to be used as a parlour



Krons Manor from the south-west, and its phase analysis



Phase 1 from the south-east showing the probable original roof structure.

The rail across the building illustrated in the photos on the left is indicated by the red arrow



Above:

the east end of the rail tenoned into the remains of a wallpost set into the later chimney stack



Left:

the west end of the rail tenoned into the cutoff wallpost that extends up to the wallplate above

by retaining the cooking function in the new hearth, perhaps removing the need for a third cell in the second phase. The bressumer, or mantle beam, in the lateral stack contains a chimney-crane mounting where there is none in the new hall. This mantle beam may have been the bressumer of the original smoke bay, repurposed when the smoke bay was removed and the lateral stack built, as it has empty pegholes along its top edge for studs above it.

The flooring-over of this range appears to have been undertaken in or after the second quarter of the seventeenth century, as the principal joist has a deep nick after the chamfer stop (generally dated to after 1625). It is stopped at both ends so was probably prepared for this house as it is narrower than most houses so is unlikely to be a re-use.

Main range (Phase 2)

The one-and-a-half storey second phase was almost certainly of just two cells. The upstairs room to the east of the stack originally had two braces in the cross wall adjacent to the stack which would have prevented access to any room on the other side of the stack. There were four braces in these two corners, implying external corners. Also the chimney stack is 2.67m (9ft) deep – extremely large for a single build, but more typical of two stacks built back to back. Any evidence of a vertical joint is hidden by later decoration.

Was the hall chamber originally open to the roof? The tie beam has been removed as it was only 1.2m above the floor. Its replacement is about 1m above this and has the ceiling joists, which are laid on edge, jointed into it. Joists on edge are a later feature than all the other joists in the house. The alternative to the tiebeam being removed to facilitate movement, is that it was once part of a wall between two smaller rooms. In either case, the current ceiling is a later feature.

One additional pointer to the idea that there were two rooms here, is that there was a window below the wallplate in the south wall on either side of the wallpost that supported the cut-off tiebeam, as shown by the remaining shutter slide evidence in the wallplate. These two windows had been later enlarged upwards by cutting through the wallplate, although whether this was done before or after the external corridor was added is not known.

The Arts & Crafts makeover of 1910 with a door and windows in the north wall (shown top right) was removed in the 1960s and required the replacement of much of the studwork at ground floor level. This has obliterated the position of most of the original windows and front door. Local intelligence reports that this wall being in a very poor state at the time.



Sunk-quadrant chamfers to the principal joist both upstairs and downstairs in the crosswing



and on the brickwork of the hearth both upstairs and downstairs

Photos: Ian Hinton and Chris Evans
Drawings: Ian Hinton



The Arts & Crafts remodelling of 1910 installed seven new windows and a door in the north wall (drawn by H.W. Messent, The Old Cottages and Farmhouses of Norfolk, 1928)



Most of the Arts & Crafts work was removed in the 1960s necessitating the replacement of most of the ground-floor studs in this wall and revealing the unglazed first-floor windows



The ground-floor north wall of the crosswing, showing the 1960s replacement studs, neatly pegged into the mid rail on the left of the storey post, but to the right is evidence for a window and shutter slide in the soffit of the rail



*left:
plain chamfer to the fireplace jamb in the hall*

A recording of this talk is available on our Youtube channel, by using the link code below.
<https://youtu.be/QbxuNsmV70M>

Crosswing (Phase 3)

That the crosswing is later than the main range is confirmed by the differences in decoration to the brick hearths on the two sides of the stack – plain chamfers of the hearth jambs in the hall chamber, similar to the timber chamfers, compared with sunk-quadrant mouldings on the timber and hearth jambs and head in the crosswing, both upstairs and downstairs.

Stair turret and Corridor (Phases 4 & 5)

The stair turret appears to have had a jetty in its south face. It has subsequently been underbuilt in brick reducing the overhang to only a few inches, but the first-floor corridor to its east is not jettied, confirming that it is a different build.

The current staircase is of the Arts & Crafts period with moulded newel posts and waisted balusters. Whether this is its original footprint is unclear – the stairs may have been extended westwards into the rather odd pyramid-roofed, square, single-storey addition to its west, with the stairs now originating in the parlour, rather than adjacent to the stack.

Dating

The Manor changed hands towards the end of the sixteenth century and there is a gap in its records between 1552 and 1622 for this house. The first entry in the records of this house in the new manor records is in 1622 - the transfer of ownership to the Mayhew family from the Sporle family who had occupied the house since 1454. 1622 could well be the date that the crosswing was built, along perhaps with the stair turret and the flooring over off the original hall, as it ties in perfectly with the fashion for similar crosswings that were dendro dated to 1598, 1617 and 1628 in Tacolneston.

When we are able to restart the dendro investigation, the crosswing in this house was one of the few sets of timbers that Ian Tyers, the dendrochronologist, felt had sufficient rings to possibly provide a date.

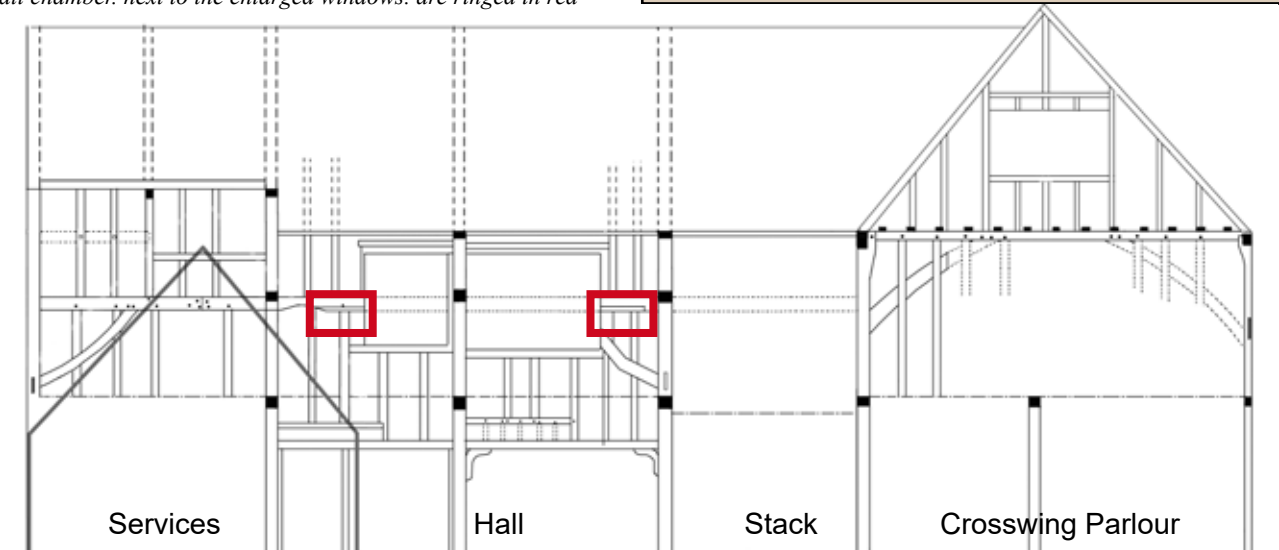
Conclusion

Some of the outstanding questions after the initial report have been resolved, but others remain, but this is what makes the study of old buildings so interesting.

Our thanks go to Chris and Steph Evans, the owners, for their patience with our visits to untangle the history.

Below:

The south wall of the main range, showing the outline of Phase 1 as the thicker black line. The shutter slides mentioned in the hall chamber: next to the enlarged windows. are ringed in red



*Left:
The remains of the stair turret jetty to the left, compared with the flat-walled external corridor to its right*

*Below:
The Arts & Crafts staircase now starting in the parlour. Was the previous version of the stair in the same place?*



The Hempnall Journal detailing the researches of all the houses in the study is still available by emailing ian.hinton222@btinternet.com. It costs £8 for members (£15 for non-members) It can be posted for an additional £4.

The myth of ships’ timbers in historic buildings (19th May 2021)

James Wright

Tales of historic buildings which are alleged to contain re-used ship timbers are a common phenomenon across the country. The stories are particularly familiar from timber-framed public houses where the claim is often made by crafty landlords determined to give an extra layer of romantic appeal to draw in the punters. The tale can be found in Norfolk at the Queen’s Head, Long Stratton; Ship’s Timbers, Winterton-on-Sea and Armada House, Norwich. In the latter instance, the story goes that the house was constructed from timbers which washed ashore after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. This is a particularly common theme and can also be found far inland – the Olde Beare, Norwood Green (West Yorkshire) and the Gate Inn, Brassington (Derbyshire) also make the claim. Elsewhere, connection is sometimes made with the victory of Norfolk’s famous son, Horatio Nelson, at Trafalgar – including the Old Ship Inn, Worksop (Nottinghamshire) and the White Horse, Shere (Surrey).

Genuine archaeological or documentary evidence to back up such claims is usually completely absent. The stories are popular and widely repeated but seem to be redolent of English nationalism rather than historic reality. Curiously, the battles from which the ship timbers were recovered are never sea actions which the English lost. Instead, the tales offer an insight into the towering pride that the English display in naval history and they offer a way for the big national stories to be localised.

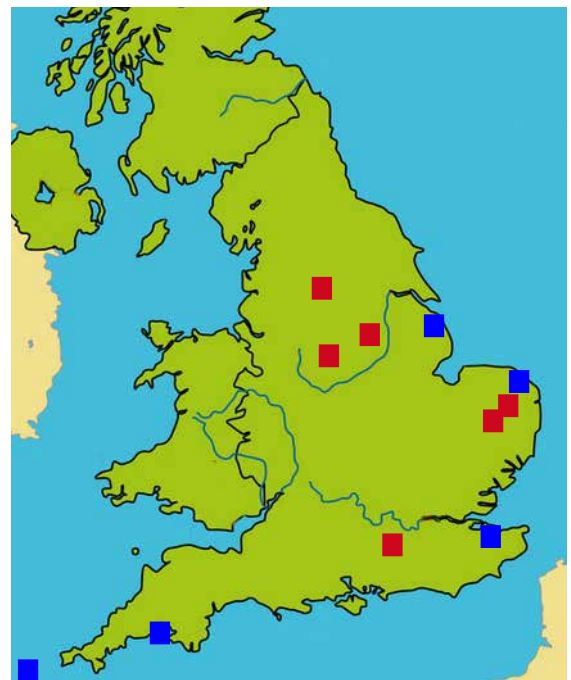
The identification of ship timbers is usually based on a misreading of physical evidence. At a time when most houses are built from bricks and mortar there is an unfamiliarity with the curious and twisted timber-frames of an earlier period. This is particularly true in the west of the country where cruck frames are prevalent – given their superficial similarity to an upturned ship’s keel. Equally, the re-use or remodelling of timbers can leave relict mortices that invite the unfamiliar viewer to make the illogical leap to explain them away as having been removed from a ship. Such notions are often backed up by claims that, in the early modern period, England was running out of building timber due to the predations of the royal navy and pre-industrial charcoal burners. The claim is made that terrestrial carpenters were forced to rely on timbers from shipbreaking yards. The reality is that woodland management continued seamlessly from the mediaeval period and there was no genuine shortage.

However...

However, in a vanishingly small number of cases there are some examples of the re-use of ship timbers. It cannot be stressed enough just how limited these verifiable examples are. There are a small number of early modern buildings which have been identified as containing a few ship timbers including Tamarisk Farmhouse, St Agnes (Isles of Scilly) and the now-demolished Old Cottage, North Somercotes (Lincolnshire). The examples are uniformly close to maritime or inter-tidal zones. Such timber was heavy, bulky and expensive to transport on the diabolical pre-modern roads, so was not brought far inland.



above: Waxham Barn and a possible ship’s mast
below: Ships’ timbers - red=claim, blue = actual



An example of transport problems for heavy loads before metalled roads - this picture from 1912

The phenomenon became *slightly* more common during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Great storm of 1703 led to the destruction of much shipping off the south and east coasts of England – in particular on the Yarmouth Roads where 500 vessels became entangled with the loss of perhaps half of them. This led to a large amount of wreck-wood washing up on the Norfolk coast so that, in 1727, Daniel Defoe was able to observe that “*the farmers, and country people had scarce a barn, or a shed, or a stable; nay not the pales of their yards, and gardens not a hogstye, not a necessary-house, but what was built of old planks, beams, wales and timbers &c. the wrecks of ships*”. One such building that may have been a recipient of the dubious bounty of the North Sea is Waxham Great Barn. It features a re-used and inserted cylindrical timber as a tie beam in a structure which otherwise has mid-sixteenth century rectangular-section timbers.

Building oak became somewhat scarcer due to the demands of industrialised bark mills supplying tanneries from the later eighteenth century. This led to a reliance on imports of softwoods from the Baltic. Sometimes this timber was washed ashore from ships, as happened on Holkham Meers in 1757 and in 1792 ‘wreck plank’ was used in the construction of the Aylsham Navigation at Oxnead Mills.

Elsewhere, buildings which are known to incorporate genuine ship timbers include sections of HMS Namur at the Wheelwright’s Shop, Chatham Dockyards (Kent), HMS Bellerophon at Burrow Lodge, Plymouth (Devon) and USF Chesapeake at Chesapeake Mill, Wickham (Hampshire). All of these have been verified by historic building specialists and feature shipwright marks, oversized timbers and larger than usual trenail holes – all characteristics of marine architecture as opposed to terrestrial. The buildings also have good documentary substantiation to accompany the physical evidence.

Unlike many myths associated with historic buildings, there is some truth behind the rumours that some buildings are made from ship timbers. Such claims are unlikely to be true outside of maritime areas and must be backed up by solid evidence. However, the instances of such re-use are highly limited and incredibly rare – most stories turn out to be boozy old tall-ship tales!

Unfortunately this talk is not available on our Youtube channel for NHBG members, as there are copyright issues with some of the images used

NHBG Research

Church low side windows study Ian Hinton

The project investigating the low side windows in churches in Norfolk has been resurrected.

It began in 2005 with extensive survey work, and the interim survey results were published in 2007 in NHBG Journal 3 - *Recent Research into Vernacular Buildings and Parish Churches: Case Studies from Norfolk*. The main conclusion was that further survey work was needed to establish the likely total number of such openings in Norfolk’s churches, as so many had been blocked or altered during Victorian renovations. In addition, further research was required to try and establish their purpose.

The discussion about these enigmatic openings was really started by the Ecclesiologists of the Cambridge Camden Society during the 1840s and subsequently, when a good number of fanciful, quasi-religious explanations were put forward for their existence. Since then, two front-running suggestions have continued - the first, an original suggestion - as an aperture for the ringing of a sacring bell to coincide with the Elevation of The Host during Mass, to alert those who were unable to attend; and secondly, not considered originally as it had no symbolic meaning, as a ventilation hole to alleviate the buildup of smoke and fumes in the church from the many permanent lights and candles, as well as those used during services.

As part of this additional research, documentary research revealed an episode during the funeral of Sir John Paston in 1466, where a glazier had to be employed during the funeral service to remove some glass to allow smoke out of the church, and then to refix the glass afterwards (*shown in blue*). These details were revealed by an account rendered after the funeral and subsequently published in the Paston Letters.

Apart from the staggering overall cost (almost £206 - which inflates to almost £250,000 today using the Bank of England’s

calculations), it reveals the number and size of the additional candles (23lb weight) and torches used during the service (*shown in red*) and the financial payments to the church and its clergy and monks for masses and actions for Paston’s soul, as well as commitments to saying future masses (*all shown in green*). It also highlights the enormous number of people involved and the amount of food and drink the whole process required.



It is hoped to be able to publish the final work on the windows as volume 8 in the series of NHBG research.

A low side ‘window’ in the south chancel wall at Acle church - what was it for?

SOURCE Letter 637 - The Paston Letters Volume 4 ed James Gairdner
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/41081/41081-h/41081-h.htm> (accessed 12/5/2020)

Footnotes

- 226.3 [From Blomefield’s Norfolk, vi. 483. Folio edition, iii. 692.] The original of this document was probably among the Paston MSS. when Blomefield composed his History of Norfolk, but where it is at present cannot be ascertained. It is cited by Blomefield, or perhaps by his continuator, Mr. Parkin, as ‘a very long but narrow roll,’ then in his possession. The text, however, does not seem to be printed entire, as the Editor only professes to give ‘several particulars therein.’
- 226.4 At Norwich.
- 226.5 27th May 1466.
- 228.1 Robert Coteler, who was presented to the living by John Paston in 1465, on the resignation of Thomas Howys.
- 228.2 A short blank occurs in Blomefield after ‘xxix.’ and before ‘xvii.’
- 229.1 Blomefield or his continuator here speaks in his own person.
- 230.1 A church in Norwich, rebuilt by John Paston in 1460, the advowson having been acquired by him and Margaret, his wife, in 1458. The date of the rebuilding is engraved in stone on a buttress by the north door.
- 231.1 Masses called ‘certeynes’ are referred to in Letter No. 53 (vol. ii. p. 64).

JOHN PASTON'S FUNERAL^{226.3}

Expences paid by Gloys at Norwich the day the Cors was ther and befor.

	£	s	d
FYRSTE.			
The iiiii. orders of fryers, viiis.	8	0	0
Item, almesse, iis. viid.	0	2	8
Item, to xxiii. sisters of Normandys, ^{226.4} with the gardian eche of them,			
iiiii., and the gardian, viiid.—viiis.	0	10	4
Item, in offering on Pentecost Tuesday ^{226.5} for my master, id.;	0	0	1
for the herse, xls.	2	0	0
For xxiiii. yerdes of brod wythtys for gowns, xxviis. viiid.;	1	7	8
for dyeng of the same, iiii.	0	4	0
For setting on the tents, vid.	0	0	6
For xxii. yerdes and iii. quarters of brod wythts, xxxiiis. iiii.	1	14	3
For grownedyng, iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
For dyeng, iiii.	0	4	0
To xxxviii prests at Norwyche dyryge when the cors lay ther xiis. viiid.	0	12	8
To xxxix. schyldern with surplices within the schurche and without, iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
To xxvi. clerks with iii. kepers of the torches , eche of them iid., iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
To the clerks of St. Peters and St. Stevens for the ryngers ageyn the cors, iis.	0	2	0
To the iiiii. orders of fryers that rede ageyn the cors—	?	?	?
To the Priore of Carow, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
To a maide that came with her, xxd.	0	1	8
To the ancors [anchoress ?] xld. In almesse, xv.	0	3	4
To a woman that came from London with the cors to Norwyche, vis. viii[d].	0	6	8
Payments be Gloys and Calle at Bromholme.			
Fyrste. To the Prior, be my masters bequest, xls.	2	0	0
To ix. monks, eche of them vis. viiid., iiii.	3	0	0
To an other monke, who was of the same place, xxd.	0	1	8
For brinyng of the Abbess with the torches , xxd.	0	1	8
To the Priors boteler for bred, iis. xd.	0	2	10
For wasshyng of napry, xiid.	0	1	0
To the boteler for hys reward, xxd.	0	1	8
To the baker for cccx. (310) eggs, xixd.	0	1	7
To hym for hys reward, iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
To xxviii. bedds with — of cloths, and wasshyng of the same, vs.	0	5	0
To ii. men that fyllyd the grave, viiid.	0	0	8
To brueng of v. kome malte, xxd.	0	1	8
For ix. pownd candyl, xid.	0	0	9
To the clerks of Bromholm, viiid.	0	0	8
For viii. peces of peuter lost of the Priors, xxd.	0	1	8
Geven among the men of the bakhouse, xxd.	0	1	8
To the parisse schyrche of Bromholm, xs.	0	10	0
To xii. schyrchys, is. viiid.	1	0	0
To the prest that cam with the cors from London, iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
To servytors that awaytyd upon hym by the komawndment of W. Paston, xxid.	0	1	9
To Playters for hys offering, iiiid.	0	0	4
To the vyker of Upton, iis.	0	2	0
To the sexton of Bromholm for xxii. crossys geven to Marget and Modeley, per John Paston, iiii. vid.	0	4	6
To xxiii. rynggars, viis.	0	7	0
To xxiiii. servertors, eche of them iiiid., viiis.	0	8	0
To lxx. servertors, eche of them iiiid., xviiis. vid.	0	16	6
Paid to Dawbeny for servertors, viid.	0	7	0
For fyshh the day after the enterment, vis. xd.	0	6	10
For vi. barells bere, xiis.	0	12	0
For a roundlet of red wine of xv. gallons, &c., xiis. xid.	0	12	10
To a hors hyer for iii. days for Sir James, xiid.	0	1	0
For a quarter malte, vs.	0	5	0
For iii. bushels wete, xxxiid.	0	2	8
For a quarter of otys, iis. viiid.	0	2	8
For x. kome malte brueng, xld.	0	3	4
For the boord of Rycharde Hermer, wrythe, iii. days, and for hys hyer the sayde tyme, xiiid. ob.	0	0	8½
For William Yonge, barbor, v. days mete and drynke, and hys hyer the sayde tyme, xviiid.	0	1	4
For vi. pownd candyl, viid. ob.	0	0	7½
To xii. pore men beryng torches from London to Norfolk be vi. day, is., takyng eche of them on the day iiiid., and for iii. dayes in goyng homeward, takyng every day vid.	1	4	0
Geven to Martyn Savage and Denschers awaytyng upon my master at London be vii. dayes before that he was caryed, iis. xd.	0	2	10
For bred bowthe, xxiiis.	1	4	0
For vii. barells bere, xviiis. vid.	0	16	6
For a barell of the grettest assyse, iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
For iii. barells of alee, xiis. iiiid.	0	8	4
For bred and alee for xii. men that bare torches, xiiid. ob.	0	0	8½
To a dole at Bromholm, vi. xiis. iiiid.	5	13	4
To William Colens, one of the botelers at Bromholm, xiid.	0	1	0
To Wate Webster, another boteler, xiid.	0	1	0
To Greg. Worsteler, one of the porters at Bromholm, iiiid.	0	1	0
The parson at Mauteby, ^{228.1} and Sir Thomas Lynes, to the prestes at the deryge at Bromholm, xliiis. In almesse, xlviis. vid.; more, xxs.	2	16	0
To the glaser for takyn owte of ii. panys of the wyndows of the schyrche for to late owte the reke of the torches at the deryge, and soderweryng new of the same, xxd.	0	1	8
Vittelles bought by Richard Charles.			
First. For xxvii. gees, xviiis.	0	17	0
For xxvii. frankyd gees, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
lxx. caponnes, xviiis. viid.	0	17	7
For xxix. ^{228.2} xvii. chekons, xviiis. vid.	0	16	6
For x. chekons, xd.	0	0	10
For xli. pygges, xiis. xd.	0	3	10
For xlix. calvys, iiiid. xiis. iiiid.	4	13	4
For xxxiiii. lambys, xxviis. iid.	1	7	2
For xxii. shep, xxxviis. vd. x.	1	17	3
nete, iiiid. xviiis. id.	4	16	1
For ii. napronnes to Richard Lynstede, xd.	0	0	10
For clarets and fawcetts, vid.	0	0	6

MCCC (1300). eggs, vis. vid.	0	6	6
For xx. galons milk, xxd.	0	1	8
For viii. galons creme, iis. viiid.	0	2	8
For iii. pints of butter, iiiid.	0	0	4
For i. quarter and ii. bushels of whete mele, viis. xd.	0	7	10
To the parson of Crostweyt for i. quarter of whete, vis.	0	6	0
For xliii. galons of ale, iis.	0	2	0
To a labourer for iii. days, xiid.	0	1	0
To xxiiii. galons of ale, iiii.	0	4	0
For xliii. salt fysshe, iiii. iiiid.	0	4	4
For the purveying of bred, ale, and fysshe, iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
To William Reynolds for lodgyng of Master Prowet, the Prior of the White Freres, the parson of Mautby, Sir Thomas Lynds, and other, by ii. nyghtis, vid.	0	0	6
For bred, ale, and possets to the same persons, vid.	0	0	6
To Herman, fleying bests by iii. days, iis., and to John Foke, by iii. days, xxd.	0	1	8
For purveying of all the velys, lambes, x. beefins, certain piggs and polay [poultry], xld.	0	3	4

BILL OF THE PRIOR OF BROMHOLM.

Memorandum. The Prior toke to bord diverse persons laboryng about the enterment, begynnynge the Thursday in Pentecost weke, the vi. yere of Kyng Edward the iiiith.			
On Thursday I ^{229.1} find 3 persons who had xiid. for their board and hire;	0	1	0
On Friday 5 who had xvd.;	0	1	3
on Saturday 8 who had xxiid.	0	2	0
On Monday all were employed; and on the day after I find 4 to be allowed for their board iiiid. ob., and for their hires vd.,—ixd. ob.	0	1	2

Delivered by the Prior to Richard Charles:—

Fyrst, v. quarters of otes, xiis. iiiid.;	0	13	4
v. swyne, xiis. vid.;	0	12	6
ii. bushel of mestyn, xvd.;	0	1	3
v. pownd of candell, vd.;	0	0	5
xx. quarters of malte, xiiis. iiiid.,	0	13	4
and with gryndyng and brewyng, xviiis.	0	18	0
For a cartfull of hey, iiii. iiiid.	0	3	4
For ii. swyne, vs.	0	5	0
For ii. Bushel otes, viiid.	0	0	8
For a quarter of herryng, vid.	0	0	6
For half a quarter makerell, viid. ob.	0	0	7½
To the parson of St. Peters for his fee of the wax about the coors, beside ii candels of i. lb. and i. hert candel of a pound, xxd.	0	1	8
At my masters xxx. day for offering, id.	0	0	1
Geven to churches and in almest by Gresham, toward Bromholm, v. marks.	1	13	4
To the clerk of St. Peters of Hungate ^{230.1} his felaship for ryngyng when the coors was in the church, xiid.	0	1	0
To Dawbeney for bests and other stuffe for the enterment, xxi.	20	0	0
To him in gold for to change into small mony for the dole, xli.	40	0	0
To W. Pecok, in iii. bags to bere to Bromholm, the 20th day, xxvi. marks.	8	13	4
To Medeley for his reward, iii. marks, and the same to Maryot.	2	13	4
To Maryot for costs he bare by the way to Bromholm, iii. xiid.	3	1	0
More to Medeley for mony paid by him, xlis. xd.	2	1	10
To the keper of the inne where myne husband dyed, for his reward, xxs.	1	0	0
To Paston chirch, xs.	0	10	0
To Bakton chirch, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
To Gresham the London carrier, in full payment for the Chaundeler of London, vi. xixs. iiiid.	0	19	4
More in almest mony, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
More for wyne and bere, vii. marks.	2	6	6
To the parson of St. Peters, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
For wyne for the seingers when the coors was at Norwich, xxs.	1	0	0
To Skolehouse in part of his bille for torches and wax made at Bromholm, for to brenne upon the grave, iii. marks.	1	6	8
For x. yerds of narow blak for the viker of Dallynge and Robert Gallaway, and for iii yerds and quartof brod cloth for Illee, xxs. xd.	1	0	10
To Fretton chirch, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
For a cope called a frogge of worsted for the Prior of Bromholm, xxvii. viiid.	1	6	8
For bred at the enterment, ixs.	0	9	0
In almest, viiis. iiiid.	0	8	4
In wyne and spices, is.	0	1	0
To Dom. John Loveday for cloth for a rydyng cope for himself, xliiis. iid.	0	14	2
To the makyng of Redham Stepill, viiis. iiiid.	0	8	4
To John Orford, wax chandeler, for xii torches and one candell of i. lb., vs. iid. ob.	0	5	2½
To John Dewe for grey lynen cloth and sylk frence for the hers, vii. xviiis. iid.	6	15	2
Given to the Austeners at the chapter at the of Yarmouth, xxvs.	1	5	0
To Daubeny for to kepe the yere day at Bromholm the first yere after his dethe, viiid. iis. iiiid.	8	2	4
Given at Castor to xxv howsholders, every household iid. the tyme, vis. iiiid.	0	6	3
To viii. pore men the said tyme, xviiid.	0	1	6
To the master of the College the said tyme, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
To Master Clement Felmyngham the said tyme, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
To viii. prests at Castor the said tyme, iis. viiid.	0	2	8
To childern in surplices and other pore folk at the said tyme, xiid.	0	1	1
To the parson of Hungate, vis. viiid.	0	6	8
To the said parson for a certeyn ^{231.1} unto Mighelmese next after the said yere day, viiid.	0	8	8
To Skolous, wax chandeler, for makyng of the hers at Bromholm, xxiii. ixs. viiid.	22	9	8
To Philip Curson, draper, for cloths, xli. iis. ob.	9	3	0½
To Aubrey, draper, xxxiiis.	1	14	0
For a quarter of makerell, xiid.	0	1	0
To the Prior of Bromholm for malte spent at the enterment, xls.	2	0	0
For light kept on the grave, xs.	0	10	0
Geven at Cristemasse next after the said yereday, to eche of the iiiii. orders of fryers, xs.—xls.	2	0	0
To the vyker of Dallyng for bryngyng home of a pardon from Rome, to pray for alle our frends sowles, viiis. iiiid.	0	8	4
For a black gowne to the said viker, viiis.	0	8	0

sub-total of green items £33/14/0 (inflates to: £41,800)

Total 205 14 8

The Estates of Walsingham Priory Karen Kelly

Karen took an Archaeology degree at Cambridge some 30 years ago. She recently completed a Certificate in Landscape Archaeology at Cambridge for which she studied the NHBG Walsingham Volume as part of her final submission on "The Priory at Walsingham and its place in the landscape". The next step is an MA in Landscape History. Karen has prepared the essay below after subsequent discussions with me about the problems of dendro-dating in Walsingham and the Priory's access to timber from its lands over a wide area. (Ed)

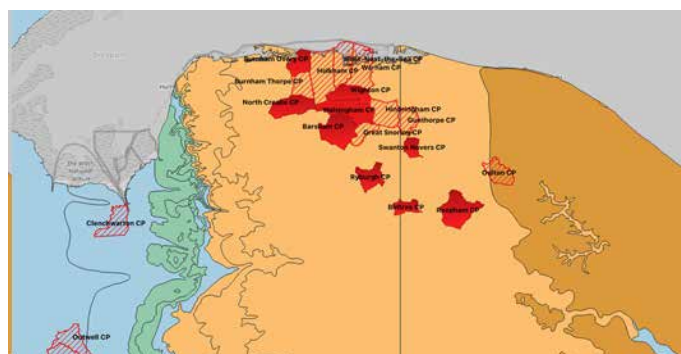


Fig 2 Geology of North Norfolk (author, geology from Digimap)

The recent survey by Norfolk Historic Buildings Group of Walsingham provides a fascinating insight into the property of the Priory in Little Walsingham. However, in his book on Monastic Landscapes Bond says that to truly understand a monastery we need to identify the "nature and extent of its landed property". That property included not only the buildings identified by the survey in Little Walsingham, but a range of estates and farms across East Anglia.

On the eve of The Dissolution, the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, ordered by the King to assess monasteries, valued Walsingham at £390 per annum from endowments, and a further £260 from offerings, making it the second most wealthy house in Norfolk after Norwich cathedral (Eyre & Strathan, 1817, pp. 384-7). In the same survey, Binham Priory was worth only £140 per annum and Castle Acre £206. Even if we look only at the endowment element of its valuation, it's clear that Walsingham was a wealthy priory. The survey lists the actual endowments of the Priory including its manors, rents and farms - but how these relate to the actual rural landscape is something that does not appear to have been explored previously.

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (Eyre & Strathan, 1817, pp. 385-8) identifies a range of property of the Priory including several entire manors – shaded red in figure 2 below – as well as rents and farms across a much wider area – shaded with diagonal hatching. It is worth noting that the shading is based on modern parishes and some parishes contained multiple manors, but we do not know the boundaries for the areas owned by these. It is unusual for an Augustinian house to have so many entire manors (Bond, 2004, p. 34), the relatively late arrival of the order meant that most of their holdings were usually more piecemeal. This does not appear to be the case for Walsingham - the majority of its

endowments were located close to the Priory, though it did have land or rents across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Almost all of the Priory's property was on the chalkland (pale orange in fig 2 above) of north-west Norfolk. In East Anglia open field arable farming was combined with fold-coursing for sheep (Allison, 1957), a specific element of the East Anglian medieval landscape, where manorial landlords had the right to graze the fallow open fields of their tenants. Noble houses like the Clares (who founded Walsingham Friary in 1347) used their wool-wealth to set up monasteries and to endow them with estates. These estates then carried on providing wool-wealth to the monasteries.

Whilst the Priory owned farms and other property, a list of manors owned in 1534 by the Priory is shown below. They were acquired relatively evenly across time from the 12th to the 15th centuries from wealthy local landlords often donating them as part of an effort to aid their passage through purgatory after their death.

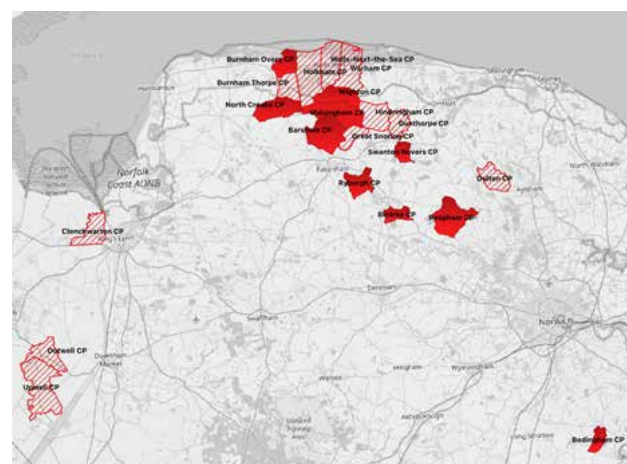
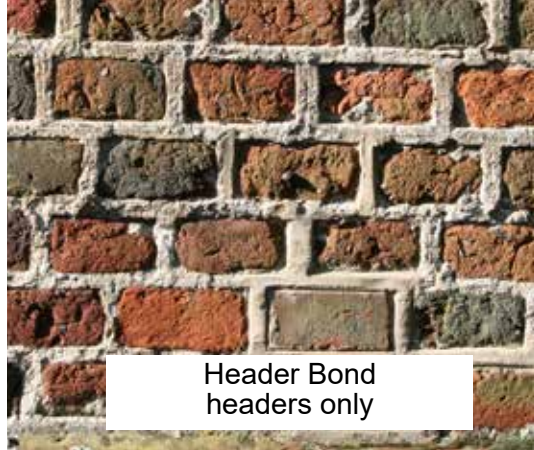


Fig 1 Walsingham Endowments from the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (author)

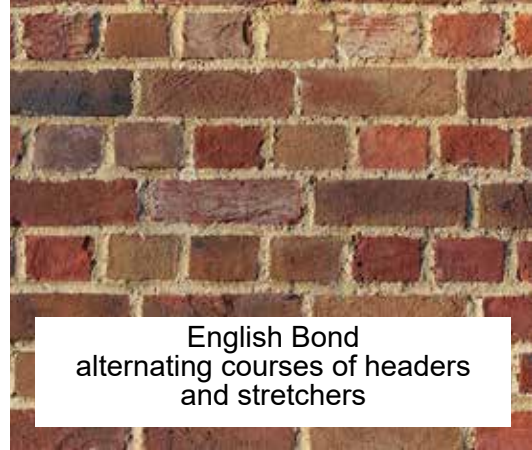
Manor Name	Value in £	Parish	Endowment Details
Houghton-St-Giles (location of slipper chapel)	13	Barsham	Listed as a manor held by the Priory
Walsingham Priory Manor	10	Bedingham	1318 Sir John of Uvedale
Walsingham Priory Manor, Folsham	12	Bintree	John Marsham in 1251 Inc 60 acres of wood, soke, fold-course and fishery
Walsingham Priory Manor Vewtres Manor	16	Burnham Overy	1403 Sir Robert Knolles & family)
Peterstone Manor	12	Burnham Overy	1270 to Priory of Peterstone which was then taken by Walsingham in 1450
Walsingham-Priory Manor	16	North Creake	Mary De Packenham 1362
Walsingham Priory Manor, Salle	19	Reepham	Almaric Perch 1251
Great Ryburgh	32	Ryburgh	Thomas de la Grene 1434 inc windmill and fold-course
Ryburgh Woodall	4	Ryburgh	Became part of Great Ryburgh
Swanton Nowers and Kereston	16	Swanton Nowers	1389 license from king
Walsingham Egmere	28	Walsingham	Was owned by Peterstone and taken by Walsingham in 1450
The minor Walsingham manors of			
Fennes, Marshes, Bottes, Hadshaw's and Collingham	8	Walsingham	Crown lands maybe leased to Priory?
Walsingham Magna	56	Walsingham	Cown lands leased to Priory
Walsingham Parva		Walsingham	1226 king
Branchehall		Wyeton Salthouse and other villages	William de Houghton 1134 (?)



Random Bond



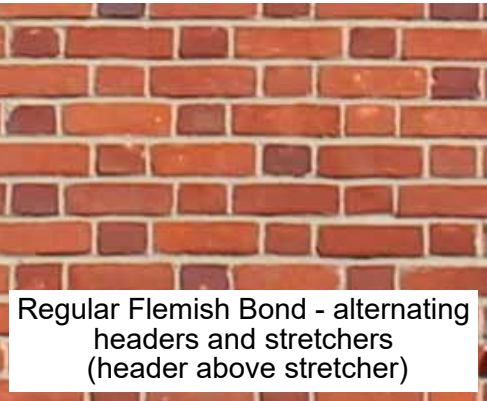
Header Bond
headers only



English Bond
alternating courses of headers
and stretchers

Early Bonds (above)

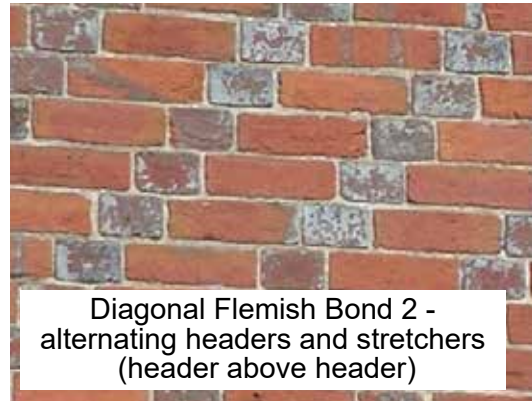
Flemish Bonds (below - post 1650)



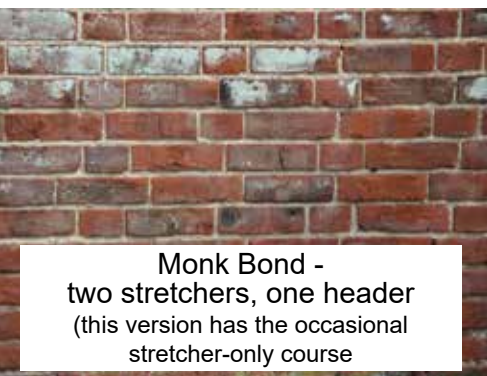
Regular Flemish Bond - alternating
headers and stretchers
(header above stretcher)



Diagonal Flemish Bond -
alternating headers and stretchers,
stretcher-only course between



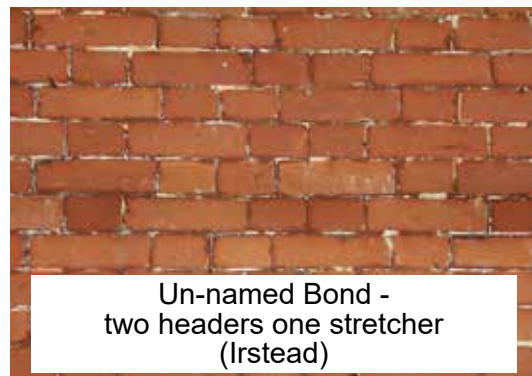
Diagonal Flemish Bond 2 -
alternating headers and stretchers
(header above header)



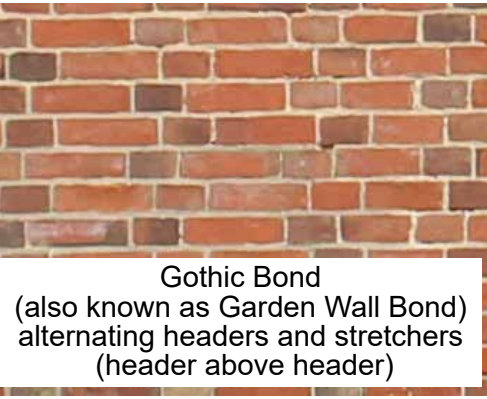
Monk Bond -
two stretchers, one header
(this version has the occasional
stretcher-only course)



Flemish Garden Wall Bond -
three stretchers, one header



Un-named Bond -
two headers one stretcher
(Irstead)



Gothic Bond
(also known as Garden Wall Bond)
alternating headers and stretchers
(header above header)

Brick Bonding

There is some
disagreement about the
names of some of these
Flemish bonds

(photos: Ian Hinton)

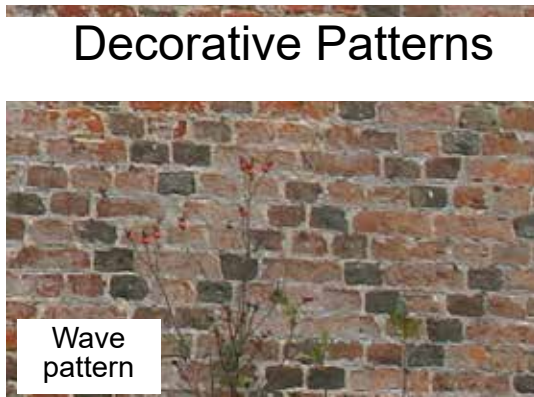


Rat Trap Bond -
bricks laid on edge, leaving narrow
columns between the brick skins

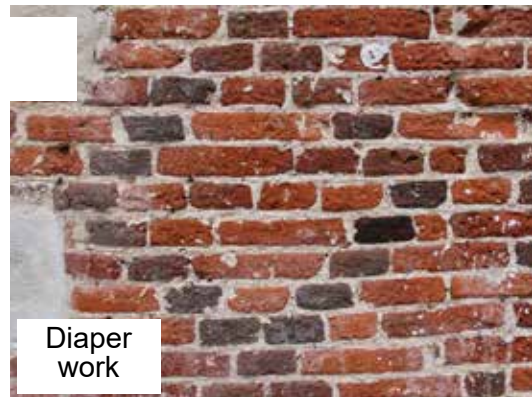
Decorative Patterns



Burnt
headers



Wave
pattern



Diaper
work