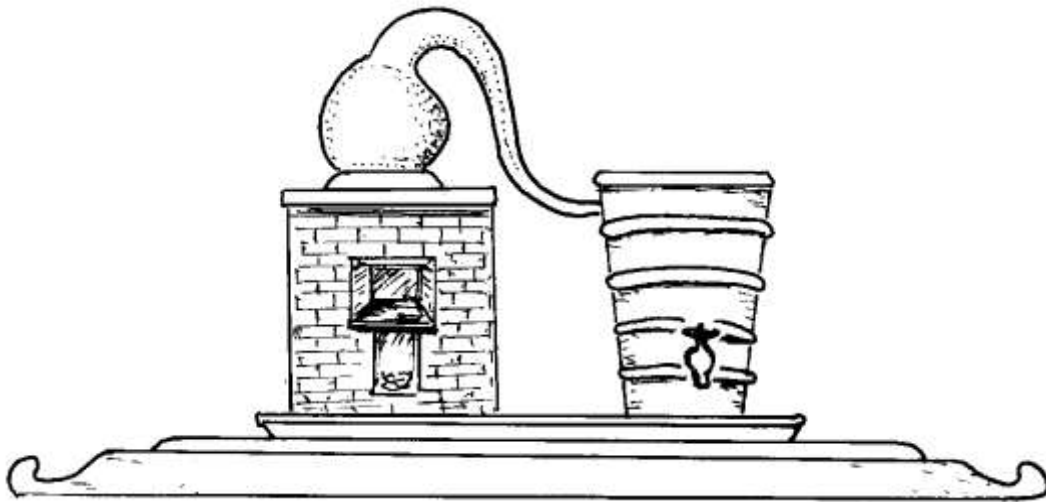


AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 8 No 4

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Cover illustration: Trade sign for the Aylsham chemist's shop, visible on photographs of the Market Place back to the late 1850s and still exists above the Indian restaurant, the 'Gateway of India'.



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

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Ann Dyball arranged a very enjoyable autumn visit to Barningham Hall, generously hosted by Mr and Mrs Courtauld, and reported on by Wendy Preis in this issue. Sheila Merriman entertained us with fine storytelling about the ghosts of Blickling to conclude the AGM in October and we have had two further lectures on '*Boudicca and the Iceni*' and '*A Friendship Made in Oulton (George Borrow and Edward FitzGerald)*'. The three remaining lectures and social event are scheduled as follows, but please note the severe weather warning on the back page. Note the January lecture is on the 3rd, not the 4th Thursday.

Thursday 22nd January 2009. '*Black Schuck*' by Peter Ransome

Thursday 26th February 2009. '*Servicemen in Wartime Photographs*' by Andrew Tatham

Thursday 26th March. '*Did the Renaissance reach East Anglia*' by Dr Vic Morgan

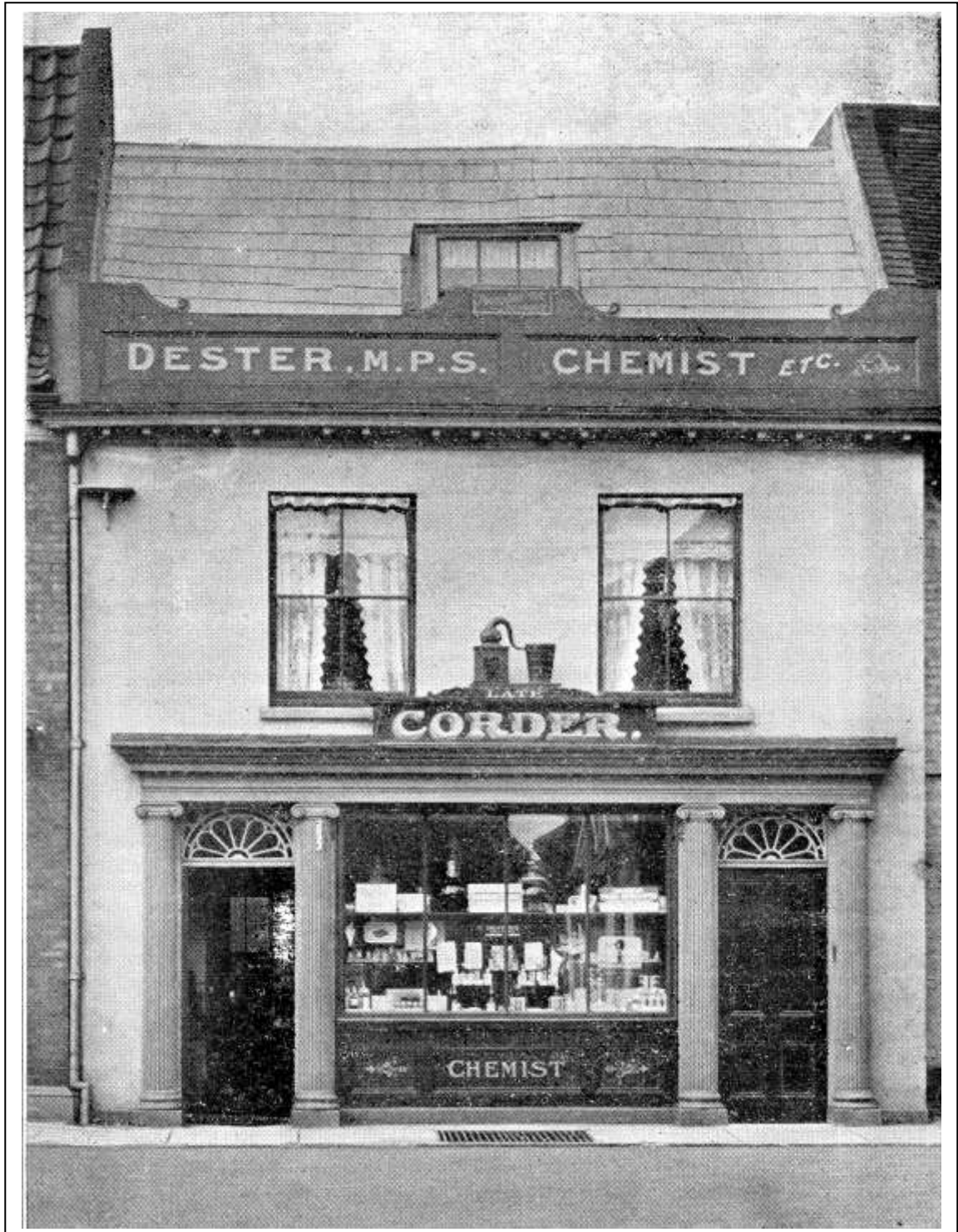
Thursday 23rd April. Spring Social Event – see notice on back page

The Autumn course on the history of Norwich was exceptionally well presented by Charles Lewis and very well attended. The WEA course about Italy on Film will be followed by a series of lectures on *Thomas Paine and the Horizons of Democracy* by Chad Goodwin, see Notices on the back page.

The first imprint of 500 copies of *About Aylsham* has now sold out and a new supply is now available at a discount for members.

Severe Weather Procedure

Please see note on p.



Part of Joseph Dester's advertisement in the Aylsham Almanack for 1907

Joseph Dester – Aylsham Chemist and Photographer

Derek Lyons & Roger Polhill



Studio photograph of Joseph Dester as a young man

The Aylsham Town Archive has two neatly constructed wooden boxes with slots that contain one hundred photographs on glass half-plates, numbered and minimally labelled. They were taken around the turn of the twentieth century by Joseph Dester Dester, the chemist in the Market Square. He came to Aylsham in 1890 and there are pictures of the Great Flood in 1912, but none that can be obviously associated with later events such as the 1914–1918 War. They are of extraordinary quality and provide us with a very valuable insight into events and scenes of that period. The fact that Dester was using glass plates as late as 1912 suggests that he was very fond of his old camera and the quality of work he could do with it. A good number are of Aylsham and its environs, but there are others taken on holiday in Wales and a fair number were broken or had deteriorated beyond redemption. A list

DESTER,
(Late CORDER),
Member of the Pharmaceutical Society,
DISPENSING CHEMIST,
The Market Pharmacy,
AYLSHAM.

*Orders for Medicine received either by post, telegram,
or telephone, promptly sent and post free.*

An exact Copy is kept of every Prescription dispensed by J. D. Dester.
For reference to a Copy it is only necessary to quote the number
written within the stamp on the prescription.

Dark Room for Amateurs.
Photographic Plates, Films, Papers, Chemicals, &c.

KODAK FILMS, all sizes kept in stock.
**FILMS and PLATES developed, also PRINTING and
ENLARGING.**



Dr Richard Morton in his 'locomobile steam car', driven by George Soame, outside the Town Hall in 1899. Photo.: J.D. Dester.

of the photographs pertaining to Aylsham and environs is appended. There are very few images of people, apart from his father, Emily (his second wife) with Nellie (a young girl), and one labelled “Joseph”, seemingly a photograph of a studio photograph of himself as a young man.

Joseph Dester was born in Warton, Warwickshire, in 1848. He was married in 1876 and his wife Sarah, also from Warton, born c. 1854, was a druggist and working at East Bridgford, Birmingham, in 1881. Joseph meantime had taken a job as assistant chemist and druggist to Edwin Cridland in Stradbroke, Suffolk. The 1891 census records them both at Aylsham. Sarah died on 31 July 1894 and was buried in the Norwich Road Cemetery (grave F38). By 1901 the census records Joseph as a chemist’s manager and married to Emily Jane Tuck, the infants’ schoolmistress at Aylsham School. Emily had been born in Norwich in c. 1855 and had been teaching at Aylsham since about 1892. In 1901 she succeeded Mrs Oates as Headmistress, a position she held until 1919.

The 1904 *Kelly Directory* records Joseph Dester as a private resident in the Market Square and has the last entry for Octavius Corder as the chemist in the Market, where he had been since 1888. By 1907 Joseph was advertising as the chemist in the Market Square and his notices continued in the *Aylsham Almanack* until 1916. The shop is still readily recognisable by the trade sign of a still on what is now the “Gateway of India” restaurant. He was a member of the Pharmaceutical Society and in addition to medicines and toiletries he was also selling veterinary products by 1911. From his first advertisement in 1907, which has a picture of the shop, he had dark rooms for amateur photographers and photographic materials for sale. In the *Aylsham Almanack* for 1903 the obituary for Dr Morton, notable among other things for having the first motor car in town, mentions that he did a little amateur photography and may well have been advised by Dester. Dester took a nice photograph of Dr Morton with his smart young chauffeur in 1899.

Joseph died on 12 February 1919 after a long illness and was buried in the Norwich Road Cemetery (grave O83). The notice in the Eastern Daily Press for Wednesday 19 February 1919 says he was a prominent and much respected townsman. It went on to say he was a familiar figure on the bowling greens of the town, and could play a good game. He was also said to be quite a “professional” at photography. He left a modest state of only just over five hundred pounds. It seems that Emily Dester kept the shop on another year or two under the name of Dester & Co.



Dog Inn Bowlers. 1, Joseph Dester; 2, Henry Page; 3, Harry Proudfoot; 4, Robert Proudfoot. Date and photographer not recorded.

The Aylsham Almanack records that Emily's job in the infants' school had been taken over by Miss Chapman in 1919 and the last advertisement for Dester & Co. appears in 1920. She bought a house in Oakfield Road and lived to 94, buried on 15 March 1949 in the Norwich Road Cemetery next to Joseph (grave O84). The shop was taken over by Walter Reeve, followed by John Staton, mentioned in the Directory of 1933, and David Paterson Latham in 1937.

The other Aylsham chemist's shop in Red Lion Street had been run by Goddard Nicholson from 1863 to 1902. In 1903 it was taken over by Frank Edward Buckingham, pharmaceutical chemist and dentist. He continued until 1928, when he retired to Burgh Road. Dester's photographic plates were probably passed on to Frank Buckingham when Dester & Co. was wound up by Emily c. 1920. Frank Buckingham's son, Lt Colonel Brian Buckingham gave them to Nicolas de Basille Corbin, who passed them on to the Aylsham Association. A number of the plates were printed off for an article in the Eastern Daily Press on 31 December 1980 and a display was made at the Trustee Savings Bank. When the Aylsham Association was wound up the collection was presented to the Aylsham Town Archive. It was known as "The Buckingham Collection" until Philip Sapwell pointed out that the photographs had been made by Joseph Dester. Some had been used in his father's "*A History of Aylsham*" (1960) and they have since been widely used for displays, slide shows and in publications of the Society.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain for information from the "*Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists and Chemists and Druggists*".

We also appreciate continued access to the Dester collection in the Archives of Aylsham Town Council for the use of the Aylsham Local History Society.

We also thank Philip Sapwell for reading this article and making useful comments.



Maypole in Durrell's Meadow. Photo.: J.D. Dester.

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Town Council.

Sapwell, J. (1960). *A History of Aylsham*. 171 pp. Rigby Printing Co.,
Norwich.

The Chemist and Druggist 22 February 1919, p. 57: deaths.

The Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist February 22, 1919: deaths.

Will of Joseph Dester Dester. HM Courts Service. York Probate Sub Registry
12/11.

List of the Dester glass negatives relating to Aylsham, its environs and his family, with notes on their use in displays and publications

- | | |
|--|---|
| A1–A5 Father | B42–45 Ingworth Bridge ⁴ |
| A7 Joseph | B46–50 Drawings of bridges by Francis Stone at Ingworth, Skeyton, Erpingham, Coltishall and Aylsham |
| A8 Emily & Nelly | C1 Ingworth Church ⁴ |
| A9 Back of Mill with wherry ^{1–4} | C2 C3 Unknown House |
| A10 Front of Mill ⁴ | C4 Mayton Hall |
| A12 Boat House | C5 Thatched Cottage |
| A13 Gerty | C6 Unknown House |
| A14, 15 Interior of Church | C7, C8 Brick/Tile Cottage and Garden |
| A21 Millgate Bridge | C9 The Orchards ⁴ |
| A22 Lych Gate | C10–C12, Unknown property, rear and front |
| A23 Church Porch | C13 Woodland scene |
| A24, 25 Front of Mill | C14 Aylsham Staithe after 1912 flood |
| A26, 27 Stratton Strawless Bridge | C15 Boathouse and Bridge |
| A29–31 Water Lilies | C16 Mash's Row and Bridge over Railway ⁴ |
| A32 Bucks Cottage, Park Gates Blickling | C17 Land adjacent to Aylsham "Town" Station |
| A33, 34 Mr Cook's Gardeners Cottage, Belt Lodge ⁴ | C18–C21 Scene at Mash's Row during and after 1912 flood |
| B2 Maypole in School Yard | C22 River scene |
| B3 Millgate Meadows | C23 Woodland scene |
| B4 Deutzia, taken in Drawing Room | C24 Christopher Layer plaque on Bank wall |
| B5 Back of Bullock's Mill | C25, Knoll House, Blickling Road |
| B6 Aylsham Church | C26 Mash's Row during 1912 flood |
| B7 Aylsham Church and Porch | C27 Aylsham Staithe during 1912 flood ⁴ |
| B8 Mr Purdy's Map of Aylsham | C28 Mash's Row and Town Station during 1912 flood ^{1, 3, 4} |
| B10 Sheep on Cromer Road | C29 Remains of Bridge |
| B14 Sheep with Lambs and Shepherd ^{3, 4} | C30 Group of women and children, c. 1910 |
| B15 School Lane ⁴ | C31 Memorial to Robert and Katherine Copeman |
| B16 Horses Ploughing | |
| B17 Maypole in Durrell's Meadow | |
| B20 Emily & David | |
| B21–B23 Maypole in Durrell's Meadow ^{2, 4} | |
| B24, B25 Walpole's Pedigree | |
| B32, B33 Wolterton Hall | |
| B34, 35 Mrs Howlett and house | |
| B36 Haverland Church | |
| B38 Dr Dick Morton ^{1, 3} | |
| B39 Bolwick Hall ⁴ | |

Notes. ¹ Sapwell, *A History of Aylsham* (1960); ² Peabody & Mollard, *Aylsham Remembered* (1995); ³ Pumphrey, *About Aylsham* (2008); ⁴ slide shows and displays on Aylsham by Derek Lyons over the years.

ROLL OF HONOUR 1914–1918 (Part 2) *

Lloyd Mills

HUNT G No further information available at present.

KNIGHTS (Charles) Frederick Private 127984. 34th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Inf). Killed in action 11 April 1918 in France & Flanders. Born Northrepps. Lived Aylsham. Enlisted Cromer. Son of Fredrick Charles Knights. Commemorated: PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 11.

LEE C No further information available at present.

LEE Sydney Samuel Private 22202. 2nd Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died 7 January 1917. Age 20. Born Aylsham. Enlisted Norwich. Son of Hubert William and Elizabeth Lee. Commemorated: KIRKEE 1914-1918 MEMORIAL, India. Face C.

LEMAN. (Frank) Sydney Private 40900. 11th Bn., Essex Regiment. Died of wounds 23 March 1918 in France & Flanders. Age 35. Born Kelling. Lived Aylsham. Enlisted Cromer. Buried: DERNANCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Somme, France. Ref. III. J. 46.

MARSHALL B No further information available at present.

MOY Frederick Private 240040. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 19 April 1917. Born Aylsham. Buried: GAZA WAR CEMETERY, Israel. Ref. XXII. G. 5.

NORTON William Private 41117. 7th Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt. Died 17 March 1917. Age 41. Born and lived Aylsham. Enlisted Cromer. Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Norton, of Aylsham; husband of S. E. Norton, of Pound Rd., Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: WARLINCOURT HALTE BRITISH CEMETERY, SAULTY, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. V. E. 4.

PAYNE J C Private T/254791. Army Service Corps. Died 20 December 1917. Age 35. Buried: AYLSHAM CEMETERY, Norfolk. Ref. G. 70.

* Continued from Vol. 8 (2): 45 (Apr. 2008).

PEGG Frederick Corporal 12967. 7th Bn., Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 27 March 1918. Born Aylsham. Enlisted Lowestoft. Commemorated: POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Panel 25

PITCHER. W J Possibly: Wilfred Pitcher. Private 240948. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died in Palestine on 19 April 1917. Enlisted East Dereham. Buried: GAZA WAR CEMETERY, Israel. Ref. XXIII. D. 10.

PRESTON E J Possibly: Ernest James Preston. Gunner 906467. 337th Bde., Royal Field Artillery. Died in Mesopotamia on 28 October 1918. Enlisted Norwich. Buried: BASRA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq. Ref. I. S. 3.

RISEBOROUGH C Possibly either: Charles Riseborough. Gunner 98474. Guards Div. H.Q., Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action in France & Flanders on 3 October 1915. Born Holt. Enlisted Norwich. Buried: FOSSE 7 MILITARY CEMETERY, MAZINGARBE, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. I. A. 2. OR: Charles James Riseborough. Private 22396 "A Coy. 8th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action in France & Flanders on 19 July 1916. Age 25. Born Wickmere. Enlisted Norwich. Son of Herbert and Mary Ann Riseborough, of Wickmere, Norwich. Commemorated: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL Somme, France. Pier and Face 1 C and 1 D.

RISEBOROUGH Edward Henry Private 16114. 2nd Bn., Coldstream Guards. Killed in action 16 September 1916 in France & Flanders. Born Ingham. Lived Aylsham. Enlisted Hertford. Commemorated: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 D and 8 D.

RISEBOROUGH John T Gunner 606180. 293rd Bty. 1st (Glam.) Bde., Royal Horse Artillery. Died in France & Flanders on 26 February 1917. Age 28. Born Weybourne. Enlisted Marsham. Son of Robert and Martha Riseborough, of Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: DOULLENS COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION No.1, Somme, France. Ref. III. G. 17.

ROE Oswald Herbert Private 22993. 20th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers. Formerly 128540 R.G.A. Killed in action in France & Flanders on 16 April 1917. Born Aylsham. Enlisted Harrow, Middx. Buried CHAPELLE BRITISH CEMETERY, HOLNON, Aisne, France. Ref. IV. E. 12.

RUDD George Private 1379. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action in Gallipoli on 21 August 1915. Age 21. Born Hardley. Enlisted Aylsham. Commemorated: HELLES MEMORIAL, Turkey. Panel 42 to 44.

RUMP Charles John Private 235326. "C Coy 20th Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment). Died 12 July 1917. Age 37. Born and lived Aylsham. Enlisted Cromer. Only son of Joseph and Harriet Rump, of Aylsham; husband of Mabel Rump, of Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: RECQUES-SUR-HEM CHURCHYARD, Pas de Calais, France. South of church.

SHEPHEARD Philip Captain. Essex Regiment. Killed in action 13 June 1915. Age 31. Son of Philip C. and Pasqua Maria Shephard, of Aylsham, Norfolk. Commemorated: HELLES MEMORIAL, Turkey. Panel 144 to 150 or 229 to 233.

SKOYLES Charles Alfred Gunner 37942. "Q Bty. 5th Bde., Royal Horse Artillery. Killed in action 19 July 1916. Age 34. Born Aylsham. Enlisted Stratford E. Son of Thomas and Sarah Skoyles, of Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: LAVENTIE MILITARY CEMETERY, LA GORGUE, Nord, France. Ref. III. C. 22.

STONE Stephen William Private 325839. 13th Bn., Royal Scots. Died of wounds 19 February 1918 in France & Flanders. Age 22. Born Hevingham. Lived Aylsham. Enlisted Normanton, Yorks. Son of Maria Eliza and Stephen Stone, of Town Lane, Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: TILLOY BRITISH CEMETERY, TILLOY- LES-MOFFLAINES, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. II. A. II.

TINKLER George Utting Private S4/039150. "A Coy., Army Service Corps. Died 27 August 1916. Age 25. Son of John and Mary Frances Tinkler. Born at Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: HIPSWELL (ST. JOHN) CHURCHYARD, Yorkshire, United Kingdom.

TORTICE Frederick Private R/367063. Army Service Corps. Died 18 November 1918. Age 32. Son of Mrs. Eliza Tortice, of Town Lane, Aylsham. Buried: AYLSHAM CEMETERY, Norfolk, United Kingdom. Ref. F. 69.

TORTICE F Probably: James Tortice. Rifleman B/200134. 13th Bn., Rifle Brigade. Killed in action in France & Flanders on 25 August 1918. Age 34. Born and lived Blickling. Enlisted Norwich. Son of Henry and Jane Tortice, 37, Silvergate, Blickling, Aylsham. Buried: GOMIECOURT SOUTH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. I.F.6.

TURNER Benjamin Robert Serjeant 869. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died in Gallipoli on 12 August 1915. Born and lived Aylsham. Commemorated: HELLES MEMORIAL, Turkey. Panel 42 to 44.

WADE Ralph John Private 2063. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died 13 October 1915. Age 21. Born and enlisted Aylsham. Son of Harry R. and Leah Wade, of Penfold St., Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: ALEXANDRIA (CHATBY) MILITARY AND WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY, Egypt. Ref. D. 52.

WARNE Frederick Charles Gunner 102505. 265th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery. Killed in action 28 July 1917. Born and lived Aylsham. Enlisted Norwich. Buried: DICKEBUSCH NEW MILITARY CEMETERY EXTENSION, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ref. I. B. 1.

WATSON Abraham Private 28203. 11th Bn., Essex Regiment. Killed in action 14 July 1917. Age 29. Born and lived Aylsham. Enlisted Cromer. Husband of Agnes Mary Jane Watson, of Unicorn Yard, Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: MAROC BRITISH CEMETERY, Nord, France. Ref. II. F. 13.

WILLIAMSON Ernest Fountain Thomas Lance Corporal 18900. 7th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 4 May 1917. Age 29. Born Aylsham. Enlisted Norwich. Son of James and Sarah Williamson, of Penfold St., Aylsham. Commemorated: ARRAS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 3

WILSON Sidney Private 18001. 1st Bn., Northamptonshire Regiment. Formerly 16751 Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 9 May 1915. Age 32. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, of Millgate St., Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: LE TOURET MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 28 to 30.

WINTERBORN Albert Edward Private G/21220. 7th Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt.) Killed in action 1 April 1918. Age 36. Commemorated: POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Panel 14 and 15.

WOOD C H No further information available at present.

WOOD J H No further information available at present.

WYMER James Emmanuel Private 41492. 19th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers, Tyneside Pioneers. Died of wounds in France & Flanders on 13 April 1918. Age 25. Born Aylsham. Enlisted Leeds. Son of John and Elizabeth Ann Wymer, of Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: DOULLENS COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION No.1, Somme, France. Ref. VI. B. 26

SOCIETY NEWS

VISIT TO BARNINGHAM HALL, NORFOLK, on Thursday 18th September 2008



We set off from a sunny September Market Place and, with the help of an Ordnance Survey map and helpful passengers, arrived via the North Lodge at the West Front of Barningham Hall to be greeted by our hosts. Amelia and Thomas Courtauld with their small children and the labrador, reluctant to be shut in the kitchen, were all waiting for us at the front door. Our pretty large party of 40 could not have been made more welcome.

After introductions, Thomas Courtauld showed us round this interesting old house, explained its long history and fortunate preservation, still to be lived in and enjoyed after 400 odd years. It is, above all, a home.

The house was built in 1612 by Sir Edward Paston, whose family's celebrated correspondence survives and brings to life that troubled period of Norfolk's past. It replaced an older house to its east in the Ancient Wood across the lake, made by a dam in a tributary of the Scarrowbeck, whose



Barningham Hall, with and without overlay, from *Fragments on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1816). York Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.

confluence with the Bure is at Calthorpe. The Paston arms are over the porch. Thomas remarked on the similarity of Barningham to Heydon, built twenty years earlier by Henry Dynne. Barningham is the only Paston family house to survive from this period, Oxnead was not so lucky.

Barningham was sold in 1704, passing through the ownership of the Lane and Russell families, until it was purchased by the Motts in 1780. A family of doctors and lawyers. Theresa Caroline Mott-Radclyffe (1868-1941), Thomas's great grandmother, was a Mott and was mother to Sir Charles, remembered with affection. In 1805, the third generation of Motts employed Repton to extend the house and to landscape the park: probably the architect John Adey Repton (1775-1816), son of Humphry (1752-1818, buried at Aylsham). Father and son may have collaborated. The original drawings were there for us to see; but not the Red Book. Humphry had invented a system of water colours with overlays to show 'before and after'.

Repton planted a grand avenue from the door and famously moved the road, as you do, about half a mile west to its present position. The old road passed the front door. Repton had planted shelter belts to each side of the avenue, and some oaks in the park date from this era. As Thomas remarked, "to give the impression of owning all one surveys". The meandering drive runs north to south past the house, with a Repton Lodge at either entrance. These lodge plans survive and were viewed.

Repton extended the house to the east overlooking the lake, matching the enormous windows of the original part by lowering the windows of the new part to the floor, necessary due to the incline to the lake. The windows, formerly leaded, are a great feature at Barningham. The house is full of light and the views from every room afford spectacular scenes of park and sky. The garden front illustrates the subtle incorporation of new and old. The south face pillars were 'stacked on' and were coming away from the wall, water rusted the old iron ties and damaged the brickwork. The roof is inaccessible from the house and has to be got at with some sort of crane for an annual onslaught on rooks, squirrels and the gutters.

The early twentieth century was not kind to Barningham. Thomas's grandfather, John Stanley Mott (1838-1927), was widowed and he moved to Cromer. Barningham is a good sporting estate and was let seasonally as a shooting lodge. In 1920 the furniture was disposed of in a sale, some was purchased by the V & A but, with the exception of the dining table, hall chests and a few other things, the rest of the contents and sadly even the Sale Catalogue have disappeared without trace. The present furniture, portraits and other contents came from the Radclyffes through marriage.

In WW2 the house was requisitioned by the RAF and served as a Sergeants' Mess for the Matlaske aerodrome and, unlike some houses, Barningham was well treated. Later there was a POW camp in the park. Sir Charles moved back after the war and lived there until his death in 1993. Amelia and Thomas moved in six years ago and have begun a never ending program of repairs.

In the porch were posted Rules of this Hall c1780, a caution to mind your manners and expensive penalties if found wanting; not returning copper horns, coarse language at table and so forth. In the dining room, Thomas had kindly laid out some of Repton's intricate plans from 1805, along with several engravings of the house over the years. The 1859 fireplace has a marble frieze depicting an unfortunate Roman general being relieved of his money, this contemporary scene was a huge joke 2,000 years ago.

The Repton staircase is light, with elegant gothic railing, newel posts sport carvings of the Sainted Princess Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231) and a.n. other female (Mary or Utta?). Upstairs over the old front is the saloon, now divided into two bedrooms. The original radiators are there, the family have managed to reduce the consumption of heating fuel from 25,000 to 14,000 litres per annum.

Upstairs we were invited to explore and most of us went to the attics, obviously lived in, with their wonderful views, and full of much loved toys. The old panelled bedrooms have survived from pre-Repton times. What a privilege to be given the run of this place, enjoy the old military prints and cartoons, books and curiosities. We wound up downstairs in Repton's library, Barningham has been the location for various films including *Vanity Fair* and *Moonstones*, and another one less memorable.

After two fascinating hours we ended up in the hall where Amelia generously brought us tea and cake, the crumbs were hoovered up by the happy labrador doing his bit for the occasion, and we all escaped without a fine.

It was a perfect day and Barningham Hall is jolly lucky to have its present incumbents.

Bibliography/ further reading

Ketton-Cremer, R.W. (1944). *Norfolk Portraits*. Faber & Faber, London.
Daniels, S. (1999). *Humphry Repton*. Yale University Press, New Haven.

Wendy Preis

A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN OULTON – GEORGE BORROW AND EDWARD FITZGERALD A Talk on 20th November by **Dr Clive Wilkin-Jones**

Dr Wilkin-Jones returned to our Society to give us a well-crafted talk on two writers of the 2nd half of the Nineteenth Century. They were both based in East Anglia, the first described as a writer and the second as a scholar and poet. Although their experiences were different, they became friends through an interest in language and translation and a love of the countryside. The speaker stressed that this friendship was based on their exchange of letters rather than on a closer relationship.

George Henry Borrow (1803-1881) was born in East Dereham and went to Norwich Grammar School. At age fifteen years he was articled to a firm of solicitors, but after five years turned to literature, first editing six volumes of *Celebrated Trials and Remarkable Cases of Criminal Jurisprudence* (published in 1825). As a boy he had visited the gypsies at Mousehold Heath and made friends with them, gradually learning their language. He began writing novels; the first, *Allegro*, published in 1851 has been called autobiographical. It contains a glowing description of Norwich viewed from St James Hill on Mousehold Heath. “*A fine old city, truly, is that, view it from whatever side you will.*” The sequel *The Romany Rye* was also about romany life. It is said that these novels were the first to depict without hostility and without excessive romanticism the everyday life of gypsies. They proved popular. He wrote numerous novels and travel books.

Borrow was an accomplished linguist; he learnt German from William Taylor, a journalist and translator of German literature, who was a leading figure in the Octagon community in Norwich. Borrow became an agent for the Bible Society, touring Russia, Portugal, Spain and Morocco (in 1833–1839). After learning Spanish, he wrote *The Zincali or an Account of the Gypsies in Spain* and *The Bible in Spain*. Finally he wrote in 1874 *Word-book of the English- Gypsy Language*, and in 1862 *Wild Wales*. Although his parents lived in Norwich, he moved with his wife to a house and garden pavilion in Oulton Broad near Lowestoft. Even in old age he took long walks. He was once asked why he did not use the new railway and replied that he liked walking and seeing his surroundings.

Edward FitzGerald (1809–83) was born near the small town of Woodbridge on his parents’ estate. His mother was a millionairess from the Irish aristocracy. He attended Bury Grammar School and as a young man studied Persian. He went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he became friends

with Carlyle, Thackeray and Tennyson. Known as Fitz in Woodbridge where he lived until he died, he had a complicated character. He was considered to be an eccentric and a recluse, went sailing in a top hat and waistcoat, while reading *Dante* and the ancient classics en route. He was a vegetarian and had a scepticism about organized religion. Others thought him a tranquil man – a prince of quietists. He was married for one year and then they divorced. He had strong opinions about women writers which were expressed in his letters. A selection of these letters were published after his death.

We heard that Borrow was introduced to FitzGerald by a librarian. They were both interested in Persian and Spanish. In 1851 FitzGerald had translated blank verse translations of six Spanish plays by Pedro Calderon de la Barca. At that time Persian was used in diplomatic circles. Both men had studied Persian. Fitzgerald took the verses of the 12th century Persian poet and translated them and repolished them into 75 free quatrains of wisdom about love, wine and death, naming them *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. He published them anonymously in 1859 and then in a 4th revised edition under his own name in 1879. This became one of the most famous poems in English literature.

FitzGerald liked to visit the fisheries at Lowestoft, so one must assume that the friendship of these two writers developed with his visits to Oulton Broad, which is a suburb of Lowestoft. Borrow's letters have not been published, his papers having been left for his stepdaughter to deal with, so his views remain for consideration from his published novels and stories. It is thought from one of FitzGerald's letters that Borrow sent him a copy of his *Wild Wales* and that Fitz responded with a critical appreciation. Certainly there was a long separation. Borrow did visit Fitz's Woodbridge home and seemed surprised at the chaotic piles of books and music. Borrow died in 1881 and FitzGerald in his sleep in 1883.

Dr Wilkin-Jones was able to give us some quotations from the work of both writers, mainly from *Allegro* by Borrow and *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* by FitzGerald. It was refreshing to hear of the lives and works of two East Anglian writers, who had a great love of Norfolk and Suffolk. The Chairman thanked Dr Wilkin-Jones very much for his interesting Talk.

References

Chambers Biographical Dictionary
Sager, P. (2002). *East Anglia*. Pallas Athene.

Betty Gee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2nd October 2008

This year's AGM was a little more controversial than some previous ones because of some minor changes to the constitution that needed the agreement of the membership. During the year we noted with regret the deaths of Peter Holman, our recent chairman, and three members, Nancy Radford, Alan Coote and Derek Wadley. We also had to congratulate Martyn Fox being awarded the MBE for all his work in raising money for charities. Our Treasurer Peter Pink reported that the Society was in a good financial state and Roger Polhill told us the publications were steadily selling, in particular John Pumphrey's book "*About Aylsham*". At this point Roger produced the painting by Paul James, which was used on the cover of "*About Aylsham*", and on behalf of the Society presented it to a surprised John Pumphrey. Felicity Cox, who before she resigned earlier in the year, had been our secretary briefly reported on her work. At the time of the AGM we were without a secretary but the post has now been filled and some of the duties that have been carried by members of the committee will now be dealt with in a more regular way. The summer was filled with a whole mix of splendid visits all of which have been very successful ~ Kings Lynn (or Bishops Lynn), Braintree and Barningham Hall. I would like to thank Ann Dyball for making them possible and my thanks to the committee for all their hard work over the year.

The Aylsham Local History Society has now been in existence for twenty-four years. It began through the enthusiasm of a group of local people with an interest in the history of the town. The modest objects of the Society were printed in the first number of the *Journal and Newsletter* for July 1985 and were later incorporated into the Society's constitution by Jane Nolan who was the chairman at that time. After twenty-four years the committee thought that some of the terminology and details in the constitution needed to be reviewed and a small group of committee members considered some possible alternatives. These were eventually brought to the committee for consideration and in due course presented to the members at the AGM, where the proposed changes were overwhelmingly supported by the membership.

Many things have changed during the twenty-four years of the Society. Our first *Journal and Newsletter* began in July 1985 under the editorship of Tom

Mollard and continued until he retired in December 2002. His going caused a great deal of concern to the committee for who would replace him, few people had indicated they would take over the role. Betty Gee stepped voluntarily from the post of secretary into the role of the journal editorship in 2003. Betty changed the Journal from a quarterly to three editions during the year, which was understandable because of the difficulties regarding material suitable for the Journal. However with all those problems that are inherent with the role of editor and after a successful run of five years Betty decided to retire. Fortunately Roger agreed to take over the role and has continued with the three editions during the year.

Each of the editors have brought their own views and interests to the role and so the Journal will continue each time slightly changing. Over these years and almost running parallel with the publication of the journal has been the steady range of books that have come out of the Society. They began in 1988 with "*Aylsham in the Seventeenth Century*" and then as a result of the exhibition we mounted in the Town Hall to celebrate the 10 years of the Society we published "*A Backward Glance*". I recently saw a letter in North Norfolk Post for 1994 by one of their correspondents 'Bureman' who congratulated the Local History Society on the exhibition "they staged a brilliant exhibition at the weekend to mark the occasion of their 10th birthday".

The Society has continued to function over these twenty four years because of the enthusiasm of the seven chairmen, seven vice chairmen, seven secretaries and the three editors of the Journal and with them the often changing committee who have supported the chairmen throughout, but above all it is the support of the members who give life to the Society.

The evening ended with an entertaining account by Sheila Merriman about '*The Ghosts of Blickling Hall*'. In a darkened hall she told the story of the headless coachman and the often seen woman dressed in grey who sometimes appears at the back of a group of visitors and occasionally in other parts of the hall and who may be the spectre of Anne Boleyn. Sheila spoke of the two men who fought a duel on nearby Cawston Heath where the challenger made the crucial mistake of assuming his opponent was right handed only to discover too late he was a left handed swordsman and fatally wounded his dying moans can still be heard in a part of Blickling Hall. It was a very different members evening from some of our previous ones and it brought this years AGM to an entertaining end.

Geoff Gale

Constitution of the Aylsham Local History Society

- 1 The name of the group shall be the Aylsham Local History Society, hereinafter referred to as the Society.
- 2 Objectives
 - a. To study the history of Aylsham and the immediate locality.
 - b. To encourage Members and others to take an active interest in local history.
 - c. To issue publications, newsletters and other literature e.g. research produced by Members and others and to keep a file of such publications.
 - d. To provide and arrange exhibitions, lectures and other means to promote the objectives of the Society.
 - e. To note, where possible, the location of relevant historical records not already deposited in the Norfolk Record Office, the Aylsham Town Council Archives, and the Parish Church.
- 3 Membership shall be open to anyone accepting the Constitution of the Society.
- 4 An annual subscription shall be payable and will be agreed by the Committee who will advise Members at a General Meeting.
- 5 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held at which reports and accounts will be presented.
- 6 The audited accounts will be published annually.
- 7 A Committee of four Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) and six Committee Members shall be elected, each for a term of three years, by simple majority of

Members present at the AGM. Nominations for the Committee should be received by the Secretary prior to the AGM.

Not more than two Officers' and two Committee Members' positions shall normally fall vacant each year. The Committee may co-opt Members to complete the term of a vacant post. Up to three additional Committee Members may be co-opted if there is need for special expertise e.g. research, publication.

- 8 The Committee shall, from Society funds, authorise payment of any sum which, in their view, has been properly incurred for the administration of the Society.
- 9 Amendments to this Constitution may be made at a General Meeting provided not less than ten Members sign the notice as supporters of the proposal. Notice must be given to the Members and the amendments agreed by simple majority of the Members present.
- 10 A quorum at a General Meeting shall be not less than ten per cent of the membership, or not less than ten Members, whichever is the greater. A quorum at a Committee meeting shall be not less than half the number entitled to attend.
- 11 Neither the Committee nor the Membership shall have the power to borrow or pledge credit. All monies not required for immediate use shall be kept in a bank account.
- 12 If the Society's affairs need to be wound up then all records and publications shall be handed to a suitable authority, such as the Aylsham Town Council Archives, and any funds shall be distributed among any societies or groups in Aylsham Town which, in the view of the Committee, will best serve to meet the Objectives of the Society.

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2008

2007	Income	2008	2007	Expenditure	2008
486	Publications	3343	1338	Publications	2004
828	Subscriptions	712	30	Subscriptions	48
–	Course fees	653	–	Course	660
80	Visitors	72	25	Programme cards	28
1	Donations	31	70	Donations	50
25	Bank Interest	33	231	Journal	281
640	Social Event	676	698	Social Event	732
25	Refreshments	–	150	Rent (F'ship Club)	–
5	Officers Expenses	–	24	Rent (Friends)	36
–	Journals	3	261	Insurance	261
			134	Officers Expenses	85
			150	Lecturers' Fees	220
			–	Stall at Carnival	5
Visits					
272	Houghton	–	360	Houghton	–
192	Gt. Hospital	–	189	Gt. Hospital	–
546	V. & A.	–	482		–
637	Voewood	–	690	Voewood	–
750	Sudbury	–	666	Sudbury	–
–	Stamford etc.	468	–	Stamford etc.	505
–	Kings Lynn	587	–	Kings Lynn	539
–	Barningham	164	–	Barningham	–
–	Braintree	483	–	Braintree	475
£4487		£7225	£5498		£5939
	Balances			Balances	
	31/8/07			31/8/08	
1534	Comm A/C	1350	1350	Comm A/C	3589
1012	Business A/C	1037	1037	Business A/C	1070
1838	Publications	986	986		
£8871		£10598	£8871		£10598

LIST OF MEMBERS – NOVEMBER 2008

Below is the list of current paid-up members. After this issue of the Journal, the circulation of future issues will be based on this. IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THIS LIST YOU COULD MISS OUT ON FUTURE ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL. You will receive them by paying a subscription to the Treasurer, Mr Peter Pink, 38 Lancaster Gardens, Aylsham NR11 6LD (individuals £9; couples £15). Apologies to any members who might have recently renewed their subscription and still missed inclusion on the list.

Baker, Mr D W	Gawith, Mr & Mrs C	Peabody, Mr R
Barber, Mrs P	Gee, Mr & Mrs P	Pim, Mr & Mrs M
Barwick, Mrs G	Green, Mrs Margo	Pink, Mr P
Bayes, Mrs R	Green, Mr Michael	Polhill, Dr & Mrs R
Bird, Mrs M	Haddow, Ms E	Powell, Mr & Mrs I
Boekee, Mr & Mrs R	Hall, Mrs R	Preis, Mrs W
Bowman, Ms H	Hicks, Mr R	Pritchard, Mr & Mrs E
Brasnett, Mr & Mrs D	Hill, Mrs J	Riseborough, Mr & Mrs R
Burton, Mr A	Holman, Mrs P	Rowe, Mrs M
Cain, Mrs D	Humphreys, Mrs C	Rust, Mr & Mrs B
Casimir, Mr & Mrs S	Jay, Mrs S	Shaw, Mr & Mrs A
Collins, Mrs R	Johnston, Mr G	Sheringham, Mrs J
Corbin, Mr & Mrs N	Keable, Mrs M	Smart, Mr & Mrs
Cort, Ms J	King, Mr & Mrs D	Smith, Mrs E
Cox, Mrs F	King, Mr & Mrs M	Smith, Mr & Mrs R
Crouch, Mr R	Lloyd, Mrs T	Stevens, Miss S
Davy, Mr & Mrs R	Lowe, Mr B	Steward, Mrs L
Douet, Dr A	McChesney, Mrs J	Swann, Mr & Mrs J
Ducker, Mr G	McManus, Mr & Mrs S	Ulph, Mr C
Duncan, Mrs B	Merriman, Ms S	Vaughan-Lewis, Mr & Mrs
Dyball, Miss A J	Mills, Mr L	M
Ellis, Ms J	Mollard, Mr & Mrs T	Walpole, Lord & Lady
Elsey, Mr & Mrs B	Newell, Mrs J	Wintle, Mrs S
Fletcher, Mrs G	Nicholls, Mrs D	Wix, Mr & Mrs M
Fox, Mr & Mrs M	Nobbs, Mr G	Wright, Mr J
Gale, Mr & Mrs G	O'Toole, Rev & Mrs R	
Garrett, Mr & Mrs A	Parnell, Mr J	

NOTICES

Severe Weather Procedure

1. All Committee Members will be contacted before 10.00 am
2. Members should ring a member of the Committee to determine if the meeting is/is not to go ahead as planned. Names and telephone numbers on the back of the membership card.
3. Radio Norfolk will be contacted with a request to broadcast a cancellation notice.
4. If any member wishes to be contacted by email please notify Geoff Gale at geoffgale@pcseller.com or Ann Dyball at ajdyball@tiscali.co.uk

WWEA Aylsham Branch

Chad Goodwin on Thomas Paine and the Horizons of Democracy

Thetford-born Thomas Paine (1737–1809) was an international revolutionary. Using his ideas as a starting point, the group will discuss the history (and future!) of democratic reform and civil rights in Britain. Is he still relevant?

Wednesday 7th January 2009, 2–3.30 pm, Friends' Meeting House, Pegg's Yard, Red Lion Street, Aylsham.

£43 for 10 weeks. You are welcome to try the first session.

Contact: Ms Ann Dyball 01263 732637

Spring Social Event

The Spring Social Event is scheduled for Thursday 23rd April 2009, at St Giles House, St Giles Street, Norwich.

Please see insert with this issue. Geoff Gale would greatly appreciate an indication of numbers by 31 December.