

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER



Volume 11

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Front cover: Tinsmiths House, rear view after restoration 2002.

Back cover: Renovation of Tinsmiths House: Sandy and Dave Kelly, Peter and Ruth White and Susan Glegg putting up fence on new boundary of 25 Oakfield Road.

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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We had another successful AGM on 3 October followed by an excellent talk on new discoveries at Oxnead Hall by Matt Champion. The next lecture on 24 October was by Barbara Miller on Sir Thomas Browne, the exceptional Norwich surgeon and polymath in the 1600s: this was her tenth talk to the Society given over a period of 22 years, and was delivered flawlessly to a very appreciative audience. Reports on these will be in the April issue of the Journal.

We look forward to a discourse on Norfolk textiles by Aviva Leigh at the end of November. The other talks in the winter series are listed under Notices on page 224. The talk in January will be an extension of the excursion to Elm Hill in Norwich led by Dr Victor Morgan in November after this issue of the Journal has gone to press. Sue Sharpe has also arranged an exciting mix of seven trips and talks around some of the local museums in the summer term of 2020, also listed under the Notices and displayed on the website.

You will see from the AGM report that the Society continues to grow and is in good financial shape. We are very grateful to Ros Calvert for keeping the record of membership and accounts in easily accessible form. We also very much welcome Hazel Jones who was elected to the Committee at the AGM.

The new website is much appreciated and does seem to be attracting a notable increase in enquiries to be passed on to the Aylsham Town Archive. Readers will be very pleased to know that Maggie Vaughan-Lewis took on the role of Honorary Archivist from September. The Archive in the Town Hall is generally open to the public on Wednesdays from 10 am to noon except after public holidays. If in doubt please check the Aylsham Town Archive website under Aylsham Town Council. We shall probably be able to advertise a direct link in the next issue of the Journal.

The Tinsmiths House Part 2

Bryan and Susan Glegg with Roger Polhill



The Tinsmiths House in 2000 and 2004, before and during renovation. The windows had been boarded over because of vandalism. No 25 to the right and above.

In 1987 Vic and Joan Johnson were living in No 21 Oakfield Road, Aylsham. Vic's sheet metalworking equipment was in the workshop of No 23 Oakfield Road, the building now known as Tinsmiths House; John Jay having left Crane Fruehauf's factory was working inside crafting items in wrought ironwork.

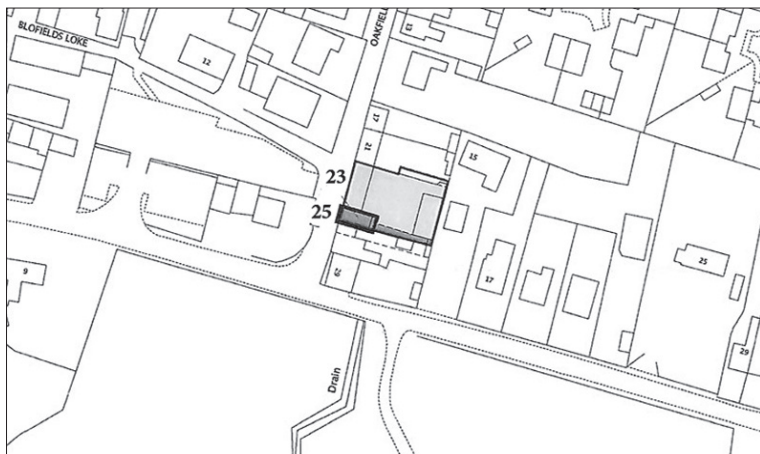
Bryan and Susan Glegg had moved to Aylsham from Cheshire with their young family the previous year. They had bought Sycamore Place at the junction of New Road and Millgate, and renovated the fine brick building with its prominent date of 1875 – coincidentally the year Robert Tuddenham bought the Tinsmiths House from the Burrell family. By 1987 Bryan needed more space to develop his woodworking business and started to rent from Vic Johnson part of the workshop at the rear of 23 Oakfield Road, now vacated by Broadland Autocare following their move to the old Cromer Road. The main workshop in No 23 was subsequently occupied by a precision engineer, Mr Colin Graham.

After Vic died in 1994 his son Nicholas wanted to sell the properties Nos 21 and 23 together, and knowing that Bryan and Susan had discussed with Vic the idea of turning the workshop into a house gave them the opportunity to purchase them. Now living in Hevingham with the housing market in the doldrums selling their house was difficult. Nicholas was patient and by September 1996 they were able to buy, on separate titles, Nos 21 and 23 Oakfield Road. After living in the house for a few months Bryan and Sue with their three daughters moved into two touring caravans in the garden for a glorious summer, as work started on a major renovation of No 21, turning it into a cosy four bedroomed house for the family. No 23, still containing the forge, was used as an enormous garden shed and occasional location for social gatherings. Bryan used the rear workshop to make fitted furniture, bringing the trade of cabinet making back to the property.

Around the turn of the century Broadland District Council had become concerned about the state of the building, vandals had broken windows on the ground floor, and the boards put on the windows helped give an impression of dereliction. The Council put the property on the buildings at risk register. This meant that work would have to be carried out to restore or protect the property and they started to investigate an English Heritage listing, later recommending a Grade II listing.

The citation was finalised in November 2002 and countersigned in 2003. Dr Ward gave his reasons as follows.

English Heritage. Inspector's Advice Print. 13 May 2003.
317/0/10001 Workshop (also that part included in No. 25), 23 Oakfield Road,
Aylsham, Broadland County Council Case UID: 153320.
Recommendation
Inspector: Dr A Ward
Outcome: Yes, List Recommended Grade: II 22-Nov-2002



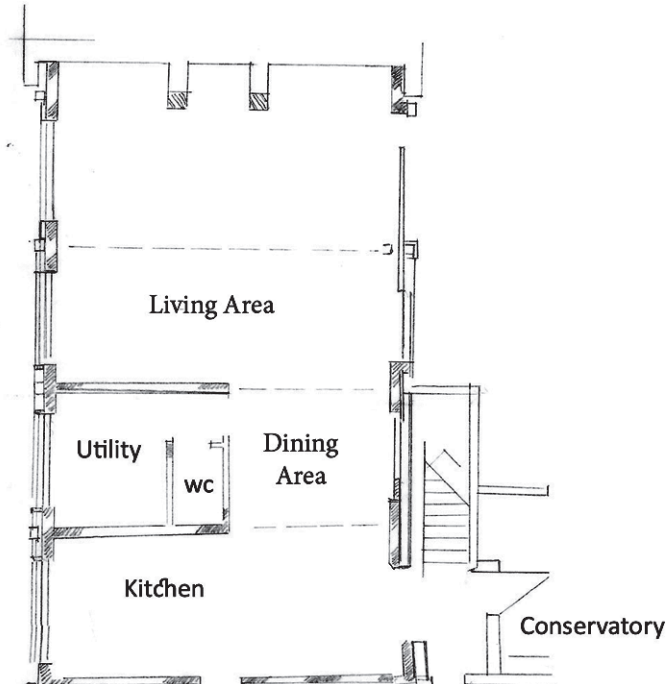
Property register in 2012 for 23–25 Oakfield Road.

Advice Comments/reason for No Previous Listing:

Reason for Decision: I have looked at all the papers on this file and other relevant information and have carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case. In my view the criteria for listing are fulfilled.

This is a workshop of c. 1860 which is timber-framed and weather boarded between brick and gables. Workshop units of the mid C19 are rare in Norfolk and a timber-framed one is very rare, especially in this part of the county where flint and brick construction is usual. Buildings with vertical weather boarding are today only encountered in some barns and other agricultural buildings, and lap-glazed windows seldom survive, such is their fragility. There are two such workshop units in King's Lynn, later than this, and both listed grade II, but neither are of this size and age. This is one of the most complete examples of its type in the eastern counties, and benefits from being substantially unaltered. The principal alteration has been the incorporation of the south bay into No. 25 Oakfield Road (already listed), but this does not detract from the whole, particularly when seen from the west. The building also benefits from group value with Nos. 25 and 27 Oakfield Road.

Decision Precis: Interesting and unusual mid-C19 workshop in little-altered condition. Rarities are the timber-framed construction, vertical weatherboarding and lap glazing.



Plan for the ground floor of No 23, designed by Dick Applin, 2001.

An application was made to the Council for a change of use for No 23 from industrial to residential use to make the renovation of the building economically viable and therefore possible. Bryan and Sue had noticed the outstanding designs that Dick Applin had done for Ben Rust at the Miller's Cottage in Bure Way and Owl Cottage, almost opposite. They asked him to draw up plans that he completed in December 2001. On the ground floor the plan from south to north allowed for a kitchen in the first bay with windows on to the road and the courtyard. The footprint of the old open staircase at the rear of the second bay was retained but rebuilt to be covered and with an entry into a hall. A utility room in the second bay would introduce solid walls into the large open structure of the building to give racking strength against the

force of the wind blowing on to the sides of the building. The two northern bays were designed as a living area. On the first floor there were to be three bedrooms and a bathroom. A second floor would be fitted to give a further two bedrooms and an en-suite bathroom.



Sandy and Dave Kelly, owners of No 27, Peter and Ruth White and Sue Glegg putting in a fence on new boundary of No 25, with new kitchen under construction. Gary Applin inserting new foundations.

Broadland District Council approved the development and change of use in 2002. The building work was about to start when the opportunity arose to buy No 25. This would allow the renovation of the whole timber framed building as a single project. The house was purchased in partnership with the owners of No 27, Dave and Sandy Kelly. At this time the sitting room and kitchen of No 25 extended through the gable wall, under the bedrooms of No 27, thus creating a flying freehold. The purchase allowed the removal of this flying freehold by blocking the doorway in the gable wall and returning the properties to their original footprint. This property, comprising the southernmost bay of the building on the ground floor and the upstairs extending over the archway to the courtyard, had come down through the Roy family to Veronica Dusan who sold it to Beatrice Cook in 1977. They were living there when Bryan started to rent the workshop from Vic Johnson. It was they who probably sold it to John Perriman, who used the premises with his partner Ben for their recycling business. The house was in a very run down condition and the Council was amenable to the renovation of No 25, under building regulations.

The hall and lounge were accessed from the front door in the courtyard under the archway. A new kitchen was built at the rear and the garden wall was moved to be in line with the gable wall of the property. There was room for three bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor. Access was made to a large attic room on the third floor with skylights fitted into the rear roof. To save space a paddle staircase was made and fitted. This was made from a

pitch-pine beam that had been salvaged when the Boulton & Paul Aircraft Factory was demolished in Norwich.

The cost of the renovation work necessitated the sale of No 21. They moved into the house when they had completed the decorating and other work. The building team moved across to No 23, a much bigger project.

A scaffolding block was created inside the building to take the weight of the structure so that proper foundations could be built under each of the timber posts. The original footings, composed mainly of flint and shells, were quite inadequate. This can be seen by looking at the roofline of the building. Bryan made new windows in his workshop to reflect the distortion that had taken place in the original frames and packing was put under the floor joists in some of the bedrooms to help level the floors so that the building could be stabilised in the existing position.

A second floor was added and internal walls constructed. These were positioned to allow the original internal structure of the building to remain visible. The original and unusual style of exterior boarding was retained. Wide boards of timber were fitted vertically, nailed to overlap the adjoining board, with ventilation gaps left at the top and bottom to allow air circulation behind the boards.

A garden room was added within the permitted development of the property.

The outline of the original sliding door at the right was retained, with folding doors fitted. During the excavation for the drains a brick structure, indicating a saw pit was uncovered at the rear aligned at a right angle to these doors. The original workshop design had a sliding door in line with this at the front on to the road.



Insertion of the new staircase.

The building work was signed off by the Council in September 2004. Bryan and Susan moved into No 23 in time for their silver wedding and rented out

No 25. They continued to live there until the children had left home and then, looking for new challenges, selling up and moving to Paston in December 2012. Tinsmiths House is now a boutique bed and breakfast and No 25 privately owned.



Rear of the Tinsmiths House before and after restoration. A third floor was created and converted into attic rooms with roof lights.

Postscript

As well as the historical account, for us there is the personal tale. When we first started talking of the idea of turning VG Johnson's workshop into our home we had no idea of the scale of the work involved and even less of the budget for it, it was just a dream. Our circumstances changed and we were able to live in Aylsham next to my workshop and enjoyed our lives bringing up our families and earning a living, and then we were suddenly in the position of having to make decisions about what we did with our garden shed. Still with no realistic idea of the cost or the work involved we found ourselves on this new adventure.



Painting of the Tinsmiths House by Derek Blois, courtesy of the artist.

So many people helped us on the way, Dick Applin with his plans and Gary, his son, starting off the building work, Andy Owen who was with us throughout the project. Our daughter's boyfriend, Sheridan Sealey, became our employee and started his working life with us. Phil Scott started us off when he felled a tall fir with great precision and Peter White, our neighbour, butcher and friend, helped in so many ways. A stranger brought round a trailer of offcuts which became the staircase in No 23. The generosity of so many people and the help and skill of so many tradesmen made it all possible. It makes a story that would fill a book.

Huge credit and respect has to be given to my wonderful wife, Sue. While I was doing all the joinery, enjoying different projects every day, Sue was working, bringing up the children and then doing all the less glamorous jobs, cleaning plaster off beams, washing paintwork and the painting day after day, tin after tin. She made it into our home.

At the end of our time there our home became known as Tinsmiths House. I hope that as well as recognition of the house's recent history we would like it to stand testimony to the help that Vic gave me as I started my business and to say thank you to his son Nicholas and Lynda for the kindness in the opportunity they gave us.

15 Red Lion Street – a supplement to article in Volume 11(5): 135 (2019)

Roger Crouch

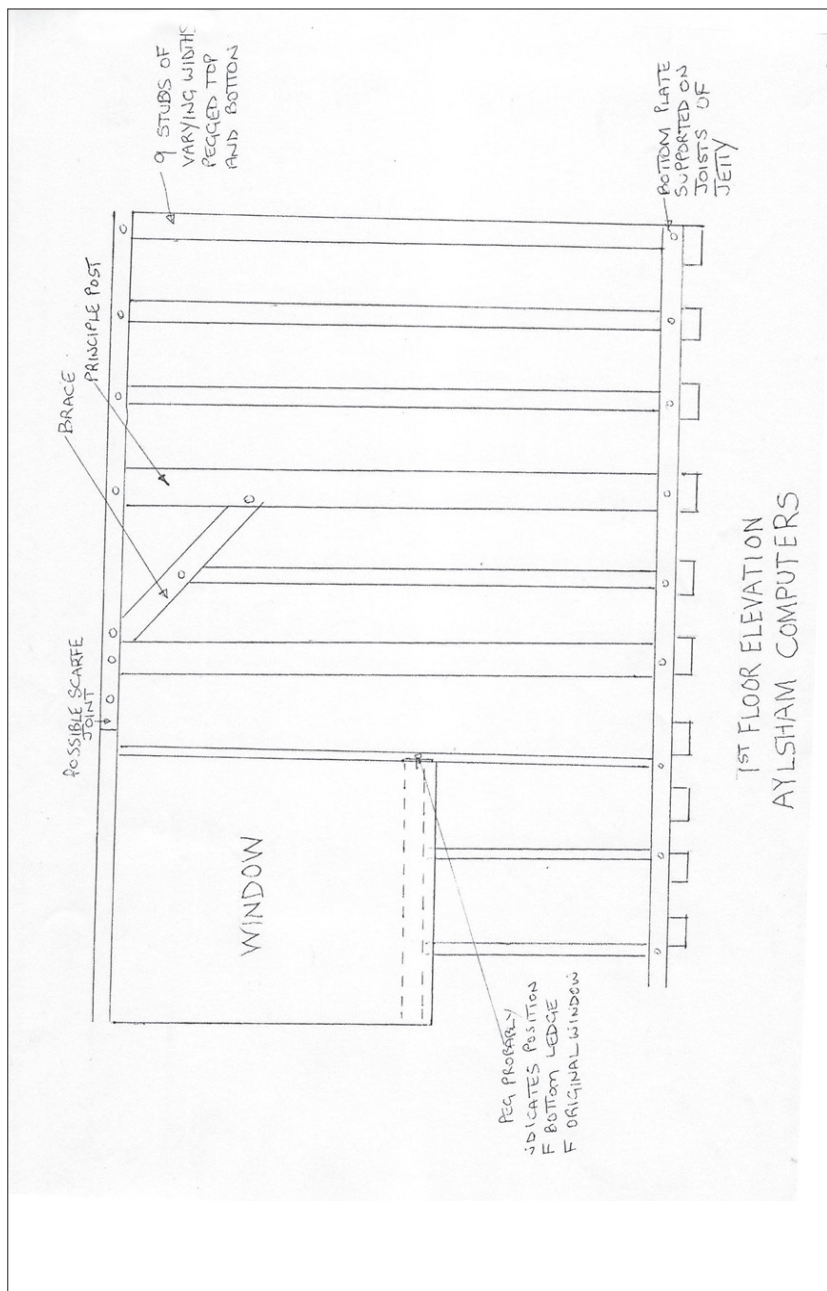


During the week 30 September to 4 October 2019 repair was carried out on the east wall of the above property, so I took the opportunity (permission was granted) to go up on the scaffolding and record the exposed timber framing.

As I anticipated there remain the original timber studs, most in remarkably good condition, and the peg and notch confirms the position of the original window. I missed out some of the possible studs in my original drawing firstly because they were not visible and secondly to simplify the drawing, but it is interesting to note that the principle post is in front of the chimney stack and therefore the chimney stack is most likely original and not a later insertion. This means also that that there was not a window to the right of the principle post as is shown by the exposed timber framing. All the stud work is pretty close, typically about 10" apart and stud widths irregular between 4 to 6½" wide. Between the principle post and another large stud is a substantial straight brace pegged in three places underneath.

The bottom wall plate, a series of closely spaced joists, can be seen although the ends are in poor condition and not easy to discern. These joists would have supported the first floor jetty and would have been visible until the jetty was infill (on the west side of the building these joists are visible due to only partial infill of the jetty there).

The repairs have been completed now and with new lathes and lime mortar so it may be many generations before the timber frame is seen again.





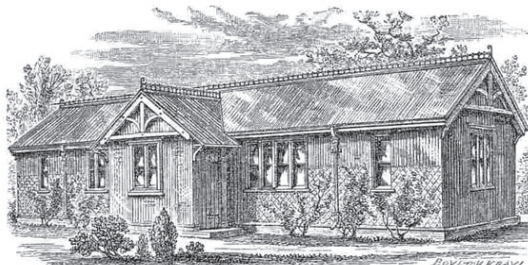


Robert Thomas Payne: a sorry story

Geoff Gale, Maggie and William Vaughan-Lewis

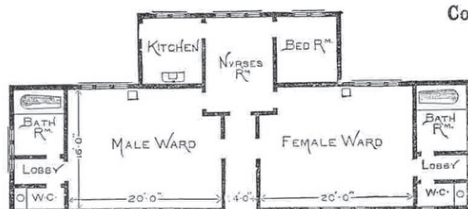
No. 402. Galvanized Iron Infectious Hospital.

No
possibility
of
Damp.



Can be
inhabited
immediately.

REGISTERED DESIGN, No. 5954.



Comprising Male and Female Wards,
2 Bath Rooms, 2 Lobbies, 2 W.Cs.,
Porch, Nurses' Room, Kitchen, and
Bedroom.

Constructed of strong wood framework, covered on the outside with galvanized corrugated iron, lined inside with varnished matchboarding, sheet felted between the wood and the iron, fitted with two patent ventilators on the roof, strong wood flooring. Eaves, gutters, down pipes, and locks included. Carriage paid to nearest goods station. Erected by our men on purchaser's light brickwork foundation, he providing assistant labour. Woodwork painted three coats, Windows glazed with 21-oz. sheet glass.

REGISTERED DESIGN,
No. 5954.

Size of Main Building, 60 ft. by 17 ft. Three Nurses' Rooms 26 ft. by 10 ft.
Price about £250 0 0.

Terms—Nett Cash, on completion. Exclusive of all inside Fittings.

As readers will remember, the late Geoff Gale wrote an article on the smallpox outbreak of 1902 and the Bolton and Paul Iron hospital (*Pest Houses, Isolation Hospitals and Smallpox*, ALHS Journal Vol 8 No 1 Dec 2007). The cause of the panic in Aylsham was one R T Payne who brought the disease back from Cambridge where he had been in gaol. Geoff often wondered about Mr Payne? Who was he and why was he in Cambridge Gaol? Before his death Geoff was working with Maggie on a follow-up article answering some of these questions.

Robert Thomas, born in late 1870, was a son of William Payne of Red Lion Street Aylsham who was a boot maker. On 16th July 1890, in St Michael's, Robert married Emma Jane Farrow, originally of Colby but with no father given on the marriage entry. Robert and Emma soon had children: Ada was baptised in July 1891 when they had a grocery business in Reephams market place and Cecil in December 1892, by which time Robert was a fruiterer in Red Lion Street Aylsham. By 1896 he also had a boot warehouse.

Nothing untoward has been found until on 7th January 1899 the Eastern Evening News showed that Robert, now a boot dealer and confectioner, was going through the bankruptcy process. Robert's 'commercial career' was noted as 'of exceptional interest'. In the middle of all this he was summoned before magistrates at Reepham in April for assaulting Thomas Willimott at Hackford. He pleaded strong provocation and was only fined 1s and costs. On 26th May 1900 the *Norfolk News* announced the last stages of the process, with Robert again given in these occupations. It seems that his fruiterer business had failed and he had significant debts. On 10th March 1900 the *Norfolk Chronicle*, reporting the Aylsham Petty Sessions, announced that Robert, now a hawker, owed arrears of poor rates of 13s 9d. He failed to attend but was issued with a distress warrant and told he would face 14 days in prison if he did not pay. This debt may have contributed to his bankruptcy but was almost certainly not the only one. Was he a drinker or gambler or just a poor businessman? Now a hawker, he may have travelled to fairs and markets to work as somehow he ended up in Cambridge.

The *Lowestoft Journal* and *Norwich Mercury* on 5th April 1902 reported the case of smallpox at Aylsham. Robert had just been discharged from Cambridge Gaol where he had been imprisoned for debt. Unfortunately the nature of the debt and sentence are not given. He and other prisoners had been vaccinated against smallpox on the breakout of an illness of a 'suspicious character'. The patients were moved from the main gaol to a 'hut in Coldham Lane'. It was thought the 'microbes that cause the disease' may have been carried in on the mailbags that the prisoners repaired as other outbreaks had been traced to letters coming from London where the epidemic was raging.

As Geoff explained in the previous article, on 27 March, Robert felt ill on the train and, once home, immediately went to bed, initially thought only to be suffering from side effects of the vaccination. But on 30th March he was pronounced as having the disease and the sanitary authorities arranged for one of Bolton & Paul's temporary isolation hospitals to be erected in a field occupied by William Case on the Tuttington Road. Meanwhile Robert and family were 'rigorously secluded' in their own home. There was indignation in the town that he had been released from gaol in such a state and there was a rush for vaccination in Aylsham. However, the scare did not last long; on 3rd May 1902 the *Norwich Mercury* reported that Robert was discharged from the isolation hospital and the town was 'quite free of the disease'.

It becomes clear that by this time Robert and Emma's marriage had broken down and he was still working as a semi-itinerant hawker or dealer. On 3rd March 1903 the *EDP* reported the Norwich Magistrates' Court appearance of Robert, 33 and late of King Street, Norwich, who was charged with stealing a

bagatelle board, cues, bridge and pegs (a portable version of bar billiards) valued at £3 12s 6d. Frank Arthur Ralph brought the charge which dated back to the end of December 1902. Initially Robert claimed he did not steal it but had it on approval. However, he subsequently pleaded guilty and admitted he had sold it on for 35s (*EDP* 6th March 1903). The *Mercury* on 4th March described him simply as a dealer (and added ivory balls – the bagatelle set – to the list of items).

On 13th August 1904 the *Norfolk News* reported that Robert, now a travelling medicine seller, had been charged with arrears of maintenance payments to his wife. He had been obliged to pay Emma 7s per week but had accumulated arrears of £3 15s. The Chairman of the bench said that if Robert paid now £1 and costs of 9s 4d the case would be withdrawn and that he should make better arrangements for paying the maintenance. The *EDP* of 29th November and *Mercury* of 30th November 1904 show Robert back in arrears. This time it was £1 17s 6d, which he claimed he could have paid if he was allowed to continue trading in Norwich Market. Described as a dealer and hawker he was given seven days in which to pay or face seven days in prison for the debt. Robert was then living in George Street, Great Yarmouth, and Emma in Bethel Street, Norwich.

After 1904 Robert disappears from view; no sign of him has been found even in the 1911 census. Did he join up? Robert Payne is not an uncommon name and it is unclear whether a service card for a Robert in the Liverpool Regiment for 1916–17 relates to him. Perhaps he took to the road or went to America. Emma meanwhile managed to survive without him and in 1911 was housekeeper to a master tailor, Edward Dunn, and family at Beatrice Road, Norwich. Her daughter Ada Payne was a nurse at Suffolk County Asylum in Melton and the son Cecil was a draper's assistant at the business of Frank Garland in Norwich. None of the family appears to have retained links to Aylsham, nor to have been buried here. Maybe someone knows what happened to Robert, Emma, Ada and Cecil?

The remains of a temporary hospital was found when the A140 was constructed but the top of the isolation unit had been sold off after 30 years and moved to Millgate where it was used as a granny annexe. Geoff's article has been passed to the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group who are listing all Boulton and Paul buildings.

Sources:

British Newspapers online

Cambridgeshire Archives [unfortunately the gaol register for Dec 1901-1904 has not survived so full details of his offence are untraceable].

William Vaughan-Lewis†



William was born in Hampshire in December 1951, the only son of Lt-Cdr John and Wendy Vaughan-Lewis and grew up in Droxford in the Meon Valley with his two sisters. The family lived in Singapore for two years in the 1950s when his father was Deputy Harbour Master there. William went to school at Lancing College near Brighton and then to Sheffield University to read Economic History. The subject gave him a thorough understanding of how society's ability to thrive depended on the management and quality of the land as much as the actions of rulers, politicians and entrepreneurs. Although his chosen career was in the retailing sector (marketing and advertising at first) and then in management consulting, he always retained an interest in history 'from the bottom up'.

He met Maggie at Sheffield where she was reading Archaeology and Prehistory and they married in 1974. William left McKinsey, the international consultancy firm where he had been a partner, in 1999 and began to work on his own account. Maggie became County Archivist of Surrey in 2002 and William spent much of his time at their Norfolk home in Itteringham which they had bought from Maggie's parents in 1988; soon his old interests re-emerged and his keen intellect was soon applied to landscape and local

history problem-solving instead of business. He could often be seen cycling around the villages and walking the fields photographing the lie of the land. After Maggie retired in 2007, partly to spend more time with her widowed mother, Joan Hale, who lived in Aylsham, the couple starting researching in earnest and the first of their books, about the early history of Mannington Hall, appeared in 2009.

Realising the benefit of being able to produce the text and design himself, William taught himself InDesign, the desktop publishing software. He found he had a great desire to tell the stories of families who had been vital to the growth of the area around Itteringham – such as the Potts of Mannington – but whose lines had died out, leaving them forgotten. A second book, on Itteringham in the 18th century (2012), followed the saga of the Robins family who built the ‘Manor House’ and the fine house on the side of the village shop opposite, as well as being co-founders of the Oulton Chapel.

The years of original research saw the couple travelling the length of the country using record offices and archives to ferret out every detail. At first relying on Maggie’s skills, William quickly learnt how to read the older handwriting styles and later, when their attention turned to Aylsham, how to understand sufficient of the Latin (a subject he hated at school) to work through the court rolls.

His expertise (arising from sheer dogged determination not to be beaten by the apparent complexity of the entries) in the Aylsham Lancaster manor rolls allowed the couple to produce four books on Aylsham, specialising in the history of properties across the whole parish. Earlier facts (statements made in good faith by earlier writers who did not have access to all the records) were shown to be in error, including the oft-repeated assertion that Bishop Jegon lived at the Manor House in Norwich Road. Careful tracking both forwards and backwards in the court rolls proved that he bought a fine estate down at Spa Farm and that the Manor was home to a family of wealthy merchants.

On three occasions William gave talks to the Society; in 2013 about the Long Avenues in Blickling Park and in 2014 he regaled the members in the garden of Parmeters with a history of the house – unaware that most of the audience was more enthralled by a family of ducklings walking behind him! Arising from Maggie’s listing of the Purdy family archives at Woodgate, William researched the estate to help the archaeologists prepare for the new dig (now the Aylsham Roman Project) and he gave an illustrated talk on Woodgate to the Society in 2015.

As soon as he had finished his notes on one project (leaving Maggie to shape a book, combining all their joint research) William had to begin another puzzle. Fortunately this tendency to non-stop intellectual pursuits, was

tempered by his other two great passions, gardening and wine buying.

Over 30 years, he created a beautiful garden at Bure Cottage which he enjoyed showing visitors on open-garden days and spent long days working in the peaceful surroundings. Ever since the mid-70s William had become interested in fine wine – and in his usual way – he read widely and went to tastings for years to educate and immerse himself in the subject. He laid down a fine cellar – with a long term view – and liked to find less expensive bottles from the best estates and years. His interest led to him being asked to stand as a non-executive director on the committee of the Wine Society in Stevenage. He loved the role – a combination of helping the business and being part of wine discussion at the top level – and made many good friends in the eight years he stayed.

Unfortunately, his plan to time his cellar purchasing with his healthy life span did not quite work out and he was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in summer 2015. Typically he did not tell friends for over a year while he remained well, until he started chemo in December 2016. The last real project that he had to get out of his system was the study of the rural areas of Aylsham, so often overlooked by others focusing on the market town. His love of landscape and commons led to the production of *Hearths and Heaths* in 2017, despite recovering from an operation to remove a non-cancerous tumour from his optic nerve. Now refusing any more treatment for the cancer, William enjoyed the summer of 2018, travelling to Sussex to give his niece away at her wedding, and enjoying lunches out with Maggie and friends.

Almost against his better judgement he agreed to help Maggie undertake the revision of the *History of Aylsham Public Houses* and, revisiting material he had worked on in the court rolls, inevitably became immersed in finding out as much as he could about the pubs. With Roger and Diana Polhill's help in the layout and indexing, the book was published in November 2018; William gave his last talk at the launch in the Town Hall and happily signed endless copies despite being exhausted.

The last few months were spent quietly at home although he did write one more article – on Ingworth common, sparked off by an article in the Journal – which is yet to be published. After receiving high praise during a final open-garden day at the beginning of June, William died in his sleep at home on 19th June, aged 67.

See You In Court: The Potts Family of Mannington Norfolk 1584–1737, 2009

Good Neighbours: Itteringham, Norfolk in the 18th Century, 2010

The Vaughan-Lewis Family: Anything but Welsh?, 2011

Aylsham: A Nest of Norfolk Lawyers, 2014

Aylsham: Hungate 1622–1840, A Norfolk Streetscape, 2014

Hearths and Heaths: Dispersed Settlements in Aylsham's Early Modern Landscape, 2017

A New History of Aylsham Public Houses, Aylsham Local History Society, 2018
(Ed. Maggie, based on work of Elizabeth Gale & William)

Articles

Rebecca Emes: New Discoveries, Silver Studies, The Journal of The Silver Society
Number 25, 2009

Multiple Long Avenues in Blickling Park: Fact or Fiction?, Garden History, The
Journal of The Garden History Society, Volume 40 Part 2, Winter 2012

Aylsham Local History Society Journal (ALHS):

Copeman – the Evolution of a Norfolk Surname, Volume 8 Number 9,
August 2010

Robert Copeman of Itteringham and his Connections to Aylsham,
Volume 8 Number 9, August 2010

Aylsham Old Hall at Old Market, Volume 9 Numbers 1 to 3, 2011

Sea Gateway or Sygate – A Watery Conundrum, Volume 9 Number 7,
April 2013 (reprint of NA article)

Harold Augustus Ernuin of Aylsham, Volume 9 Number 8, August 2013
Corrigendum to replace the wrong version of the article in the main
Journal of that date

Long Avenues in Blickling Park, a talk by William Vaughan-Lewis,
Volume 9 Number 9, December 2013

The Deeds to a House (with Jim Pannell), Volume 9 Number 10, April
2014

The Bowmans of Aylsham Manor – a Brief Coincidental History, Volume 10 Number 1, August 2014

The First White Horse in Aylsham Millgate, Volume 10 Number 4, August 2015

Woodgate House 1500–1900 – a talk given by William Vaughan-Lewis, Volume 10 Number 5, December 2015

Restoration Day and Aylsham's Victorian 'Big Society', Volume 10 Number 10, August 2017

18 Market Place Aylsham: Holman House and the Undercroft, Volume 11, Number 1, December 2017

Number 15 Red Lion Street, Volume 11, Number 5, April 2019 (Roger Crouch, Roger Polhill, Maggie & William)

Norfolk Archaeology (NA):

Sea Gateway or Sygate - A Watery Conundrum, Volume 46 Part 1, 2010

Aylsham Old Hall at Old Market, Volume 46 Part 4, 2013 (Shortened version of the three articles in ALHS)

St William of Norwich: New Evidence of His Cult, Volume 47 Part 4, 2017

Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group, The Annual:

Decoding the 16th Century Mannington Estate Map, Number 17, 2008

Landscape and Field Names in 16th Century Mannington, Itteringham and Wolterton, Number 18, 2009

Norfolk Historic Buildings Group Newsletter (NHBG):

Dating Hindringham Hall from Documents, Number 25, Spring 2013

Aylsham Documentary Update, Number 35, Spring 2018

The Norfolk Ancestor:

The Quarles Family of Foulsham, March 2018

Visit to Hindringham Hall Gardens

Caroline Driscoll, Jill Sheringham, Maggie and William Vaughan-Lewis



The Society had a most successful visit to Hindringham Hall on 10 July 2019. The site is believed to be mediaeval from remains that have been unearthed. In 1094 Bishop Losinga gave the manor to the Priory of Norwich. We were kindly shown round by Charles and Lynda Tucker, the owners since 1993. After the tour the group enjoyed an excellent tea in the house and thanked their hosts for a very interesting visit.

The gardens

The site is a good one: the river valley (a headwater of the Stiffkey river) runs east to west. The land rises steeply to the north and gently to the south. A later Prior re-directed the river so that a gentle rill runs through the property and he could build a moat around the house. 1100–1300 was the age of moats with about 6,000 built in the UK of which very few survive. Many of those that have survived are in East Anglia, mainly due to the flat land, the clay and the high water table. The Hindringham Hall moat is an irregular shape which indicates that it was a functional moat and was there by at least 1255. It is U-shaped and up to six feet deep. Its bottom is natural clay and shingle. If the level sinks from time to time it can be topped up by raising a sluice and letting the river water in. The moat has various functions: it helps to prevent flooding

because it creates a dry sloping platform in front of the Hall which drains into the moat. Moats were also useful for sanitation and should be dredged once every hundred years.

The Prior farmed the land and, as part of this, he farmed fish, hence the five fish ponds which Charles discovered when clearing the land after taking over the property. They were dry, but Charles built a dam and they began to fill with water from the boggy land. Eels jump from the river into the moat and go to the Sargasso Sea for a “world-wide convention” and to spawn. Back at Hindringham, the elvers’ natural predators are herons, cormorants and otters and Charles has noticed that there are fewer generally nowadays. He is uncertain about the reason for this. The fish ponds in the middle are called “stews”. Fish go into the stews via a dam and sluice gates and it is possible to grab them when one is needed for dinner. Alternatively, eels were taken to Norwich, twenty-five miles up the track road which ran from Hindringham.

As we walked towards the Hall, Charles pointed out a culvert running underneath the earth causeway to reach the vegetable garden and also to catch the fish. The beautiful gardens had been laid out by Lynda Tucker and include fine trees, swathes of hostas, day lilies, many fine roses, and a formal herb garden near the house, together with a very productive-looking, partially walled vegetable garden.

Lynda then took over and took our group into the house.

The mediaeval manor hall

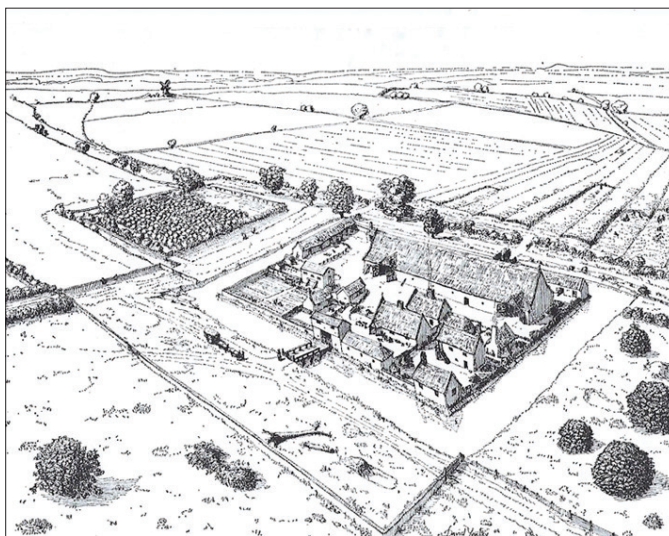
The older hall on the site has been described by David Yaxley from the Priory accounts and vividly brings it to life¹. The court was large for as well as the manorial buildings it contained the garden and farmstead. A natural spring fed a stream across the courtyard which kept a large cistern full of water.

In 1309 a chain was bought to attach the dogs in the court. The bridge over the moat was of oak and alder and its piles stood on foundation of heather but, in the late 14th century parts of it were of stone. Was there a solid gatehouse as there is a reference to a gate across the entrance and a thatched chamber over the bridge?

At harvest the main hall had to house 30 workers and, in 1352, there was a trestle table and 2 fixed tables with 3 forms. 19 feet of cloth was bought to cover the servants’ tables in 1294. Also purchased regularly was tableware and, in 1277, the bailiff bought 8 cups or bowls, 36 dishes, 5 knives, 7 saucers, and 30 teaspoons for one shilling and eight and three quarters of a penny and, in 1327, 47 wooden dishes for ten pence. In 1347, 27 persons for 4 weeks’ harvest ate 142

bushels of bread corn (mostly barley), 110 bushels of malt for ale, 2 cows, 2 pigs, 1 sheep, 92 dried fish, 1,890 herrings, 18 stone of cheese, 4 gallons of fresh butter, 10 gallons of milk and 171 eggs.

The kitchen was detached from the hall and had its own yard. There was a timber-framed chapel and chambers for the Lord, the steward and the servants. There was a bakehouse, dairy, malt kiln and malthouse. In the 14th century there were at least 2 barns, the Lord's barn being rebuilt in 1343. The horse, cows, pigs, sheep and fowls were also housed.



The medieval manor hall at Hindringham as envisaged by David Yaxley.

The current Hall

After the Dissolution of the monasteries, the manor was transferred to the Dean and Chapter in Norwich and the property was leased out. As will be seen below it is believed that Martin Hastings (of the Elsing Hall family) built the Hall on the site of the medieval building. He used stones from the disused Binham or Walsingham priories and decorated it with crow-stepped gables and chimney stacks. The 2-storied porch has a female dragon carved in the lintel. The hall is open to the beamed roof and has a pantry and buttery and a screens passage. The large recessed fireplace has marks above to ward off witches and there is evidently a Tudor staircase from the ground to the second floor. The chimneys on the outside are Tudor. The 17th century experienced a mini ice age and chimneys started to be brought inside houses. Those on the

Hall are grouped in fours except on the north side of the east wing. There is a unique, single chimney flue built in the 1900's to serve the attic room for the servants and which is built off an internal wall of the house.

Hastings had managed to arrange two 99-year leases from 1538 which meant the property would stay in his family for many years. In the 18th century land prices fell and Tudor houses were old-fashioned. The house was used for servants and then for 5 families with cattle and pigs in the kitchen. The Church of England sold the derelict house in 1869. The property was bought in 1900 by Gerard Gosselin, a wealthy silversmith and skilled craftsman. He had been in a wheelchair since he was two. At first, after getting up the stairs, he had a wheelchair on each floor; he eventually installed a lift. Over 10 years he completely restored the house which he furnished in the Arts and Crafts style. The moat was cleared of mud and weed with shovels and wheelbarrows on iron rails. His sister-in-law swam in it. The kitchen still has a huge ship's mast, floor to ceiling let into the wooden table. Gosselin's first wife died and he married Jane Buxton. He died in 1945 and the property was sold to the Temple-Richards and, in 1993 to the present owners.

In 2015 they were given a hand-made jug with a picture of the hall painted on it, which had been bequeathed to Gosselin by Prince Frederick Duleep Singh of Elveden Hall but in error had been given to the Norwich Museum. Mr and Mrs Charles Tucker re-roofed the house between December 2018 and March 2019 and they have made a most delightful home. Sadly their 2 black swans and 7 signets got eaten by an otter.

It was pleasing to find out later that the dating information the Tuckers were using had been supplied to them by a member of our Society. William and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis had been on a visit there with the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group a few years ago and William had been so intrigued with the debate over the dating of parts of the building, he researched the documentary sources for them. His 2012 notes are added here² :

The dating debate

New research has shed some light on the three topics of debate raised during the visit to Hindringham Hall in July 2012. First, photographs of the building in 1899 in the Gosselin Collection³ in the Norfolk Record Office show that the whole house was rendered and progressively removed to reveal the flint and brickwork. Second, should the main range of the Hall be dated as late as 1562? Although the building cannot be precisely dated from documents, this date does not hold up under scrutiny and about 20 years earlier seems more likely.

Third, was the east wing built earlier or later? Gosselin's initial view that it was later seems the more reasonable: 'the east wing we find is evidently an addition to the house and the square projection towards the east is a still later addition to the east wing'.

Martin Hastings

Suddenly without a home when his live-in role in the princely household of the King's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy Duke of Richmond, ceased on the Duke's death, Martin Hastings and his first wife arrived in Hindringham in 1536, taking a short lease of the manor and the old buildings on the site. In 1538 they negotiated a 99-year lease from the Dean & Chapter of Norwich Cathedral, on very favourable terms. In an even more remarkable deal, in 1562 Hastings negotiated in advance a second 99-year term to start in 1637 on the same rents for the manor and the tithe collection (which was honoured and enjoyed by his heirs).

Wording in this lease has been misinterpreted by modern writers: references in the repairs covenant to buildings 'now being edified' have been taken to imply current/recent building; whereas this was a standard form of words (to be found in another contemporaneous D&C lease as well as elsewhere) meaning essentially any buildings on the premises. In Latin the term 'messuagium (a)edificatum' meaning a 'built house' is very common although it sounds a little odd to modern ears. Edified here has nothing to do with our meaning of being improved or beautified.

Subsequently Hastings was 'of Hindringham' for most of his life although in 1558–1565 he moved into the old family seat of Elsing Hall to protect his lifetime inheritance of that estate as the surviving male heir of his father, Sir George. Martin took over Elsing after the death of Katherine, widow of his brother Sir Hugh, in 1558. If events had gone differently for their antecedents Sir Hugh would have been Baron Hastings, a title restored to this branch of the family posthumously in the 1840s. With money available, an experience of living in a grand household and family pride at stake, it seems likely that Martin Hastings built a new home at Hindringham in the late-medieval hall house style of the core range of Elsing Hall (which had been built by his great-grandfather in the 1460s or 1470s). A date of about 1540 seems entirely in keeping with the nature of the building and makes more sense than any date later in his life and nearer to his death in 1574 (aged about 67).

The East Wing

The east wing is an aesthetically unpleasing imposition on a well-proportioned L-shaped house, sitting too close for comfort to the porch and main door into

the hall. During restoration its chimney stack fell to the ground and Gosselin observed that its brickwork had never been bonded into the outside wall of the core range and the brickwork appeared to be of later date. The odd alignment of the principal floor timbers with their northern ends in the chimney brickwork and southern ones lodged precariously above the windows (whose ends he reinforced with steel brackets) supports the view that this was a later build butted up against the core range. In his later years Gosselin seems to have forgotten his early assessment and was convinced by an advisor that it was probably a remnant of the old buildings on the site. The case for this in his 1934 notes is weak, centring on the lack of 'ecclesiastical' freestone in the east wing walls. To him this indicated a pre-Dissolution date, whereas there is such stone in the west wing. The absence might equally suggest that the wing was built some decades later when such stone was no longer so available.

Why and when might it have been added? A wing for a senior family member seems likely; a widow with a life interest or a young man awaiting his inheritance perhaps. The external door, originally much wider than the one moved into the porch, is oddly located (not consistent with a medieval building) facing towards the main porch rather than being tucked away on the east side of the wing; again an indication of a member of the family living there. In his will Hastings, childless from two marriages, made a young cousin, John Hastings of Yaxham, his primary heir. He may have been supporting him for some time (suggestions of this in his will and the manorial court books) and it is not fanciful to believe that he may have installed him in the main Hall when he moved over to Elsing. However, in 1565 he sold his Elsing interests to the families of his nieces and moved back to Hindringham with his younger second wife (after his death she swiftly remarried and moved back to family property in Salle). What to do with young John? Quickly build an extension for him to live in perhaps? By 1578–79 John had died without children and his younger brother Thomas took over the Hindringham estate. In the following four decades there are other possible mother/widow/brother possible reasons to add a wing but none is as compelling as the case for 1565.

1. The Prior's Manor-Houses by David Yaxley Larks Press 1988
2. This was first printed in the NHBG Newsletter No 25 2013. The full research summarised by this article is available from Maggie. An article on the builder of the Hall, Martin Hastings of an important Norfolk and Yorkshire family, was also drafted by William.
3. NRO MC 585 papers of Gerard JH Gosselin (1855-1942) relating to the restoration of Hindringham Hall.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 3 October 2019

Apologies: Susan and Peter Baker, John and Veronica Edwards, Jean Goose, Margaret Goose, Bob and Jackie Grimble, Ruth Harrison, Stuart and Marigold Penkett, Ivan & Rosie Powell, Joan Roulstone, Jeremy Worth

Minutes of the AGM 2018 were proposed for approval by Peter Roulstone, seconded Jim Pannell and unanimously agreed. They were signed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report

Last year's Autumn lectures ranged from the Cold War in East Anglia to Angel Roofs. The anecdote in Jim Wilson's Cold War talk about the Prime Minister's driver having to be provided with 4d so that a call could be made to launch the V-Force from a GPO call box, still seems so absurd, but then it was topped by a memo stating that they had permission to reverse the charges if no coins were available!

The Angel Roofs talk led to a summer tour of local churches with Angel Roofs – Marsham, Banningham, Trunch and Knapton – and with our speaker Sarah Cassell.

Our afternoon series of talks focused on Cromer, with Peter Stibbons showing us expertly produced films on the seafront, fisheries, Cromer during WW2 and Poppyland. Chris Branford talked us through the complexities of Cast Iron and examples of it in Cromer – including a grave marker just in front of the main church door. Again, an after Fish & Chips lunch tour gave us a chance to view examples. Alistair Murphy of Cromer museum gave us the story of Olive Edis, photographer during the First World War and of many Sheringham fishermen as well as well-known people including the king.

Our Social evening was at The Saracen's Head this year.

This coming year the afternoon talks have morphed into a mix of trips and talks around some of our local museums. They will also be held in the summer term rather than Autumn.

We have a new website designed and set up by Peter Jolly. We are extremely grateful for his work on this for us.

We have also booked Chanter's Jigge – Malcolm and Elizabeth Eccleston who promise a stroll through a five-hundred-year history of street music, as heard by pilgrims, pedlars, paupers and princes. This will be on Sunday 8th

March at 3pm in the Town Hall.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ending 31st August 2019 reflect a thriving society with a membership of over 130. The various events and activities have been carefully costed and well supported and the Society is in good financial shape

This year we had an excess of expenditure over income of £2,026

Publication costs were £8,154. These included publication of *A New History of Aylsham Public Houses* and a reprint and additional runs of *Memories of Aylsham* and *Millgate*.

These costs were offset by receipts in excess of £6,000 made up of book sales and very generous contributions towards the publication of *A New History of Aylsham Public Houses* from William and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis and Roger and Diana Polhill. We now have a good stock of publications for sale that are proving popular and selling steadily.

The accounts are at present with Graeme Johnston, who very kindly checks them for us. They will be published in the Journal in due course.

Re-appointment of Graeme Johnston as the Society's auditor: proposed by Ros Calvert, seconded by Ann Dyball and unanimously agreed.

Report on the Newsletter, Journal and Publications

The main event of the year was the publication of *A New History of Aylsham Public Houses*, anticipated at the AGM last year. The launch was held in the Town Hall on the morning of 17 November 2018. Seventy nine copies were sold that day and many were signed by William Vaughan-Lewis despite being severely ill at the time. The Society is enormously grateful to William and Maggie for the very extensive and meticulous work that went into this prestigious project. A folded leaflet *Aylsham Historic Pub Walk* is freely available from the Heritage Centre.

We have sold a further 188 copies of the book and, having exceeded expectation, needed to invest in a reprint. There has been a small but continuing sale of our older publications, 24 of *Sail and Storm*, 9 of *Aylsham Directories*, 6 of *Aylsham Baptist Church*, *About Aylsham* and the *Aylsham Map*, 5 of *Aylsham in 1821* and *Six High and Lonely Churches* and a few of the other titles. We have reprinted the *Poor in Aylsham* and found a batch of *Aylsham Directories* still stored at the printer's. We are very grateful to Caroline Driscoll for maintaining the stocks.

We have published three issues of the Journal as usual and I am grateful to all the contributors, including the families associated with several old

properties we have written up this year. The website now has pdf versions of volumes 8, 9 and 10 in *ALHS Journal Archive* under Archives. Make sure you use aylshamhistory.org as the old website still exists. The current volume will be added in due course.

Report on Visits

We had a very good visit to Ely in March and the lunch received almost more stars than the cathedral! In July we visited Hindringham Hall and were taken round by the Owners followed by tea (which did not receive quite so many stars as the Ely lunch!). On Tuesday, November 19th we are planning a walk around Elm Hill in Norwich . Victor Morgan will be our guide . He will also take us round SS Simon and Jude chapel with the Pettus monuments. Briton's Arms pub can accommodate up to 20 members for those who wish to go there for lunch, otherwise there are plenty of other eateries in the area. Details, including cost, will be emailed to members and put on the website, but members should be warned that there will be a strict cut-off date for signing up for the visit.

Report on Membership

Covered under the Treasurer's Report.

Election of Officers

The Committee stood down for re-election as follows:

Chair: Geoff Sadler	Proposed by Victor Morgan
	Seconded by Margaret Rowe

Vice Chair: Roger Polhill) Proposed by Hazel Jones
Secretary: Sue Sharpe) Seconded by Gill Barwick
Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Ros Calvert)

Rest of Committee en bloc:) Proposed by Geoff Sadler
Roger Crouch, Caroline Driscoll, Ruth Harrison,) Seconded by Hazel Jones
Victor Morgan, Rosemary Powell)

New Committee member:) Proposed by Roger Polhill
Hazel Jones) Seconded by Geoff Sadler

All Officers were unanimously elected.

Any Other Business

Geoff Sadler explained that the Aylsham Local History Society were supporting a nascent history society in Aldborough in organising an event on Friday, 25 October 2019 in the Church Rooms. Peter Stibbons would be putting on a magic lantern show.

Aylsham Local History Society Receipts and Payments year ending 31 August 2019

Year to 31-08-2018	Receipts	Year to 31-08-2019	Year to 31-08-2018	Payments	Year to 31-08-2019
981.00	Members' Subscriptions	1,085.00	225.00	Autumn Course	400.00
36.00	Visitors	42.00	180.00	Programme - Lecture Fees	170.00
666.00	Autumn Course	510.00		Travel costs & Expenses	50.00
1,235.00	<u>Visits</u>		907.00	<u>Visits</u>	
	Ely	1,010.00		Ely	1,147.00
	Hindringham	500.00		Hindringham	500.00
800.00	Publications	3,397.76	1,445.00	Publications	8,154.10
14.00	Donations (for publications)	2,605.00	54.00	Membership Cards, Website Stationery & Postage	461.16
	Admin & Postage	52.32	288.00	Hire of Halls	190.50
427.00	Social Event - Saracens,	665.00	440.00	Social Event - Saracens,	665.00
32.00	Refreshments	86.45	75.00	Professional Subscriptions/insurance	95.00
	BDC - Aylsham Street Names		25.00	Gratuities	
	Bank Interest		50.00	Donations	
			4.00	Bank Charges	
			197.00	AHS Prize and Trophy	150.00
4,644.00		9,953.53	3,890.00		11,982.76
	Excess Payments over Receipts 2018/19	2,029.23	754.00	Excess Receipts over Payments 2017/18	
4,644.00		11,982.76	4,644.00		11,982.76

Reconciliation

Represented by

Bank Balance at 31/08/2018	6,625.10	Bank Balance 31/08/2019	4,550.87
less cheque unrepresented (1017)	-13.50		
Cash Balance at 31/08/2018	20.16	Cash Balance at 31/08/2019	65.16
		Add excess payments over payments	2,029.23
		Unrepresented Cheque	- 13.50
	6,631.76		6,631.76

Funds held on Deposit at 31/08/2018 1,088.94

Funds held on Deposit at 31/08/2019 1,090.80

The accounting records and supporting documents of the Aylsham Local History Society for the year ended 31 August 2019 are found to be correct and in accordance with the above statement.

R M Calvert (Treasurer); Graeme Johnston (Accountant)

LIST OF MEMBERS

Alford, Paul and Andrea	Jeavons, Stan
Ashworth, Lorna	Johnston, Graeme
Baker, Derrick	Jones, Hazel and Malcolm
Baker, Peter and Susan	Layt, Angela
Barwick, Gillian and Russell	Lloyd, Thelma
Bennett, Trevor	Lyons, Derrick
Bird, Margaret	Margarson, Giles and Sue
Blake, Jill	McManus, Ian and Susan
Brady, Patrick	Mills, Lloyd
Brooker, Keith and Margaret	Merriman, Sheila
Brown, Veronica	Minett, Ann and Paul
Calvert, Ros	Mollard, Sheila
Cannon, Lesley	Morgan, Victor
Casimir, Stewart and Jenny	Nice, Helen and Nigel
Crouch, Roger	Pannell, Jim
Douet, Alec	Parry, Enid
Driscoll, Caroline	Peabody, Jane
Dyball, Ann	Penkett, Stuart and Marigold
Dyer, Frances	Pim, Malcolm and Claudia
Edwards, John and Veronica	Polhill, Roger and Diana
Ellis, Judith	Powell, Ivan and Rosie
Elphinstone, Nicholas	Ramm, Susan
Evans, Julie and Gordon	Roulstone, Peter and Joan
Fern, Elliott	Rowe, Margaret
Fletcher, Gillian	Rust, Ben
Goose, Jean	Sadler, Geoff and Wendy
Goose, Margaret	Saunders, Alfred
Grellier, Diana	Scott, Tim and Fiona
Grimble, Bob and Jackie	Seamer, Stephen
Gunne-Braden, Jim & Marguerita	Sharpe, Sue
Hall, Chris and Chris	Shaw, Tony and Diana
Hall, Ruth	Sheringham, Jill
Harrison, Ruth	Shutes, Jonathan and Angela
Hawke, Jean	Simpson, Daniel
Hill, Marilyn	Smart, Lez and Jenny
Hills, Valerie	Smith, Marion
Horne, John	Spencer, Jennie and Neil
Jay, Sue	Steward, Linda

Sullivan, Martin and Carol
Thomas, Cath
Thompson, Maurice and Dinah
Toval, Jacob
Vaughan-Lewis, Maggie
Walsh, Peter and Jane
Warren, Rosemary

Wessely, Joanna
Wintle, Sheila
Wix, Mel and Lynda
Worsencroft, David
Worth, Jeremy and Pamela
Wright, Harry

If your name is not on this list and you have paid a subscription please contact the membership Secretary, Ros Calvert, rosalvert@gmail.com

AYLSHAM TOWN

In Aylsham town when I was a lad
One little school was all we had.
Two barbers shops to cut our hair
Eleven pubs all selling beer.
Two stationery shops with papers and books
Three bakery shops with all good cooks.
Six grocery shops, with lots to eat
Four butchers shops to supply our meat,
Two chemist shops with all the pills
Two doctors surgeries to cure our ills.
Seven confectionery shops with sweets for all tastes
Two fish and chip shops selling sole, cod and plaice.
One little shop selling bread and cakes
Four garages selling cars of all makes.
Three cobblers to keep shoes on our feet
Lots of policemen on the beat
Greengrocers, of which we had four
One would deliver to your door.
Two mills to grind the farmers' corn
Three merchants selling coal to keep us warm.
Three jewellery shops selling silver and gold,
Clocks and watches, new and old.
Two harness makers to keep horses neat
Three blacksmiths shops to see to their feet,
Four drapery shops with clothes for all.
A recreation ground for cricket and football,
Three football teams to score the goals.
Three ironmongers with nuts, bolts, and tools.
Milk delivered to your door twice a day,
Fresh from the farm, half a mile away,
Third of a pint for each pupil at school break
Tuppence ha'penny for all the week we'd take.

Gas light lit the street though not very bright;
 Turned off each morning, on again each night.
 Fun fair on the market, or on the Buttlard,
 Hospital Sunday, with the drum and fife band,
 Sometimes a circus would come to town,
 Bickling Road field, or Cawston Road sale ground.
 The town had two bands at that time a day
 Most weekends in the Market Place they'd play.
 Stalls on the Market on Saturday night,
 Dimly lit with lantern light.
 Apples and oranges, bananas galore
 Boys selling pink uns earning tuppence for a score.
 No piped water it had to come from a well
 A few slugs and snails, but it didn't smell.
 A funeral service, with a horse drawn hearse for years,
 Three builders of houses all doing repairs.
 No flush toilet unless you were rich,
 Loo up the garden at night black as pitch,
 Squares of old newspapers threaded with string,
 You could read the news while you're doing your own thing.
 Two railway stations to city or coast
 One little Post Office for parcels and letters to post.
 A lot of old characters, we had in the town
 George Bean, Tilly Baker, Webby Brown
 Alec Prat and his bike "Are yar haat?"; Mr. Grix
 Bob Riseborough and his shout "Are yar about" each morning before six,
 I remember one or two others, to add to that
 Billy Larter, Maudy Forster, Bessie Pratt.
 A workhouse at the far end of the town
 For the homeless, and tramps when they were around.
 A beautiful church, and chapels five,
 Town Hall for dances, and many a whist drive.
 Salvation Army always on hand
 With their group of songsters and their band.
 Wireless and seventy eight records were our top of the pops,
 We played with conkers, and marbles and tops
 We all had a hoop, be it rubber or steel
 An old motor tyre or bicycle wheel
 Collecting for the bonfire our highlight of the year
 Any old rubbish shops had to spare.
 Guy Fawkes night came, we just couldn't wait,
 To see whose bonfire was the biggest, Buttlards or Millgate.
 I had four Headmasters at school in my day
 Sadly they have all passed away
 As have eight Vicars in my time
 And on that sad note I'll end my rhyme.

Russell's Poems, a selection of Russell Craske's poems are currently in press.

NOTICES

Winter Lectures

We look forward to the remaining winter lectures, all at 7.30 pm in the Friendship Hall, with refreshments from 7 pm.

Thursday 23 January. *The Ups and Downs of Elm Hill. The History of Norwich in One Street* by Victor Morgan.

Thursday 27 February. *The story of the women who worked at Narborough aerodrome in the FWW* by Daryl Long.

Thursday 26 March. *The effect of the Norman Conquest on the city and county* by Barbara Miller.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, please telephone a member of the Committee after 11 am on the day of the lecture to check if the lecture will proceed. A notice will also be placed on the website: aylshamhistory.org

Chanter's Jigge

We have booked *Chanter's Jigge* for Sunday 8 March at 3 pm in the Town Hall. Macolm and Elizabeth Eccleston promise a stroll through a five-hundred year history of street music, as heard by pilgrims, pedlars, paupers and princes.

Summer programme 2020

Instead of an Autumn Course we plan a mix of trips and talks around local museums during the summer term. A package of 6 activities will be £60 from January, to be booked and paid for by 27 February. From 27 February the package will then be available to non-members for £75. Separate activities can be booked from 27 February at £20 for members and £25 for non-members. Separate talks will be £5 each for both members and non-members.

Tuesday 21 April, 12–4 pm. *Bridewell Museum Tour*.

Tuesday 28 April, 2 pm. *A Talk on Blickling Books* by John Gandy.

Tuesday 12 May, day trip to Wymondham, including *Wymondham Abbey* at 10.30 am and *Wymondham Heritage Museum* at 2 pm. Coach provided; costs to be arranged.

Tuesday 19 May, 2–4 pm. *Viking Age in East Anglia* by Dr Tim Pestell, Curator of Archaeology at Norwich Castle Museum.

Tuesday 2 June, day visit to *Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum*, Dereham. Coach provided.

Tuesday 9 June, 2 pm. *A General History of Cromer* by Alistair Murphy, Curator of Cromer Museum.