

# **AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**



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Cover:

***Blickling House and estate. Photo courtesy John Fielding***

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER



Volume 12

No. 7

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If you have gone to our Website in search of what the Journal might have on say, a citizen, or building, or institution in Aylsham, then two things will have struck you. First, the Society's website archive of the Journal only goes back as far as the beginning of Volume 8 in December 2007, and second, while there are detailed indexes, they are arranged by volume.

In the next few weeks this will all be changing. We have had Volumes 1-7, all 2,800 pages of them, scanned by a company based in Norwich so they can go on our website. That was the easy bit! Constructing one combined index to all 11 Volumes of the Journal is more of a challenge. Most obviously, think of the number of times Aylsham figures in the indexes as they currently stand. A big thank you to Peter Jolly who has put the current Journals on the website, advised me on scanning the early volumes, and is working on a solution to make a combined index workable and user friendly.

We have two outings planned for the summer.

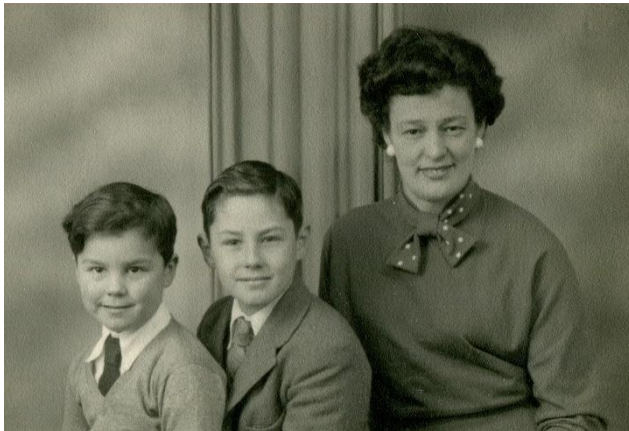
The first is on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. A Coach trip to Thetford with a town tour in the morning, lunch and then tour of The Ancient House Museum in the afternoon - details and booking information to be confirmed shortly.

The second is on Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup>. A visit to Sheringham Mo Museum with talk by Tim Groves, Social Historian and Chair of the Directors of the Museum. Again details and booking information to be confirmed shortly.

Finally, thinking about the Journal again, we are two thirds of the way through Volume 12 and it's time to start thinking about compiling an index. If you would like to take this on, or help in taking this on, do get in touch with me. If we start now we can do this important job without too many time pressures on us.

## **Growing up in Aylsham, by Mike Bush**

My earliest memories of Aylsham are of the mid 1950s and centred around Red Lion Street. My family traded under the name of Granville Bond - my grandfather - who started his business life as a market trader, moved on and opened shops: fish & chips, butchers, grocery and toy shop. Granville died young (64) in 1956 and left the business to his wife and three daughters - one of who was my mother Joy Ducker, formerly Joy Bush - and they carried on trading in their father's name.



***Mike, Bryan and their mother Joy. Author photo***

We all lived above or behind the shops in the street. I was actually born at Longacre maternity home in West Runton (no longer there) on the 25th December 1951 - the best Christmas present my dear Mother said she ever had. We then came straight back to live at 24, Red Lion St, where I was brought up. I attended the pre-school Nursery, which in those days was located in Bayfield House, the large house at the northern end of the street. The Headteacher was Mrs Clarke and another teacher was Mrs Sita Hudson, who subsequently became Headteacher at St. Michaels Primary School and whom some of you may remember. The only fellow pupil I remember well is Glenn Gotterson who I still see round town.

Red Lion Street was my home for the first 30 years of my life – it was then the main road, north/south between Norwich and Cromer and east/west North Walsham and Dereham and all traffic had to pass through it.



***Red Lion Street. Town Archive***

The pavements were no wider then and there were numerous jams between buses lorries and vans, and bad driving that always caused both interest and frustration. Vehicles weren't so big back then but it was just the growing number of vehicles that had to pass through.

The By-pass came along in 1981 and eased the congestion but of course, the buses just got bigger and the street and pavements stayed the same!! The street hasn't changed very much visually – there are a number of listed buildings and of course it is in a conservation area. The biggest difference is



***Red Lion Street 1950s Town Archive***

at the southern end where the New Inn pub was demolished and Cooper Bros. built their very 1950/60s style car showroom which was ultimately demolished and replaced by the shops, flats and houses.

There are only three Shops the same as I remember them in the 50s: Whites Butchers, the only shop still owned and run by the same family – Crawford White now, preceded by his father Peter and grandfather Gilbert; the Bon-Bon – a sweet shop owned and run by Mr & Mrs Wright but still a sweet shop, painted red and yellow; and Bond’s Chip shop – this was one of four shops owned by my Grandfather, Granville Bond. My family home was No 24, the rear of the now Dry Cleaners: my late brother Bryan who also continued trading two of the family shops as Granville Bond - lived there all his life - over 75 years!



***Mike (right) and his late brother Bryan in 2006. Courtesy EDP.***

The only other residents still living in Red Lion Street, which haven’t changed over those last 70 odd years are Rodney Platt at No 4 and my cousins Amanda & Nicholas Postle in No.2. This could well be some sort of unique occurrence for any street in the Town!

The really obvious change in Red Lion Street is the type of shop and who lived above them. I can remember there being, 3 different butchers, a number of grocery and

green-grocery shops including both a Mace and Spar, 2 bakers, 2 gents outfitters, a chemist, a shoe store, a bookies, a baby clothes and wool shop, a cobbler’s, a toy shop, two ironmongers and two electrical shops, all of which have disappeared. I think it is also fair to say I knew everyone who owned and ran shops and lived in the street and indeed the town centre – it’s very different now!

Moving on into the Market Place the only other shop there which hasn’t changed and is still in same family ownership is JB Postle. Of course, Barclays (until recently) and the TSB banks are also the same. Personally, I

think it is a pity that Barnwells has moved – I think its former position was so synonymous with Aylsham. The present Co-op was The International Stores and Fred Barwick had a Gents barbers in the right-hand side of that building. The Co-op then was along Penfold Street, in the building where Just Regional is based, it also had a butchers and clothing departments as well as foodstuffs. Pages in the Market Place was a big Department Store, selling groceries, clothes, furniture, drapery etc. Cash was taken and change given by a central cash office by means of a cable system across the ceiling.

Alan Clarke's ironmongers shop, which you will all remember, was not open as a shop in his father Geoffrey's day but just used as a store for their main shop which was on the corner of Red Lion St where the Mind Rest hub is now housed (previously Santander).

I also remember Tom Harper had a small wetfish shop situated on the front of the Unicorn PH car park, right on Hungate Street. I never saw Tom without his old blue fisherman's ganzie and his old cloth cap. At lunchtime he used to enjoy a small rum, dividing his custom between the Unicorn and the Black Boys.

There was also Dyball's butcher shop and a general store in Millgate and also a general store in Crompton Road opposite the Green, run by the Lloyd family. I remember all these grocery stores and butchers delivered their goods around the Town and there was a number of us boys on trade bikes doing the business together with the Shop's own small vans servicing both the Town and surrounding villages. This service over time declined and eventually disappeared altogether with the advent of supermarkets and car ownership. Now, of course, we have fleets of white vans delivering everything under the sun including groceries - they say what goes round comes round.

Another major change is Pubs and Cafes – anyone of you who visited the Heritage Centre in 2019 will have seen the Aylsham Pubs Exhibition and how many there were at various times. From my boyhood I can remember The Dog on the Norwich Road where Brett's greengrocery now is; The Red Lion, now Mane St. Barbers in Red Lion Street; The Ship in White Hart Street; The Stone Masons and The Anchor in Millgate; The Swan in Mill Road and of course The Black Boys, The Unicorn and The Feathers as now. The British Legion and Ex-service Club was situated above the old International Stores (now Co-op) in the Market Place. In the 1970s even The Manor in Norwich Road was converted into a hotel for a short period.



The only café I can remember back in the 1950/60s was The Top Spot (now Biddy's) – the front-room was for the older generation and the back room, which had Pinball Machines and a Juke Box was where the youth congregated. I cannot recall there being one restaurant in the town.

Before I leave the town centre, I think it is worth mentioning petrol stations or rather petrol pumps. I can remember Stoners, now Urban Clay in Red Lion



***Petrol pump outside Wades, Penfold Street  
1970s. Town Archive***

Street, and Wades, now the new estate agents in Penfold Street had petrol pumps beside the pavement. Cars just pulled up and filled up – a health and safety nightmare!

There were also pumps at the garages – Smith's, now Tesco; Watts Bros., now Budgens, East Coast Motor Co., now Broadland Autocare on Cromer Rd; Cooper Bros, now Burgh Road Car Park

and Houses; and Keymer's Garage on Cawston Road. To think, back then there were far fewer vehicles but 7 petrol outlets, while until recently we had far more vehicles and nowhere to buy petrol in Aylsham! We now have one fuel stop and it is never 'cold'.

I think one of Aylsham's biggest assets is the Recreation Ground – given to the Town as a memorial for three Goulder brothers, all killed in the Great War. I first remember it consisting of a timber pavilion, 2 football pitches, a cricket square, a Men's and a Ladies bowling greens – you'd never get away with that nowadays - four grass tennis courts, and a children's play area, which had the tallest slide I have ever seen. It must have been 15ft tall, free-standing with a little cabin at the top but with absolutely no safety arrangements. There was also an 'American Swing', at least that's what we called it, and I've never seen another of those anywhere. It consisted of a plank seat which could seat 6 or so people, suspended by four poles from a

metal frame. A person stood at each end and by rocking back and forth the plank got higher off the ground and when it reached a certain height it “bumped” – something in the bearings caused a small bump and noise. It was very exciting, you had to hold tight!!! I believe this was also a victim of Health and Safety in the end. There were also more orthodox swings, a roundabout and a rocking horse. Also, a very large sand pit to the south side of the pavilion.

The bottom of the Rec (Burgh end) was meadow land where Mr Warren kept his horses. Warren was the Aylsham vet who lived and had his practice in Ringsfield House on Burgh Road. I remember the outside toilet on the Rec was positioned on the now Sir Williams Lane car park. It consisted of a 6ft high brick enclosure, no roof, and one inside wall was painted black with a trough at the bottom running to a gulley in the corner and then, presumably to a soakaway somewhere – very basic but it didn’t get vandalised. I remember the day the old wooden Pavilion burnt down in 1959 and was replaced by a new brick building, which has undergone many remodelling schemes over the years. The meadow land was levelled off and a third football pitch put down, the Men’s bowling green was enlarged and improved, the Ladies green disappeared as the two bowls clubs amalgamated. In the 70s, two hard tennis courts were put down to replace two of the grass courts and toilet facilities for the greens area were built. Now of course there are four all-weather courts with floodlights. A Skateboard Park, Basketball Court and other facilities have been added and all these changes were carried out by a volunteer Committee, administering the Ground and raising their own funds to pay for up-keep and changes. More recently the Town Council were appointed Trustees of the Ground and took over responsibility for funding and administration.

One very big story in the life of the Rec was the introduction of Sunday Football matches on the ground. In those days (mid 60s) there was Aylsham Wanderers F.C. (2 teams) playing on the Rec on Saturdays and Aylsham Sunday F.C. playing their matches at Spixworth. The Sunday Club asked if they could play on the Rec on Sunday mornings and this caused quite a stir in the Town. A special open meeting for the inhabitants of the Town was called to determine whether this should be allowed - there was strong opposition from some quarters of Aylsham. The meeting was held in the pavilion one evening and when the vote was taken the Ayes won the day and

Sunday sport came to Aylsham. I must say over the years I have spent untold happy hours using all the facilities on the Rec.

Other sporting facilities were available of course – the Aylsham Private Tennis Club consisting of 4 grass courts, changing facilities and small kitchen was located behind the Buckingham family home on Burgh Road (now part of Sir Williams Close). You had to be invited to join the Club, whereas the Club on the Rec was open to everyone. There was a Badminton Club based in the Town Hall and the court was on a ‘carpet’ that had to be rolled out and screwed down every time it was needed and of course rolled away again at the end of the evening. Aylsham did also have 2 squash courts, for a few years, located in a barn in Frazers sale yard, now the flats houses and shops on Norwich Rd, next to Palmers Lane.

Another big event in our lives as boys was the Fair (run by the Gray & Rhubarb families) which visited the Town and set up on the Buttsland, which had no car park then and was just open grassland. It was a traditional fair with dodgems, cakewalk, swinging boats, rifle range, coconut shy, toffee apples and all the usual stalls. The fair would take the whole of the ground and stay for a week or so before moving on.

The other annual event on The Butts took place on Guy Fawkes night. The Town boys used to build a bonfire there and would let off their fireworks on the night – everyone’s own fireworks -no organised display. Sounds chaotic now and it was - there were some very near misses! The same thing was happening on Crompton Road; the Estate Boys built their bonfire on the green – no cars parked then. The Millgate Boys built their bonfire on The Staithe – no trees growing on it in those days. The various areas of the Town were very protective of their bonfires but I do recall one or two occasions when bonfires were set fire to before the day! I don’t think you would call them gangs as such but we were all very parochial leading up to the 5<sup>th</sup> November and very proud of who could build the biggest bonfire.

I think recalling the bonfire nights brought home to me how different things are now for young people – back then children used the Rec and all other open spaces like the Butts, Abel Heath, the Staithe etc for their games and entertainment – we were left to our own devices. Football and cricket matches, wide games etc were arranged and held between ourselves. Now of course children’s activities seem to be completely, arranged, structured and supervised by adults. A very big change in how we live in just one generation.

I have to say I feel we youths in Aylsham, were very fortunate to benefit from the Aylsham Youth Centre based in the old County Cinema on Cawston Road. The Club thrived in the 60s and 70s under the direction of Bill Mason the area youth leader and Neville Skoyles and others. There were all sorts of activities that we could take advantage of – I have many happy memories of my time as a member between the ages of 13 to 21. We were very much encouraged to be part of the Community; for example we got very involved in being part of the Carnival Weeks that were then organised by Aylsham Round Table. Organisations in the Town would be asked to arrange an event during the week. The Youth Club arranged some very successful Folk Nights



***Aylsham Show on the Recreation Ground 1954. Town Archive***

and Discos etc, made floats and took part in the Carnival Parades and other competitions, treasure hunts etc. We had stalls at the Fayre and Fetes and generally did our bit.

The other item that I believe Aylsham should be very proud of is The Aylsham Show which has been established for over 70 years. It was started by the Aylsham Recreation Ground Committee to raise funds for the Rec. It was held initially on the Rec, but over the years has grown to be one of the largest one-day Agricultural Shows in the Country. Outgrowing the Recreation ground it moved to Blickling Park based on Mr Matthew

Mitchell's Flashpit Farm. In those days it moved from field to field to suit the farm's cropping programme for that year- a testing task indeed because car parking and road safety were also a big factor in the organisation of the event.

It had a couple of years on Lord Walpole's estate at Wolterton, when suitable sites couldn't be found at Flashpit Farm and more recently it has been back to Blickling Park on the same site beside the lake, by permission of the National Trust. It has proved a tremendous success raising several hundred thousand pounds for local charities, promoting local agriculture and of course giving the public a great day out.

The other subject I will comment on are 'The Newcomers'. After the war the Local Authority built an estate between the Norwich Road and Hungate Street to rehouse mainly local people. The Manor Park estate was the first to be built for private ownership in the 1960s. I can remember when the area was part of the grounds of Aylsham Manor, a large area of grass and trees and there was a large pond, somewhere near where the present junction of Foster Way and Morton Road. An everlasting memory is the vast number of migrating frogs that used to be run over on Burgh Road. The wooded area that ran alongside Burgh Road was also a great place for us boys to have fun.

The next estate to be built was the Green Lanes estate with Holman Close on the Holman Road. That would never be allowed these days without a direct footpath to link it with the town centre. Stuart Road off Bure Way, I remember that area when it was Mr Allen's market garden and was covered in glass houses. Repton Close, Soame Close, Lancaster Gardens all followed – this area was agricultural land with a number of currant fields invaded by women and children during the school summer holidays to pick the currants and earn a few shillings. Sir Williams Close used to be fruit orchards beside the Rec, with pigs grazing under the trees and Mr Ewing's market garden at the town end. Maingay House and the private houses in that area used to be allotments. The Norfolk Homes estate between Hungate Street and Cawston Road were again, for a large part, currant fields when I was a lad.

More recently, after the closure of St Michaels Hospital, we had the redevelopment of that site together with the health facilities and Aylsham Care Trust's community building. As I write this, I am reminded of how lucky Aylsham was to have had its own Hospital. Back in the day it was the leading Hospital for the pioneering work of joint replacement. It had its own Hydro-therapy pool which was used for people to exercise after their operations.

I was lucky enough to make use of the pool when I was sent back to Aylsham Cottage hospital to recuperate after having my appendix removed at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital. I was 9 or 10 and it was the first indoor pool I had seen, let alone make use of. Right up to date now the Bure Meadows and



***The hydro-therapy pool. Town Archive***

Willow Park estates are the latest areas to be developed and again agricultural land has been lost to these developments.

Having served on Aylsham Town Council for 34 years my abiding memory of all this development is that whenever the new developments came up for planning permission, they always caused much concern and the objection was “this is a special town and if it gets any bigger it will be spoilt and it’s specialness will be lost” and it was usually the newcomers who had moved in and made these objections! But people still keep coming and people still keep saying the town is special.

*Mike Bush served on the Town Council for 34 years before stepping down in August 2012. He was Chairman from 1998 to 2002; President of the Aylsham Show in 1996 and is currently the Treasurer of Aylsham Twinning. A retired quantity surveyor, he and wife Sue live in Sir Williams Lane.*

## More Postcards of Red Lion Street: Harry Vince, by Adi Raschkewitz

Following a recent redating of the postcards below, we can say that the man highlighted in the two photographs below standing in the doorway of the Cross Keys Inn, Red Lion Street, is almost certainly the landlord Harry Vince. According to the apparent conventions of Victorian photography, business proprietors liked to be shown standing in, or just to the side of, the doorway of their business. Attempting to confirm Harry's ID led to uncovering much of his eventful life story, an astonishing amount of which was captured in the newspapers.



*Red Lion St 1901-1904, Aylsham Town Archive*

### Harry's early life

Harry was born in Diss and at the time of his marriage was a draper's porter living in Sandy Lane. One of his neighbours was Charles Fairweather, one of the many children of the late blacksmith. His 25 year old sister Laura obviously caught Harry's eye and the couple were married in Diss on 8 October 1895. The newlyweds ran The Greyhound at Tibenham, north of Diss (from where Harry's grandmother hailed), for about a year before coming to Aylsham. There he and Laura, accompanied by his widowed mother Sarah (nee Bailey), took over the tenancy of The Cross Keys in March 1897. At his marriage Harry told the priest he was 29 but in fact he was born in 1860, the



*Red Lion St 1904-1908, Aylsham Town Archive*

son of Henry Vince, basket maker. There appears to have been a bit of a Vince ‘clan’ in Diss and as far as I have been able to ascertain, the present “Vinces Rd” in Diss was named for them. In Harry’s time it was still “Vince’s Lane” and seems to have been a track running off Victoria Rd with some low quality rented dwellings prone to flooding and storm damage.

Henry, Harry’s father, a convicted deserter, entirely conformed to the early Victorian stereotype that returning soldiers were all violent criminals and alcoholics<sup>1</sup>. We know he went to prison on at least four occasions (almost certainly more) and was fined on several others, usually for violence. The following three examples give us some clue as to Henry’s character and to what Harry’s childhood must have been like.

On 13 February 1852 the police were called to eject him from The Bell, Diss where he was causing a ‘riot’. Henry first attacked the constable, called to evict him, with an ‘iron’ (poker?), then tripped him up and bit him severely through the cheek. It was noted that Henry had threatened the life of the same PC Lanham previously. Henry went to prison for 6 months with hard labour.<sup>2</sup> One has to wonder if his wife of only 5 years at that point, was rather glad to be safe from his violent outbursts for half a year even if that made life for her even tougher financially than it had been before.



In May 1866 One of Henry's employees, Francis Freezer, made the mistake of demanding some back pay owing to him. Henry "*knocked him down and further illtreated him*" which almost certainly meant a 'kicking'. Henry was fined £1 and 15s 6d costs in his absence.<sup>3</sup>

On 15 June 1868 he beat up his own sister so badly that at the trial, a week later, the newspaper recorded "*Complainant (Sarah Bailey, nee Vince, his sister) appeared in court with her face much disfigured from prisoner's treatment*". However she successfully pleaded with the court to have the charges against her brother withdrawn. We should keep in mind that Harry would have been 7 years old at the time and almost certainly saw his aunt, and neighbour, with her beaten face even if he didn't see the actual beating take place.<sup>4</sup>

Harry's older sister by a year, Emma, married a man with whom she lived, "*a cat-and-dog life, both being addicted to drinking*" in Wortham.<sup>5</sup> That culminated in 1880 with him stabbing her in the groin and almost killing her after she drunkenly remonstrated with him for drinking all the money. Despite this violent upbringing, Harry seems to have grown up to be a rather gentle and sensitive soul, winning minor prizes at the Diss Horticultural Show for his "Window Plant" and "Wildflowers" the year before his sister's stabbing.<sup>6</sup> As a porter Harry was probably quite strong and growing up with his pugilistic father, he no doubt learnt to duck at a very early age if not to fight, yet it is striking that he always seemed to have preferred to call the police when dealing with Aylsham's more violent drunks or on one occasion with men whom he caught stealing and butchering his pet pigeons (see overleaf<sup>7</sup>).

Yet despite his father's aggression and violence Harry seems to have held genuine affection for him. The inscription on Henry's headstone reads:

*We do miss him oh so sadly  
Bleeding hearts alone can tell.  
Earth hath lost him Heaven has gained him.  
Jesus has done all things well.  
-This stone was erected by his son*

Although the pointed reference to Harry, not his mother, having erected the headstone might be taken to mean that Sarah Vince felt less charitably towards her violent and thankfully late husband. Perhaps Harry himself meant the somewhat childlike inscription in a bitingly sardonic manner especially given the fact we know he turned against the church in later life.

George Bloss and William Davison of Aylsham, labourers, were charged with stealing two tame pigeons, value 1s. 6d., the property of Harry Vince. Harry Vince of Aylsham, innkeeper, said he identified the pigeons as his property. They were in a loft on the 12th November, and on the 15th November he missed them. Bloss lived in his house and attended to the pigeons. Davison was in the yard on the evening of the 13th November. Police-constable Baker said he went to Davison on the 15th November, and told him he was suspected of stealing the pigeons. Davison replied that he had bought them for 6d. and a pint of beer, and afterwards killed them and sold them for 1s. 6d. When faced with Bloss, Davison said he had bought them from Bloss, who admitted it. Defendant Bloss now denied selling the pigeons to Davison, and said he fed the pigeons on the 14th November, and knew nothing more about them until he saw them in the hands of the police. Police-constable Palmer said that Bloss when confronted with Davison on the 15th November, said that he could not deny stealing the pigeons. The case against Davison was dismissed, and Bloss, was fined £1 6s. and 14s. costs, or one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

Harry was also a generous man. It is recorded that in 1902 he gave far more to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital 'shilling fund' than any other Aylsham donor. In rough modern monetary terms, where others in Aylsham donated £10 at most (and many under a fiver), Harry donated over £50. This may reflect the suffering he had been through himself a few years before.<sup>8</sup>

### **Harry in Aylsham**

We know from what happened shortly after they moved into the Cross Keys that Harry loved his wife and one imagines he was looking forward to the birth of their child. Tragically, Laura lost the baby and died on 9 July 1897, rather horribly, judging by her death certificate and certainly traumatically for Harry who was at her side. The doctor who had to attend Laura in her last painful hours and sign her death certificate was not one of the usual town

doctors and his name had not been known before this. Henry Sweetman Turner was a young surgeon, originally from Ipswich, who was active in Aylsham for a couple of years before moving briefly to Diss and then the Home Counties where he remained. From the few mentions of him in the EDP he seems to have been a kind and charitable man, donating Christmas cards for the workhouse children and “lending” some chrysanthemums to the Aylsham Volunteers Prize Giving in 1897. He was also very keen on cycling. Harry himself is later recorded to have been a valued member of the North Walsham cycling club and hosted a sumptuous meal for them at the Cross Keys before he left Aylsham.<sup>9</sup>

However Turner may be pivotal to solving the first puzzle in Harry's story. Despite the best efforts of both myself and the Aylsham Town Archivist we have been unable to discover where Laura was buried. None of the usual places of burial, in Aylsham nor her home area -even including pauper and workhouse grounds - have shed any light. It is too early for cremation in this area. One possible explanation might arise from the fact that at the time of Laura's death there was a real problem with finding corpses for dissection at medical schools. The usual supply from workhouses and asylums had reduced significantly as the public became more concerned with the treatment of inmates and relatives. The students also needed a wider range of ages and causes of death than the institutions could supply. It was quite legal and not uncommon for a family to offer a body to the schools (many were transported on the railways to London and Cambridge). They saved the cost of the funeral (which was carried out later in the parishes around the teaching hospitals) and a small sum was received in payment.<sup>10</sup> Did Dr Turner (a young surgeon who may have been very aware of the problem) see Laura's death as a good opportunity for research into death in labour? If he persuaded Harry to make the tragedy have some meaning, that would explain the lack of burial locally. It could also explain what happened next to poor Harry. A week later, on 16 July 1897, he was admitted to the County Asylum at Thorpe, certified by Turner and suffering from 'Mania' , the reason given as 'death of his wife'. At a time when the science of psychiatry was still more 'Bedlam' than 'Freud', “Mania” could mean just about any form of mental illness and the deep grief for his wife and child might well have made Harry unwell. But if he had also agreed for the removal of Laura's body for dissection, his distress may have become unbearable.

He was released as 'recovered' from there on 4 November but later got into an argument with a friend which triggered another bout of 'mania'. Back in the Asylum on 23 November, again certified by Turner, he was released again at the start of December after which he seems to have remained well and once again ran the Cross Keys. His mother Sarah had run it in his absence, employing a serving girl to replace Laura and setting up her own account with the Brewery, something which led later to book-keeping difficulties for Harry.<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

Four years later, on 21 November 1901, Harry married the recently widowed Maria Thrower (nee Halls) in Cawston. Maria gave her age as 43 but she was in fact some 5 years older, and not to be outdone Harry knocked 7 years off his own age. Why Harry with his family history would choose to marry an older woman who was apparently an alcoholic, is puzzling. Perhaps that fact that Maria had no children and was nearing the menopause, so she was unlikely to die in childbirth, was reassuring for Harry.

It seems their honeymoon period didn't last very long. By the end of February 1902 Harry was posting announcements in the EDP declaring that he would no longer consider himself liable for any debts his wife incurred. Tellingly this announcement exactly mirrored the announcement made by Maria's first husband, Henry James Thrower, in the Norfolk News in November 1876 (after they had been married less than a year).

On the 24 May 1902 the newspapers reported that Maria had applied to the Aylsham Magistrates for Separation and Maintenance Orders. It is worth quoting the article almost in full.

*Mrs Vince said she now resided at Cawston. She had been living apart from her husband since the 21st of February. He turned her out of the house forcibly on the 2nd of May. She never had sufficient food to eat whilst living with defendant. No allowance had been made for her since the 21st of February. Cross-examined- She denied drinking three parts of a bottle of brandy on the day before she left, and also that she had to go to bed in consequence. She had not been the worse for drink since her marriage. After she left her husband she consulted Mr. Purdy (solicitor), and an agreement was drawn up for a mutual separation, but as she could not get all her things back from defendant she ultimately refused to sign. Harry Vince said he found his wife was a drunkard. She was constantly drunk. He had never*

*heard until that morning that she had not sufficient food. She cooked all the food when she was sober. On the 25th of February she was drunk before nine o'clock in the morning, and had in consequence to lie down. It was untrue that he had forcibly ejected her from the house on the 2nd of May. She left quite of her own accord. James Beck of Aylsham corroborated as to what happened on the 2nd of May. The magistrates did not consider there was sufficient neglect for Mrs Vince to leave her husband on the 21st of February, and they therefore dismissed the case.*<sup>14</sup>

James Beck was the then recently retired landlord of the “Unicorn” pub. In October 1902 she returned to live with Harry in Aylsham but left him again in March 1903.

### **The Curious Case of William Hind**

According to a 1908 newspaper report, around 1906 a touring company came to Aylsham to perform “Charley’s Aunt”. The fresh-faced young actor, playing “Charley”, who would have been 18 years old or so, was William Hind. Apparently William was something of a rising star and also a talented musician. According to that same 1908 report after the company had finished their run in Aylsham, William was so enamoured with the town that he quit the company and took a room at the Cross Keys where he spent the next two years composing music.<sup>15</sup>

William certainly had money, although the newspaper report that he had a wealthy family seems to have been inaccurate and I have been unable to locate the source of his income. We know that in 1901 he was a 14 year old groom on the Welbeck Estate near Worksop, son of a house painter. Curious too is his choice of a room in the Cross Keys which although by no means a ‘dive’ was not where one might expect a cultured, rich, good-looking young man to take up residence. But perhaps for personal or artistic reasons he wished to live beside people who shared his own humbler origins.

We know he had his own ‘Governess Buggy’ and pony, spent on account with local businesses and had such luxuries as a gramophone along with his mandolin. One imagines the young ladies of Aylsham were keen for his company but William apparently always spent his evenings in his room composing and he had a “sweetheart” who still lived on the Welbeck Estate.

Harry seems to have become more than a little fond of him, and to judge by Harry’s later behaviour one might even say ‘infatuated’ although there is no

evidence that theirs was a homosexual relationship. It is possible that they had a somewhat intense father-son relationship, Harry perhaps seeing his own 'lost' child in William. Whatever relationship they had it was certainly life-changing for Harry.

**CLUE TO AYLSHAM MYSTERY.**

**WHEREABOUTS OF MR. W. HIND.**

Yesterday morning the following note was brought into the "Daily Press" Office by a messenger from Thorpe Station, with a written request that it should be inserted in last night's "Evening News" and to-day's "Press":—

William Hind, who is reported missing from Aylsham, is quite safe, and left Norwich this morning for Doncaster. He will write to Aylsham in a few days.

**FROM A FRIEND WHO KNOWS.**

This note, with which was sent a remittance of 2s., will probably throw some light upon a most extraordinary disappearance. For fourteen days the police, who have had the assistance of a specialist, have searched high and low in every quarter of Norwich, and have caused numerous inquiries to be made in all parts of the country; but up till now their efforts, which had been steadily maintained throughout day and night, have not met with reward.

**YOUNG MAN** has been missing since February 4th. Height 5ft. 9in., dark, age about 23, wearing Norfolk suit, light brown leggings. Last seen in the Arcade, Norwich, on February 4th.—Anyone giving information to Mr. Vince, Cross Keys, Aylsham, will be rewarded.

William regularly took the train to Norwich to go shopping in the smarter establishments of the City Centre. On 4 February 1908, a smartly dressed William in a new grey Norfolk suit with yellow (or light brown) leggings and carrying a large amount of cash (around £6000 pounds in terms of today's purchasing power) took the train to Norwich. He purchased items in various establishments which, as befitted a gentleman of the era, he had sent down to Thorpe station cloakroom for him to collect upon taking the train back to Aylsham. His last purchase of the day was made in the Royal Arcade, where after purchasing gramophone

records and also having them sent down to the station, he consulted the store's "Bradshaw" and determined that the next train would leave for Aylsham in an hour or so. He left the shop and, as the newspaper reported, he

*"vanished ...as if the pavement had opened up and swallowed him".*

William had never been absent from the Cross Keys in the evening during the 2 years he stayed there and when he didn't return, Harry raised the alarm. There followed a 14-day search by the City Police who, to judge by the newspaper reports, made every conceivable effort to find William and even brought in a specialist and contacted forces nationwide.

An apparently frantic Harry went up to the City on several occasions to help with the search and even posted a reward for any information. Then on 20 February 1908 the EDP published the announcement above.

Thoughtfully, the Friend in the Know also included the 2 shillings remittance for the publication. I have been unable to discover the reason for Hind's disappearance nor where he was during that time nor what happened immediately following the note, but it seems he did write that promised letter to "Aylsham" because around 11 March 1908 Harry was announcing in the EDP that he would pay any debts contracted by William Hind during his stay at the Cross Keys. It would seem that Harry knew where William was. <sup>16</sup>

By May 1908 Harry and his mother had made the decision to leave Aylsham and hosted a Farewell dinner at the Cross Keys for his North Walsham Cycling Club "on the occasion of him shortly leaving the town". After a "most enjoyable evening" Harry was toasted with Musical Honours.<sup>17</sup> At the end of June Harry had his entire household, both personal and trade, interior and exterior, "effects throughout" inventory of the Cross Keys auctioned off. Again, it was stated he was "*retiring from business*". Interestingly in the short upcoming auction announcement in the EDP, a Governess car, black pony and 2 sets of brass tack are highlighted as being for sale and which I assume were the same as William Hind had been reported as having.

Why did Harry suddenly decide to up sticks and leave everything in Aylsham behind? We find the answer in the 1908 Directory for Norton Subcourse (13 miles SE of Norwich): "*Vince & Hind, Market Gardeners & Fruit Growers*".

Harry and William Hind leased the "Sycamores", a substantial 4 bedroom house and grounds of 3 acres that may already have been a market garden, on Raveningham Rd in Norton and became Market Gardeners! Had William been there all the time? Norton was on the edge of the marshes and off the beaten track.

It seems however that their partnership wasn't to last long and on 17 December 1908 Harry was again in the papers notifying the public that the partnership had been dissolved on 5 December, that the business would however continue to be known as "Vince & Hind" and that he would be responsible for any business debts that Hind had incurred. Perhaps most interesting of all for the first time he gives William's full name "*Sanderson*

William Hind". The young man left the "Sycamores" and moved to Norwich leaving Harry and mother Sarah in Norton.

### **Maria and the final years**

Harry then made a mistake which was to cost him dearly. He wrote to his estranged wife, Maria. We do not know where Maria had been living at the time she got Harry's letter, but she arrived with her sister at Harry's in Norton, on or just before 21 December 1908 and both Maria and Harry testified later that the letter had been an invitation and that at Harry's suggestion Maria decided to stop there with him and his mother. (One assumes Maria's sister, Annie Fuller, returned to her home in Distillery St. Norwich).

Both also later agreed before the magistrates that the first two weeks or so, over Christmas and New Year, had been spent "very comfortably" together. However, after this renewed honeymoon period things quickly fell apart. Maria claimed that Harry had started to 'bring up old grievances' and grew increasingly violent towards her, whereas Harry claimed that Maria had started to complain and find fault when the booze ran out.<sup>18</sup>

According to Maria on 8 March Harry tried to strangle her and also offered a lad who worked for him £20 to kill her. As a result, she fled the house on 18 March and returned to live with her sister. Unsurprisingly both Harry and his supposed hitman denied the accusations.

On Monday 3 May 1909 Harry advertised the "Sycamores" for Let and on Wednesday 5 May both Maria and Harry appeared before the Loddon Magistrates for Maria's application for a Separation Order on the grounds of Persistent Cruelty to be heard. We know from this court case that, after her initial application was rejected, Maria and Harry had reached a maintenance agreement of 3 shillings a week (roughly around £15 in terms of today's purchasing power). The justices issued a new Maintenance Order but still at the previously agreed rate of 3s a week.

Maria seems to have then lived in Norwich and we find her on the 1911 census living in the slums off Grapes Hill as a "Boarding House Keeper" at 70 Williams Street (now demolished).

Harry was perhaps unable to find a new tenant for The Sycamores and seems to have carried on the business until December 1909 when he put his 'outdoor effects' (including 6000 narcissi bulbs) up for auction as he "*is leaving the District*".<sup>19</sup> He then moved to Norwich, accompanied by his mother, to lodge in William Hind's house at 1 Greyfriars Road where he and Hind are both



listed as self-employed fruiterers in 1911. This is the last time William Hind appears in Harry's life<sup>20</sup>. Soon afterwards William seems to have left Norwich and his old friend.

Harry had not been paying Maria the weekly 3 shillings maintenance as ordered by the court and so she had him summoned to appear at the Guildhall on Saturday 15 April 1911 for arrears totalling £1 16s (so it seems he hadn't paid since the original order was made). However, Harry didn't appear and a warrant for his arrest was issued. Possibly his non-appearance was due to the summons being sent to 26 Rose Lane and not to 1 Greyfriars Road.

On Wednesday 19 April Harry, reported as being 54, fruiterer, 1 Greyfriars Rd, appeared before the court and was told to either pay up or go to prison for 7 days. Harry said he preferred to go to prison than pay.<sup>21</sup> When Maria later applied to the Poor Law Institution for financial assistance in 1914 she claimed to have only ever received 6 shillings from Harry after the maintenance order was issued. Interestingly, at that time, she also said that Harry was a green grocer in Yarmouth and claimed he was living with another woman.

We don't know if Harry did actually go to prison but his reticence to pay Maria a single penny may go some way to explaining why Sarah, his now very elderly mother, opened a fruiterer shop in her name at 34 St Peter's Rd, Great Yarmouth within a year of the hearing. (She appears in the 1912 Kelly's Directory). Sarah died in 1913 at age 97. Are we really supposed to believe that at age 95 she suddenly decided she wanted to up sticks to Yarmouth and start a fruiterer business? Harry's name is conspicuous by its absence in the business directories.

The 1916 Directory doesn't list a Vince as fruiterer on St Peter's Rd, however it lists a "Tom Carter, fruiterer" at number 25 there for the first time. On 20 October 1920 the previous tenant of 39 St Peter's Rd auctioned off all his confectionary-making stock and equipment as his lease had expired<sup>22</sup>. Tom and Harry must have taken over that shop as by the following year Harry is listed as boarding with Tom and now a partner in the fruiterer and confectioner business of "Carter & Vince" at 39 St Peter's Rd. A fruiterer & confectioner (sweet pastries and cakes) might seem a slightly strange combination to us today but such shops were popular at the time. (In Aylsham we had Ewings on corner of Red Lion Street.) However Harry doesn't seem to have had much luck with business partners and poor Tom Carter dies in 1924 at age 34.

Maria Vince also died the same year, in Norwich, at age 71. From 1915 until her death nine years later she seems to have been reliant on financial assistance at home for “sickness” from the Poor Law Institution but wasn’t admitted to the Workhouse.<sup>23</sup> By 1921 she had moved from 70 William Street to 9 Roaches Court (off Fisher Lane, between Pottergate and St.Giles, now demolished) which seems to have been an even less salubrious address than William St. In addition, by 1922 she was in receipt of the then still relatively new State Old Age Pension (1909). On 22 Feb 1924 she is taken by ambulance, at a cost of 5 shillings to the Poor Law officials, to the Institution Hospital on Bowthorpe Rd where she died 2 days later from “Phlebitis Thigh” (a deep vein thrombosis possibly resulting from alcohol misuse). She was buried on 27 Feb in “Norwich Cemetery”. The informant named on her death certificate was her brother-in-law John Herbert Fuller who had married Maria’s younger sister Annie in 1889 in Aylsham. After a short stint running the Kings Head pub in Cawston John, a harness maker by trade and the son of a County Police Officer, joined the force himself in 1895 and by 1911 had attained the rank of Inspector, retiring in 1921<sup>23</sup>. So it is rather puzzling that he manages to misinform the Registrar that Maria was Harry’s “widow”, also puzzling is that he gave his address as “70 William Street” (Maria’s old address) when he and Annie had retired to Hempnall.

I have been unable to discover if, after Tom Carter’s death, Harry then ran the business on his own but he does appear to have continued to live at 39. In 1928 someone at 39 St Peter’s advertises a 30Cwt lorry for sale so perhaps Harry was winding down the fruit haulage part of his business. By 1933 the shop had been taken over by W G Field who continued to run it as a “fruiterer” but by 1936 had converted it to a “General Shop”. Field also appears to have shared the residential part of the property with Harry, as Field was advertising for a “*15 year old Country Girl for general housework*” in 1934.<sup>25</sup>

By this time Harry is in his mid 70s and may have been needing either medical or financial help. On 20 March 1937 Harry was admitted to the old Yarmouth Workhouse where his “Religious Beliefs” are, rather unusually, given as “FREE THINKER”<sup>26</sup>. The Free Thinker movement seems to have been strong in Yarmouth at the time; in 1920 noted Free Thinker Ethel Leach became Great Yarmouth’s first female justice of the peace and its first female mayor. Free Thinkers prided themselves on their aggressively anti-religious

(which they referred to as ‘superstition’), secular, rational humanism. The Free Thinker journal has been published continuously since 1881.

Researching Harry’s life has presented one puzzle after another, few of which I have been able to definitively solve. So, it is fitting to find one final puzzle. On his admission Harry gave his next of kin as Mrs. Vince, daughter-in-law, 7 Devonshire Rd (Great Yarmouth). I have not found any evidence that Harry ever had children nor that he married for a third time although as a Free Thinker it is possible that he rejected the Christian concept of marriage and had a son (who then took his surname) by the “other woman” cited by Maria in her 1914 application for Home Assistance. Or perhaps in his senility he simply thought of his neighbour as his daughter-in-law (7 Devonshire Rd was directly opposite 39 St. Peter’s Rd). A third possibility, is that Harry saw some advantage to claiming he had fictitious ‘kin’ in the area.

The 1939 National Register still has Harry in The Infirmary, 150a Caister Road Yarmouth and lists his profession as “Greengrocer and Shopkeeper”. It repeats his year of birth wrongly as 1857. Yarmouth officials, to spare embarrassment, would use the Infirmary address instead of The Workhouse or Public Assistance Institution for their inmates so Harry may not have been seriously ill at the time.

On 5 July 1940 along with others, Harry was “released to Wisbech”, presumably to Wisbech Institution, almost certainly due to fears of Yarmouth being a target for German bombs. This wasn’t an unfounded fear as on 3 June Britannia Pier had been bombed and on 20 June Yarmouth was declared a “front line town” and entry to Yarmouth was only with special permission. Many residents chose to leave the town at night to stay in the surrounding villages.

At 01:46 on 12 July 1942 four bombs fell on the Eastern Counties Bus depot directly opposite 39 St. Peter’s Road and it is recorded the shops surrounding suffered damage <sup>27</sup>. It is unlikely Harry could have returned home after this. He died on 5 May 1945, by this time being cared for, somewhat surprisingly, at Taverham Hall, near Norwich. At the time the Hall was a military base but had become a temporary unit for Great Yarmouth union to cope with the influx of homeless bombing victims.

Harry’s cause of death is listed as “IA Myocarditis, B.Cystitis and Senility”. His age is given as 84, at last correcting a lifetime of misinformation. His residence was still given as 39 St Peter’s Road and his profession as fruiterer

and confectioner (retired). Harry's turbulent and surprising life ended in a pauper's grave in Caister Cemetery on 11 May 1945.

*My thanks as always to Maggie Vaughan Lewis, Town Archivist, for her unfailing alacrity to assist without which this article would not have been written. Thanks also to Norfolk Police Historians, Mr.W.Kett Norfolk Museums service, The Royal College of Surgeons, Liz Stazicker, M. Dyer, Philip Clarke (Diss and District Memories Facebook).I also found norfolkpubs.co.uk helpful and research by Beverley aka "Wichetty" (Ancestry).*

### Footnotes

1. "From Crow-Scaring to Westminster"-Sir George Edwards, "Ploughboy's Progress" -Noel.G.Edwards
2. British Newspaper Archive (BNA) Norwich Mercury 6 March 1852
3. BNA Norfolk Chronicle 26 March 1866
4. BNS Norwich Mercury 27 June 1868
5. Local Recall EDP 20 April 1880
6. BNA The Diss Express 18 July 1879
7. Local Recall EDP 23 November 1899
8. Local Recall EDP 27 Oct 1902
9. Royal College of Surgeons England: admission register
10. Helen MacDonald, *Procuring Corpses: The English Anatomy Inspectorate*, 1842 to 1858. Elizabeth T Hurren, 'A pauper dead-house: the expansion of the Cambridge anatomical teaching school under the late-Victorian Poor Law, 1870–1914', *Med. Hist.*, 2004, **48**: 69–94; *idem*, 'Whose body is it anyway? Trading the dead poor, coroner's disputes, and the business of anatomy at Oxford University, 1885–1929', *Bull. Hist. Med.*, 2008, **82**: 775–819; and *idem*, *Dying for Victorian medicine: English anatomy and its trade in the dead poor, 1870 to 1929*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011
11. norfolkpubs.co.uk citing Harry Vince's letter to brewery 30 Sept 1907
12. NRO SAH 178
13. NRO C/GP 3/28
14. Local Recall EDP 21 May 1902
15. BNA Eastern Evening News 18 Feb 1908
16. One theory is that Hind took the train to Doncaster to obtain financing to acquire The Sycamores Norton Subcourse. The source of his allowance appears to have been in the north, if not from his family as the newspaper

claimed. Once he had obtained financing he wrote the promised letter to Vince outlining his plan to start a Market Garden, wanting him to sell up in Aylsham and join him in Norton Subcourse.

17. BNA EDP 29 May 1908

18. BNA EDP 06 May 1909

19. BNA EDP 15 Dec 1910.

20. Given his colourful early life it is surprising that, after the 1st WW where he served first as a Private in the Royal Engineers before joining the Lancashire Fusiliers, William Hind seems to have lived a rather pedestrian life, until his death in Penistone in 1947. After the War, he married Mabel Probert in 1920 whose parents ran the Royal George pub in Worksop. They had two daughters and by 1939 William was working in Penistone as a steel grinder.

22. Local Recall 20 April 1911

22. Local Recall EDP 15 Oct 1920

23. NRO N/GP 7/288

24. Norfolk Police Historians

25. Local Recall EDP 1 Feb 1934

26. NRO, Y/WE 300. Most of the entries give C of E.

27. "Put That Light Out"-Colin Tooke 2017

## **Blickling: a treasured estate, by Dr Megan Dennis**

Megan is the first Property Curator the National Trust has employed and her talk on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November explained the Trust's thinking at Blickling now.

She started the presentation with a wonderful picture of the hall quoting from Christopher Hussey, 1930, *Country Life* magazine:

“The suddenness and completeness with which the scene burst upon the eye strikes a simultaneous chord rather than a scale of impression: a backwater in time – a vanished line of Norfolk grandees, the generous vitality of Shakespeare's England, the childhood of Anne Boleyn, and muted by the imprisoned mist of time, faint memories of famous knights, the pomp of Bishops' courts and the last of the Saxon kings passing through water-meadows that gave his manor its name”.

Megan gave a brief resume of the owners of the land, from Harold Godwinson, later King of England who owned it in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, William the Conqueror, who gave it to the Bishop of Thetford who then transferred it to the Bishop of Norwich.

In 1378 Sir Nicholas Dagworth built a medieval moated house on the site of the present building.

Sir John Falstaff the Shakespearean hero and Geoffrey Boleyn great grandfather of Anne followed and then The Manor was sold to the Hobarts. Henry Hobart built the present Jacobean house and it passed through that family until being handed on to the Lothian family who took full possession in 1821. The last Lord Lothian bequeathed the estate to the National Trust as part of the Country House Estate Scheme, the bill for which he had pushed through Parliament allowing bequests to The National Trust to be made without death duties.

Blickling could be “A place from which public or intellectual or artistic activities go forth.”

Megan explained how things have changed since the Pandemic and her role in assessing the collections within the house and developing more ways in which to share them with the public. The Trust feels that the Estate Curator is responsible not just for the house but also the grounds, in fact the whole Estate.

We saw slides of items collected by owners through the ages, including the Richard Ellis library of 9,000 books in the long gallery and the huge tapestries

elsewhere. Her slides revealed the wonderful variety within the house of pictures, furniture, and tapestries.

There have been problems with moths which thanks to the introduction of Micro wasps, seem to have been eliminated.

For the future the Trust is working hard to find sustainable ways to protect the collection. For instance, the lake has been fitted with a heat pump which keeps a constant humidity in the house, which is better for the collection.

The walled garden has now been brought back to its original use, but the Parterre was an example of the decisions that had to be made about how far restoration should go. What we see now was Norah Lindsay's replacement of the previous intricate Victorian design.

The wider estate of woodlands, avenues, mausoleum, tenant farms and the work of generations of gardeners as a whole forms what Megan termed the "Treasured Estate".

The task of the National Trust is to look after ALL of the treasured estate and tell the diverse stories of the many people who have loved and looked after it so that Blickling is for everyone for ever.

Hazel Jones



## **Norfolk's lost heritage, a talk by Stephen Poulter**

Stephen started his talk on the 27<sup>th</sup> October by saying he was concentrating on buildings that had been lost over the years. He would be looking at this through the eyes of various writers from the time of Elizabeth I.

**William Camden 1551 -1623**

He was a teacher at Westminster School in London. His most popular book being "Britannia" – Places and People the first edition in English was published in 1586.

**Daniel Defoe 1660-1731**

Most famous for writing Robinson Crusoe, he was a journalist and the book referred to was "A Tour of the Islands of Great Britain" which gives a snapshot of early Jacobean England.

**Thomas Kitson Cromwell 1792-1870**

Distant relative of both Oliver Cromwell and Thomas Cromwell whose fame go before them! He was a Unitarian Minister. This was the Victorian era when travel guidebooks were first being published, his book was 'Excursions of England, Scotland & Wales'.

**Walter Rye 1843-1929**

A lawyer who lived in Norwich. When he retired he wrote around 80 books on Norfolk and was most famous for saving the Maids Head which he bought and restored and enlarged. The book 'A Passion for Records' is all about him.

**James Edward Vincent 1857-1909**

He was first journalist for The Times on Automobiles and his most famous book was 'Through East Anglia in a Motor Car'

**Arthur Mee 1875-1943**

He wrote and edited a topographic and historical series county by county in 43 volumes.

Stephen quoted from these authors on each place below (in alphabetical order) to give an insight into their times.

Attleborough - This was an Anglo Saxon town used by King Edmund and at that time capital of East Anglia



Brancaster – There is a lost settlement here. The Saxons arrived there first then the Romans and there is evidence of a large garrison.

Bromholme – Once a priory famous for a tiny wooden cross said to be made from 2 small pieces from the cross on which Christ died. The cross was made by St Helene, the pieces of wood said to be from where his hands and feet were nailed. This bought pilgrims from far and wide. Clement and Beatrice Paston had a connection to the priory but in time the cross was stolen and destroyed and the fortunes of the priory subsequently declined.

Buckenham Castle – the name Buckenham comes from ‘Beech Tree’. There is nothing left of the castle now.

Burnham Thorpe – most famous for being Nelson’s birthplace. The Rectory where he was born has been destroyed. He was named after his Godfather Robert Walpole.

Caistor St Edmund – Roman town from as early as AD70 and occupied until AD400, it’s said the stones from here were used to build Norwich. Lots of pottery and coins found around the site.

Costessey – The original Hall was replaced by a Victorian Gothic style one, commandeered by the forces in WW1. They left it in a bad way and it was demolished in 1925.

Eccles on Sea – the church was built in 1605 and just the tower remains the town has been lost to coastal erosion.

Great Yarmouth – Where Yarmouth started is not where it is now. It was the world capital for herring fishing the produce of which was exported throughout Europe but now this is a lost industry.

Heacham – there are many guide books on the town and hall but its most famous inhabitants were the Rolf family one of whom married Pocahontas. The hall was commandeered by the Army in WW2 and destroyed by fire in 1941.

Horsford – Most famous for its castle which has been lost.

Kenninghall – This lost building was the home of the Duke of Norfolk 1505-1524, Henry VIII took it and gave to his daughter Mary.

Stephen finished here on his alphabetical trail, maybe he will come back to finish it!

Hazel Jones

## **Caroline Mary Marshall Driscoll**

### **31 March 1946 – 9 November 2022**



***Caroline in 2015***

Caroline was the second of three daughters born to Harold and Mary Finch. Her father was a Colonel in the Royal Berkshire Regiment serving in Burma during WWII (winning a DSO in action), which may help partially explain Caroline's lifelong interest in jaw jaw more than war war. After the war, Caroline's parents spent some time in Pakistan (where Caroline recorded her first memories) before settling near Guildford when her father left the army.

She boarded at St.Mary's Calne in Wiltshire becoming a Nurse when she left school. As she turned 21, she happened across a young Obs and Gynae Registrar in the form of Alan Driscoll who became her husband on 17th February 1968 (getting married in Shalford Parish Church close to where her family had settled). Two children, first Martin and then Harriet, arrived in 1969 and 1970. Caroline then spent the first half of the 70s moving houses in and around Guildford, where her husband Alan was now a Consultant, and looking after her brood. However, she was always looking to read and learn and always found herself waking early, which led her to becoming a prolific and expert bread maker.

Towards the end of the 1970s, she enrolled in a Humanities degree course with the Open University. Not content with gaining a bachelors degree, she then went on to complete a Masters in English Literature at Birkbeck College writing her thesis on the work of Seamus Heaney. Still not content, she then went to law school and qualified as an Articled Clerk in London. She eventually became a Pensions lawyer for Slaughter and May. Her family still have a copy of the cartoon from the

Telegraph depicting the “All Sold” being applied to a box of Terry’s chocolates in recognition of the work Caroline completed in restructuring the Terry’s Chocolate company pension plan and liabilities.

As the nineties drew to a close, Alan and Caroline decided to retire gracefully and moved from Guildford to Lamas where they happily occupied the “Hall” for a number of years. And very happily looked after their grandchildren who were growing up in nearby Coltishall, where Harriet and her husband were now living.

Lamas saw Caroline get the opportunity to really display her green fingers as she successfully tended and (possibly even) tamed an impressive garden. Eventually the garden and “Hall” got the better of them both and they downsized to a property in Church Terrace, Aylsham with an easier to manage garden. Unfortunately the property didn’t offer sufficient wallspace to house the art collection that her husband, Alan, had accumulated over the years and they eventually settled in Cromer Road at Parmeters. Caroline volunteered at Break and attended Aylsham Parish Church. Joining the Local History Society in 2011, from 2015 to 2020 she organised the outings, in a happy collaboration with Sue Sharpe, while also writing numerous reports for this Journal on talks and visits.

Alan died in August 2021 and having downsized again to Morton Road, Caroline passed away peacefully on 9th November 2022. She is survived by her two children Martin and Harriet and her grandchildren, Charlotte, Georgina, Gus, Matt, Florence, Josephine and Tom. All will sorely miss her (and her pink hair).

Martin Driscoll

Some of the words of the grandchildren at her funeral:

Only Granny would make a rule about licking plates,  
only Granny would name her walking stick and buy a book about it,  
only Granny would spend so much money on books that businesses actually  
claimed to fail after she stopped,  
only Granny would suddenly decide to dye her hair pink.

## List of Members

Alford, Paul & Andrea  
Ashworth, Lorna  
Askham, Marie  
Austen, Catherine  
Baker, Derrick W  
Baker, Eleanor & Paul  
Baker, Peter & Sue  
Barwick, Gillian  
Bell, Chris & Marcia  
Bird Margaret  
Blake, Jill  
Bostle, Clive  
Brady, Patrick  
Brooker, Keith & Margaret  
Bullock, Ian  
Bush, Mike  
Calvert, Ros  
Cannon, Lesley  
Carr, David & Julia  
Cartwright, Robin & Wendy  
Casimir, Stewart & Jennifer  
Claridge, Haydn & Maggie  
Cooke, Cherry  
Crouch Roger  
Davies, Alan  
Davy, Rex & Daphne  
Driscoll, Caroline died Nov 22  
Duncan, Beryl  
Dyer, Frances  
Earl, Stephen & Abigail  
Edmondson, Susan  
Edwards, John & Veronica  
Ellis, Judith  
Elphinstone, Nicholas  
Evans, Gordon & Julie  
Fisher, Sue  
Floyd, Nicole

## April 2023

Fox, Sue & Martyn  
Garamendi-Frederick,  
Christine  
Gillis-Barfield, Clifford &  
Pennie  
Goodwin, Michael &  
Veronika  
Goose, Margaret  
Goose, Jean  
Grellier, Diana  
Gunne-Braden,  
Marguerita  
Hall, Chris & Christine  
Harry, David  
Hawke, Jean  
Hill, Marilyn  
Hills, Valerie J E  
Hindley, Angela  
Hollis, Margarette & Philip  
Horne, John & Veronica  
Jay, Susan E  
Jeavons, Stan  
Johnston Graeme\*  
Jolly, Peter\*  
Jones, Hazel & Malcolm  
Kingsford, Philip &  
Sheila  
Kinsley, David & Julia  
Knee, Robin & Wendy  
Lavender, Peter &  
Nightingale, Christine  
Layt, Angela  
Lee, Neville & Carole  
Lloyd, Thelma  
Ludden, Frances & Michael  
Lyons Derek\*  
Margarson, Susan & Giles

McManus, Susan & Ian  
 Mills, Lloyd & Hunt,  
 Ros  
 Mollard, Sheila\*  
 Morgan, Victor  
 Palmer, Anne  
 Pannell Jim\*  
 Parker, David & Lesley  
 Parry, Enid  
 Paulding, Cindy  
 Peabody, Jane  
 Penkett, Stuart & Marigold  
 Pim, Malcolm & Claudia  
 Polhill Roger & Diana\*  
 Powell, Rosie  
 Raschkewitz, Adrian (Adi)  
 Rodwell, Jean  
 Rope, Arthur & Young, Jackie  
 Roulstone Peter & Joan  
 Rowe, Margaret A  
 Sadler, Geoff & Wendy  
 Saunders, Alfred  
 Schwick, Christine &  
 Christopher  
 Scott, Helen Fiona  
 Seal-Coon, Sue

Sharpe, Sue  
 Shaw, Tony & Diana  
 Sheringham, Jill died March  
 23  
 Shutes, Angela & Jonathan  
 Singfield, Susan Ann  
 Smart, Lez & Jenny  
 Smith, Marion  
 Spencer, Jennifer  
 Spink, Joshua & Louise  
 Steward, Linda  
 Sullivan, Martin & Carol  
 Thomas, Emma  
 Thomas, Catherine  
 Thorneycroft, Glenys & David  
 Vaughan-Lewis, Maggie  
 Lady Walpole\*  
 Watts, Jonathan  
 Wessely, Joanna  
 Wintle, Sheila  
 Wix, Mel & Lynda  
 Wood, Alex & Rowena  
 Worth, Pamela & Jeremy  
 Wright, Malcolm

\*Life member

Back Cover: *Red Lion Street showing Cross Keys pub on right.*  
*Photo courtesy of the Aylsham Town Archive*

