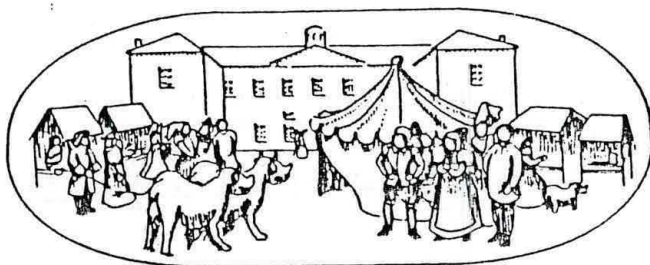


Aylsham Local History Society



NORFOLK HISTORY FAIR

Vol. 2 No.3

September 1988

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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CENTRE OF EAST ANGLIAN STUDIES - U.E.A.

Research Seminar in East Anglian History & Archaeology

During the Autumn and Spring terms, papers will be given on a variety of topics.

These discussion seminars are held at the CEAS on Friday evenings; membership is by invitation, but anyone wishing to participate should contact Professor Hassell Smith. Of particular interest is a paper on -

"The origins of the linen and worsted industry of Norfolk, and the evolution of the London Mercers Company before 1350"

also

"New light on Woodforde"



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

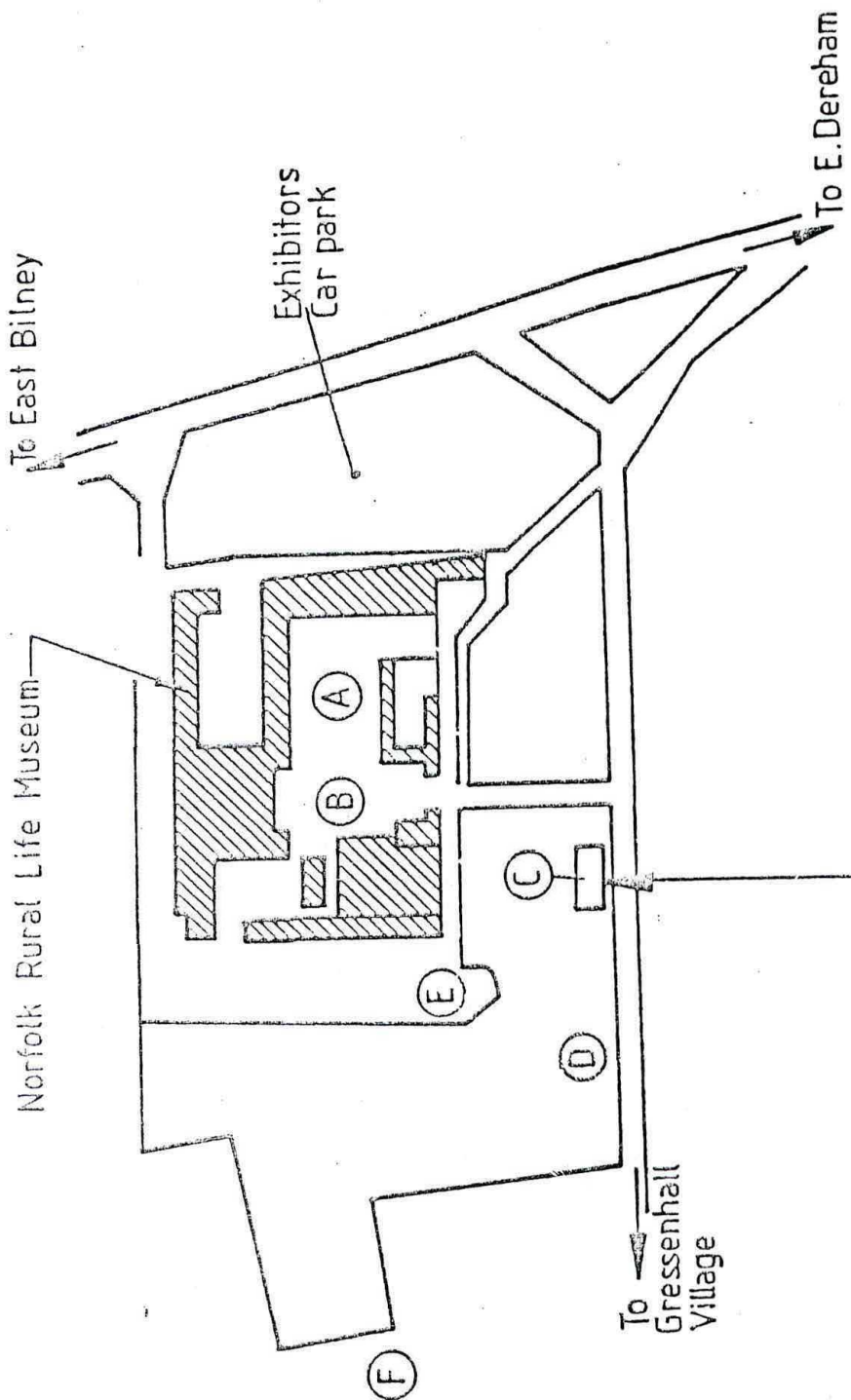
Number 3

NORFOLK HISTORY FAIR September 24th. & 25th. 1988

The major local history event to take place in the county, this year, will most certainly be the "Norfolk History Fair" to be held at the Norfolk Rural Life Museum at Gressenhall. This issue of the 'Newsletter' is timed to appear close to the event, to offer as much information as possible, and encouragement to members to make a visit, if at all possible.

It promises to be a good day out; there will be over 70 participating societies and organisations, and an exciting programme of activities has been arranged. As the date approaches, there will be increasing amounts of publicity appearing in the Eastern Daily Press, and that will be more up-to-date than anything your editor supplies. Our own Society is taking part, and we can give details of that, and any other general arrangements.

The attached sketch map shows the whole Museum area. Our stand is in a large marquee shown as (C) on the plan. The arrangement within the tent is shown on the "second plan, where you can see that we have the stalls marked 1 & 2 just inside the door.



The major part of our display will be the more attractive items from the Parish archives, some publicity material featuring the Society, and as much publicity as we can muster about the 'Rental'. The publicity for the Society will include a specially constructed relief plan of Aylsham showing its main historical features. This is being made by Peter Holman.

Overall, our main 'plug' will be for the 'Rental' (assuming publication is on time!) This will be well publicised, well displayed and on sale to the public throughout the the two days of the Fair. So, if you are free on either 24th or 25th. September, treat yourself to a good day out at the Norfolk History Fair. If you are not able to get there, then as an alternative, there will be events organised over the same weekend in Aylsham itself by the Rotary Club. These are in aid of their Polio Plus appeal. These events, our Society would have supported, had it not been already involved in the Norfolk History Fair. Wherever you go - have a nice weekend.

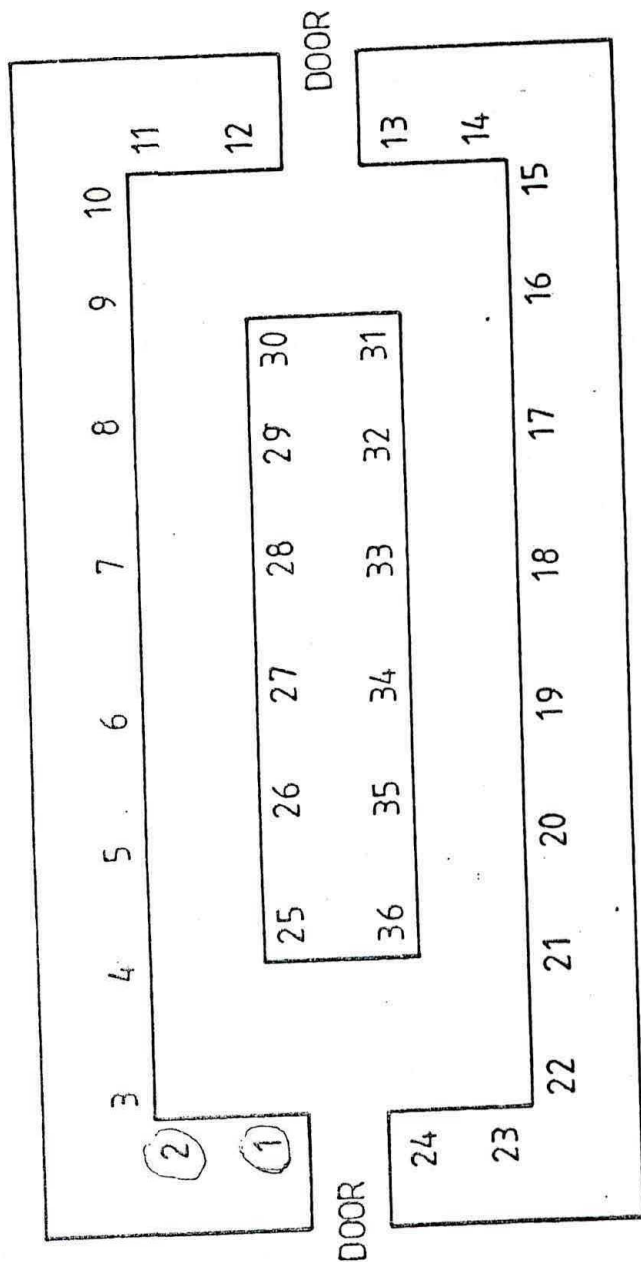
---oooOooo---

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ROBERT DOUGHTY

The following will has been transcribed by Jill Fletcher from the original in the Norfolk Record Office (NCC Wills 1679 OW8). Robert Doughty is almost certainly a member of the family of the Robert Doughty mentioned in our Aylsham Rental, as holding substantial properties in the town.

The Doughty family is one of a number of families whose contribution to Aylsham's history could be further explored in this way. :-

DISPLAY AREA 'C' Tent arrangement



In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert Doughty of Aylsham, in the County of Norfolk, Esquire, the Elder, do make this my last Will and Testament.

In primis. I give my body to the earth from whence it came, and my soul to God that gave it, trusting in the merits of Jesus Christ for everlasting Salvation, and I do declare to be a true son of the Protestant Church of England as it is now established by law.

Item. I will and devise to Catherine and Mary Doughty, my daughters, and their heirs all my lands now in the possession of Thomas Ward, the Baker or his Assignes.

Item. I will and bequeath all other my lands, tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever (excepting Aylsham Rectory) to Robert Doughty, my son, and Catherine, his wife, for life, and to his heirs for ever.

Item. I will and devise unto Mary, my daughter, all my goods and personal estate whatsoever, whom I make my executrix of this my last will, and I pray God bless all my children, married or unmarried, having been very dutiful to me, and I pray God prosper them all.

I publish and declare this to be my last will and testament. Witness my hand and seal this 31st. day of March 1679.

ROBERT DOUGHTY

Memorand: the named Robert Doughty did publish and declare this to be his last will and testament, and did subscribe his name thereunto, and seale the same in our presence. March 31st.1679.

Tho. Barker

Robt. Manly

Tho. R. Risbrough
(his marke)

John Coulson

STOP PRESS

The Rental

On publication, copies of the Rental will be on sale to the general public at £7.50 per copy. Copies will also be on sale at Gressenhall at the Norfolk History Fair, at the same price of £7.50.

Members of the Society may order, prior to publication at the privileged price of £6 per copy. Orders must be placed with Jane Nolan before 30th. September. Payment can be made with the order, or at the very latest, at the AGM on 5th.October.

SOCIETY NEWS

ARCHIVES COURSE

Due to commence on Monday, 19th. September from 10am to 12 noon at the Town Hall. The fees can now be confirmed as - £10 standard fee, or £8 concessionary. This will cover the whole series of ten lectures.

NEW AUDITOR

It is a pleasure to report that Ted Hicks has agreed to take on board the job of auditor to the Society. This is one of those essential jobs that all societies need to see carried out, but it is not always so easy to find people prepared to undertake them. The Society is grateful to Ted for agreeing to do this.

WYMONDHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY

About forty members of the Wymondham society made a successful visit to Aylsham on 27th. July, and were entertained to a guided tour of the more interesting features of the town. Apart from a slight hiccup at the church, where access was delayed and the time allowed for the visit was curtailed, the rest of the visit went smoothly.

Four guides from our Society - Jane Kennedy, Geoffrey Ducker, Ron Peabody and Jane Nolan - each led a separate group over a guided tour. All four groups finally came together in the market place, and after boarding the bus, went down to the mill. There, they were able to hear Geoffrey Ducker talk about the

features of the building, and describe what life in the mill had been like during its heyday. When the bus returned to the market place, the evening was rounded off with coffee and biscuits at Top Spot. A return visit to Wymondham by members of our Society will be planned for next year's programme.

EVENING EXCURSION TO GIMINGHAM ON 8th.JUNE'88

John of Gaunt's Hall? Surely a house with a history, for John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, was a name to conjure with in the fourteenth century and is still well known to Aylsham people as the traditional founder of the parish church.

So, an invitation to spend an evening exploring Gimingham in the company of Chris. Barringer as guide, promised to be interesting and worthwhile. The hope that planning the excursion for June would mean enjoying a fine summer evening as well, was hardly fulfilled, but 17 hardy members and friends braved the mist and cool winds to foregather at the church of Gimingham All Saints. We talked together of its interesting features, both outside and in, noting in particular its south porch in fine chequered flintwork. Then on to Hall Farm where the owners made us welcome; here we found a delightful old walled garden and a fascinating old farmhouse with many unusual features which provoked much discussion and left many questions unanswered - the windows, for example, suggested some ecclesiastical origins.

John of Gaunt's Hall is a small Jacobean house, with mullioned windows, set on its own among the fields. Mrs.Tuplin welcomed us, and allowed us to wander at will outside and in. The house has been much altered internally, but the old brick and flint work provided a good background for the fine pieces of furniture and other treasures in the house. Over a glass of wine, we talked of the house's history. It is not, of course, as old as John of Gaunt, but it is thought that it was,

maybe, the steward's house for the Soke of Gimmingham, which was a Duchy of Lancaster property, as was much of Aylsham. We were reminded of the history of the Soke which was written in 1917 by Christabel Hoare. Reference to it provided no mention of Aylsham, despite the fact that Aylsham was the headquarters for the Duchy in East Anglia.

Our thanks for a pleasant evening were expressed to Mrs. Jo Soar for making the arrangements for us to see the church, to our hosts at the farm, to Mrs. Tuplin for her generous hospitality and also to Chris Barringer for arranging the outing, and for his informed and enthusiastic commentary.

J.N.

A MUSEUM FOR AYLSHAM?

The idea of having a local museum in Aylsham is close to the hearts of many people, and from time to time, the idea comes up for discussion, is given an airing, then quietly put aside as impractical usually on financial grounds.

Quite recently, however, it was discussed again, and perhaps this time there are better prospects for the idea. Our chairman arranged a meeting, which took place on 26th. July in the Clerk's office in the Town Hall. Representatives from local organisations were invited to meet Keren Hull, Museums Officer for the Area Museums Service for South Eastern England. Ten people attended - in addition to Karen Hull and Ron Peabody, there was Sylvia Turner from the Norfolk Museums Service, Sylvia Keeler and June Lewis from the Parish Council, Vera Dumolo from Aylsham Evening WI, Tom Mollard from the County Library, Jane Nolan and Alan Quinn representing our Society and also the Aylsham Association and last, but not least, Graham Fowler deputy Economic Development officer for Broadland-District Council.

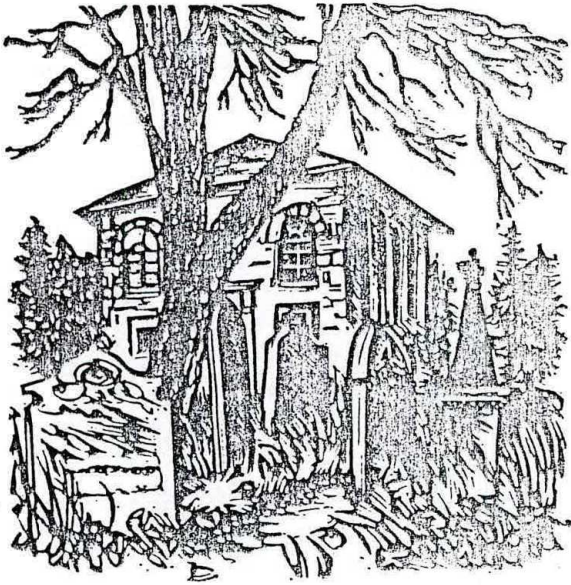
The exciting development that was discussed at the meeting was the forthcoming Bure Valley Light Railway, and the possibilities that might come from its arrival. The old Aylsham South railway station site will be altered dramatically. The road bridge will be demolished, and in addition to new railway buildings there are exploratory soundings for the building of a new library and a Tourist Information Centre, and now is the suggestion of some kind of museum to be included on the site. Apart from the Light Railway, which is almost certain to be built, the rest is still at the 'pious hope' stage, but the possibilities are still there.

Karen Hull, rightly and wisely, stressed the problems that go with setting up a museum - the need to determine exactly what sort of museum is wanted, and the ever-present revenue problems are still there to be resolved. However, it was generally agreed that the signs are at their most auspicious and that it was worth setting up a Steering Group or committee of interested parties to consider future possibilities and to explore some of the avenues explained to us at the meeting. Who knows? - perhaps we are a bit nearer this time than ever before.

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESCUE GROUP

Several members of the Society met at the Aylsham Baptist Chapel to hear Mrs. Mary Muir and George Fenner explain in greater detail what was required in the Survey of Nonconformist Places of Worship. It was an ideal venue, being one of the chapels that would eventually feature in the survey.

We learned quite a lot! Mainly that it is a bigger undertaking than we thought at first, and that the potential number of chapels is greater than we realised, and the information required of us is more detailed than first envisaged. But it still sounded as if it could be a lot of fun, and those present were still



prepared to continue with the project. The more people involved, the easier the whole project should be, so volunteers are still sought. It was useful to be able to make a start by filling in our first survey form for the Aylsham Baptist chapel itself, and this brought out all sorts of interesting sidelights on this most interesting and historic building. It was all made easier by the charm and kindness of the minister, Miss Christine Perrett, who spent the whole time with us, and gave us the complete freedom of the building, and answered as many questions as possible. She also demonstrated ecumenism at its best by providing tea and biscuits for us all from the Methodist church garden party which was being held next door.

At a follow up meeting, further progress was made. Plans now exist for different members to tackle different villages, so that all the area will be covered. To date, two chapels have already been surveyed, and soon several others should also be recorded. Help would

still be appreciated. It is not too late for members who are interested, to offer their services to Jane Nolan.

A NIGHT OF ARCHIVE FILM

A good crowd of some fifty members drawn from the Naturalists Society and the Local History Society joined together at the Friendship Club to see a selection of films from the East Anglian Film Archive. Welcomed by Ted Hicks, Mr. Watson presented a selection of films designed to suit both sections of the audience.

We enjoyed a 1903 trip through Norwich on the top of an open-top tramcar, explored a large section of the North Norfolk coast with Dick Bagnall-Oakley, and watched Mr. Smalls from North Creak making baskets. There was even a brief glimpse of the Aylsham Show during the 1950s, and scenes of the Broads before the hordes descended on them.

In all honesty, it hardly mattered which section of the audience the films were aimed at - they were all fascinating!. Such is the wealth of film material already in the hands of the East Anglian Film Archive, it is hoped that there will be other similar evenings to follow. There is obviously still a wealth of entertainment still to be enjoyed.

AYLSHAM PARISH MAP

The idea of towns and villages producing their own local Parish Map is spreading throughout the country - over 300 are now in progress in a great variety of styles and materials.

These maps are produced by local people putting together their knowledge and their expertise to be displayed in a suitable public place.

It seems only natural that we should place most value on what we are in contact with everyday - local and familiar places, commonplace birds and animals - yet the reverse is often true. We appear to place a higher value on rare animals and plants and spectacular views and far-flung places. But everyday places desperately need our attention, partly because they are changing so fast, and not always for the better, and also because tremendous benefit is to be gained from personal involvement with your own locality.

Whether you live in town or country, there are things around you which are important in your everyday life. Perhaps there are buildings near you which seem at home in the landscape because they reflect the lives of people who lived in the area before you - a mill a warehouse, or even a bridge or a disused railway station; your walks may take you by a canal, along the banks of a river or beside old flint walls. Wherever you live, there are the features which gave your area its own distinctive character.

It is you who can know your area intimately - in more detail than the officials in distant offices who have the power to change your surroundings. By making a map and putting on it the places and features that local people value, and then displaying it in a

prominent place in the neighbourhood, there is a better chance that these will be not only recognised and enjoyed by others, but respected and protected as well.

The Aylsham Association and the Aylsham Local History Society are keen to undertake the production of such a map, but they need your help to supply the local information. The older generation can remember forgotten field and place names; they and others can add local knowledge in a variety of ways - about birds, plants, animals, buildings, favourite places, events, floods and storms etc. The map itself can be decorative rather than scientific, and how we make it, and where we put it when complete will need due consideration, but for a start we need information.

Jane Nolan, The Belt Lodge, Sir William' Lane, Aylsham
Tele: 732226

Ron Peabody, 8 Sir William's Close, Aylsham. Tel:733230

Peter Holman, 3 Forster Close, Aylsham. Tel:733434

Dr.J.Maddison, 10 Church Terrace, Aylsham. Tel:733289

Will Ching, Aylsham Manor, Norwich Rd.Aylsham. Tel:733253

Offers of help can be made directly to any of the above.

THE SOAME STEAM CART

Copies of the 'Newsletter' obviously reach a wider readership than just our own members. It was still a pleasant surprise to receive a letter from Vivienne Roberts, who is a member of the Thorpe St. Andrew Local History Society, and who had read the article in our May 1988 issue (Vol.2 No.1) on the Soame steam cart.

Mrs. Roberts' great-grandfather worked for the Soames Foundry at Marsham, and so the article was of particular interest to her. She writes:-

" . . . For your information, my 92 years old mother's grandfather, namely George Neal, worked there, and she used to take him a meal (including a bottle of cold tea) when she was a little girl.

Also, my father, grandfather and other relatives come from Aylsham, in fact several still live there. My father worked at the railway station in the 1920s, and it was here that he met my mother who had come to nurse at Aylsham Infirmary. They later moved to Thorpe when my father obtained a job at St. Andrew's Hospital.

I think I am right in saying that my father was the first King's scout in Norfolk. His name was Horace William Pull, and his father's was George Pull, who used to live in Millgate, in a little cottage (now pulled down) opposite the egg packing station. When my brother and I were children, some sixty years ago, we spent many a happy holiday in Aylsham, especially paddling under the bridge over the mill stream.

My uncle, Frank Pull - now at Cromer - worked in Dent's Stores. I also remember playing with the Gottersons, especially Harvey. My relatives, still living in Aylsham, are the Barwicks of Cawston Road and Abbotts Hall. . ."

Mrs. Roberts was also far-sighted enough to persuade her mother, several years ago, to write out an account of her early life, and she has kindly sent me an extract covering the time she lived at Marsham with her grandparents. The cottage in which they lived is still there.

Extract from the life story of Mrs. Dorothy Pull, born
4th. February 1896

. . . My mother had to go into hospital and I was sent to my grandparents at Marsham, to stay.

My grandfather came to meet me off the train at Aylsham station in his donkey cart. I had an uncle only a year older than me. He was about seven, and went to school in Aylsham, riding a little tricycle on the Turnpike, as the main road was called. After I had been there about six months, Granny decided that I was old enough to go to school and my uncle Albert was there to look after me.

We had to pay a penny a week to attend school, and I used to stand on the bar at the back of the tricycle and hold tight to his belt with both hands. We used to have a farthing a week to spend, and we always bought the same things - coconut chips. The shop-keeper would roll a piece of paper into a cornet and fill it full. We must have had a good half pound for that farthing.

When we were on holiday from school, we would take my grandfather's vittles (as they were called) to the Soames Foundry where he worked. They consisted of two thick slices of bread, no butter, a lump of cheese

and two pickled onions followed by a bottle of cold tea (no milk or sugar) to drink.

At school, we had slates and slate pencils to write with. We had to be at school by nine o'clock, and always took two slices of bread and dripping for our dinner. I don't know what we had to drink, but there was a pump in the school yard, with a cup on a chain, so I suppose we drank from that. We must have left for home about 2.30pm as we were in the Infants, and left before the others. I don't know how long I stayed there, but when my mother was better, I returned home with them to Yorkshire, where they had made their home...

....While at Marsham, one incident sticks in my mind, and I still remember it as though it happened yesterday. I was going to Norwich with Granny and aunt Maud on the coach for a treat, as it was my birthday. There were four horses drawing the coach, and my Granny went inside, but I wanted to sit up the front with the driver, so my aunt came up with me. We were coming home in the afternoon, and had reached Horsham St. Faiths, when, on coming down the hill, one of the front horses stumbled; I think the road must have been icy, as it was in February. The coach and us were thrown over the high wall at the bottom. As we were up front, we were thrown clear, and only sustained bruises, but all six of the people inside had various injuries, and one of the horses had to be shot as the shafts had pierced its body.

we were taken into the pub on the corner opposite St. Faith's church, and given hot drinks, and waited there until another conveyance came along. I believe this was a waggonette. I also remember my Granny screaming all the time.

---ooOoo---

B

Physicians

Prescription

BOOK.

A NINETEENTH CENTURY PHYSICIAN'S PRESCRIPTION BOOK.

John Norton & Ron Peabody

Bound in vellum, labelled "Physician's Prescription Book", there it is amongst our Parish archives, an intriguing record of the medicines being prescribed in Aylsham 150 years ago.

How did they differ from the prescriptions of today? I had no way of telling, but fortunately, John Norton, a retired chemist, who now lives in Aylsham, has kindly examined the book, and has written the following notes. The illustrations show: the cover, the entries numbered 432-438, and a close up of entry number 438.

.....The compiler of this prescription book was a Druggist and Apothecary who had served a long indentured period of training (apprenticeship) for which his parents had to pay a fairly high premium. In 1841, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was formed by a number of these Chemists and Druggists to regulate the training given. In 1843 they received a Royal Charter of Incorporation. They instituted a syllabus, and held examinations, but it was not necessary to become a member of the Pharmaceutical Society until the 1933 Pharmacy & Poison Act was passed. After that date, Chemists and Druggists had to be an M.P.S. and pay an annual fee.

In May of this year, we have been honoured by the Queen's decree, and are now the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The items dispensed in former years which are missing from today's pharmacy are:-

Suppositories, Bougies and Pessaries.
Cachets (powders in gelatinised starch based circular cachet)

438

W. L. Bulver Esq.

J. Pil Hydrang

Common

Ext. Colocynthis of
Hydrang. Pil. over in

Hy

Hydrang. Pil.

POWDERS

(No.434) R.Copeman Esq.

Pulv.Rhei. (powdered rhubarb root from SHENSI,China
rheium palmatum.)

Pulv.calumba (Jateorhiza palmata)

Sodo. Carbon (soda bicarb.)

Pulv. cocci. co.(mixture of cochineal, pot.carb,
pot. bitart.)

- digestive and laxative powder.

Fiat pulv. Hora I ante prandium sumenda quotidie ex
Cyathos Aq. font solifactum.

(One to be taken one hour before dinner, washed down
with a wineglass full of spring water.)

Mitte XII (send 12)

(No.435) Miss Ferris

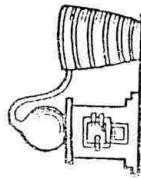
Pulv.cinch. gr.viii (powdered cinchona bark)

Pulv. Rhei. gr.xxiv

M . Ft. Pilulae xxiv (mix and make 24 pills)

Pills are made by mixing powders with syrup of liquid
glucose in a pill mortar to a semi hard consistency -
rolled to a length for, in this instance, 24 and cut
on a pill machine.

THE SIGN OF



THE STILL

Constructed, in all probability, by a Local Craftsman, Aylsham folk saw it for the first time about 120 years ago.

Residents of Aylsham and District look for the "Sign of the Still" today when they need the services of

G. R. OKE, M.P.S.

PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST

MARKET PLACE . AYLSHAM

The above advertisement is taken from the parish magazine for November 1962. If the dates are correct, it seems that the sign (outside Coghlan's) appeared at the same period as the Prescription Book.

(No.436) Miss Robins

Essence Bergamot
Oil of almonds
of each two drachms
castor oil 2ozs.
Mix together.

(Hair dressing)

(No.437) Mrs.Nicholls.

* Acid Hydrocynus (dilute prussic acid)
aq. pura

30 drops twice a day. (sedative action on stomach)

* This shows sloppy prescription writing, as it should
read - Acid. Hydrocyan Dil (dilute)

(No.438) W.Buliver Esq.

Pil. Hydrarg.
Scammon
Ext. Coldcynth

Fiat Pil Send six

Sig. Aper Pills (label aperient pills)

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EAST ANGLIA AND THE LOW COUNTRIES: A CELEBRATION OF THE
TERCENTENARY OF 1688

A series of public lectures (provisional programme below) will be given in Lecture Theatre 01.02 in the Centre of East Anglian Studies during the Autumn and Spring terms. All lectures will begin at 7pm.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 20th.October '88 | East Anglia and the Netherlands connexion over 600 years. - Dr.B.A.Holderness. |
| 10th.November '88 | 1688 and gardening - Professor J.Dixon Hunt. |
| 24th.November '88 | East Anglia and the Dutch style of Architecture - Dr. D.A.Thomson |
| 8th.December '88 | Sir Thomas Browne and Dutch science. - Prof.A.G.Bachrach |
| 12th.January '89 | The new draperies.
- Dr. B.A.Holderness |
| 26th.January '89 | Shipping and the North Sea economy - Dr.B.A.Holderness |
| 9th.February '89 | Constable, the Norwich School and Dutch landscape painting
- Professor Charles Wilson |
| 23rd.February '89 | East Anglian agricultural progress and fen drainage: the Dutch connexion
- Dr.Joan Thirsk |
| 9th.March '89 | 1688: Retrospect and perspective - Professor
J.R.Jones |