

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER

Volume 11

No. 6

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Front cover: The Tinsmiths House

Back cover: Aylsham Roman Project. Hand excavation and cleaning in the northern area. Photo: Britannia Archaeology Ltd.

The JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER is the publication of the Aylsham Local History Society. It is published three times a year, in April, August and December, and is issued free to members. Contributions are welcomed from members and others. Please contact the editor:

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The Social Evening at the Saracen's Head on 14 May was memorable for the fare and excellent service, and equally the manager specifically commented on how well Sue Sharpe had arranged it with them. We had very enjoyable trips to Ely and Hindringham Hall (to be reported on in the December issue). We have a new, modern-looking website, see above, thanks to help from Peter Jolly. If you haven't seen it yet then have a look – and if you can't find it on Google then go to the old website which has a link to the new one.

Looking ahead, on Friday 13 September, we are holding a joint meeting with the Bure Navigation Conservation Trust in Buxton on Gunton's Water-Powered Sawmill and on the next day, Saturday 14th, both organisations will be in the Aylsham Heritage Centre for the heritage open day. Details on the web.

A New History of Aylsham Public Houses continues to sell well and we have recently had a reprint of 150 more copies. The current exhibition in the Heritage Centre features Aylsham pubs and a leaflet, *Aylsham Historic Pub Walk*, is freely available with several guided tours arranged by the Heritage Centre and Aylsham Parish Church. We are very sorry to record that William Vaughan-Lewis, who has contributed so much to Aylsham history very sadly died in June.

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on Thursday 3 October, for which the Agenda and Minutes of the 2018 AGM accompany this issue of the Journal to bring with you. Note the time of the AGM.

The lecture programme for the rest of 2019 has been arranged as follows. Thursday 3 October 2019, AGM 7 pm at Friendship Hall, followed by tea break and talk *New discoveries at Oxnead Hall that relate to the earlier Paston houses there* by Matt Champion.

Thursday 24 October 2019, talk at 7.30 pm, refreshments from 7pm, Friendship Hall, *Sir Thomas Browne, Doctor, naturalist and family man* by Barbara Miller. Thursday 21 November, *Colours of Norfolk - Textiles* inspired by the history of our county by Aviva Leigh.

The Tinsmiths House – Part 1

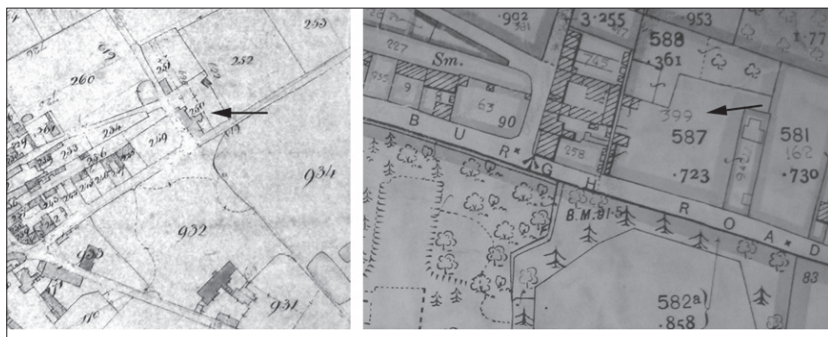
Compiled by Roger Polhill from contributions by Roger Crouch, Bryan and Susan Glegg, Nicholas Johnson, Maggie and William Vaughan-Lewis.



Unlike many of the old timber-framed buildings in Aylsham designed as houses and converted later into small businesses, Nos 23–25 Oakfield Road, was erected as commercial premises in the 1860s and served the town well in this capacity for over a century before being lovingly converted into living space. No 23 is now an elegant and much-valued bed and breakfast resort with a design studio.

Oakfield Road is a very old way running from Millgate to Burgh Road and, until it was closed off in 1705, extended through the grounds of the Manor to Norwich Road. Previously called Bridewell Lane, the road once had arable land on either side but by the 16th century this was known as Ollands – old lands – now used for a variety of uses. The west part was divided between the properties along Red Lion Street, mainly inns. About 11 acres ran back from the east side of Oakfield Road called Angel Close after its early ownership by the 15th century Angel inn. The site of the Tinsmiths House was part of an open area for fairs and animal markets. The predecessor to Pryde House was described as being ‘on The Fairstead’. There are 17th century court book

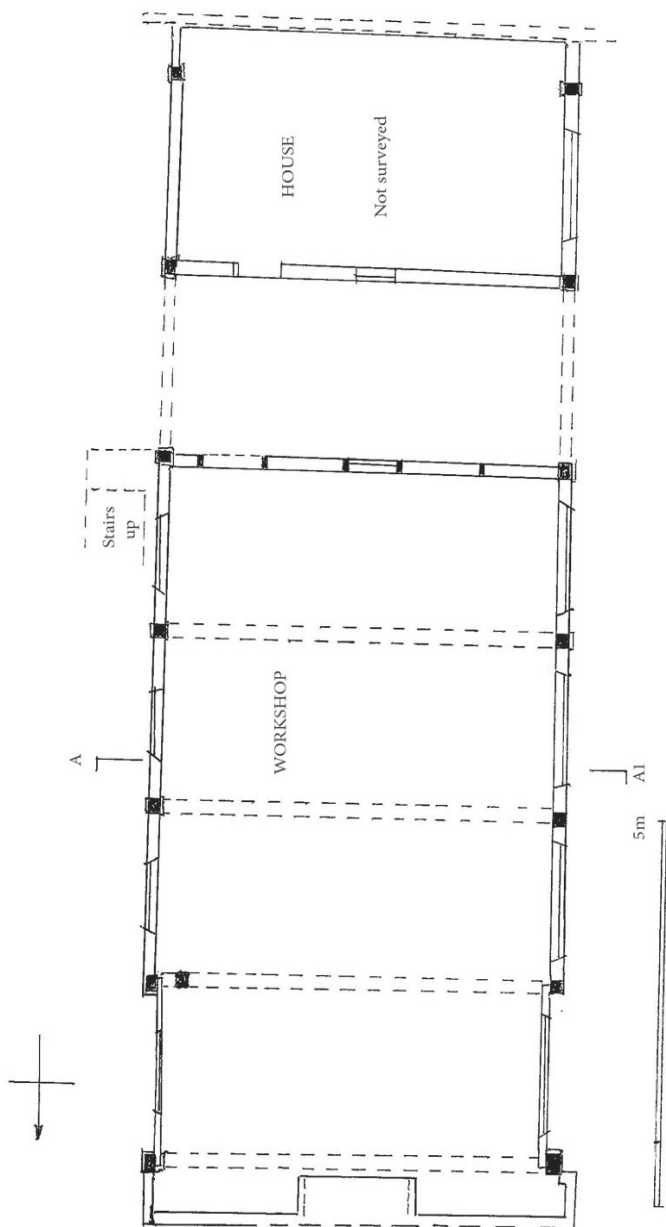
references to a ‘bull yard’ where the northern part of the Tinsmiths stands which may have given rise to the name of two successive Bull pubs at the south end of Red Lion Street. It was still open land on the tithe map drawn in 1839.



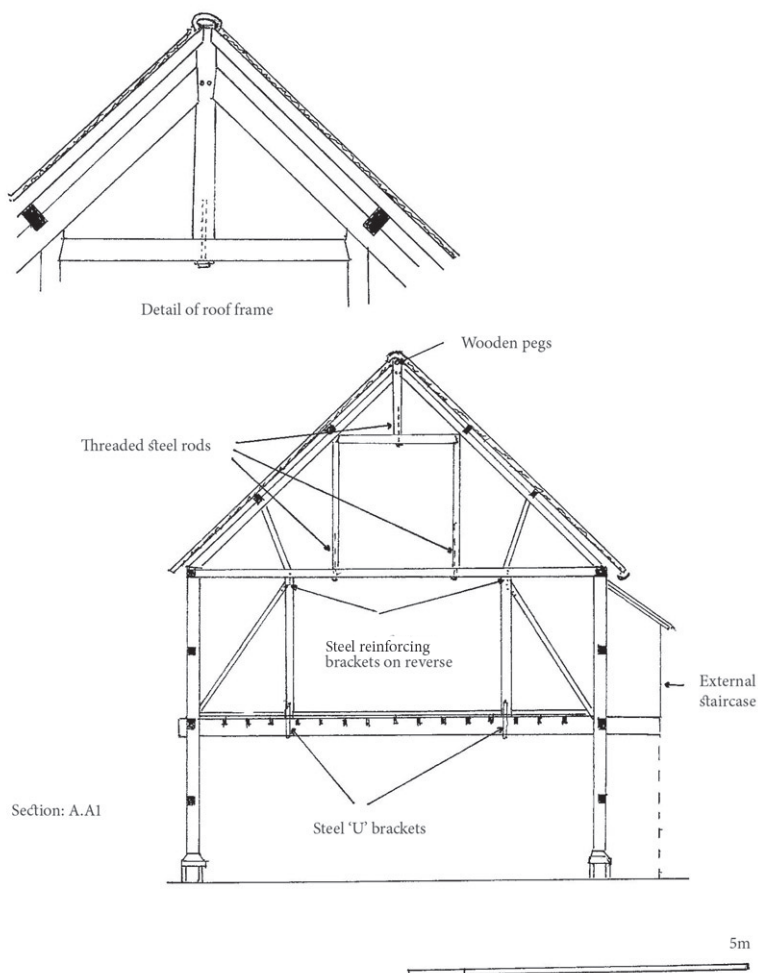
Tithe map of 1839, with Oakfield Road Nos 17–29 shown as No 250, and the 1910 Inland Revenue Map showing the Tinsmiths House and yards at No 399.

The site of the Tinsmiths House is tithe plot number 250, covering the modern Nos 23–29 Oakfield Road. These and plot number 251, now Nos 15–21 Oakfield Road, were then in the hands of George Elden Burrell, builder, and Arthur Wellington Skidmore, ironmonger, the executors of Robert Mack, an Aylsham linen weaver, who had died in 1837. Mack had left No 29, Pryde House, to grandchildren when they should come of age. George Elden Burrell bought the other houses in the name of Elizabeth his wife in 1851 for £300. At the time the Burrells with their son, also George Elden Burrell, were living in the building facing both the Market Place and Red Lion Street in what became Clarke’s ironmonger’s shop, as recounted in this Journal 11: 39–48 and 71–77 (2018). They had yards along Burgh Road at the present entrance to the car park.

The 1861 census records George Elden junior, 33, listed as an auctioneer and bailiff, with his wife Marian and five children, living in the Oakfield Road site, seemingly in what is now No 21 (the southernmost cottage of Wright’s plot 251). His father, now also recorded as an auctioneer and builder, remained with his family in the Market Place, but now in the part facing Red Lion Street, where his son had been before. The Burrells were now joined in business by Robert Tuddenham, a carpenter born in 1824 in Booton. The firm is listed in Kelly’s trade directory of 1865 as Burrell and Tuddenham, builder and cabinet maker in Burgh Road.



Plan of Tinsmiths House, drawn by Roger Crouch in 2000.



Section of Tinsmiths House, drawn by Roger Crouch in 2000.

The 1871 census has George Burrell senior, now 70, listed as a builder, with his second wife Mary and sister in law in the Oakfield Road property, no doubt with a view to keeping an eye on the business side of the new partnership. At that time Robert Tuddenham, 46, with his Aylsham wife Anne and 7 children, is listed as in the property immediately to the south.

There seems little doubt that Robert Tuddenham had now built the Tinsmiths House as a workshop in the garden of No 27 (Wright's plot 250),

with what is now 23 being the workshop and 25 his residence. To fit it in they demolished the north end wall and perhaps quite a large part of the northern cell of No 27 to form the common wall and new chimney stack for both properties. The position of the Tinsmiths House and yards is shown on the 1910 Inland Revenue Map at No 399.

At the time the house and workshop was built Robert Tuddenham would have been in his early forties and George Elden Burrell senior well into his sixties, so it seems likely that Robert did the work, quite probably with some help from Thomas Williamson, who is listed in the 1871 census as carpenter (in the 1861 census he is also an ironmonger), aged 36, living in the cottage north of the Burrells. Number 25 seems rather small for Robert and his large family, but not exceptional for the time and it was well built.

When Roger Crouch looked over the building in 2000, as part of an historical research project before Bryan Glegg had started the renovation, he made the following general observations.

The building is a very simple six cell timber framed construction with red brick gable ends supported by cottages on either side. The roof is probably the most distinctive feature with its large expanse of clay tiles. On both front and rear elevations, the frame is simply clad with plain overlapped vertical boards with each cell having either a door or window opening on both ground and first floors. The ground floor window openings at the front are boarded up deagainst vandalism, the remaining windows show a wide range of styles, using horizontal and vertical sash windows, also casements with and without horizontal glazing bars. All door openings in the workshop at ground floor level have sliding doors. The only access to the first floor of the workshop is via an external covered stairway at the rear. All of the main vertical wall posts consist of two parts with joists at first floor level being tenoned through and protruding in some cases almost half a metre through the joint.

Four substantial purlins are the main lateral supports other than the cottages at either end. At the northern gable (the only one accessible internally) the ghost of the gable end of the adjoining cottage is clearly visible. Also the chimney stack at this end is built inside the workshop against the gable. The timber cladding that covers the exterior is not original. At first floor level the cladding is lined by red brick infill that probably suggests that the first floor was used as offices or lighter manual duties and probably had a higher level of comfort. The current residential part of the building has a timber and brick partition isolating these two cells from the rest of the workshop.

Internally the workshop itself has very little in the way of features, the ground floor being one large open space with an earth floor and no other load bearing support other than the main frame posts in the sides of the building. Each of the distinctive main beams supporting the first floor joints has two steel strap “U” bolts encircling the beam and passing through the floor to hold the first floor posts in place. The floor boards at this level are good quality oak boards with dust strip underneath: it is a very well-constructed floor.

As shown in the section drawing at first floor level, as well as the two main frame posts, there are a further two additional posts with diagonal bracing. The braces and posts are tied together along with the beam above with steel brackets. This tie beam supports a further two post frames held in position by large steel bolts, also by two further braces. These posts and braces support the main roof beams at the point where the large purlins cut into the beam. A further single central post above the top frame supports the ridge board. Between the roof beams and joists is reed, lathe and plaster work that has in some places been damaged by water ingress at some time in the past. The only signs of wood pegs are found in the roof pitch as shown in the drawing detail where the main roof beams are attached to the top post.

George Elden Burrell senior died in June 1874 and in November that year the court records note that Robert Tuddenham was his executor. When the several lots were put up for sale in 1875 Robert acquired Lot 2, No 21, the house that Mrs Burrell had been living in and Nos 23–25, the workshop and builder’s yards that comprise Tinsmiths House for £430. Charles Harvey Ward, grocer and draper in London House, the Market Place, bought Lot 1, Nos 27 and 29 (the residue of plot 250) for £250 and Edward Fitt, market gardener and greengrocer in Red Lion Street, bought Lot 3, the cottages to the north (plot 251) for £160.

The Tuddenham family lived in the premises up to the First World War. The 1881 census records Anne there, now with 9 children, John Henry now 20, unmarried, working as a carpenter and journeyman. Robert retired in 1892 but Alexander, another son, is recorded as a joiner in the 1891 and 1901 censuses. Robert Tuddenham died in 1901 and all the Tuddenham premises were bought by Robert Harvey Ward, the son of Charles Harvey Ward, from Robert Tuddenham’s sons John Henry and Alexander (who by now was a Sanitary inspector in Sharrington) for £650. John Henry was still in No 21 Oakfield Road in 1911, now a widower of 50, still with several children, listed as a building contractor employing two people. By this time Robert Harvey

Ward had inherited Nos 27-29 from his mother Mary Ward, who had died in 1904, and in May 1913 Henry James Bowman, the neighbour from the Manor House estate across Burgh Road, bought Nos 21-29 for £500. The northern cottages, Nos 17-19, passed from Edward Fitt to his son Charles Robert Fitt, a watchmaker in Old Chatham, Kent, in 1891 and were bought by Alfred Roy of Gothic House, father of the Roy brothers who started the Wroxham store, for £800 in 1896. They were inherited by his wife Sarah in 1917 and when she died in 1922, when the court records were coming to an end, her heirs presumably sold them to the Bowman estate as well.

AYLSHAM,		D- 1-
Burgh Road, Xmas 1888.		
W. Forester Esqr		
Dr. to R. TUDDENHAM,		
BUILDER, CABINET MAKER, &c.		
1888		
Feb'y 24 th	2 hours Lad planing board	6
April 13 th	Chair Repaired	2
27 th	3 hours Robson packing Pictures	16
May 25 th	To Bill Nelson for Packing Pictures	12 3
June 1 st	Piece of Cloth 4 ft by 4 ft 6" 4 th 20 Pearlash "Polish" 1/	5 10
	1 1/2 Days Goodwin to Office Table	6 6
	8 1/2 1/2 1/2 Deal 1/2 Day Bond to Office Floor	1 7
	2 Days Robson to Carpets	8 8
8 th	2 1/2 1/2 2 Walnut 1/2 1/2 3 1/2 Deal 2 1/2 doz Screws 1/2 yd Tape	13
	1 pr 2 brass Butts 3 yds Barkcord 1 pkt Tacks	1 9
	1 1/2 yds Canvas to Larder 1 1/2 Days Robson	7 2
	Chair Repaired 7 hours Goodwin with material	3 6
	Office Desk cleaned & Repaired	3
15 th	1 1/4 yds Matting 7 1/4 8 yds Binding 7	11 9
	2 Days Robson to Co & jobs in House	8 8
Sept 7 th	Carton to Chair	1 9
Oct 12 th	Rocking Chair Repaired	3 3
Dec 7 th	3 ft 1 1/2 3 1/2 Piece of Green Cloth 7 1/2	8
	1 1/2 Days Goodwin Repairing & Polishing Table	5 9
Received with thanks		
Jan'y 1899		
R. T. Tuddenham		
		14 17 8



Tuddenham & Moy had premises in Commercial Road, with a workshop in Millgate, from about 1914 to 1925 and Tuddenham & Co are listed in the trade directories until 1937, but now in Norwich Road. John William Palmer occupied the Oakfield premises from 1915 to 1935, followed by Arthur George Stackwood, a carpenter formerly in Hungate Sreet, before Johnson rented the property after the Second World War.

Vic (Victor) Johnson was born in 1916 in Aylsham, where his father worked at the mills for Barclay Pallett (subsequently BOCM), principally as a lorry driver, and later for Charrington's Coal Merchant. When Vic left school he was apprenticed to Samuel Frankland, the ironmonger in Hungate Street, on the site where the late Post Office was built in 1935. At the end of his apprenticeship in the early 1930s Vic tried his fortune in London. During the Depression finding work in his trade was difficult and he took a number of casual jobs, including footman in a big house. By the mid-1930s he had a good position with a ship's chandler in the East India Road. His post there was a reserved occupation at the beginning of the Second World War. In 1943 the premises were bombed and the firm moved to Halifax in north Yorkshire with large contracts for ship fittings including the life rafts know as Carley floats.

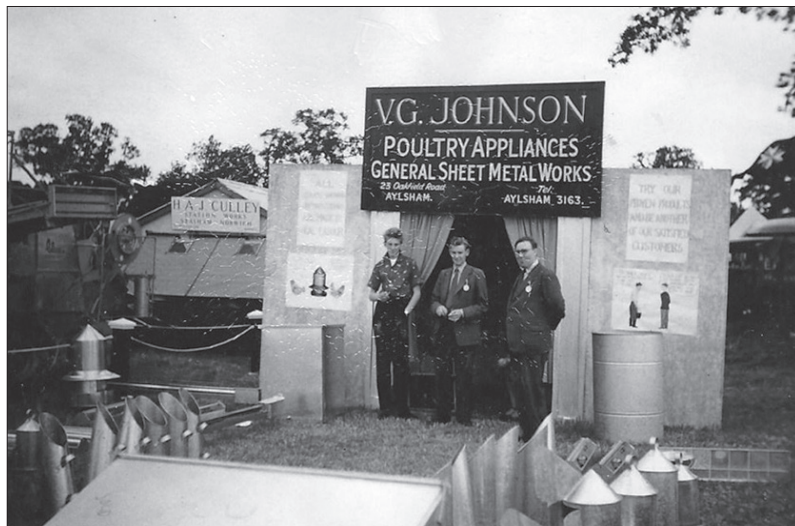
Towards the end of the war he unfortunately contracted tuberculosis and for a time was referred to the TB hospital in Kelling before he opted to return to the hospital in Halifax. After the war he came back to Aylsham and rented the old builder's yard that comprised the odd numbers 17-27.

The firm of V.G. Johnson had a ready market for a whole range of metal products. The mills, Barclay Pallett and BOCM, were important clients, but the main output became poultry appliances, feeders, drinkers, hoppers, air vents and tanks for a number of clients including Bernard Matthews. The workshop was also much valued in the town for all sorts of repairs to kitchen utensils, car parts and the like. Vic employed his cousin Fred Johnson and

Eddie Cushion, a man from North Walsham. After he left school Mike Dyball also joined.



V.G. Johnson was a regular exhibitor at the Aylsham Agricultural Show at Blickling in the early 1960s.



Mike Dyball, Vic Johnson and Fred Johnson at the Aylsham Agricultural Show in the early 1960s.



The family in 1958, Vic Johnson, Nicholas and Joan on left, visitors on the right in the public car park.

Telephone: Aylsham 2/123	<i>Aylsham, Norfolk.</i>							
9th January 1959								
Mr. V.G. Johnson, 21, Oakfield Road, AYLSHAM, Norfolk.								
To <i>David L. Walker, B.A.</i>								
(LATE GIDNEY & SWORD)								
Solicitor. Commissioner for Oaths.								
1958 Dec.	<i>To professional charges</i> on acting for you on your purchase of a workshop and premises in Oakfield Road, Aylsham from Mr. A.C.S. Bowman at the price of £350. including investigation of title, preparation completion and stamping Conveyance and all correspondence and attendances	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>£</i></th> <th><i>s</i></th> <th><i>d</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>17.</td> <td>6.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>	7.	17.	6.
<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>						
7.	17.	6.						
	(Scale Charge)							



Rear of Tinsmiths House in 2000 before conversion. Photo: Roger Crouch.

Vic married Joan Rounce in 1950 and moved to No 21 in 1951–52. Their only son Nicholas was born in 1955. Joan's parents moved into No 17 around 1959 and when her father Reggie moved out in the 1970s the property was sold. With the benefit of a win on the football pools Vic was able to buy the properties in 1958 from the Bowman estate. The living quarters in No 25 were renovated for his cousin Fred, who had worked as a platelayer at Aylsham 'North' station until the railway closed in 1959, then joined the firm and left No 25 when he married, moving to Cawston Road. His father Stan was there when he retired. Mike Dyball left the firm in the 1960s to pursue a career in show business with his brother Tony.

After the Aylsham Agricultural Show moved to Blickling in 1955 V.G. Johnson was a regular exhibitor. Nicholas left school in 1970 and worked in the firm for about five years before starting his own career in Norwich. In 1988 he joined the North Norfolk Railway where he worked happily until he retired last year and continues there on a consultancy basis. Joan died in 1988 and Vic in 1994 after a long spell of heart trouble. Bryan Glegg used the workshop behind No 23 from 1987 and Nicholas sold Nos 21 and 23 to him in 1996.

Sources

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- Gale, G. & Mollard, T. (2004). Aylsham Directories 1793–1937. Aylsham Local History Society.
- Norfolk Record Office, Court Books of Aylsham Lancaster Manor; 1910 Act Valuation book and map; Tithe Map of 1839.
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Aylsham Roman Project Update

Martin Brook BA MCIFA Britannia Archaeology Ltd



2018 saw the third season of the Aylsham Roman Project, again excavating in the grounds of Woodgate Nursery. Three areas were targeted which are summarised below.

The northern area

Following the discovery and excavation of the Roman kilns in the preceding seasons the decision was taken to excavate a large area in the northern field to attempt to put into context the archaeological setting the kilns were located in. The area opened revealed multiphase archaeological remains.

The first phase relates to the earliest cut features found on the site so far in the form of a Bronze Age pit. Fragments of stratified flint-tempered Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the primary fill, making this the earliest feature encountered across the site.

The second phase of activity is associated with the late prehistoric/early Roman occupation of the site. Enclosure ditches were the main feature on this

part of the site (marked by two parallel ditches on a north–south alignment) as well as a line of post-holes on an east–west alignment just south of the kilns. Examples of late Iron Age pottery and early Roman vessels have been recovered from all these features.

The main phase of activity in the area dates from the mid-2nd to mid-3rd centuries. This phase is the period associated with the kilns and saw the re-cutting of the droveway from the preceding phase. This period also saw the establishment of the area for light industrial use with evidence of further kilns in the vicinity due to the presence of break-out pits containing kiln lining as well as a high level of slag and metalworking waste found throughout the area. This year we also uncovered the southern half of a posted structure located just south of the kilns. Twelve post-holes forming the end of a building on a east–west alignment were excavated and, through associated finds and relationships, these have been assigned to this phase and are likely related to the establishment of the droveway. Also uncovered was evidence of a bank near the kilns, perhaps providing some shelter or a wind break for those individuals working at the kiln.

The final phase of activity in the northern area is associated with the cutting of a double-ditch enclosure across the area. These ditches cut through the earlier archaeology and then turned cutting through and then following the line of the droveway running south out of the excavation area. The deeper of the two ditches contained late Roman pottery in its primary fills in each excavated slot, as well as animal bone, metalwork and CBM.

Overall the season was successful in placing the kilns into context and work will begin soon on interpreting the findings. What is evident at this stage is that this area forms part of a more intricate complex of conjoined enclosures likely associated with a Roman villa/farmstead. These enclosures would have been often extensively sub-divided with areas set aside for domestic activity and incorporating trackways to field systems throughout its extent.

South of the lake

Following on from last year's excavations south of the lake, this year saw the establishment of an area directly adjacent, following features running north towards a trackway. A geophysical survey of the excavation area indicated the presence of a north–south orientated ditch and a large pit-type feature. However, upon opening the excavation area further features were identified.

The excavation revealed four ditches, a pit cluster, a four-post post-hole structure and further post-holes in the south-east area of the site. The pottery recovered from the site has dated the features as medieval, dating from the 11th to 13th centuries.



Curving linear ditch in the northern area that cuts a preceding earlier ditch. Photo: Britannia Archaeology Ltd.

The most prominent feature of the site is an enclosure formed of ditches with north–south and east–west orientations. Appearing to respect the north-west corner of the enclosure is a four post-hole structure, the function of which is currently unknown. This enclosure is believed to represent part of a rear plot/garden of a building possibly located near the excavation area. This form of settlement possibly represents an individual family holding, with a house and other structures located within a ditched plot, behind which was an enclosed plot of land for cultivation and other agricultural or industrial/ craft activities.

The Kitchen Gardens

This year's excavation marked our first foray into the Kitchen Gardens at Woodgate House. It was decided to evaluate a 'test area' rather than leap into the unknown with a larger excavation area, and so a 5m by 5m area was opened within the north-west corner of the Kitchen Garden.

The evaluation area revealed that 50cm beneath the garden top and subsoil, several intercutting 19th/20th-century pits were present, including the site of a Victorian raspberry strainer. Having archaeologically recorded and removed these post-medieval/modern features, they were found to mask late Romano-British/early Anglo-Saxon archaeology. A charcoal-rich filled east–west aligned curvilinear ditch was present running along the northern boundary of the evaluation area, containing a large amount of Romano-British ceramic building material (CBM) including tegulae, imbrices and hypocaust tiles; all had been subject to secondary later firing. Directly adjacent to the ditch were two substantial post-holes and a sequence of backyard pits, again all containing Romano-British CBM, domestic waste and more interestingly a possible truncated re-used tegulae floor; these features seem to hint at being near a substantial Romano-British domestic dwelling.

William Vaughan-Lewis 1951–2019

Margaret Bird writes from Kingston upon Thames, 26 June 2019:

With outstanding courage and openness of manner William Vaughan-Lewis had prepared his many friends in the society for his passing. But when the news came from his beloved Maggie following his death on 19 June it was still a very painful shock. We have all suffered an irreparable loss.

Theirs was more than a very close marriage. It was a remarkably creative and productive partnership which has provided us with a wealth of books and articles for our shelves. They opened our eyes to the world around us and developed our understanding of the way we have been shaped by the past. William's strong topographical sense; his often asserted desire to strip away old myths and misconceptions and get at the truth; his meat cleaver of a mind, brooking no obstacle to his extraordinary facility for research; his command of the subject: all combined to produce a formidable body of work which will stand the test of time.

As anyone visiting his beautiful home and gardens will know, William also had an artist's eye: he appreciated visual forms and images. He loved the countryside, and loved exploring it. Their books are peppered with stunning images (a rarity for historians), reflecting this feeling for the setting. In that lay some of the books' appeal. When William gave talks on his findings his mind's eye was tracing the paths, fields and tree-lined walks he had investigated, just as much as he was reflecting on the documents he had pored over. And this he could communicate to us, in vivid detail.

Nothing was taken on trust for William. He had to see for himself. This passion for precision, for accuracy, is the hallmark of his work and gives it its authenticity.

I shall miss him terribly. The past few days as I have pondered on his passing have been ones of great sorrow. William and Maggie knew my own part of the world very well. They married in the register office very close to the home in Kingston where I was then living. They came to our house near the river on their 40th wedding anniversary, on their way to a celebration at a hotel on Richmond Hill famed for its views of the Arcadian Thames. How typical that the setting should be to the fore.

Maggie's courage too has been outstanding as she cared for William in his brutal illness. Such is the strength of their bond that they kept working together long after other sufferers would have closed the manor court books

and the computer. New, successfully completed projects occupied them even when William was stricken and weak. Their partnership, which gave so much to others, seems to me to have been unique.

I shall always treasure a remark Maggie made to me on the phone in mid-2018. William was out: 'He's on one of his walks. He wants to make the most of the summer while he can.' And so he did.

How appropriate that he left us close to midsummer, in his own home, with Maggie, with all in full bloom. Farewell, dear William; and our fondest love to you, dear Maggie.

The following is reproduced from the June issue of *The Norfolk Ancestor* with permission of the Editor and reviewer.

Ancestor Bookshelf

A Detailed and Impressive Account

A New History of Aylsham Public Houses by The Aylsham Local History Society. ISBN 978-0-9573488-0-6

This A4 sized paperback based on the work of Elizabeth Gale includes new research by William Vaughan-Lewis and is edited by Maggie Vaughan-Lewis.

This is an incredibly detailed study of the pubs in this Norfolk town. The index of people and places alone covers 13 pages. There are maps and charts as well as many photographs of old pubs and in some cases, where the pub no longer exists, of what has replaced them.

There are details of the landlords and their families as well as information about the owners. The book also explains that as early as the 17th century the town had at least 17 inns or ale houses, which are plotted on a map and it goes on to explore the way things changed as a result of Licensing Laws and changes in brewing.

There is a detailed list of local breweries and who owned them. If you have an interest in the town of Aylsham, pubs or brewing or just want to see how to produce a well-researched history of such establishments, then this is a book for you. We now have a copy on the shelves of our library which was kindly donated by the Aylsham Local History Society.



Based on work of Elizabeth Gale
With new research by William Vaughan-Lewis
Edited by Maggie Vaughan-Lewis

Ellen Carr

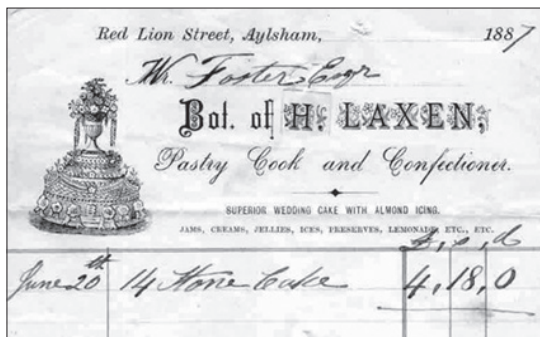
What the Victorians Threw Away – a talk by Dr Tom Licence



As an avid bottle collector and sometime digger 40 years ago this subject is very close to my heart and I have never really given up collecting rubbish. Of course what some people call rubbish (my mother in particular) others call treasure and I think we can put Dr Tom Licence into the latter group. He states that he carries out the digging and recording in the name of academic research, but those present at the talk know better – he is enjoying a second childhood. An adult would not be so enthusiastic about digging in cesspits.

Our speaker started by explaining that up to the late 19th century and the advent of mass industrial manufacturing the disposal of household waste was mainly performed by individuals disposing of their waste by burning or burying it on their own property. This had been the case for centuries from prehistoric time through the medieval and early modern period. The Victorians created municipal rubbish dumps to cope with the spiralling amount of rubbish created by this new era of throwaway culture. Later in 1933 a survey carried out by the ‘Society for Disfigurement of Countryside’ identified that 37% of people in rural areas still had no access to official rubbish dumps.

The speaker then went on to give two case samples he has investigated and introduced us to his world of Garbology, Split and Trench sampling and middens. His initial research includes looking at early maps for clues to possible middens in abandoned saw pits, sandpits, ponds, cesspits and of course municipal rubbish dumps.



His first case history at Brockdish Rectory was carried out by both trench and split sampling of what was probably a sand pit used as a rubbish pit during the 1870's, and contained mainly broken domestic glass and ceramics as well as the usual traditional waste – oyster shells, butchered bones, ash etc. The second case history at Hempstead Rectory involved a midden adjacent to a privy wall and was probably a cesspit c1895. Our speaker finally mentioned a municipal rubbish dump at 'Horsley's Chase Ash Yard' (1880–1900) at Kings Lynn where many "Aerated Drinks Bottles" were dumped, also 'Beaconsfield Recreation Ground' (GY 1892–1898) and 'Ringstead Village Rubbish Dump' (1920's).

I think the talk was well received and surprised many people about the diverse world of rubbish. On a personal level I was already hooked and started digging in the late sixties and amassed an almost complete collection of 'Norfolk Ginger Beer Bottles' and was an active member of 'The East Anglian Bottle Club' where many sought after finds were swapped or bought. So in summary I have added a photo of some of my own finds:

1 – A quantity of glass yeast bottles which along with several 1d Lick glasses I found in my garden 30 years ago. My house in Red Lion Street was formerly owned by the Laxen family who in the late 19th & early 20th century had a baker's and confectioner's shop at 38 Red Lion Street.

2 – A medicine bottle from Buckingham & Co, Pharmaceutical & Dispensing Chemists, Red Lion Street, Aylsham. This would be typical of rubbish tip finds although they were usually returned for reuse, and I have fond childhood memories in my grandfather's (Ted Jacques) dispensary at 18 Market Place where there was drawers full of new cork stoppers (my mother Betty and her sisters Mary and Angela earned pocket money as chief bottle washers).

3 – The only Ginger Beer bottle I have now got, 'J. Attwell, Aylsham'. No record of this name in the Trade directories other than a James Attwell in the mid-19th century, but he was a cobbler.

Roger Crouch

Roman Roads in Norfolk – a talk by Dr James Albone

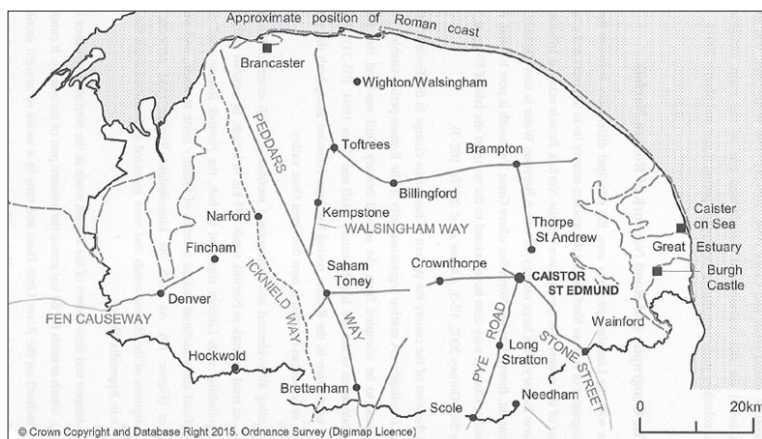


A section of the former A140 at Marsham replaced by the new carriage way to the west.

There was the usual good attendance for the excellent talk on Roman roads by Dr James Albone on 28 February. Every day there are one million users of routes that were once Roman roads. They vary in significance from the long stretches of the A140 south of Norwich to minor tracks and field traces only shown up in aerial photos.

The main roads comprised a raised bank, the agger, with ditches and verges for passing people and livestock, flanked by ditches. The agger was normally metalled with stone or whatever served best from the local terrain. The

popular image of a straight alignment is true to the extent that the surveyor would designate a straight stretch from the viewpoint of one hill to the next, but then often with a turn apparent at the next hilltop.



Roman roads in Norfolk from Albion (2018).

The Norfolk Roman road network is structured around a series of broadly south to north and west to east routes directed towards river and sea outlets. The longest route is the Peddars Way that extends 68 km across the western part of the county. It enters Norfolk at Shadwell on the Little Ouse and runs to the northwest coast at Holm/Hunstanton, near to the shore fort of Brancaster. There is evidence of a trade route that crossed the Wash and continued to Lincoln. There seems to have been a port in Lincolnshire indicated by the term “tric” on later maps with a crossing to Hunstanton Port. It was still active in Tudor times and may be a reason why the old track has survived.

The principal Norfolk settlement was at Caistor St Edmund, *Venta Icenorum*, that grew progressively from the second century and was a focus for the road network. It was served principally by the Pye Road coming up from Colchester, entering Norfolk at Scole on the Waveney and still followed by the A140. The name goes back to the C15 and is associated with the Magpie Inn. As Norwich developed from about the 8th century it was at the right place to serve the new conurbation. Another road between Caistor St Edmund to Wainford then went on to Colchester. There was also one west to a settlement at Crownthorpe.

The second largest settlement appears to have been at Brampton, where there was major pottery manufacturing industry from the late first to the early fourth century. It was renowned for white ware mortaria found as far north as Corbridge on Hadrian’s Wall, indicating strong links along the coast. There

were road links from Brampton south to a probable port on the Yare at Thorpe St Andrew, east to the River Ant and west to Billingford.

In general the roads followed old trackways, but the Fen Causeway was an anomaly, comprising a road, canal and sometimes both together. The road had to be made of hardened silt with a sinuous course between the creeks and marshes. The route can be traced as far as Stradsett, after which its course is uncertain, but it does not seem linked to the road to Brampton. It was abandoned after the Boadican revolt of AD 61.

There is evidence of road links to Roman settlements at Toftrees, Kempstone and Sahem Toney. They were in use as a pilgrim route during medieval times as the Walsingham Way, but disused after the dissolution of the monasteries. Evidence of the Icnield Way, mentioned in Anglo-Saxon chronicles is now doubted. It is notable that Roman forts along the coast constructed in the third century, Brancaster, Caistor on Sea and Burgh Castle, were sea defences and not positioned in relation to the roads.

The line of old Roman roads has been preserved in some places as boundaries, notably at the borders of medieval parishes. They are mostly short stretches but do vary from a few hundred metres to 20 km, 59 km in all and 21% of the surviving network. Anglo-Saxon and early medieval burial site and cremation cemeteries are almost all along parish boundaries, some of which are defined by the alignment of Roman roads. In many cases they can be envisaged as convenient markers for the annual confirmation of the parish boundary at Rogationtide. A good example is Procession Way that divides the parishes of Swaffham and Sporle on the Peddars Way. In places they have survived relatively late because of the pattern of enclosure, notably on the Holkham estate. The medieval grouping of parishes into hundreds gives some more extended stretches, notably along the Peddars Way between the Domesday hundreds of Docking and Freebridge and further south between Greenhoe and Shropham, also along the northern part of the Toftrees to Holkham road. At Domesday the Roman road formed the boundary between Gallow and North Greenhoe hundreds, slightly altered later. There is also a small stretch on the Pye Road at Pulham St Mary dividing Earsham hundred from those of Diss and Deepwade.

In general the route of Roman roads has survived where there has been continued use for the alignment, whether as links between conurbations, trackways or as boundaries.

Roger Polhill

Reference

Albone, J.E. (2018). Roman Roads in the Changing Landscape of Eastern England c. AD410–1850. University of East Anglia, School of History.

Ely Trip – 19 March 2019

The Society had a fascinating and informative visit to Ely on 19 March, which focused on the Cathedral and the Stained Glass Museum. Departing by coach from the Market Place, we were dropped off beside the Cathedral in plenty of time for our booked guided tour.

Ely has been a place of Christian worship since the Seventh Century and the Cathedral is a mix of the old, the not so old and the new. Started in the 11th Century, it took about 100 years to build and has been in continuous use since. The modern Octagon Altar makes a striking contrast with the Norman stonework. The magnificent Lady Chapel was built in the 14th Century and is the largest attached to a British Cathedral. However, its vibrant decoration was mostly lost during the Reformation but now has an eye-catching, modern statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Following the tour, we had a little time to look around by ourselves before congregating in the Refectory. We enjoyed an excellent two course lunch and everyone commented favourably on the quality of the food.

After lunch, we had the option of visiting the Stained Glass Museum or walking around Ely. The Museum was set up with the object of saving stained glass windows that would otherwise have been lost. It was started in 1972 and open to the public (within the Cathedral) in 1979. Following a successful fundraising appeal it moved to a new, permanent location in the Cathedral in the year 2000 and now provides an invaluable resource showing the development of stained glass windows through the centuries.

On the journey back, those of us lucky enough to sit on the left side of the coach had an excellent view of two of the latest Lightning II (F35) fighter aircraft flying low and fast over RAF Marham before turning into the circuit, hovering and then landing vertically on the far side of the airfield.

So many thanks again to Caroline and Sue for organising an excellent day out with the contrast of the mediaeval buildings and the latest aircraft technology!

Geoff Sadler

