

NHBG Newsletter



Autumn 2007
Non Members: £1.00

NUMBER FOURTEEN
www.nhbg.fsnet.co.uk

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group



Members demonstrate an appropriate posture for church crawling in St Peter and St Paul, Salle (see page 5 for the object of their interest).

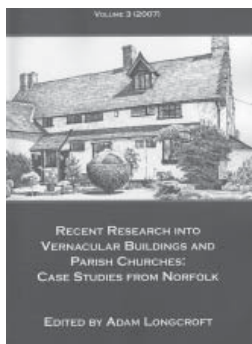
Contents

Ghost Airfields of Norfolk3	A Tour of Loddon14	UEA/NHBG Course.....17
Three Norfolk Church Towers 4	Editor's Note15	VAG Winter Conference17
Kirstead Hall..... 6	Church Group15	Book List18
NHBG visit to Wells 8	AGM Facts and Figures15	NHBG Committee18
Photographic Day 10	Tacolneston16	Digest of Buildings19
Manor Farm, Pulham Market.12		Winter Events 2007–2008..... 20

Chair

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the NHBG Newsletter. Once again it is packed with information, including brief summaries of members' visits to various sites which took place during the rather wet summer and details of the winter lecture series which promises to be one of the best so far. The six months which have passed since the last Newsletter have been very busy for the Group. We have heard that our bid to the Awards for All Fund (HLF) for £8,000 of funding has been successful, which means that we will be able to carry out another ambitious tree-ring survey of the buildings in Tacolneston which will be the focus of the Group's next long-term project. Members have succeeded in recording in detail a number of buildings both in Tacolneston and elsewhere (for a summary see page 19), and the first accredited courses offered in partnership with the UEA have run successfully and have been well-supported by members. Two new courses will be offered in 2007/8 (for details see page 17). The Group's AGM took place at Wolterton Hall in June it was one of the best AGMs anyone can remember. At the AGM New Officers were elected, including Alayne Fenner as Vice-Chair and myself as Chair (again). I was able to report to the members the very sad news that George Fenner had passed away in March and it is fitting that Alayne will now take over George's role within the group. The committee and no doubt many other Group members will miss George a great deal – again it is fitting that the new volume of the Group's Journal is dedicated to George who was instrumental in the Group's success since its formation back in 2000. Michael Brown, the Chair of the Group over the past three years, decided to stand down at the AGM because of poor health. Michael has been a great Chair during the most successful period in the Group's history thus far and I am sure you will all want to join me in wishing him a speedy and full return to fitness and rude health. Rest assured that I will do my best to maintain the impressive pace of progress achieved by the Group during Michael's tenure in the Chair. A piece of very good news I have to share with you is the publication of Volume 3 of the Group's Journal, which is titled *Recent Research into Vernacular Buildings and Parish Churches: Case Studies from Norfolk* (for details see below). The volume has already been reviewed by one of the leading members of the Vernacular Architecture Group, who describes it as a 'remarkable achievement' and 'yet another quality publication from an active historic building group, of much more than local interest. It is a model which other counties might emulate.' Congratulations to all those who contributed to the production of the Journal – lets hope the next volume, focusing on the Tacolneston Project, succeeds in building on this tremendous success. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the winter lectures – see you there!

Dr Adam Longcroft
 NHBG Chair and editor of the NHBG Journal
 01603 592261/a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk



Journal of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group
Volume 3 (2007)
Recent Research into Vernacular Buildings and
Parish Churches: Case Studies from Norfolk
Edited by Adam Longcroft

This Volume of the Journal brings together the fruits of recent research into both the vernacular buildings and parish churches of the county of Norfolk. It contains fourteen separate essays written by sixteen contributors including archaeologists, buildings historians, research students and conservation specialists. The studies span the period between the prehistoric and the modern day and provide valuable new insights into the historic built environment. The volume is lavishly illustrated with over 200 photographs, measured drawings, and maps.

Cost: Members—£8.00 Non-Members—£10.00 p&p—£3.00
 Copies will be available at Winter Meetings or contact
 Jill Napier (01508 489469).



Ghost Airfields of Norfolk Talk at Swaffham, March 2007 Roderick McKenzie

By the end of WW2, the county of Norfolk played host to thirty-seven major military airfields. With the recent closure of the legendary former Fighter Command hub at Coltishall, only RAF Marham now survives as a fully operational, frontline station. Of the other sites, several remain in military hands, for example Feltwell has become an air/space Tracking Centre, and Swanton Morley an Army barracks. Several former wartime airfields now constitute part of the huge STANTA live-firing range.

Civil aviation, in forms as diverse as commercial airliners and gliding, has ensured continuing employment for many of Norfolk's surviving runways; but the majority of old airfields have reverted to agricultural and/or industrial use. Even so, over sixty years after the conflict that inspired their construction, a large number of wartime buildings survive throughout the county; a remarkable fact when one considers most were designed to have an operational life of no more than ten years, and in all but a few cases no real effort has been made to preserve them. Aircraft hangars, Control Towers, Accommodation Blocks, even Squash Courts can still be found in situ, still looking much as they did at the height of war against Nazi Germany.



Photo 1: A typical WW2 Control Tower. This example survives at Bodney, south of Swaffham, a former USAAF fighter station now part of the STANTA army training range.

Bircham Newton, now HQ of the National Construction College, is by far the best preserved former airfield in the region, indeed its significance is national, as the buildings chart RAF architecture from its beginnings in 1918, through the wilderness of the inter-war years, to the late-thirties expansion and the Second World War. Two other expansion-era sites, Watton and West Raynham, are also exquisitely preserved, although their long-term futures remain in serious doubt. However, almost all these old sites can boast at least one architectural 'gem' — the Dome Trainer at Langham, for example, or Methwold's combined Gymnasium-Cinema, or the rare Blister Hangar still standing at Attlebridge. It is even possible to chart the evolution of specific building types, from the architectural magnificence of the pre-war structures to the squat, utilitarian, concrete-faced ugliness that characterised wartime buildings, their design forged in the bitter experience of actual combat.



Photo 2: The ubiquitous type T2 ('Transportable') aircraft hangar. Over 900 were produced during the Second World War, and large numbers survive at airfields both operational and derelict. This one fares well in industrial use at North Creake, near Fakenham.

Such buildings are today a tangible reminder of the most turbulent period in our country's history, and more, they are a poignant memorial to the thousands of brave men whose lives were to be abruptly ended flying from Norfolk's windswept runways. A large number of these men had already travelled a long way to meet their deaths, as roughly half the airfields in Norfolk were occupied by bomber and fighter units of the American Army Air Force. That these structures should have remained neglected and largely forgotten for decades seems bizarre in an era where 'heritage' has become such a watchword, although there are signs of a sea change. In recent years, significant buildings at Seething and Thorpe Abbots have been restored to original condition, and others seem set to follow suit. Even so, demolitions and neglect continue apace, making it vital to record, and appreciate, these locations before the march of progress removes many of them forever from the landscape of this great county.



*Photo 3 The former RAF Docking is one of the least known airfield sites in Norfolk. Among its (barely) surviving buildings is this rare Gas Decontamination Block.
(All photos: R McKenzie)*

Three Norfolk Church Towers with Dominic Summers, 5th May 2007

Lynne Hodge



St Agnes, Cawston: freestone tower.

Dominic chose to take us to see three very fine large church towers at Salle, Cawston and Erpingham which were all built in the fifteenth century. All are west towers with large west doors. Dominic talked about the complexities of the heraldry displayed on the towers, the interpretation of which can help to pinpoint the dates when the towers were built.



St Agnes, Cawston: hammerbeam roof.



St Mary, Erpingham: a flint built tower.

Each tower demonstrated different building techniques available to the medieval craftsman. The base of the tower at Salle seems to have been built as part of a unified scheme with the nave and transepts, as the plinth courses are continuous. The tower walling is built of flint and has a high proportion of mortar which suggests that the tower was originally rendered. By contrast, the tower at Cawston is built entirely of freestone, possibly from Northamptonshire. As the base frieze and buttresses are visible inside the church it seems that the tower was originally separate from the nave and was only joined later to the arcade by a larger bay. The church is large and has a fabulous hammerbeam roof. Finally, the very fine Erpingham tower is attached to a rather small nave. The tower here is also built of flint but in this case the flints are large cobbles, laid in courses with decorative galletting in the mortar which suggests that the tower was not intended to be rendered.

These three different building techniques made me think about the mechanics of getting such large building schemes finished and how the craftsmen were commissioned in the first place. Apparently some medieval contracts still exist which specify that the building season should be between the end of May and the end of September. Further, the lime mortar used

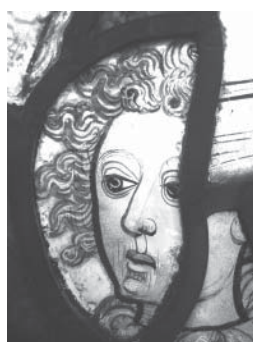


St Peter and St Paul, Salle. West Door with censing angels and armourial panels: from the left: St George, Brews (a major benefactor to the fabric), Ufford (probably a manorial connexion), Morley (linked by marriage to Brews if memory serves), unknown cross (not St G - because of the bevelled edges), St Paul, arms of the passion (crucifix, hammer, crown of thorns), central image niche (which Eamonn Duffy thinks would have contained a representation of the pieta), arms of the passion (crown of thorns, spear, sponge on a pole, 2 scourges, 3 nails), St Peter, Royal Arms of England post 1406, East Anglia, Prince of Wales (royal arms with a label of 3 for difference. This is useful in that it must have been carved before the succession of Henry V, i.e. 1413, so we have a date sometime between 1406 and 1413 for the frieze and therefore, probably, for the beginning of the building campaign), lion rampant - possibly Brews or Morley again, engrailed saltire - very tentatively Ingoldsby.

cannot be exposed to frost, which would mean that walling with a high mortar content could not be started in Norfolk before the end of May. Looking at Salle tower, the difference in the way the flints are laid probably correspond to the building campaigns and indicate that the wall only gained about six feet in height per year. As the tower at Salle is 126ft high this would have taken twenty years! In fact the building seems to have stopped at the second stage, with the belfry only being added at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Furthermore lime mortar takes many

years to set completely, so there would be a long wait before it would be safe to ring the bells. The patrons who funded the building of these churches certainly took the long view! Thanks to Dominic for a fascinating day visiting three well-chosen churches, which turned out to be so different, despite being built within a decade or so of each other.

A more detailed discussion of these churches can be found in Dominic's contribution to Vol 3 of the NHBG Journal (see page 2 for how to get your copy).



*Left to right:
On the roof of St Peter and St Paul, Salle.
A medieval Norwich glass angel's face, St Peter & St Paul, Salle.
Misericord at St Peter & St Paul, Salle, which tickled the photographer's fancy.*

Kirstead Hall

Tony Wright

I first met Judy and Dermot Murphy, the owners, when I attended a lunch on their lawn and found myself sheltering from the hot sun. The NHBG visit was on a day when we had to shelter from the rain!

The site was part of the outlying lands of the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds. John Cook of London bought the site from the King at the Dissolution. It is believed that a house was already on the site and some parts were incorporated into the present hall when it was built around 1614. Thomas Spooner bought the property in 1626 and he may have enlarged it to its present form. The east end is clearly older than the western part.

When Judy and Dermot bought the house twenty six years ago it was in poor condition with drifting snow in some rooms. It has an E-plan and is built in red brick with blue diaper patterns. The east and west wings project only slightly from the south front. The gables are stepped and one finial survives – on the southeast angle. The windows are mullioned and transomed with up to seven lights. The three-and-a-half storey porch is centrally placed but less prominent than the wings. It has a fine oak door of some antiquity. The chimney stacks are built in red brick. Inside the house the over mantel in the east drawing room was removed to Little Witchingham Hall over a century ago. Some panelling remains but other rooms have lost theirs



and the whereabouts is an ongoing mystery.

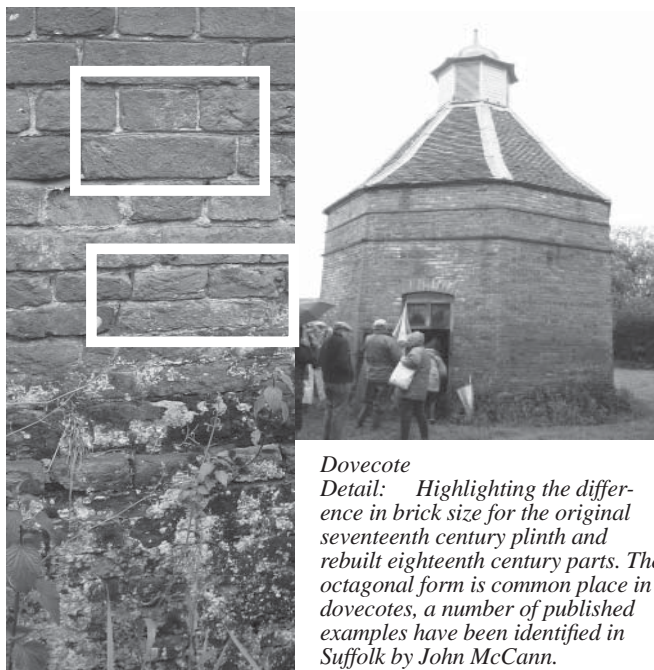
Unfortunately we were unable to see some parts of the house but we hear that the top floor is fascinating and has a story to tell. We hope to arrange a return visit in the near future to continue investigation.

The forecourt walls are of the same age as the house. The dovecote dates back to the seventeenth century but only the lower few courses are original as it was rebuilt in the eighteenth century. It is octagonal in plan with nest boxes on three faces, a moulded drip course below the eaves and brickwork, restored c.1980, above this. The octagonal top has a glass-fibre ogee cap, coloured to imitate lead. The original lantern was said to have been cannibalised to repair the house.

The adjacent barn and stable are contemporary and also listed. Both have stepped gables. The south barn is constructed of English bond brick with glazed black pantile roof. Rectangular in plan it has seen much change but the south roof appears to be original with tie beams and collar beams and two rows of butt purlins with curved wind braces. The south face has a large central opening and ventilation slits to the right, and there are moulded brick kneelers to parapet gables. The east gable wall has three ventilation slits. There is a nineteenth century outshut to the north.

The other barn has been much altered and has been used in the recent past as a milking parlour. Again of English bond brick it also has a pantile roof. Again there are moulded brick kneelers to the stepped parapet gables. There is a segmental arched opening to the first floor of the north gable wall and a four-light mullion, partly slatted to the gable. Inside it has a modern ceiling but with chamfered transverse beams still visible.

Our thanks to Judy and Dermot for their hospitality.



*Dovecote
Detail: Highlighting the difference in brick size for the original seventeenth century plinth and rebuilt eighteenth century parts. The octagonal form is common place in dovecotes, a number of published examples have been identified in Suffolk by John McCann.*



“Wide transomed windows of six to twelve lights were especially popular in the Elizabethan period and into the seventeenth century.”⁵

Kirstead Hall Documentary History

Maureen P Cubitt

Kirstead Hall was the manor house of Kirstead Miniots (Mynetts)

Described by Nikolas Pevsner as:

‘A very fine Jacobean front, formerly with a date panel 1614. Red brick with blue brick diaper. Very flat E-front with three shaped gables. Mullioned and transomed windows to seven lights, mostly with pediments. Of the chimney shafts, some are still round and decorated as of a hundred years before.’

It is a possibility that the structure had in fact been built a hundred years before as the roof in the south-west wing contains truncated beams that have no purpose in the present roof.

William Roberts owned the manor and hall in 1580 and was probably responsible for the extensions and improvements although he lived at Winston. After his death the manor passed to his sister, wife of Mr Smith of Beccles. By 1626 the property belonged to Thomas Spooner. He bequeathed his estates to Thomas Spooner, ‘my poor kinsman’ and it was through this Thomas that the Hall and manor came to the Osbournes¹. Another extension was added to the main building in a less grand style and probably intended for the farm bailiff. The upper floor was used as a cheese chamber in later years.

In 1664, the Hearth Tax was levied on occupiers. There appear to be ten hearths in the main building that date from this period, but no house records that number. It is a possibility that the house was occupied in two parts.

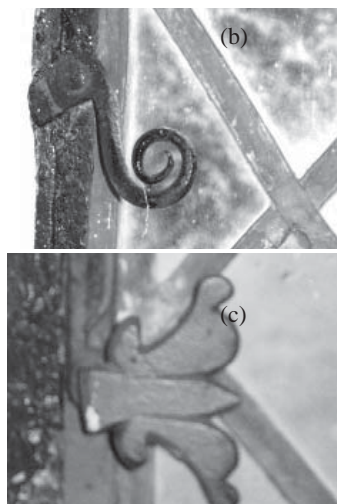
Glebe terriers for Kirstead begin in 1677. Half an acre adjoined Kirtsead Hall. From this the following owners can be traced:

1677 Robert Love
1706 Elizabeth Love
1716 Robert Love
1725 Mrs Elizabeth Love
1794 Roger Kerrison late William Fellows

(a) Cockshead Hinge similar to one of 1628 in Gloucester.⁵

(b) Spiral handles were found in 17th and 18th centuries.⁵

(c) ?Butterfly catch to catchment window



Robert Love was of Kirstead Hall when he made his will 1706.²

On 2 May 1810, a new road was made, stopping up the old route that passed close to the Hall. Thomas Kett was the then owner.³

White’s Trade Directory for 1836 says that George Samuel Kett was lord of the manor. He was occupying the hall according to the Tithe Apportionment of 1841.

Kirstead Hall was occupied in two parts at the 1851 census. Thomas Fiddy the farm bailiff and family were living in one part and Charles Aldborough, an agricultural labourer with his wife, were living in the other.

Bryant in 1909 reported that the hall contained some good wood carvings which were removed by Henry Kett Tompson Esq., to Great Witchingham Hall.⁴

The late Edward Preston Willius, architect, wrote this of Kirstead Hall in 1890, a fitting tribute to this grand old house.

‘This delightful old house is built some distance off the road from Norwich to Bungay and is situated nearly between them. When seen with the sun lighting up its many mullioned windows, the south front displays to perfection the brilliant colouring that time alone gives to red bricks and tiles, and surrounded as it is with trees, it presents a scene long to be remembered.’

References

- (1) *Consistory will of Thomas Spooner of Seething gent. o. w. 44*
- (2) *Consistory will of Robert Love of Kirstead 871 Pidcocke*
- (3) *NRO Road Order Box 3 no. 26 1810*
- (4) *Bryant Norfolk Churches 1906*
- (5) *L. Hall, Period House Fixtures & Fittings 1300–1900, Countryside Books, 2005*

Front door with moulding detail.



NHBG visit to Wells

Jackie Simpson

On Saturday July 14th 20 members visited Wells-next-the-Sea. Our guide was local historian Mike Welland who not only gave us the facts about the buildings but also filled us in on the gossip about the inhabitants both past and present.

We met in the church of Saint Nicholas, which appeared to be ancient but turned out to be Victorian. The original building dated from 1460 but on the 3rd August 1879 was struck by lightning and completely destroyed. The heat was so intense that the bells melted. Not downcast, the parishioners set to and built the current structure which is an exact replica (apart from a little Victorianisation) of the original building at a cost of £7,000. It was opened on the 13th April 1883.

In the porch is a gravestone dedicated to the memory of John Fryer who was The Master aboard the *Bounty* at the time of the mutiny against Captain Bligh. He remained loyal and was therefore set adrift in the boat with Bligh. He came back to Wells after being rescued and died in 1817.

From the church we made our way to Ostrich House. The exact date of the original building was not known but the first record was a bill of sale of 1722. On stylistic grounds, a build date in the late seventeenth century seems likely. The house has five bays with a very pretty sundial set under a central dutch style gable arch.

This proved to have been the Ostrich Inn, a coaching inn, which closed in 1910, and the first of the thirty two pubs (most of them now defunct) that Wells boasted in its heyday just before the industrial revolution.

Making our way up the old coaching lane adjoining the side of the Ostrich's garden we passed two cottages on our left which were originally the skittle alley for The Crown Hotel. On the right the cottages had been converted from a barn and the first theatre in Wells dating from pre 1800.

And so to The Crown Hotel. This started life as three cottages dating from before 1720. One contained a brewing vat. By 1754 the three had become two and in 1780 a Mr Webber, the son

of the owner of the Ostrich, opened a girls' boarding school. In 1824 Samuel Ellis bought the school and the freehold of the land in front of it and built what is now the front façade facing the Buttlands. The first record of The Crown Inn being open was in 1831. There is a tradition that Nelson and Lady Hamilton disported themselves there at The Crown but as Trafalgar was in 1805 and The Crown did not exist at that time, it is felt to be highly unlikely!

In front of the Crown is The Buttlands, a large rectangular grassed area surrounded by houses of various ages, the South West corner being the oldest area.

Parallel with and behind the houses on the west side was a ropeworks. This made ropes for the many ships which came into Wells when the town was a busy port. Ultimately it made hangman's ropes and (due to lack of demand?) was closed in 1900.

A slight detour around the south west corner brought us to Ware Hall House. This timber-framed hall house once stood in Ware in Hertfordshire. The local council announced that it would be demolished to make way for a roundabout. One lady, Miss Savage, was so incensed by this that she had it demolished, every piece labelled and transported to Wells. For the next twenty years, with no help at all, she rebuilt it piece by piece. It is now inhabited by her niece and is quite delightful and of course very famous. The roundabout was never built.

Leaving The Buttlands to the north we came next to the Congregational Church. This was built in 1817. Although we were not able to go inside we were told that it still contains the original pews and there was some cathedral glass visible. It is now in a bad state of repair.

Heading from there towards the sea we passed Bishop Ingle House which at one time was owned by the Gale family who owned the Wells Herald, Odd Fellows Hall which has had many incarnations including a cinema and is now two houses, Foundry House which was the town iron works, the Luggar, one of the thirty two pubs, though sadly now no longer open for refreshment, and the original Fisher Theatre.

Down at the end of Blackhorse Yard where it meets Freeman Street is Wells' oldest building. Now called the Merchants House the rear of the property dates from the late fifteenth century. It is a timber-framed hall house (now two storeys) and has one original window and some paired wall braces. On inspecting the Merchants House, one is reminded that Wells, like most small towns in North Norfolk would have been a predominantly timber-framed town before the great rebuilding of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Moving along Freeman Street and onto the Quay, we pass many of the old pubs; The Seamans, Queens Head, The Dogger, Anchor, Ship, Tuns etc etc. Narrow streets of small cottages ran back from the Quay and were called Yards. They are very similar to the Great Yarmouth Rows. Some still remain but many have been demolished to make way for modern development.

The railway ran along the Quay to take coal from the coal



Ostrich House, Wells: a Georgianised house with Dutch gables.



Congregational Chapel, Wells (top). Just to show what it was like inside, the other two interior shots were taken in February 2003.

warehouses to the ships. The Granary built in 1903 for F & G Smith has now been made into upmarket accommodation.

At the east end of the Quay is the old Customs House. This building, believed to have been built in 1620, housed H.M. Customs and Excise until 1870 when the function moved to Kings Lynn. There is still a wrought iron royal coat of arms on the front of the building.

Altogether an interesting and varied day. Many thanks to all concerned. We look forward to returning to Wells to see all the many buildings and hear all the gossip we did not have time for on this visit.

(Members may like to be reminded that we also visited Wells in August 2002 and there is a report by Vic Nierop-Reading in Newsletter No 5.)

NHBG & UEA Continuing Education Partnership Course

An Introduction to Norfolk Churches

Tutor: Ian Hinton
see page 17



The Vernacular Architecture of Breckland A Survey by The Breckland Society

The Breckland Society was set up in 2003 to encourage interest and research into the natural, built and social heritage of the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks. This report is a summary of that project's various components and results. Copies are available, free of charge, from Sue Whittle, The Hay Barn, Hall Farm Barns, Oxborough, Kings Lynn, PE33 9PS.

There is also a travelling exhibition:

15 September	Building Conservation Fair, St Nicholas's Chapel, King's Lynn
26-27 September	The Forum, Norwich
2-16 October	Mildenhall Museum

Insurance Cover— all members should be aware of the following:

When involved in an NHBG activity, members are covered by the NHBG Insurance. This covers liability to third parties for damage to third party property, ie the legal liability of the NHBG for any amounts it becomes liable to pay as

damages for Bodily Injury or Damage caused accidentally, including legal costs. The excess is £250. The insurance DOES NOT cover 'member to member' liability.

That is, if one member accidentally injures another. Most members will have cover on their household insurance.

If a member feels the cover is insufficient for their needs, then it is their personal responsibility to obtain adequate cover.

It is worth pointing out that members have a "duty of care" in looking after themselves and others.

Photographic Day with Steve Cole of English Heritage

Rosemary Forrest

We were privileged to welcome Steve Cole, Head of Photography at English Heritage, to Sue Shand's home on a sunny day in July. Steve ran a workshop on the photographing of historic buildings. In fact it turned out to be more than that because we were also given a slide show of his recent work for English Heritage and this covered recording the city of Nottingham and twentieth century industrial and military sites, such as Coltishall, which are rapidly passing into obsolescence and redundancy. We were also given a preview of the work being carried out by English Heritage on the magnificent ceilings of Apethorpe Hall, Northamptonshire.

What did we learn?

The basic tools of the trade, other than a camera with a good lens, were :

- * Tripod—especially when using a telephoto lens and to allow for slower shutter speeds when using smaller apertures. (A smaller aperture gives greater **depth of field** – see later);
- * Steps—for raising the viewpoint to avoid distorting the image too much;
- * Note book and pens—for recording frame numbers, locations and other brief comments as aides-memoire
- * Spare Batteries—obvious!
- * Torch—for those dark corners or extra artificial light;
- * Independent flashgun and cable—give better results than built-in flash;
- * Compass—correct labelling of caption e.g. east elevation taken from south-west viewpoint.
- * Most people are now using digital cameras; good results are obtainable if you manipulate and utilise the available light, artificial or natural. Steve explained to us the basic principles of a digital camera, i.e. that it works like the eye, light falling on to a sensor which, in the case of the eye, is the retina. The image is divided up into a rectangular array of pixels (picture elements) and the sensors convert light into red, green and blue values for each pixel. The more pixels the camera can record, the more detail will be captured, but only if you have a good quality lens. The more information you have, the more you can do with it.

The advantages of a digital camera are apparent in its:

- * ability to automate image capture: exposure, focusing and colour correction;
- * immediacy of seeing the image taken which allows removal of poor images;
- * ability to adjust images after capture by using image editing programs such as Adobe *Photoshop* (cut down version, *Elements*) which can do far more than a darkroom without the messy chemicals!

The disadvantage lies in the storage of images and the need to be aware of changes in technology which may make your



images inaccessible in the future unless they are printed on archival paper. Archivists prefer black and white photographic prints which are known to last. Prints from many computer printers tend to fade, but you can get your digital images printed on photographic paper. At some stage archivists will have to face up to the digital age, but at present the technology is evolving fast and standards change, so that archives have to be re-recorded periodically as the current media dictates.

Digital photography raises the problem of resolution and image size. Resolution is dependent on the number of pixels in an image and the area over which they are viewed or printed. Having few pixels and spreading them over a large area will result in the pixels being displayed or printed as large square blocks of colour, i.e. pixelation. Having vast quantities of pixels (thousands per square inch) crammed into a small space will result in large and unwieldy file sizes and long delays in printing as the printer discards information being sent that it is not able to use.

- * Screen resolution is measured by pixels or dots per inch (dpi). Screen resolution is generally around 72 dpi. Thus an image which is 72 pixels wide by 72 pixels high will appear as one inch square on a monitor;
- * Printer resolution is usually defined by dpi. Most inkjets have an approximate resolution of 360 dpi, so printing a 72x72 pixel image by equating a screen pixel with a printer dot would produce a printed image 1/5 inch square. Software such as Photoshop does a good job of re-sizing an image, but remember that if you want to increase the number of dots then the software must make an intelligent guess about the extra information whereas reducing the number of pixels can be achieved by an averaging process. Transferring large image files electronically is very time consuming (and costly) and images may be reduced **unless** the image is required for a publication when, generally speaking, the higher the

resolution the better. Note that once you have reduced the number of pixels, you cannot go back unless you have stored a separate copy of the original image.

Most image files are stored in the computer in a compressed form (JPEG, Joint Photographic Experts Group) but it must be remembered that once information is discarded it cannot be recovered and for some instances, therefore, uncompressed (TIFF), Tagged Image Format Files or RAW, camera specific, files are more suitable. JPEG is categorised as a lossy compression technique: when the file is decompressed, you don't get back to the original, but to a very passable copy. Each time you re-compress you will lose more and more detail, so keep the original.

Capturing the Image

Light

Use of light provides shape, depth, relief and texture

- * Light is needed to capture an image, to produce shadows which give shape and depth, and induce mood;
- * Objects such as memorials or mouldings should be lit from left/right and/or above with the shadows going down;
- * Source of light (natural/artificial) should be away from the camera
 - o Reflected light gives a soft and even illumination, no harsh shadows; it can be reflected off a wall, a piece of card, ceiling, or light umbrella
 - o Stained glass should not be lit, the light should come from behind, ie outside and through the glass
 - o Built-in flash may cause unwanted reflections—use a separate flash if possible;
- * Best light is provided by hazy sunshine;
- * Cut exposure for faces or light glass.

Viewpoint

Look for symmetry, pattern and shape.

Take opportunities when they occur.

Viewpoint governs perspective.

Focal length governs viewpoint.

- o Wide angle can be used in close shots but produces an 'untruthful' image; *stand back to get a less distorted view* (or fiddle for hours in Adobe Photoshop...);



Tripod at the ready, sun and shade considered...

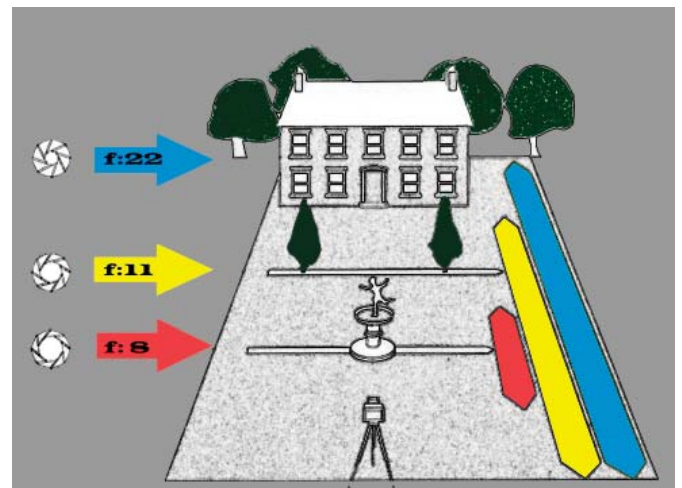
- o High viewpoint can help to explain layout;
- o Head on view provides only one dimension;
- o Side/Angled view provides depth, height, angle, distance.

Making an Exposure

Aperture and Speed

There are two options: (1) leave it to the camera or (2) take command, but in both cases try to use a tripod for a stable, considered viewpoint. It is important to realise that the eye takes in a whole range of extremes which are beyond a camera's capability. So decide what is to be recorded and adjust aperture (how much light the lens admits) and speed (how long the shot will take) accordingly. A small aperture gives more depth of field (I think you should study your own camera manuals for this...) For an indication of speeds and apertures:

F8	short exposure	large aperture (small depth of field)
F11	medium exposure	Medium aperture
F22	long exposure	small aperture (not much light for a longer time = slow shutter speed, must use a tripod)



Scale

Try to include some form of measure (ranging rod, a person, or a coin, say) as a proportional scale.

Perspective can be controlled by taking a step back and placing the building at the top of the frame (i.e. use a longer focal length on a zoom lens). Experiment by taking three shots of a building: close to, a little further back, and further back again.

After lunch we took our cameras out and about and then, in a very helpful exercise, Steve analysed some of the results on the large screen and also showed us some of the magic of Adobe Photoshop particularly in its ability to correct converging lines. (If anyone needs help in this direction Ian Hinton tells me he has got to grips with it, so I would suggest you contact him.)

Many thanks to Sue Shand and her family for opening up their home to the Group and its cameras and also, of course, to Steve Cole for coming up to Norfolk on a Saturday and sharing his knowledge with us.

My final words are: do not forget to back up your important material—disks can and do crash.

Manor Farm, Pulham Market: A Tale of Two Houses?

Diane Barr

Located at the Norfolk Record Office there is a small collection of title deeds to property in Pulham Market. They are said to be evidence for the ownership and location of Manor Farm, now owned by The Landmark Trust. However, further investigation has brought to light evidence that could challenge this assumption.

The house came to the attention of the late Lt.-Col. S.E. Glendenning in 1948. It was in a state of dereliction and had been bought by a junk dealer who, fortunately, did not want to pull it down. The property was virtually unaltered, and the interior fittings indicated that it had once been a substantial dwelling. By judging the style of mouldings and workmanship in the building, Glendenning concluded the house dated from c1580-1600. He also believed the first documentary evidence were some deeds dated 1640, showing the house in the hands of the Maltward family. (Norf. Arch., 1952)

Two wills in the collection seem to support this view. The first, dated 1656, by Thomas Maltward sen., yeoman of Pulham St Mary Magdalen, gave to his son William ‘... and unto Thomas his sonne my grandchild ...The messuage where in I now dwell with the garden, yard and orchard here belonging with the close adjoining to the said messuage and stable...’, and also, ‘...freehold land called or knowne by the name of Stannards...’ (NRO MC 1396/1).

The second by William himself, dated 1657, expressed a wish for his property to be given to,

‘...Thomas Maltward my sonne the aforesaid messuage and tenement where I now dwell with yard or pightell there unto adjoining or belonging commonly called or known by the name of Stannards ...being in Pulham aforesaid between the common highway in part and the lands of John Sayer Gentleman sometime a grene in part on the part of the north ...And also one inclose commonly called or known by the name of Smiths ... being in Pulham aforesaid between the lands late of Richard Baker now John Baker in part And the lands of Margaret Bootie widowe in the part of the North and the lands of the late Thomas Bootie now John Thirkettle on the part of the south and abutteth upon the common highway towards the East ...’ (NRO MC 1396/2).

Here we have mention of common land known as North Green and a reference to the Baker family, both these will feature in later documents attached to Manor Farm.

The next part of the story concerns the marriages of William’s children. A pedigree shows that Thomas married Margaret Baker in 1679 and Elizabeth married Robert Reeder, 1672; the latter couple having a son called Thomas. There are two settlements included in the collection, which could possibly link



the family to Manor Farm. Firstly, a settlement before marriage between Richard Baker jun., nephew of Richard Baker, and Dorothy, daughter of Hannah Parke, dated 1704. This concerns a messuage where Thomas Baker, brother of Richard lived, with barns, stables, orchard, etc., near common pasture (and abutting towards the north) called North Greene in Pulham, and 8 pieces of land, meadow and

pasture (containing about 30 acres) compassed about by said common pasture of Pulham (NRO MC 1396/3).

The Landmark Trust’s study suggests that the house passed into the hands of Richard Baker and he, possibly, added the new bake-house and dairy at the west end. (Haslam) Indeed, in a court roll it is recorded that Richard Baker, a worsted weaver lived in the house. (SPAB News, 1981) Moreover, the probate inventory of Baker’s property from 1742 inventory includes the following rooms:

Hall, Backhouse, Dayry, Shop, Parlour,
Hall Chamber, Backhouse Chamber, Pantry
Chamber, Parlour Chamber,
Garrett
Further Barn, Barn, Outhouses and Yard (NRO
DN/INV 81B/20).

This fits nicely with Glendenning’s floor plans (fig.1)

However, a complication to the history comes with a second settlement concerning the marriage of Thomas Reeder son of Robert Reeder to Susan Horn in 1735 could also relate to Manor Farm. In this

‘... All that messuage tenements where in the said Thomas Reeder now dwell being the capital or head house with the barn stable out houses yard orchard etc and two pieces of meadow adjoining, three pightles of land and pasture called or knowne by the name of Stannards containing...Also a piece of land and pasture the west part called or knowne by the name of Great Coopers ...’ (NRO MC 1396/5).

According to the Landmark Trust, after Richard Baker’s death, Manor Farm passed to his daughter Hannah; she married Robert Thrower, a prosperous miller from Tivetshall St Mary. Let out to a tenant at first, the farm was later taken on by their son Richard and his wife, Lucy; they subsequently inherited the property in 1791. When Richard dies in 1795, Lucy farms the land for 46 years until her death in 1840.

Cornelius Thrower takes over until selling it to John Hotson in 1844, who in turn sells it to Stephen Andrews in 1920. Andrews dies 1926, shares it between two sons and daughter Thirza Crisp, none of whom live in the house, leaving it to fall into disrepair. Thomas Crisp decides to let the house go

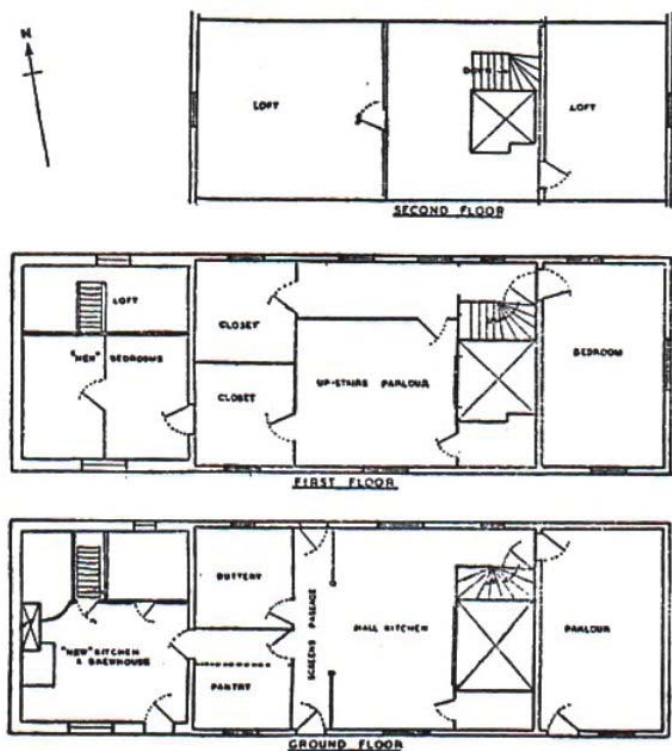


Fig. 1. Manor Farm, Pulham, Norfolk: Floor plan from Norfolk Archaeology, 1952

the connection between ownership and inheritance by division; even William Bowles' middle name is Smith.

The real decisive factor is seen on the ground, for there is no building standing where Lucy Thrower lived. In fact, it has not appeared on a map since before the 1885 O.S series. This is a pity because it would have been interesting to see what type and age the house was.

for its "break-up" value but Mr and Mr Dance buy it in 1948. (Haslam)

The will of Richard Thrower of Pulham Market, 1795, (NRO MF 454) does leave property in Pulham Market to Lucy but the Tithe Survey of 1837 reveals that the later history of the house may not be so straightforward. It shows William Bowles owning, and James Baxter occupying, Manor Farm: Lucy Thrower owned and farmed the land to the north (NRO MF 770/23-432) (fig.2). It is significant that 'Great Coopers', mentioned in Thomas Reeder's settlement, is listed as belonging to Bowles. A delve into the Land Tax Assessments for 1832 reveals a further irregularity as John Smith owns the land occupied by Baxter. Indeed, Smith owns the land as outsider for some 35 years. However, Lucy Thrower's long ownership of her property to the north from 1797-1832 is confirmed (NRO C/Scd 2/6). Further confirmation of her ownership is gained from the Pulham St Mary Magdalene Inclosure Award map of 1840, which clearly shows that a section of North Green Common was given to Lucy Thrower, enlarging her acreage further north (NRO C/Sca 2/220).

The directories for Norfolk show up more discrepancies in the Trust's report. It would seem that Samuel Andrews, Stephen's father moved into Pulham around 1861; the census for that year confirms this. The elder Andrews continued until about 1881 when Stephen took over, and Kelly's for 1883 is the first verification of the name, Manor Farm. By the 1929 Kelly's Directory Stephen's son, Arthur farms the property.

The Trust's report puts forward the argument that in the early 18th century the farm consisted of about 30 acres with additional grazing on the common but could have originally been bigger and divided through inheritance. Evidence suggests Lucy Thrower did not own Manor Farm in the years before her death in 1840, and we can only speculate how much the documents reveal the true history of the house. They do, however, highlight

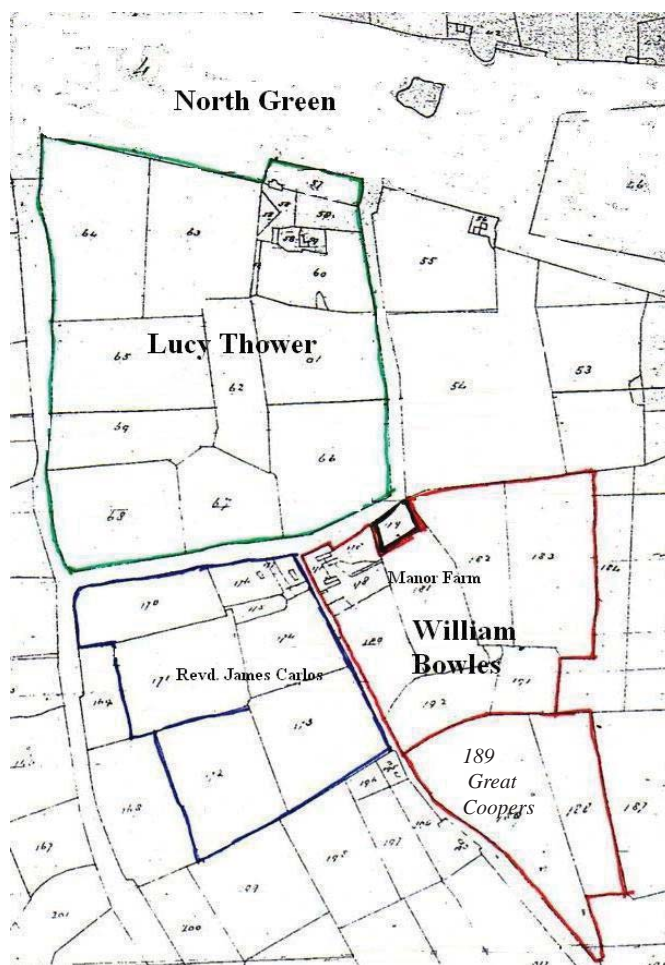


Figure 2 Based on NRO Tithe Map, 1837NRO MF 751/23-432.

Editor's Note:

This property is referred to in NHBG Journal No 3 when Susan and Michael Brown write about access and first floor corridors. John Walker has sent in a long article on the property, initially in response to having seen it noted in the Buildings Digest in the last Newsletter. It is hoped to include it in the Spring Newsletter.

Alayne Fenner

A Tour of Loddon with Christina Crease

Judy Hawkins

We met in front of Holy Trinity Church, on a very hot day just before this summer's deluge began. Our guide was Christina Crease a resident of Loddon who certainly knew her town inside out. There was little chance to look around the church, as after a short introductory talk we were led out to explore the town. However we did learn that the church was a late fifteenth century replacement of a possibly Saxon one and pointed out two survivals from that earlier one, a Purbeck marble tomb slab and an ancient alms box hewn out of one piece of oak. Also, on the south wall there was a portrait of Sir James Hobart, Attorney General to Henry VII and his wife. He was the builder of the church and lived at nearby Hales Hall. One interesting point is that the church is built of brick and faced with flint.

To the west of the church is large open space, the Fairland, once the later market place and now a car park. To the north, and leading down to a fine view of the marshes, is an area full of delightful old houses of varying ages. This is the old Market Place and still called so. Our guide then turned south along the High Street, to The Ancient House: formerly a farm and then the village Institute, it is built from a fascinating mixture of building materials, flint, brick, sandstone, Roman tiles and a large quantity of dressed stone, forming the window and door jambs. This is believed to have come from the Praemonstratensian Abbey at nearby Langley which dates it as post 1530s. Some experts have suggested that it is earlier than this but if so, why all the dressed stone? Some of the group went inside this building later and it would be good to hear their views.

Passing The Angel, supposed to be the oldest pub in Loddon and said to be used by itinerant workers whilst building the church, we walked south to Farthing Green and Beccles Road, an eighteenth century enclave for the richer inhabitants of the town. Loddon House and Farthing Green House are well described in Pevsner. Retracing our steps we passed the Victorian school now the library. This was built on the site of the demolished Guildhall in 1856 for the amazing sum of £719.10s and would have delighted the late John Betjeman. It is built of flint with a little brick, and gables and mini-spires abound.

We continued northwards to the River Chet and the head of navigation. A watermill was mentioned in Domesday but today's mill dates from the eighteenth century and was working until 1969, preparing clover and trefoil seed. After floods in 1912 and 1969, the old wharves and warehouses were demolished and the present riverside car and cruiser park replaced them, together with modern housing.

At this point our group divided and I went to Bugdon House on the High Street. This house has an eighteenth century front and late eighteenth century casements but inside a seventeenth century English bond fireplace. The next room back also seemed seventeenth century and the room above had staggered purlins. The third bay back was possibly the oldest, with rectangular joists and a queen post roof, and the bay furthest from the street was open to the rafters with butt purlins and a vast range of eight-

eenth and nineteenth century ovens, including a faggot oven and boiler. Fragments of wallpaper dated to 1760–1770 were found, and some are in Stranger's Hall, Norwich. We had too short a time to spend in this fascinating house and to read a history by Geoffrey Kelly; a further visit would be worthwhile.

Christina was a wonderful and enthusiastic guide and Loddon remains a vibrant, living village. Perhaps due to the fact there was no sign of a supermarket!



Stone House, Loddon. A late sixteenth century building using an array of building material with, most intriguingly, a generous show of freestone particularly on the quoins and around the windows.

Alayne Fenner adds this extract and wonders whether it relates to any of the houses visited.:

Extract from the will of Gregory Manclarke of Loddon who died on Christmas Day 1587

“...To my wyfe Johane Bothe my howses in Loddon strete and one is holden of the manor of Bacons and the other of the manor of Inglose for her lyfe.....I will and my mynde is that Johane Manclarke my saide wyfe shall builde uppe a newe howse of the lenthgh of XXXti foote in and upon a peece of grownde where a howse was brente att Loddon strete at hir ownee proper costes and charge taking upon any of my landes in Loddon sufficient timber for the making of the saide howse”. Furthermore she is to have “...my lease of Spycers that I have of Mr. Godsalve” ...but “she must not claime any of my property for her thirde foote” [dowry] or “make stroppe or waste by taking timber trees” apart, that is, for the building of the new house.

Editor's note

I have of late been enjoying myself in the Record Office with the Browne family of Tacolneston. As Paul Rutledge reports (page 16) there are a great many of them, especially Johns, Roberts, Richards, and Margarets, Agneses and Alices. Unfortunately there aren't many wills, but I am also transcribing the Tacolneston Parish Register which starts in 1537 (with some years missing) To some extent they cross-refer as some of the entries are more detailed than others, which helps in identification, such as "Richard Browne son of John Browne son of John Browne at Stile and Alice baptised ..." with John Browne son of John Browne at Stile and Alice Brewster's wedding noted a little earlier. It is a most interesting jigsaw puzzle, but with lots of pieces missing. I am now into the seventeenth century and hope soon to follow John son of Robert (which one?) round the fields of Tacolneston in 1618 as he mapped his landscape.

Meanwhile it is hard not to get sidetracked into all these lives. Wondering why some fathers, oddly, seemed to die straight after the birth of their latest child, and tragedies when many children, and in one case a whole family, died within a couple of months; some epidemic perhaps.

At the same time one certainly gets a flavour of the lives lived within the buildings that are being so carefully recorded by our members. The wills and the Probate Inventories refer to crops, tools and livestock and, by inference, the general economic background that will go towards our final report on the Buildings of Tacolneston. As David Clark suggests in his review of our Journal 3, our aim should always be to link "the owners and occupiers with the periods of economic growth and decline to give the more rounded picture."

As Adam says in his Chairman's report, it is immensely gratifying for us to have such a glowing review of Journal 3 from David Clark, but he does also offer several constructive criticisms to take on board, which will surely help in our way forward.

To end on a more personal note I would like to thank all of you who wrote to me when George died. It helped a lot.

Alayne Fenner
Newsletter Editor
01603 620690

e.mail: alayne.fenner@btinternet.com



Ian Jowett presenting scale models of edge-halved scarf joint, face-halved scarf joint and tie beam/wallplate assembly to Susan Brown for the Group. Ian owns a vernacular building which was part of the Group's New Buckenham Project. Unfortunately it was not possible to provide a dendrochronological date for his house but the Group does appreciate his practical involvement in their work.

Church & Chapels Sub-Group

The NHBG is setting up a course in partnership with UEA entitled "An introduction to Norfolk parish churches" which is starting in October, with a significant discount to group members.

Our principal research, consisting of surveying all the fifteenth century church aisle arcades in the county has taken a back seat for a few months because of other commitments. We hope to have started again during the September 2007 Heritage Open days, with the aim of completing the remaining aisled churches in Norwich, prior to the analysis of the data and the writing up of the results.

Parallel research on the incidence of low-side windows in churches in Norfolk, outlined in the recent journal, is still ongoing.

Anyone interested in joining in, or who would like help or advice in starting their own research, is welcome to contact:

Ian Hinton01502 475287
Dominic Summers01603 788374
Robin Forrest01603 742315

AGM Facts and Figures

We had last visited Wolterton Hall in September 2002 in glorious sunshine (Newsletter 5) but our AGM there this year was rain-swept. We feared it would mean a low turnout, but we needn't have worried. About 60 stalwart members turned up, the highest number in years. First, Lord and Lady Walpole took us on a short tour of the splendid chambers adjacent to the large apartment where we were to meet, and then we had the AGM.

Following that was a marvellous tea, a great spread of home-made scones with jam and cream, and cakes. The huge room resounded with enthusiastic voices—it was really buzzing—the sure sign of a very successful afternoon!

Our thanks once again to Lord and Lady Walpole for their hospitality and also to the patissiers.

Chairman: Michael Brown had retired and his place was taken by Adam Longcroft.

Deputy Chairman: Sadly George Fenner had died earlier in the year but Alayne Fenner was elected the new Deputy.

Other Officers: No other changes

Committee: There were two new Committee Members: Dominic Summers and Jackie Simpson. (see page ?? for a full list)

Membership: is constant at around 240

Finances: The Financial state of the Group remains strong. There was £10,223.39 in the bank account at 31st March 2007.

Membership fees, events, grants and awards have all contributed to the current balance.

Newsletters, Journals, fees/gifts to speakers, postage and reports are the main expenses.

An application for a further grant from 'Awards for All' is in process to cover expenditure on 'The Tacolneston Project'. (A study of the buildings in Tacolneston on the lines of the 'New Buckenham Project' – the subject of the last Journal. Any offers of help in recording or research very welcome!) The committee have agreed to increase any Lottery award by £1500.00.



Tacolneston Project



In June Adam Longcroft was informed that our application for grant funding had been granted.

“I’m delighted to report that the NHBG’s application to Awards for All for £8,000 of funding to support dendro-analysis and the Tacolneston Project has been SUCCESSFUL. This really is a tremendous achievement for the Group and one of which we should collectively take great pride in.”

The grant from the Awards for All Lottery will enable us to continue the very successful practise of combining stylistic analysis and dendrochronological-dating of Norfolk houses. In addition, a number of our members are working on documentary

evidence for the history of the village, and we are hoping the UEA may also assist with a landscape survey.

Some twenty two owners have expressed a willingness to be part of the survey and it is hoped that more will wish to join. One or two houses already have scaled drawings made by teams of members, and work has begun on producing floor plans for other houses. As before, at New Buckenham, it is the intention of the Group that a publication be made to widen the knowledge of Norfolk’s built heritage.

Karen Mackie is Project Manager and would be pleased to hear from any member who might like to become involved.

Karen Mackie
01508 488467

Tacolneston – the documents

Tacolneston, the NHBG’s next major project, is well documented from the late thirteenth century onwards. The two manors of Tacolneston and Williams have court rolls in the Norfolk Record Office, recording property transactions and beginning in the 1290s, carrying on into the nineteenth century and backed up by written surveys and numerous other documents. There is a picture-map of the 1650s drawn up in connection with a Browne family dispute,¹ the text of an Inclosure Award of 1779,² and a Tithe Apportionment of 1845.³ The map in the apportionment shows, incidentally, that the parish still had its medieval open field. Great Field, one of the last places in Norfolk to do so. A little longer and it might have become a survival famous in landscape history.

Tacolneston is of course rich in timber-framed buildings. The problem is that, to an unusual degree, documents and buildings fail to mesh. The 1650s map shows just one house, unlocated in the wider landscape. The Inclosure Award lacks the accompanying map that would place the many holdings it lists. Houses are identified in written sources mainly by their neighbours and the more widely they are scattered the more difficult it is to pinpoint them. A fascinating statement of common rights dating somewhere between 1290 and 1306⁴ shows that Tacolneston was a scattered community with people living at Upgate, Loundgate, Beech House Street, Cargate, Southgate, Hilgate, Quanton, Middleton, Kekilton and Hales (‘gate’ means ‘a way’ not a gate in our sense). Between them they claimed common rights as far as the River Tas; Quanton (Taynton on Faden’s 1797 County map) even lay beyond it. Only one road name has survived from 1290/1306 onto the modern OS map - Stiksworth, now Stikfer Lane. Of the numerous minor place-names recorded in later documents Westwood Green is the now divided-up and largely built-on linear green that separated the older houses from the Norwich road.

But the real challenge at Tacolneston is the Browne family. They were settled there as early as 1476⁵ and one branch were

still major landowners in 1845. A tithe book of 1610 – 16⁶ shows that no fewer than fifteen Brownes paid tithes between these dates. Contemporaries found them confusing, especially as they also shared Christian names, and gave them nick-names – Browne in the lane, Browne at oak, Browne at Sparkes and Browne at stile.

All is not quite lost. The 1845 Tithe Apportionment at least takes buildings back to that date and some may be traceable back from 1845 to the Inclosure Award. House owners in the village may have old deeds to their own properties. Tacolneston has in the NRO nine probate inventories listing house contents room by room and running from 1619 to 1741.⁷ These do not give addresses, but something can be learned of the general form of houses. Three of them have ‘entry’ rooms, one also with a chamber above, containing in the one case a cheese press and salting trough and in another woodworking tools.⁸ Are these reminiscent of Dairy Farm’s two-storey porch, or are they just lobby entrances or through rooms?

Perhaps a key to Tacolneston is a field book⁹ which, starting at the south end, lists each field and each house in the order that John son of Robert Browne came to them when he walked the parish in 1618, if this can be plausibly fitted onto the present housing stock.

Paul Rutledge, May 2007

1. *Norfolk Record Office (NRO), in ACC 2000/78*
2. *NRO, C/Sce/1, pp. 349-401*
3. *NRO, DN/TA 894 (microfilm MF 752 and 778)*
4. *NRO, in Boi 21, 116x2*
5. *NRO, MS 1033, 2A2*
6. *NRO, in ACC 2000/78*
7. *NRO, DN/TNV 30/3, 32/39, 33/255, 39/46, 53B/94, 74A/218, 77B/91, 78A12, 81A/17*
8. *NRO, DN/INV 32/39, 53B/94 and 74A/218*
9. *NRO, Boi 22, 116x2*

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 620690
Rosemary Forrest: 01603 742315

Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG)

Winter Conference at Leicester:
15-16 December 2007

Towns and Town Houses: 1200– 1700

The winter conference will explore the buildings of medieval and early modern towns. Some talks will concentrate on building types, mainly houses; others will examine the evolution of buildings in particular towns ranging from the south of England to central Scotland.

Bursary

The Committee are keen to encourage NHBG members to attend national conferences and to this end have set up a bursary for the cost of accommodation and lectures but not travel expenses. Anyone interested in attending this conference should contact, in the first instance, Rosemary Forrest (01603 742315; e.mail: forrest.rosemary@gmail.com).

VAG Memorial Essay Prize

Too late for this year but for next year.

In memory of the giants who founded or belonged to the Vernacular Architecture Group in its early days, and prompted by the death of Pauline Fenley, former editor of Vernacular Architecture and a keen promoter of good writing, the Group has established a memorial essay prize. Through this it is hoped to encourage articles from those who have not previously published in national or international journals.

A prize of £250 will be awarded annually for the best essay on a subject related to vernacular architecture. The emphasis may be historical, structural, stylistic or archaeological, and the winning essay will be considered for publication in Vernacular Architecture.

For details contact Rosemary Forrest (01603 742315; e.mail: forrest.rosemary@gmail.com) or go to the VAG web site: www.vag.org.uk

NHBG & UEA Continuing Education Partnership Course



An Introduction to Norfolk Churches Tutor: Ian Hinton

Discover the unparalleled richness and diversity of Norfolk's Churches and the techniques used to interpret them. Explore a small but important 'sample' of these churches as a means of discovering their design, development and art, and architecture.

Day/Time:..... Thursdays 7–9 pm
Venue:..... UEA, Norwich
Start Date..... 11 October 2007
Field Trips:..... 24 November and 1 December 2007
End Date:..... 1 December 2007

Special rates for NHBG members only: £80.00
(Full fee £128.00)

Contact:

Karen Mackie, 44 Norwich Rd, Tacolneston, NT16 1BY
Tel: 01508 488467
E.mail: karen_mackie@btinternet.com

HELP NEEDED! with the NHBG Web Page

The Group has a web page which has been looked after by Nicola Robinson since the Group's inception. The web page is accessed by a number of people for a variety of reasons and it is, therefore, a very important piece of the Group's publicity material. Nicola would very much appreciate some help, not only to maintain it but also to expand its parameters. There may be some new members who have experience of web designing. If so, and you have time and the desire to help the Group, then do please contact Nicola to talk about how you could help. She can be contacted through the web page:

www.nhbg.fsnet.co.uk.

Any suggestions would be greatly welcomed by the Committee.

Book List

Beaumont James, T. & Gerrard, C., (2007) Clarendon. *Landscape of Kings*, Windgather Press. ISBN 10 1-905119-11-9. £25.00. Available from Windgather Press Ltd, 29 Bishop Road, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5NX

Martin, B & D., (2006) *Farm Buildings of the Weald 1450-1750*, Heritage Marketing. 181 pp., 349 ills., ISBN 978 1 905223 24 Copies available from Heritage Marketing, Hill Farm, Castle Acre Road, Gt Dunham, Norfolk PE32 2LP. www.heritagemp.com £25.00

Aynsley, J., & Grant, C., (eds) (2006) *Imagined Interiors: Representing the Domestic Interior since the Renaissance*, V & A Publications 320 pp. ISBN 1851774920 £45.00

Ajmar-Wollheim, M., Dennis, F., (Eds) (2006) *Home in Renaissance Italy: Art and Life in the Italian House 1400-1600*, V & A Publications. 416 pp. ISBN-10: 1851774882

Lynch, G., (Revised edn, 2006) *Gauged Brickwork: A Technical Handbook*, Donhead

Longcroft, A., (ed) *Recent Research into the Vernacular Architecture and Parish Churches of the County of Norfolk*, Journal of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group, Vol 3 (2007)

North, J., Moran, M & Barton, J. (2007), *The Old Rectory, Whitchurch, Shropshire. The Story of a House and its Occupants and its Secret Wartime Eavesdroppers*, Logaston Press 100 pp, 51 figs & 43 b&w plates, ISBN 978 1 904396 69 7. Price £9.50 plus p&p from Barn Books, Pear Tree Farm, Norbury, Whitchurch SY3 4HZ.

Crossley, A., Hassall, T., and Salway, P., (2007), *William Morris' Kelmscott. Landscape and History*, Windgather Press 210 pp, 113 ills, including 35 colour plates. ISBN 10 1 905119 14 3. Price £25.00, available from Windgather Press Ltd, 29 Bishop Road, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5NX. www.windgather.co.uk



Church Towers: some other members who braved the ladder (see page 20): Dominic emerging on to St Mary, Erpingham Tower... Ian, Ruth and Roger were also up there.

NHBG Committee

- Adam Longcroft** *Chairman/Publications*
Centre for Continuing Education, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ
01603 592 261 [w] *e.mail:* a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk
- Alayne Fenner** *Deputy Chairman/Newsletter Editor*
13 Heigham Grove, Norwich NR2 3DQ
01603 620 690 *e.mail:* a.fenner@macunlimited.net
- Lynne Hodge** *Committee Secretary*
Tannery House Worthing, Dereham NR20 5RH
01362 668847 *e.mail:* lynne@walknorfolk.co.uk
- Sue Shand** *Treasurer*
Tibenham Farm, Long Row, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1PD
01379 677677 *e.mail:* sushand@hotmail.co.uk
- Ian Hinton** *Membership Secretary*
The Old Rectory, Barnby, Beccles, NR34 7QN
01502 475 287 [h] *e.mail:* ian.hinton@tesco.net
- Sue Brown** *Buildings*
Woodlands, Bylaugh Park, Dereham NR20 4RL
01362 688 362 [h]
- Mary Ash** *Winter Programme/Publications*
107 St Leonards Road, Norwich, NR1 4JF
01603 616285 [h] *e.mail:* mary.ash@ntlworld.com
- Jill Napier** *Public Relations/Publications*
62 Norwich Road, Tacolneston, NR16 1BY
01508 489469 [h] *e.mail:* communitylearning@cathedral.org.uk
- Dominic Summers** *Summer Events*
1a, 39 Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon, NR6 5NQ
01603 788374 *e.mail:* d.summers1@btinternet.com
- Rosemary Forrest** *Newsletter*
3 Highlands, Costessey, NR8 5EA
01603 742 315 *e.mail:* forrest.rosemary@gmail.com
- Richard Coulton**
Little Ketlam, Low Road, Pentney, King's Lynn PE32 1JF
01553 691 661[h]
- Karen Mackie** *Tacolneston Project*
44 Norwich Road, Tacolneston NR16 1BY
01508 488467 *e.mail:* karen_mackie@btinternet.com
- Jackie Simpson**
The Chestnuts, Church Road, Neatishead, Norfolk
01692 630639 *e.mail:* jackie_simpson@beeb.net
- Tom Townsend** *Documentary*
74 Park Lane, Norwich NR2 3EF
01603 664186 *e.mail:* tom.townsend@norfolk.gov.uk
- Diane Barr** *Documentary*
24 The Shrublands, Horsford, NR10 3EL
01603 898928 *e.mail:* di.barr@btinternet.com

Digest of Buildings Visited Since March 2007

The Committee would wish members to be kept informed of the research work-in-progress the Digest of Buildings is a much truncated version of initial and completed building reports. In no way is it intended to provide a complete building analysis.

Hubbards Barn, Bentley Road, Tacolneston

Report by Lynette Fawkes

A converted barn and outbuilding. The barn has original wallplates of possibly the seventeenth century and a later nineteenth century roof. The outbuildings have the same roof construction.

Weaver's Cottage, Norwich Road, Tacolneston

Report by Karen Mackie

Possibly a two-cell 1.5 storey dwelling with an end stack. A later pegged roof raise with Apotropaic marks protecting a window. Extended in the eighteenth century past the stack and to the rear – datestone 1781.

Kettleton, Bentley Road, Tacolneston

Report by Lynne Hodge

A 1.5 storey tripartite house. Evidence of service doors and cross-passage. No framing between hall and service chambers apart from the tie beam. Tie beam behind the later chimney stack fully framed. Original chimney was probably timber-framed or a smoke bay.

Woodlands, Tivetshall St. Mary

Report by Sue Brown

Lobby entrance house with short service bay. Later chimney stack.

26 Norwich Road, Tacolneston

Report by Mary Ash

The original house of two rooms & two chambers was probably built of clay lump like the outhouse behind. However, cob is also a possibility for the house.

57 Norwich Road, Tacolneston

Report by Diana Maywhort

A complete end wall of a medieval cross-wing? embedded in a later seventeenth century structure. 59 Norwich Road adjoins the fragment.

Woodpeckers, Hall Road, Tacolneston

Report by Karen Mackie

The former schoolroom remodelled from a two cell dwelling. Clay lump exterior walls with a central late seventeenth century chimney stack and contemporary floors.

Cherry Tree Cottage, Wicklewood

Report by Karen Mackie & Mary Ash

Part of a tripartite house. Possibly sixteenth century. An elaborate, perhaps inserted, bridging beam.

14 Nelson Road, Fakenham

Report by Sue Brown

An eighteenth century house (doc 1777) with an earlier (possibly seventeenth century) section to the rear. There is a

stair tower which may belong to either build. The house was extended to the rear in the late nineteenth century.

Lakes Farm, Tacolneston

Report by Lynne Hodge

A tripartite house of 1.5 storeys of about 1600. May be evidence for a timber-framed chimney.

Fisk's Cottage, The Green, Tacolneston

Report by Lynne Hodge

Part of a 1.5 storey tripartite house, (possibly the hall and service). The tie beam in front of the chimney stack may have mortices for a timber-framed chimney.

Hill Farm, Fomcett St. Mary

Report by Karen Mackie

A two storey tripartite house of about 1600.

White House Farm, Tacolneston

Report by Lynette Fawkes

A mid-seventeenth century two storey tripartite house with sunk quadrant moulding ceilings in the parlour and parlour chamber. The hall chamber was originally accessed by a stair tower; the doorway has sunk quadrant moulding. The house and farm buildings were updated at the end of the nineteenth century. Some new farm building at the same time. See Hubbards Barn, Shire Barn & Hideaway Barn.

27 Church Street, Gt. Ellingham

Report by Lynne Hodge

A seventeenth century tripartite 1.5 storey lobby entrance house with a short service bay.

Victoria House, Reepham

Report by Lynne Hodge

A three cell nineteenth century building, possibly on an earlier footprint. Unusual shallow pitch arched collar roof.

Shire Barn, Bentley Road, Tacolneston

Report by Karen Mackie

A barn conversion that includes the remains of a seventeenth century barn with possible floored end.

Hideaway Barn, Bentley Road, Tacolneston

Report by Karen Mackie

A barn conversion from a nineteenth century brick barn. A clay lump single storey building is attached.

Shangarry House, Palgrave, Suffolk

Report by Diana Maywhort

A tripartite house of two separate builds; early to mid sixteenth century parlour end and slightly later hall and service end. The hall has a roll moulded ceiling and elaborate bracket to the post. The house was later updated to a lobby entrance plan.

Winter Events 2007–2008

All meetings take place in Room 01.02, Elizabeth Fry Building, University of East Anglia, Earlham Road, Norwich, with the exception of the March meeting when we shall be in King's Lynn. In all cases the meetings open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Talks are free to members but visitors – who are most welcome – are asked to pay £2.00.

Mary Ash, Winter Events

01603 616285/e.mail: mary.ash@ntlworld.com

Goldsmiths'/Silversmiths' houses 1500-1750

... Mary Fewster

Date: Thursday 11 October 2007

Mary Fewster taught history for twenty-seven years at the Hewett School, Norwich, and has now completed a PhD on East Anglian goldsmiths 1500 – 1740. She is also one of the authors of *East Anglian Silver 1550 – 1759*, John Adamson, Cambridge, ISBN 0 9524322 2 6.

Prehistoric Houses in Norfolk

...Trevor Ashwin

Date: Wednesday 7 November 2007

Trevor Ashwin worked as a prehistorian with the Norfolk Archaeological Unit for more than ten years. It is this experience which has provided him with a vast experience of Norfolk's prehistoric sites and finds. His talk will enlarge upon his article in *NHBG Journal Three* and, in line with the Group's aims and objectives, consider the full significance and meaning of recent discoveries in the emergence of developing human concepts of the home, and of domesticity itself.

My Wallpaper is Killing Me: an introduction to wallcoverings past and present

...Christine Woods

Date: Tuesday 4 December 2007

Christine Woods trained as a designer and worked in industry and art and design education before becoming Archivist of Sanderson's collection of historic wallpapers and fabrics. Having organised the firm's 125th anniversary exhibition and written the catalogue, she moved to The Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester in 1987 to become the UK's only full-time curator of wallpapers. She has organised numerous displays and exhibitions, has lectured and published widely on the subject and has represented the UK at conferences in Europe and elsewhere. She is a founder member and former Chair of the Wallpaper History Society and is editor of its triennial publication, *The Wallpaper History Review*.

Members' evening

Building for Small Holdings ...S. Wade-Martins
Binham Houses ...Adam Longcroft
Tacolneston Progress

Date: Thursday 17 January 2008

This is a great opportunity for members not only to find out what is happening on the Group's research front but also to follow up on *Journal Three* articles.

St Margaret's Church, Cley-next-the-Sea

...Gerald Randall

Date: Wednesday 13 February 2008

Gerald Randall has taught many Continuing Education courses and has published on historic Churches; he remains an active researcher. He will be enlarging on the recent article in the *NHBG Journal three* and extending the story for a further hundred years or so. Among the topics not covered in the article, the grand south porch is particularly interesting.

Great Yarmouth's Town Wall: a chequered history reflected in a varied geology

... Peter Hoare & John Potter

Date: Tuesday 11 March 2008

Time: 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

NB: Place: **The Great Hall, Thoresby College, Queen St., King's Lynn (Park on the Quay)**

Peter Hoare, John Potter, Peter Minter and Paul Rutledge have attempted to identify the wide range of construction materials in Great Yarmouth's medieval wall, to relate these to its architecture and archaeology, and to its documented and unrecorded history of repair, reconstruction and strengthening. Peter Hoare, long retired from 'proper' employment, is probably the only Honorary Associate of The University of Sydney residing in Ely, Cambridgeshire! John Potter is Emeritus Professor at the University of Reading.

SUMMER EVENTS 2008



This photo of an intrepid member was taken on our Church Tower excursion; the ladder was across the centre of St Mary Erpingham church tower (see who else braved the crossing p18). Dominic Summers was the Leader and he is our new summer events co-ordinator. If any member would like to lead an event, or has any suggestions for an interesting summer visit, could they please contact Dominic on:

Tel: 01603 788374

e.mail: d.summers1@btinternet.com