

# Aylsham Local History Society



## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1985-1986

Chairman	Canon J.Vyse
Vice Chairman	R.Peabody
Secretary	Mrs.J.Nolan
Treasurer	A.Quinn

## COMMITTEE

Mrs.H.Bacon, N.Corbin, N.Crick, M.Davies,  
Mrs.J.Lamb, T.Mollard

# AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

---

Volume 1

Number 2

### FROM THE SECRETARY

The activities for this new session have been arranged in the hope that all members will find something in the programme to savour and enjoy; there are lectures, workshops, a research study group, a party and perhaps a summer outing to look forward to.

On October 13th. Dr.Hassell Smith, Director of the Centre for East Anglian Studies gave the first of a series of six lectures about Tudor and Stuart Norfolk. Over 30 members and visitors were present and 20 enrolled for the series - to the great satisfaction of the committee and, no doubt, of the Cambridge University Extra-Mural Board who arranged the series for us!

The remaining four lectures in the series are:-

- 11th.Dec.1985 Mrs.U.Priestley The use of probate inventories and other sources in the study of an urban community.
- 15th.Jan.1986 Dr.A.Hassell Smith. Parish politics and county politics in the period 1580-1660
- 12th.Feb 1986 Dr.V.Morgan. Finding out about ordinary people in early modern England.
- 12th.Mar.1986 Dr.T.Williamson. Landscape change in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

If these, in their turn, arouse as much interest and give as much pleasure as the first two, then we shall indeed have had a good series. These lectures were

arranged in the hope that they would give us a background against which we might set our own modest discoveries about Aylsham in days past. We hope that some 'workshops' begun last year will continue to function; their convenors are as follows:-

Neville Crick *Inns and Breweries*

Ron Peabody &  
Sheila Wintle *Oral History*

Jose Lamb *Millgate*

Canon Vyse *Barnwells*

Jane Nolan *Research Group.*

Sheila Wintle has been representing us on a newly formed Norfolk Oral History Group which meets in Norwich. We hope that members of the society will contact the workshop or group that interests them - or even suggest the formation of a new interest group.

Last year the Research Group (the rather pretentious label of 'research' was assigned to us by the Cambridge Extra-Mural Board) worked to transcribe a seventeenth century survey of Aylsham which Mr. J.C. Barringer had discovered in the Public Record Office in London, bound in with documents relating to Wymondham Abbey. By the Spring of 1985 with generous help from our tutor, Miss Fiona Macdonald, the work was almost complete; instead of forty pages of a Latin script in a very crabbed seventeenth hand, we had our own version in English. And what does it tell us? In the short term it tells us that in Aylsham around 1622 certain townsfolk owned certain portions of land in Aylsham (pasture, meadow and waste) with houses pightles, gardens, orchards, shops and market stalls. We know their names, the areas of property they owned, its value and yearly rent.

On November 6th. the group met and decided, with advice from Fiona Macdonald, to prepare to publish the transcription. The study of other documents, in the

meantime, may throw further light on the survey data, already we have found the names of some of the property owners mentioned, in the Churchwarden's accounts. The historian, G.M.Young, once wrote that the historian should read the documents of an age "until he could hear the people speak". I like the phrase. We hope to hear, (however faintly) the people of Aylsham past speaking to those of Aylsham present.

We plan a party for January 31st. in Fraser's Barn for members and friends, with supper and some entertainment with a lightheartedly historical flavour. The cost will be modest, and we hope to be well-supported and to have a lively and enjoyable time.

On April 24th. we are arranging for Derek Edwards of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit to speak to us about the use of aerial photography in historical and archaeological research. Professor McCord's lecture a year ago on 'History from the air' was much enjoyed, and this lecture will be a follow-up to that with special reference to Norfolk.

I cannot emphasise too much that the committee would welcome suggestions about activities which members would like to pursue. Finally I would mention that the Treasurer (Alan Quinn) would welcome subscriptions (£2 per head) from old and new members alike.

JANE NOLAN.

*STOP PRESS.*

*Jane is now assisted by Kay Mosse who has kindly undertaken the role of Minute Secretary.*

*ED.*

## NORFOLK CHARITIES

"My friend, Zachary Clark of Downham in the County of Norfolk, and one of the respectable Society of Quakers . . . " so begins Thomas Clarkson in his introduction to Zachary Clark's book, 'Norfolk Charities' which appeared in 1811. The introduction goes on in some detail to describe how the book came to be written, and relates, how, for years, Clark had been concerned about the number of charities that were either mismanaged, or misappropriated and denied to the people for whom they were originally intended.

Such was his concern that over a period of several years he diligently enquired into, and built up his knowledge of, as many Norfolk charities as possible. It was a slow task, and his first real breakthrough came when he learned that information on all the Norfolk charities could be obtained from the office of the Bishop of Norwich where all the ancient Terriers recording every charity were stored.

With the co-operation of the Lord Bishop of Norwich, Dr. Bathurst, he had the relevant Terriers copied at his own expense, and so built up as near complete as possible, his list of Norfolk charities. Like many a researcher after him, Zachary Clark must have felt somewhat deflated when he suddenly discovered that all his long and expensive research had already been done by someone else.

A friend informed him that a certain Mr. Gilbert 'a worthy member of Parliament' had successfully introduced a Bill some years previously, which required the Minister and churchwardens of every parish throughout the realm to appear before the Justice of the Peace, and to record on oath, every charity of which they had knowledge within their respective parishes. This had all taken place between 1794 & 1786 and the Act was already on the Statute Book.

In our age of instant and mass communication it seems incredible that this could happen. Zachary Clark was an educated and presumably well-informed man, he ran a private school at Downham Market, he travelled widely throughout west Norfolk advancing the Quaker cause and mixed with others who shared his philanthropic



concern, and yet he could remain unaware of what was happening in the area of his own greatest interest. Once he had learned of this recent legislation, his true character revealed itself. Unabashed, he immediately applied to the House of Commons for copies of the Norfolk returns, again at his own expense. When the two sets of records were compared, he did have the satisfaction of discovering that they were complementary to each other, and only when taken together was there a complete record of all the Norfolk charities.

When it was published, the book listed the charities in over 500 of the 700-800 villages in Norfolk, and in many cases resulted directly in restoring misappropriated charities back into the hands of those for whom they were designed. The entry for Aylsham appears below. It is necessary to read Dr. Sapwell's history for a more up to date account, but for any student of Norfolk's charities, Zachary Clark provides the obvious starting place.

## AYLSHAM.

(SOUTH ERPINGHAM HUNDRED.)

G.—On the 2d of March, in the 13th of James Ist, Thomas Cressey left by Will two Messuages and 2A. of Land, the rents of which were to be received by the Churchwardens, and to be applied in repairing the buildings; and the overplus, if any, to be distributed to the Poor. These messuages are occupied by paupers rent free. The inhabitants, however, have erected a workhouse on part of the land, and the remainder, being about 1A. is occupied by a person who pays no rent. The premises are copyhold of the Manor of Aylsham, on the part of Lancaster. On June the 21st, 1774, Thomas Curtis, John Clarke, and Thomas Clover, were admitted Trustees.

On the 28th of September 1730, Simon Porter surrendered to Trustees, for the Poor, a Teneement copyhold of the Manor of Aylsham Wood, which produces one guinea per annum.—The Trustees' names are not inserted in the report.

On the 10th of April 1738, the Lord of the Manor of Aylsham Wood, late Sexton's, granted a Tenement and 10P. of Land, of the annual value of one guinea, for the use of the Poor;

On the 19th of April 1774, Samuel Soame was admitted in trust for the same.

A Piece of Meadow, containing 2R. let at 5s. and paid by the Churchwardens yearly to five widows. The donor is not known.

A Free School founded, as report goes, by Robert Jannis, and endowed with 10l. payable quarterly to the master, and charged on Pakenham Manor in Shropham. The Treasurer of Norwich Great Hospital pays the same. The master teaches seven boys of Aylsham.

T.—A Free School, founded by one Mr. Norgate, and endowed with 20l. per annum, 10l. whereof to be paid by the Mayor and Aldermen of Norwich, and 10l. out of the Water Mills in Aylsham; but in consequence of a suit with the Earl of Sandwich, and of repairs done to the said Mills, the same is at present lost.

OBSERVATION.—It is likely that both the School and it's revenues have been lost, as no mention is made of them in Mr. Gilbert's Return. But while the Mills exist, some inquiry should be made concerning them.

#### LOCAL HISTORY TRAIL

*As part of its contribution to the Aylsham Arts and Crafts Festival 1985, the Society agreed to prepare a Local History Trail. Malcolm Davies and Ron Peabody in collaboration, prepared not one, but two trails, one for senior and one for junior schoolchildren.*

*There is much to be learned about Aylsham, simply from sitting at home and reading both trails, but to have found the answer successfully to the ten questions posed in each would have revealed many interesting facets of Aylsham's history. Although the Festival is over, copies of both trails are still available from either of the two authors, and will still provide an interesting stroll through the town.*



As you know from the first number of the Journal & Newsletter our editor has asked me to publish extracts from the Starling Memoirs, which I am now able to do with the kind permission of the trustees of the Starling estate. The complete memoirs I hope to publish separately, shortly.

William Frederick Starling, who wrote these memoirs when he was 85 years old, owned the shop in Red Lion St. now occupied by Mr. Eric Green. His father, William, had started the shop as a basket maker in 1850, and by 1875 the directory tells us he was a "boot dealer and ironmonger". The Cedars in White Hart St. was built by him. William Frederick appears to have carried on the business until about 1904 when he retired to the Cedars, and later to Burgh Rd., where he died in 1937 (the year he wrote his memoirs).

We must be grateful to him for this account of life in Aylsham during the period 1852 to 1937 seen through the eyes of a prosperous shopkeeper. The detail is fascinating. For example, this is how he recalls -

Now, the lighting of our houses, yards, etc. The first I remember is sitting with my mother in our living room with two tallow candles and the snuffers and tray, and if the candle wanted snuffing, it was —

‘Please snuff the snafte of that candle.’

We had gas in the shop, but lots of the small shops were lit by candles, but at last gas was general all over the town. We used to get about the yards and stables with a horn and tin lantern, and we had the candle lanterns of glass and tin, also the glass and tin lanterns burning Colza oil, but gradually came down to the paraffin lantern similar to those now used, but very much more primitive. The large houses such as Blickling, or Mannington Hall were lit by the old Colza oil lamps burning Colza oil. In this lamp the oil is

pumped up by a small pump in the reservoir, and this is the oil we had to be so careful about in winter time, as, if the frost got to it, it turned what is called 'cloudy' and would not go up the pipe of the pump, and therefore would not burn, so we had to be careful to pack the big pipe round with straw and such wrappers as we could find. Some of these pipes weighed 22 cwts.

And now we come to the paraffin or petroleum oil. When I first had to do with this oil, I was an apprentice. The best oil was from the Standard Oil Co. of America. At that time there were no big storage places in England, no depots as there are today, but a firm in Hull was sole agent (Messrs. Shaw, Thompson & Co.) but in a few years time it got such a big business that the Standard Oil Co. built depots all over the country. The nearest to us were at Yarmouth or Lowestoft. This became such a big business with us also that we used to make as much as two contracts of 150 casks each for the season, and we often sold 6 to 8 casks a day, and also that at the counter in gallons. This used to be stored on our meadow. Now of course, there are no casks, all being brought round in these big motor tanks, but you see the oil companies are so numerous now as they are providing oil in all parts of the world.

Aylsham received its supply of town gas when the gasworks at Millgate (erected by a private company) operated there from 1850 until 1938; the public supply of electricity reached Aylsham in 1929.

Colza oil, I have discovered, is a vegetable oil made from kale, or rape-seed. This information on the subject of lighting, can be gleaned from a booklet published by the Victoria & Albert Museum in their series called "The Arts and living". Beautifully illustrated, short (only 72 pages) but interesting reading, "Lighting" by Alistair Laing can be borrowed from the library (the classification number is 749.63).

I'm sure the editor would be pleased to receive any recollections of the lighting of houses in this area in the past. Vaguely, I can remember being sent to the oil-shop for a gas mantle - how carefully they had to be handled! - and of an advertisement in the local electricity showrooms in London, when electricity was first installed in our houses -

"DON'T KILL YOUR WIFE WITH HOUSEWORK - LET ELECTRICITY DO IT"

#### MORE BARNWELL

## AYLSHAM DETACHMENT, 5th Batt. Norfolk Regiment.

---

### DETACHMENT CAMP ORDERS

By Captain T. W. PURDY, Commanding.

---

AYLSHAM, 24TH JULY, 1911.

- 1.—The Detachment will parade in the Market Place, at 9.15 a.m., on Saturday, 29th inst., and proceed to Camp.  
Corpusty Detachment parade with Kit Bags at Duke's Head, Corpusty, at 8.15 a.m., and drive to join the detachment at Aylsham.
- 2.—DRESS: Marching Order, Service Dress with Puttees and Service Dress Cap; Web Equipment; Valise packed with Great Coat and Mess Tin; Haversack, Water Bottle, and Carrier.
- 3.—WALKING OUT: Tunics, Blue Trousers and Blue Caps.  
A change of Underclothing and a spare Suit of Service Dress must also be taken.
- 4.—Kit Bags of the Aylsham Detachment must be left at the Armoury before 8 a.m. on the 29th. On entraining, all Kit Bags will be carried in the left hand, and will be placed under the seats; Rifles in the racks.

- 5.—Advance party will leave Aylsham by the 9.55 a.m. train on the 27th inst., and report at Thetford Camp to the Quartermaster (Dress as above).
  - 6.—No Territorial Soldier will be allowed to bring to Camp any food, drink, or baggage, except the Kit Bag; no band instruments, except those belonging to the Battalion Band, will be brought to camp.
  - 7.—A Sergeants' Mess will be formed in camp, of which all Sergeants, including Permanent Staff, will be members.
  - 8.—STANDARD TEST. The Standard Test for trained men will be fired on **Saturday, 16th September, at 9 a.m.** Conveyances leave the Armoury at 8 a.m.
- RECRUITS' STANDARD TEST will be fired on **Saturday, 23rd September, at 3 p.m.** Conveyance leaves Armoury at 2 p.m.

**T. W. PURDY, Captain,**

*Commanding Aylsham Detachment, 5th Norf. Regt.*

Every year, the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, of the the Norfolk Regiment paraded for their annual camp, and the Aylsham Detachment along with others, travelled to Thetford for the occasion. For many it must have been the high spot in the year, a welcome break in the middle of summer, a get-together with old friends and some welcome army pay and the annual bounty. This is probably how most of the men felt when they received their printed notices in 1911. There was nothing to suggest that there were only two more annual camps to go before they would be mustering for the real thing and their whole world would change for ever.

In the high summer of 1914, they paraded again, but this time they were mobilising for war. The scene is described in Dr. Sapwell's book—

'The Aylsham Detachment paraded in the Market Place, after being addressed by their C.O. Captain T.W.Purdy in the Town Hall. Prayers were offered by the vicar, Canon Hoare, who wished them God speed, and, headed by their band they marched to the Great Eastern station where they entrained for their depot at Dereham'



A photograph shows them on a crowded platform. For many of them there was only another year left to live. After twelve months training, in fact almost twelve months to the day after their mobilisation, they disembarked at Suvla Bay in the Dardanelles, and two days later on 12th. August 1915 they were attacking the Turkish positions. By the end of that attack they had lost 22 officers and 350 other ranks, many of them from Aylsham and district. The survivors of the Battalion later moved to Palestine, and in 1917 were engaged in a frontal attack in the second battle of Gaza. This time the losses were 19 officers and 643 other ranks. There were practically none of the original members left.

#### LOOKING BACK

Olive Skoyles

*These recollections, written in 1980, are contributed by Mrs Olive Skoyles, a former teacher at Aylsham School (now St. Michael's First School) Mrs. Skoyles has lived in Aylsham since 1907.*

Our family came to Aylsham from Lowestoft in 1907. We travelled in a steam train which in those days was a great thrill for children and adults. A change had to be made in Norwich and the slower, but no less exciting, branch line train, brought us to Wroxham, through Coltishall and Buxton to the Great Eastern Station at the southern end of Aylsham.

Here we were met by my father who had ordered the "Station Fly" to carry us and our luggage about half a mile up Norwich Road to a house and shop next door to the Dog Hotel on Dog Hill. Alas, they are no longer there! They were demolished to make way for modern shops!



Living next door to the Dog Hotel became much more interesting at Fair time. Large farm horses, Suffolk Punches in particular, bedecked with ribbons in their manes and tails would be run up and down the hill in front of prospective buyers and most probably the deals were clinched over a pint in the hotel bar!

Much of the traffic of those days was horse-drawn. There was even a stage coach plying between Cromer and Norwich, usually changing horses at the Black Boys. There was also a carrier cart which operated from some of the outlying villages. My father actually started the first car-hire service in the district after we moved to larger premises in Red Lion Street, which are still being used as a garage. In those years before the First World War it was possible to start a top spinning just in front of our shop, and "whip" it all the way down to the bottom of Red Lion Street without interruption.

Aylsham's first cinema was in a large marquee on the Unicorn Bowling Green. Front seats were fourpence and for this we saw Pathe Gazette News Reels, a serial, perhaps with Pearl White as the heroine, always left in a precarious position until the next time! There were Charlie Chaplin films and one supposed to be a thriller called "The Black Box" One imagines modern youngsters of the 80's would consider it mild compared with some of their horror films.

Shops in those days catered for almost everyone. There were at least three shoe shops, two flourishing butcher shops, Partridge's and Blofield's, three or four exceptionally good bakers, Laxen's, Postle's in Hungate Street, Gidding's on Church Hill and Winterborn's at 47, Cawston Road! One remembers going round to the back of the shop and seeing bread being taken out of the oven on long handled shovels. The big oven was later to become my pantry!

Page's, the North Norfolk Supply Stores was at that time considered a very up to date shop, with a grocery department, a drapery section and a small furniture and hardware section, with shoes and a "Gents" outfitting department all on the ground floor. Upstairs

Our shop was opened as a cycle and accessories emporium, with gramophones complete with large horns, and records as a side line. There were oil lamps and carbide lamps, cycle clips for trousers, pumps, saddle-bags and carriers among the new bicycles for people of all ages. Country people were just beginning to realize the advantages of being mobile on two slender wheels. My father (Arthur J. Dazeley) fashioned my first cycle from a larger frame, and when I was about five, taught me to ride it on roads comparatively free from traffic. To be able to meet and safely pass a horse-drawn vehicle was considered a great achievement. Later, many of my friends learned to ride on that little "bike" and it brought my father much business.

At five years old I was taken to the 'Church' School as it was known then, and entered the Infant Class 1 under Mrs. Dester, the wife of a chemist, who occupied the shop in the Market Place which is still used for the same type of business though has been altered considerably. The babies class at that time had a separate room in which the seats were arranged in tiers like a stairway! The highest one was about level with the teacher's head. Why tiny tots were expected to climb up and sit on those hard uncomfortable "perches" is beyond comprehension!

The older classes were all on one level but still in long desks and seats. Boys and girls were segregated, and all school rooms were heated with just a single coke fire, and in winter most of the pupils and staff had to wear their coats. Lighting was at first by oil lamps which gradually gave way to gas, and, again in winter, it was almost dark before we dismissed, and some children had to walk quite long distances. We were fortunate living in the town, where we had to just cross the Market Place, through the Church yard and down the school lane.

Twice a year, in March and September crossing the Market Place became much more exciting. "The Fair" would set up roundabouts, swings, hoop-la stalls, rock stalls and various side shows, which at night would be lit by naked "naptha" lamps, and yet one does not recall any serious fires.

was the Mantle Department selling ladies and childrens coats and dresses, with a special millinery section where the hats were displayed on stands of varying heights and where there were drawers full of ribbons and flowers for trimming!

Here there was, to children especially, a fascinating method of paying. One paid the money to the assistant over the counter and she placed it in a small "cup" which at the pull of a cord, glided along wires strung across the shop, to a desk placed centrally. Here the cashier would remove it, stamp the bill, and if change were necessary, would enclose it all in the cup and return it to the counter from which it came. There were no computers or calculators in those days. All figure work was done by brain power, and girls and boys would leave the fifth standard of the Church School, and take up jobs such as cashiers or shop assistants and hold them for years with very little pay, compared with wages in the 80's

Other changes? A very tall sycamore tree stood on a three-cornered grass patch where the now obsolete thatched pump stands.

All the little "yards" Rookery yard, Unicorn yard, Carr's Corner yard, with their two up, two down accommodation have all disappeared. It is difficult to imagine how, but often quite large families were reared in those hovels, as many of them were. This was in the days before World War 1. That upheaval saw many changes take place.

When council houses became the order of the day, most of those families were moved, and in nearly every case the yards were demolished and little or no trace remains.

Where there are now large building estates, we used to walk along leafy green lanes, gathering primroses in Spring, harebells, toadflax, meadowsweet and vetches in Summer; blackberries and hazel nuts in Autumn and would enjoy a brisk walk along frosty paths in Winter. We made our own amusements, and spent many hours out of doors, not cooped up in a room with a T.V. set!



Aylsham, then, had a cricket team and football team of which they could be proud. When the Goulder family presented the Recreation Ground to the town in memory of two of their sons who were killed in the 1914-1918 war, we soon had a tennis club and a bowls club, also sports, racing, jumping (long and high) for ladies as well as men. It gave a great deal of pleasure to many people.

The old Post Office stood on the site now occupied by the International Stores. It was very reliable then! Uniformed postmen delivered mail in the town twice a day, and cycling postmen, again in uniform, would go out to villages every day. Where the Post Office stands in the 80's there was a large ironmongery shop, Last's, where one could buy anything from nails to long ladders, paraffin and later gas mantles. The Gas House was very important in the first half of the century. When the family gradually replaced oil lamps with fixtures of gas lamps, we felt very grand.

One very great change has taken place in Aylsham. The "work-house", "spike" or, to give it the proper name, "The Poor Law Institution" has been altered almost beyond recognition and is now a very up-to-date hospital specializing in rheumatology. When it was a work-house, the corridors were dimly lit, stone paved and damp. The children who were housed there from time to time, wore calf length grey flannel dresses, and coarse calico pinafores with large blue print across the back yokes. There was one section where tramps could spend the night, and these could often be seen on the roads before the war.

Among the Aylsham "characters" "Tuddy" must surely be outstanding. He was a butcher during the war and before that had driven a horse-drawn mail cart for many years. He had many stories to tell of those days. Later, he became the verger and there were very few people in the town who did not know him.

It seems incredible that over a period of fifty years we have lost our railways, and the extensive building which has taken place has not only increased the population, but made the town a very busy Market Centre for North Norfolk.

Nine years after the appearance of the first directory, William White brought out a second edition. As he claims in the preface, this was larger, more accurate and more complete than the first edition, which lacked much information concerning charities, tithe commutations and Poor Law Unions. The descriptive introduction to the entry for Aylsham is hardly changed from the 1836 edition, and repeats almost word for word the original account. However, the directory section had certainly been well revised and shows the considerable changes that had occurred in nine years.

This 1845 edition has always been recognised as one of the most useful and accurate source books for the local historian, and was reprinted as recently as 1969 by David & Charles Ltd. It is strange to think that despite the usefulness of the book, and the attractive edition in which it was reprinted, it obviously did not sell very well, and in the early 1970's the edition was remaindered, and scores of copies were on sale at Jarrolds in Norwich for as little as £2 each. Anyone who bought a copy then, obtained a bargain.

AYLSHAM, which gives name to a large Union and Police Division, is a neat and well-built *market town*, pleasantly seated on the southern acclivity of the vale of the Bure, nearly 12 miles N. by W. of Norwich; 10 miles S. by W. of Cromer; 7 miles W.S.W. of North Walsham; and 120 miles N.E. by N. of London. At the Norman Conquest, the manor extended into Tuttington, and had 18 carucates, 20 *villains*, and 28 *bordars* with woods sufficient for the maintenance of 400 swine. During the reigns of Edward II. and III., Aylsham was the chief town in this part of the kingdom, for the manufacture of *linen*, then called "*Aylsham Webbs*," "*Cloth of Aylsham*," &c.; but in succeeding reigns, this branch of business was superseded by the woollen manufacture; and in the time of James I., the inhabitants were chiefly employed in knitting worsted stockings, breeches, and waistcoat pieces. Since the introduction of frame-work knitting, the latter trade has also been discontinued. The town was formerly governed by a bailiff, and had a *weekly market* on Saturday, but this has been changed to Tuesday. Two *cattle fairs* are held annually, on March 23rd, and the last Tuesday in September; and a *Hiring Session*, on the first Tuesday in October, with a small fair on the following Tuesday, chiefly supported by servants, who come hither to renew their apparel, &c. The *Bure*, which washes the foot of the town, was formerly only navigable from



Yarmouth to Coltishall, (11 miles below Aylsham bridge by the water, and 7 by land;) but in 1773, an act was obtained for extending the *navigation* to Aylsham, for boats of 14 tons burthen, drawing two feet five inches water, which was completed after many difficulties and interruptions, in Oct., 1779, at the cost of upwards of £6000, including the cost of the basin and wharfs near the bridge, where much business is done in coal, corn, timber, &c. The PARISH OF AYLSHAM, including many scattered houses and villas, and the hamlets of *Dunkirk* and *Drabblegate* on the opposite side of the river, has encreased its *population* since the year 1801, from 1667 to 2448 souls, and comprises 4311A. 2R. 4P., of which 4102 acres are assessable, and 100A. woods and plantations. The soil is generally fertile, and most of it arable. The parish is in four MANORS, viz., "*Aylsham on the part of the Duchy of Lancaster*," held by the Dowager Lady Suffield; *Aylsham Wood or Sextons*, of which Robert Copeman, Esq., is lord; *Aylsham Vicarage*, of which the Vicar is lord; and *Bolwick Hall*, of which John Warnes, Esq., is lord. The three first are subject to certain fines, but the last is held by copy of court roll, of Aylsham Lancaster, and subject to arbitrary fines.

The CHURCH (St. Michael,) is a handsome Gothic structure, situated near the summit of an abrupt acclivity, on the north side of the Market place, commanding an extensive and picturesque view of the surrounding country. It has a nave, with side aisles, two transepts, a chancel, and a square tower, surmounted by a small spire, and containing a clock and an excellent peal of ten bells. It is said to have been built by the great *John of Gaunt*, Duke of Lancaster, whose duchy court was once held here. It has a fine-toned organ, and has recently been thoroughly repaired and beautified. The large east window, and that on the south side of the altar, were filled with *stained glass* in 1842-'3, representing various saints, arms, &c. Several windows on the north and south sides were similarly decorated in 1844, and all the designs are admirably executed, by Mr. Yarrington, of Norwich. The font has basso-relievos of the four emblems of the Evangelists, the instruments of the passion, and the arms of Gaunt. The north transept was called St. Peter's Chapel, and had a guild in 1490. In the church and chancel are numerous monumental inscriptions, some inlaid with brass; among which is one to Richard Howard, who built the porch about the year 1480; and another to Thomas Wymer, who is represented in his winding-sheet, and caused the screens and roof to be beautifully painted with saints, martyrs, &c., in 1507. Here is a monument of Bishop Jeggon, who died in 1617; and in 1841, a neat monument was erected in memory of the late vicar, the Reverend Philip Hunt, L.L.D., who died in 1838. In the churchyard, enclosed with iron rails, and planted with roses, hearts'-ease, &c., is the grave of Humphrey Repton, the celebrated landscape gardener, who died in 1818. The benefice is a *vicarage*, valued in K.B. at £17. 19s. 7d., and endowed with the rectorial tithes of all that part of the parish on the N.E. side of the Bure, with a small manor on the opposite side of that river, where the great tithes, (now leased to the Rev. S. Pitman,) belong to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, together with the advowson of the living, which is now enjoyed by the Rev. E. T. Yates, M.A., who contributed largely towards the recent improvements in the church, and has now a yearly rent of £582, awarded in lieu of tithes in 1838, when the rectorial tithes, held by Mr. Pitman, were commuted for £642 per annum. The *Baptists* and the *Wesleyan* and the *Primitive Methodists* have each a *chapel* here; that occupied by the first-named sect, was purchased from the Methodists, who built it in 1789, and erected a new chapel in 1842. The *Free School*, near the churchyard, was founded in 1517, by Robt. Jannys, who endowed it with £10 a year, paid by the

Norwich Charity Trustees, out of the revenues of the Great Hospital. (See page 133.) This endowment was for seven free scholars, but the house and school were rebuilt by a former master, Clement Overton; and the latter was enlarged by subscription, in 1814, and is now conducted on the National system, for 60 boys and 60 girls. In addition to the small weekly payments of the children, the master has the annuity of £10, and a yearly salary raised by voluntary subscription. Archbishop Parker founded two scholarships in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for boys from this and Wymondham school, "each to have 12d. a week for their commons; their chamberer, barber, larderer, and other necessaries free." An *Infant School*, built here in 1840, is attended by about 80 children. The *Savings' Bank*, established in 1818, has deposits amounting to about £16,500, belonging to 540 individuals, and 25 Friendly and Charitable Societies. Mr. Jas. Harrod is the actuary, and the bank is open every Monday from 12 to 1 o'clock. The meetings of the *South Erpingham Associations*, for the prosecution of felons, and the encouragement of industry and good conduct among servants and labourers, are held at Aylsham. Mr. James Harrod is secretary to the former, and the Rev. J. Bulwer to the latter. The *Aylsham Choral Society*, established in 1840, for the study and practice of sacred music, holds its meetings at the *Concert Room*, in Red Lion street. At the Black Boy's Inn, is a large *Assembly Room*. The *Aylsham Medical Club*, established in 1839, for this and the neighbouring parishes, has now about 300 subscribing members, who, for very small quarterly payments, are provided by this valuable institution with medical and surgical assistance for themselves and families. Additional nourishment is also afforded when necessary, and the number of persons now entitled to medical attendance is upwards of 600. The Rev. E. T. Yates is treasurer, and Mr. George Roe secretary.

A *Branch Flax Association* has recently been established here, and the labourers of the parish are considerably benefitted by two large pieces of land, let to them in *garden plots*, at low rents, by W. Repton and R. Copeman, Esqrs. Half an acre, called the *Town Meadow*, belongs to the poor, and is let for 16s. a year. They have also several cottages, given by Simon Porter, in 1730; the lord of the manor, in 1738; and Edward Snelling, in 1737; and 10s. 6d. yearly, called *Bread Money*, paid by R. Marsham, Esq. In the reign of James I., Thos. Cressey left two houses and 2A. of land, in Millgate street, for the poor. These premises, with additional buildings, were converted into a Workhouse many years ago, and were used for that purpose till 1836, when Aylsham and 45 other parishes were formed into a *Union*, as noticed at page 451. The *Eridewell*, built here by Robert Marsham, Esq., in 1543, and rebuilt in 1787, was converted into private dwellings in 1825.

Aylsham was once noted for its SPA, which is situated about half a mile south of the town, and now belongs to Mr. E. Elvin. This chalybeate spring, though now but little used, was formerly much resorted to by invalids afflicted with asthma and other chronic diseases. Messrs. James Bulwer, Robert Copeman, Thomas Rackham, William Repton, and some others have neat houses in the town, and are owners of a large portion of the parish, in which are *Bolwick Hall*, 1½ mile S.W., the seat of John Warnes, Esq.; *Coldham Hall*, 1½ mile N.N.E., the property of Mr. Geo. De Hague; *Aylsham Wood House*, 1 mile N. by E. the residence of Mr. J. W. Clover; and *Bushy Place*, on the Cromer road, the seat of Mr. Thos. Cook; besides which, there are several other neat residences in the parish, two of them belonging to Messrs. Geo. and H. E. Soame. In 1805, an earthen pot, containing 500 pieces of ancient *silver coin*, chiefly groats of Henry VII., and pennies of the Edwards, were ploughed up in a field near Aylsham. On Stow Heath, about two miles to the east, are several large



*tumuli or barrows*, in which two urns, containing human bones and ashes, were found in 1808.

In the following DIRECTORY OF AYLSHAM, those marked 1, reside in Churchgate or Church hill; 2, Hungate; 3, Market place; 4, Millgate; 5, Norwich road; 6, Pinfold street; 7, Red Lion street; 8, White Hart street; 9, Workhouse street; 10, Cawston road; 11, Cromer road; 12, Aylsham Wood; 13, Blickling road; and 14, Burgh road. The POST-OFFICE is at Miss Mary Nobbs', in Hungate, where letters arrive at half-past 8 morning, and are despatched at 5 afternoon, by Norwich and Cromer mail.

2 Barnes Mr Jas. || 10 Bond Rt. gent  
 2 Beckham Benj. net maker, &c  
 Bowers Mrs Virtue, Town lane  
 Briscoe Rev John P. (Bapt. min.)  
 11 Brown Misses Martha & Mary  
 Bulwer Rev Jas., M.A. Norwich rd  
 3 Butler Mr Jno. || 8 Coleby Mrs M.  
 4 Case James Lee, bookkeeper  
 3 Clements Charles, bookseller, stationer, stamp seller, news agent, &c  
 3 Clements Charles, jun. printer and bookbinder  
 Cook Thomas, gent. *Bushy Place*  
 3 Copeman Rt. & Geo. Esqs. bankers, (draw on Hankey & Co.)  
 Copeman and Soame, corn, oil-cake, &c. merchants, *Canal Basin*  
 14 Davy John || 14 Curtis Mrs A.  
 8 Elvin Mrs Sarah || Gotterson Mr P.  
 4 Freeman John, stone mason  
 8 Guntton George, gentleman  
 5 Harrod James, bank clerk, &c  
 14 Hatcher Mr Charles  
 1 Holley Mrs Sarah and Mrs Ann  
 Lubbock Mrs Eliz. Church terrace  
 9 Mayston Mrs Mary  
 9 Mileham Wm. artist  
 11 Mutton Richd. coach maker, &c  
 2 Nobbs Miss Mary, postmistress  
 Palmer Mrs Jane, Burgh road  
 11 Parmeter Rt. Wm. Esq. solicitor, and clerk of the peace for *Norfolk*  
 1 Platten Edward Suffolk, brazier, Temperance Coffee House  
 Porrett Thomas, gent. Cromer road  
 7 Purdy James, fishmonger  
 4 Purr Wm. horsebreaker  
 Rackham Thomas, gent. (chief constable,) Cromer road  
 3 Rainforth John, clog & patten mkr  
 3 Repton and Scott, solicitors  
 3 Repton Wm. solicitor, and clerk to the Navigation proprietors  
 Robins Wm. gent. Market place  
 6 Roe Frederick, magistrates' clerk  
 7 Roe George, solicitor's clerk

6 Saunders Mrs Emily  
 11 Sayer Mrs Wm. || 6 Sexton John  
 11 Scott Wm. Henry, solicitor  
 8 Short Miss Sarah & Seaman Sophia  
 2 Smith Thomas, cattle dealer  
 13 Stoughton Miss Diana  
 Tattam Mr Richard, Red Lion st  
 9 Waller Mr John Clear  
 9 Warren Thomas, tea dealer  
 Warnes John, Esq. land agent, &c. *Bohwick Hall*  
 8 White George, parish clerk  
 Wickes Mrs Susan, Millgate  
 10 Winterborn James, millwright  
 Wright George, assistant overseer  
 4 Wright James, land surveyor, agent, and valuer  
 4 Wright Rt. & Thos. boat builders  
 Yates Rev Edmd. Telfer, M.A. vicar  
 Youngs Mrs Elizabeth, Millgate  
 FIRE AND LIFE OFFICES.  
 3 Clerical, Medical, & General Life and Equitable Fire, Thos. Connold  
 Hail Storm, John Clover  
 Norwich Union, James Harrod and Robert Hubbard

#### INNS AND TAVERNS.

Anchor, Wm. Mash, Millgate  
 Black Boys' Inn, James Spanton (posting house) Market place  
 7 Bull, Dick Feek (horsebreaker)  
 7 Cross Keys, Lucy Olph  
 Dog Inn & Excise Office, Richard Smith, (posting) Norwich road  
 Fox, Robert Herring, Pinfold street  
 New Inn, Allen Pye, Red Lion st  
 7 Red Lion Inn, John Chapman  
 Star, George Clarke, Red Lion st  
 2 Unicorn, Peter Pike (horse letter)  
 Academies.  
 8 Buchanan — 7 Morris Mary  
 7 Breese H. & E. 2 Tillett Sarah  
 14 Burke Jane 7 Wright Wm.  
 Hindry Jas. (free) *Bakers and Confectioners.*  
 Horstead Jane, *Infant School* 6 Abbs Wm.

7 Barnes Fiddy	<i>Brickmakers.</i>	5 Smith Richard	8 Clark Miss
3 Clover John	10 Soame James	Tipple George	3 Hatcher Jane
4 Cory Thomas	5 Warnes John	Tipple Wm.	7 Sutton Harriet
7 Laxen Richd.	<i>Butchers.</i>	*Warnes John	
8 Soame John	7 Chapman John	<i>Gardeners, &amp;c.</i>	<i>Painters, Plumbers, &amp; Glaziers.</i>
2 Sexton Joseph	7 Clark James	4 Fitt James	8 Elvin Robert
10 Turner Saml.	2 Sands John	7 Fitt Edward	7 Pert Wm.
4 Wiley George	7 Sands James	2 Randell Wm.	7 Pratt Robert
<i>Basket Makers.</i>	7 Smith James	9 Stearman Jas.	<i>Saddlers.</i>
7 Canfor Ellis	7 Temple John	10 Stearman Jas. junior	3 Butler John
4 Starling Wm.	<i>Chemists. &amp; Drgts</i>	Thaxter John	Marsh
4 Watson James	7 Bane Wm.	2 Ward George	7 Frankland Jas.
<i>Beer Houses.</i>	3 Symonds John	<i>Glass, China, &amp;c.</i>	7 Hounsfield Ed.
2 Dadley James	<i>Coal Dealers.</i>	<i>Dealers.</i>	3 Laxen Henry
4 Freeman John	<i>At Canal Basin.</i>	7 Edwards John	7 Lemon Benj. (& organist)
4 Hagen Robert	Copeman & Soame	8 Jarvis Robert	<i>Surgeons.</i>
10 King George	Howes Matthew,	3 Skidmore Arthur	1 Morton Rd. Kay
Lovell Thomas,	<i>Dunkirk</i>	Wellington	2 Perry Chas. Hy.
<i>Dunkirk</i>	7 Margetson Rt. junior	<i>Grocers &amp; Drprs.</i>	3 Smith Frederick
8 Pearson Everett	11 Mayston John	7 Cooper Wm.	Paston
8 Poll Henry (& brewer)	2 Sexton Joseph	7 Elden Eliz.	<i>Tailors.</i>
7 Temple John	<i>Coopers.</i>	7 England Mary	7 Breese James
<i>Blacksmiths.</i>	8 Parker John	3 Hatcher Saml.	3 Burrell Wm.
7 Burton John	2 Smith James	3 Hubbard Robt.	Duffield James,
10 Butler Wm.	<i>Corn Millers.</i>	8 Jarvis Robert	<i>Drabblegate</i>
7 Pike Wm. & Son	4 Parmeter Saml. (and maltster)	3 Powell Benj.	3 Flaxman John
11 Tattam George Edward	10 Soame George	4 Priest Chas. Rt.	7 Fray John
	10 Tipple John	<i>Hair Dressers.</i>	7 Haddon James
<i>Boot &amp; Shoe Mkrs.</i>	<i>Curriers.</i>	3 Joslin Charles	3 Powell John
2 Barnes Mrs	6 Clark John	Warner	8 Powell Stephn.
2 Barney James	7 Cooper Wm. (& shoe warehouse)	7 Dale Wm. & Rt.	8 Stearman Fdk.
3 Burrell Wm.	2 Evans David	3 Smithson Zeph.	7 Sutton John
9 Burton Stephen	<i>FARMERS.</i>	<i>Ironmongers, Braziers, &amp;c.</i>	7 Ulph Richard
7 Carman Thos.	<i>*are Yeomen.</i>	2 Cook William	<i>Timber Merchts.</i>
10 Culley John	13 Batson Potter	Barnard	4 Bartram Wm.
3 Ford Thomas	Dyhall	3 Skidmore Arthur	3 Burrell George
10 Foxhall Thos.	Blyth Wm.	Wellington	2 Calver Thos.
2 George Philip	Boddy Geo. <i>Spa</i>		9 Watts George
8 Goodson Wm.	2 Clark Richard	<i>Joiners, &amp;c.</i>	<i>Vety. Surgeons.</i>
Johnson —	Colk John, <i>Cold-ham Hall</i>	<i>*Cabinet Makers also.</i>	6 Howes Robert
7 Mack Edward	*Clover John	4 Bartram Wm.	10 Howes Jph.
Mayston Samuel,	Wright, <i>Wood House</i>	1* Bowers Rt. (& turner & gilder)	5 Smith Rd. (& horse dealer)
Town lane	12 Frostick Danl.	3* Burrell Geo. (& auctioneer)	<i>Watchmakers, &amp;c</i>
8 Ostick Robert	12 Frostick John	6 Glistler Thomas	3 Connold Thos.
1 Payne James	Goodwin Fras.	6* Grimson John	7 Fitt John
7 Rust Wm.	10 Lake Wm.	2 Proudfoot John	3 Mack James
4 Scott John	4 Mash Wm.	11 Tomlin John	8 Silence George
3 Thirtle Robert	Robins William	9 Watts George	3 Wade Chs Rice
4 Wilson John	Burton	<i>Milliners, &amp;c.</i>	<i>Wheelwrights.</i>
<i>Bricklayers.</i>	10* Soame Geo.	3 Ayton Harriet	1 Bowers Robert
10 Bird Stephen	10* Soame Henry Edward	8 Broughton E.	10 Craft Henry
10 Crask & Co.			6 Glistler Thos.
2 Culley Benj.			8 Ulph John
2 Horstead John			

### COACHES.

From the *Black Boys*, to CROMER,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 morning, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 evening; and to NORWICH, 9 morning, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  p. 3 afternoon, daily

From the *Dog*, to NORWICH, M. Wed. and Sat.  $\frac{1}{2}$  before 9 morning, and to HOLT, 5 afternoon

From the *Red Lion*, to NORWICH, Mon. Wed. & Sat.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 morning, and a *Van*, every Mon. Tues. Thurs. and Sat. at 8 morning

### CARRIERS

From Holt, Cromer, &c. to Norwich, call at the Inns on Mon. Wed. & Sat.

To *Norwich*, from Red Lion st. John Chapman & Jas. Purdy, Wed. and Sat. and Rt. Margetson, Mon. Wed. and Sat. 8 morning

To *Holt & Blakeney*, Jas. Purdy, Monday, and to *North Walsham*, Tuesday

### WHERRIES

To Yarmouth weekly, from the Canal Basin, Copeman and Soame, and Samuel Parmeter, *owners*

\* † AYLISHAM UNION comprises 35 parishes in South Erpingham, and 11 parishes in Eynesford Hundred. (See page 344.) These 46 parishes comprise an area of 106 square miles; and in 1841, had 20,056 inhabitants, of whom 9869 were *males*, and 10,187 *females*. Their average annual expenditure, during the three years preceding the formation of the Union, was £20,391; but in 1838, it was only £9652. For the quarter ending Dec. 1844, it was £2569. The *Union Workhouses* are at *Buxton* and *Oulton*, both of which are old Houses of Industry; that at *Buxton*, 4 miles S.S.E. of Aylsham, being built before the year 1800, for nine incorporated parishes, (marked \* in the foregoing table;) and that at *Oulton*, 3½ miles N.W. of Aylsham, being altered in 1804, as a Workhouse for the six parishes marked † in the foregoing table. After the formation of the Union, in 1836, these houses were altered and enlarged, at the cost of about £1200. That at *Buxton* has room for about 400 paupers, and that at *Oulton* for about 100. Only the aged and infirm are sent to the latter, where the average weekly cost of each inmate, for food and clothing, is 2s 11d.; but at *Buxton* it is only 2s. 0½d. The Union has two chaplains and eight surgeons; and Mr. Wm. Hill, of *Marshall*, is *Union Clerk and Supt. Registrar*. The *Masters of the Workhouses* are, Mr. Thomas Potter, at *Buxton*, and Mr. E. F. Barnaby, at *Oulton*. Mr. J. Wright and Mr. A. Sands are the *district registrars and relieving officers*. In the months of Oct. Nov. and Dec. 1844, no fewer than 18 persons died in this Union, each of them above 80, and three of them *above 90 years of age*.



## EDITOR

T.Mollard, Flint Cottage, Calthorpe Rd.  
Erpingham. Telephone: Cromer 761638

The editor would welcome letters and other material  
for future issues of the Newsletter & Journal

*The illustration on the cover is by  
Brian Bowhill, the Aylsham artist,  
and acknowledgement is made to  
Aylsham Branch WEA for permission  
to reproduce it in this newsletter.*

*Our thanks are also due to Malcolm  
Davies for his help in producing  
the copies of this newsletter*