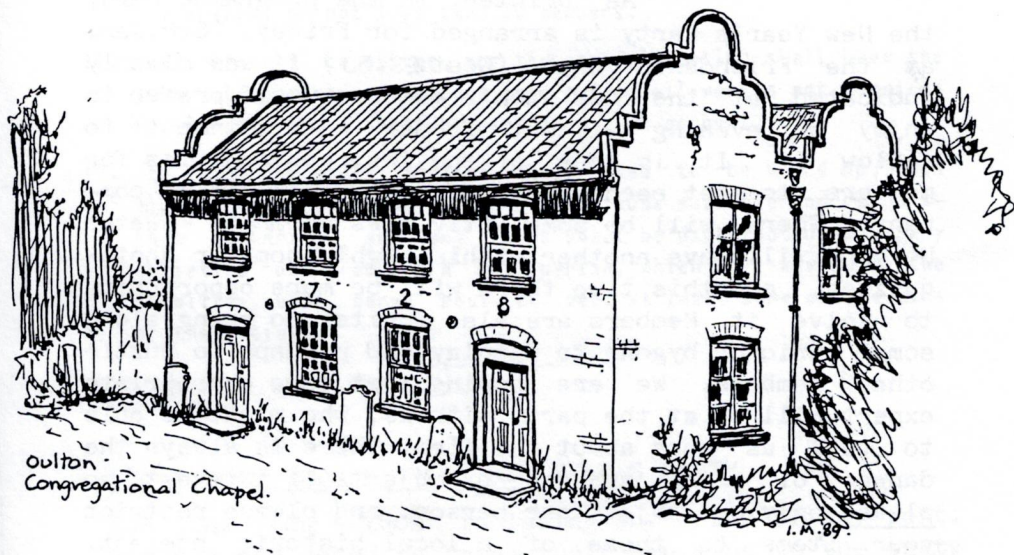


Aylsham Local History Society



Oulton
Congregational Chapel.

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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NEW YEAR'S PARTY

As printed in the programme card, the New Year's Party is arranged for Friday, 26th. Jan. at the Friendship Club. (Cost: £3.50) It was clearly indicated at the AGM that members would prefer to enjoy an evening without formal entertainment to follow it. It is one of the few opportunities for members to meet each other and enjoy each others company. There will be some activities arranged - Peter Holman will have another of his highly popular photo-quizzes, and this time there will be more opportunity to solve it. Members are also invited to bring along some curio or bygone to display and perhaps to puzzle other members. We are hoping that some appropriate expert will be at the party with us, who might be able to tell us more about the item. There is always the danger of being swamped by objects of interest, so please only one object per person, and please restrict your items to those of a local historic interest. Nothing too esoteric or we may be there all night.

One problem will present itself for the first time this year. We are not licensed to sell drink at the Friendship Club. Last year, you will remember, our wine was a gift - courtesy of the prize money won at the Local History fair. This year we cannot repeat that, and it will be easier to arrange
(continued on p. 243)



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

Number 8

"A BED OF ROSES" - the Repton grave,

by Ron Peabody

"Humphry Repton was the last of the three outstanding designers who dominated the English Landscape movement from approximately 1720 to 1820, and thereby achieved the transformation of a vast acreage of uncultivated land into parks and gardens which were to become one of our principal legacies from the Georgian era".

- so writes Dorothy Stroud, the authority on Repton, in the preface to the catalogue prepared for the exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre, U.E.A. and subsequently at the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1982/83.

It is fortunate for us that such a famous landscape gardener should choose to be buried in our parish churchyard. Whilst his father and mother - John and Martha, and his sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and John Adey, are buried in the church itself, (in the south chancel aisle) Humphry decided his remains should be interred in the graveyard. In a letter to the vicar at that time, Rev.C.Norris, dated January 1815 (see the Parish Church magazine for May 1936), Repton wrote -

"After twenty years of war which abridged me of many comforts, I am now happy that I shall depart

Humphry Repton.
from an engraving
published
in 1802



in peace to sleep near the Ashes of my parents, and have desired that mine may be so slightly enclosed as soon to dissolve and form part of the Garden mold of my warm, snug corner where it will soon be converted into the pabulum (food) of roses"

The letter also records that he composed the verse inscribed on his tombstone (often quoted in the guidebooks) - "Not like the Egyptian Tyrants consecrate . . ." when he was standing in the graveyard,

". . . during a gleam of sunshine, last October, when I often enjoyed the thought of converting a weedy corner into a beautiful flower garden, and gathering a barren ear of wild barley, I promised it should be a Rose. . ."

In March 1968, however, when Jonathan Mardle wrote an article for the EDP commemorating the 150th anniversary of Repton's death, he found that the grave was unkempt - "the enclosure smells faintly of cats, the garden beds are weedy, the box edges untrimmed and the rose bushes are old, straggling and unpruned."

Fortunately, for the good name of our town the EDP published a letter, two days later, from Nicholas Corbin, who was then the chairman of the Aylsham Association, drawing attention to the fund they had set up from which it was hoped to raise the £500 needed to repair and endow the grave.

I believe it was the first major project undertaken by the association, which was formed on 24th May 1966. Their Newsletter No.3. April 1968, records that appeals for donations were sent to owners of Repton houses, and other interested persons, and to periodicals such as "Country Life". By December 1968, sufficient funds had been raised to restore the tombstone (the work was being done by Messrs. Woods & Sons, of Norwich), and the railed enclosure (by Eric Stevenson of Wroxham). Graham Stuart Thomas, the rose expert, and at that time, Gardens' Adviser to the National Trust, visited the grave in August 1969 and recommended the planting of 18 Old Blush China roses with one Rosa Mundi in the centre, and a surround of Box or common thrift.

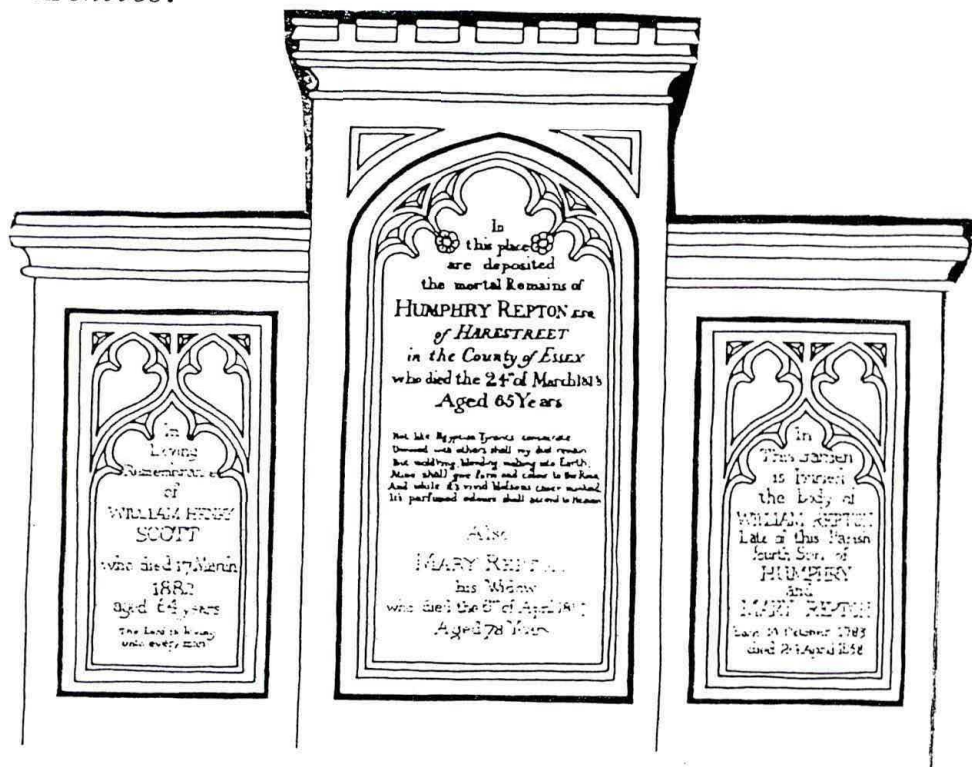
Members of the Georgian Group were most impressed with the restoration work when they came, "and made a collection on the spot". Dorothy Stroud was also very pleased with the work done when she visited the grave. By September 1969 the work was virtually complete and Geoffrey Ducker offered to carve an inscription on

one of the paving slabs surrounding the roses:-

"Restored by the Aylsham Association MCMLXIX
Nicholas Corbin, Chairman"

Humphry Repton was "a character of whom the county can justly be proud", concludes Dorothy Stroud. It is fitting that Aylsham should honour his memory, and maintain his grave in the manner he prescribed, and our thanks are due to the Aylsham Association for so doing.

Several members have helped me to write this article, and my thanks are due to them:- Wilmot Ching, Nicholas Corbin and Geoffrey Ducker. Also we must thank Bruce Cross for the splendid project he compiled on Repton, when he was at Gresham School, for his GCE examination, which he subsequently donated to our Parish Council Archives.



AS OTHERS SEE US.

In recent months, several guided walks through Aylsham have been arranged for members of various societies. These groups and societies have usually been of people who are not particularly familiar with Aylsham, and the members are often viewing the town for the first time.

Several of our own members have either organised these guided walks, or have acted as guides for the visitors. I am sure most guides are left wondering what sort of impression is left on these visitors by their first viewing of Aylsham.

One typical walk was the one arranged, last year, for the Staff Association of the Norfolk County Library. This Association has members from places as far away as Thetford, Diss or Kings Lynn. An account of their visit later appeared in the magazine of the Norfolk County Library Staff Association - "Broadsheet" - No.45, and is reprinted below by kind permission of the editor of "Broadsheet" - What did they think of Aylsham?

AN AYLSHAM EVENING - 15th.June 1988

There is nothing sham about Aylsham! Indeed, as its long and eventful history bears out and its loyal and enterprising citizens eagerly confirm, it is both tried and true.

Three of them were with us as guides when we foregathered there in the evening busyness of the market place, shuffling our feet a little in the not unusual night time chill of an English June.

John Maddison is a National Trust architect, Geoffrey Ducker a local builder and Ron

Peabody, a former librarian of the burgh. Each was offering us his special love and interest to use as we would, to form a composite picture of his own cherished piece of Norfolk.

Even at first glance, Aylsham has an air of nurtured orderliness. No sleepy little town, even its few neglected corners have a kind of dormant vigour, and everywhere there is evidence of controlled yet purposeful prosperity.

We were told that it was certainly older by far than the Domesday records; there was a Saxon settlement there before the Danes came, and a Roman road runs nearby, but most interesting of all, from my point of view, was the fact that Edward III had granted the manor of Aylsham to his son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. Although he may never have visited the town in person, mention of his name was enough to transport me back to my very early teens when this most powerful man vied with Lorenzo The Magnificent, Jean Comte de Dunois, James Graham, the Earl of Montrose and Prince Rupert as the recipient of my adolescent adoration.

From then on magic was manifest, and I was prepared to be enchanted by all that I saw in the town. Surrounded by careful husbandry, it was once the centre of the linen and later the worsted trade, and the wherries sailing up the then much more navigable river Bure added to its wealth and fortune. The presence of the parish church of St. Michael, to which we repaired, almost too hot-foot for some, bears witness to this affluence and owes much of its beauty to its many merchant benefactors. It is said to have been built under the auspices of John of Gaunt, around 1380 although there is evidence of earlier work, and of course much of a later date as well. Most of the stained glass is comparatively recent, but I was much taken by the gorgeous orange robes of one of the figures. The interior also boasts a fascinating font, and still splendid, the lower part of a painted and

gilded late medieval rood screen depicting pairs of saints. There is much more besides, and it would be well worth a further visit.

Those preferring the great outdoors will find much of interest in the churchyard. I always think churchyards are wonderful places in which to linger, and although we could not quite do that, we saw enough to make a return visit almost obligatory.

The talented Repton family had strong ties with Aylsham, and Humphry Repton, the famous landscape-gardener and architect, is buried in a landscaped grave with fine iron railings, just against the church. For our delight he has written his own epitaph. Did he ever read the last two lines of James Shirley's poem "Death the leveller" I wonder? Certainly he is assured of immortality, the roses are there still in perfumed perpetuity.

His age of cultured art and beauty was a scientific one at that, and a tremendous thirst for knowledge betokened many a professional man, so much so that we saw one grave at least, with restraining bars around it, to keep at bay those Resurrection men who sought to help assuage it!

We were reluctant to leave the churchyard, but there was a great deal more to see. Many of Aylsham's buildings are of brick with the characteristic Dutch gables, and many too, whose Georgian or Victorian facades belie much earlier features hidden beneath. Some are decorated with distinctive roseate or floral bosses or roundels and several still bear the old fire insurance badges, and everywhere one is reminded of the fact that the citizens of this place have always had the knack of adapting and turning events to their own advantage.

In the 19th. century, a collegiate school flourished in the town, and the names and initials of its pupils can still be seen carved on the schoolhouse walls. These same pupils were wont to throw stones at all the shop windows they passed from the conveyance which brought them back from weekend

cricket matches. The shopkeepers involved refrained from registering formal complaints , and nothing daunted, the glaziers repaired the damage time and time again. Both were grateful for the extra custom and employment the boys brought their way.

Nearby is the Butts Land where Aylsham's archers practised with the long bow the better to serve their king. It is not difficult to imagine them contributing to great victories like Crecy and Agincourt, and returning with a veneer of continental savoir faire to enhance and complement that native dourness to the everlasting benefit of the town.

Not far away, beneath the early burgeoning branches of my favourite fruit, the fig, we heard the touching tale of the library's former cat. It became the staff's by mutual adoption, giving of its all in terms of fidelity and affection, and they in return, cared for it above the call of duty - Dyes Loke will not see its like again this side of eternity.

The market place was, and still is, the hub of the town. "Not a stone but has a tale to tell", and there are traces everywhere of a colourful past. The Town Hall, then, as now, a place of assembly, music and dances, was once a Corn Exchange too, and the sounds of bargained barley and brisk bourrees seem to echo from its walls.

The square itself was the venue for a huge feast held to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII. Postponed at the eleventh hour, due to the historic operation for the removal of the royal appendix, the mountains of food, so patriotically and painstakingly prepared, were distributed to the poor and disadvantaged, and produced yet again for the action-replay two months later.

Across the way, proudly stands The Black Boys hostelry, and by overwhelming vote

we brought the evening to a close within its welcoming portals. Several of us tried our hand at a general knowledge quiz arranged by mine host, and although a group in the next bar won the hogshead of ale, or whatever, we put in a fair showing, and by no means disgraced the profession.

By this time, most had gone their separate ways, but I am sure we all had much to dwell upon, and can thank our kind guides for so much civic knowledge imparted with such easy enthusiasm.

Christine King

--ooOoo--

BRAINTEASER

No prizes on offer for Peter Holman's latest Brainteaser but it is a test for your powers of observation.

"Where can now faintly be seen, the words
STAND BY THE KING painted on brickwork
in or about Aylsham Market Place.

When and why were the words placed there?"

(The solution to our previous Brainteaser is on p. 230)

N.A.R.G. Non-Conformist Chapel Survey 1988/89.

Early in 1988, the Norfolk Archaeological Rescue Group decided to undertake a county-wide survey of all buildings which have ever been used for non-conformist worship. It was felt that in recent years many such places of worship had disappeared, either by demolition, or conversion to other uses, and that this process was still continuing.

Many societies, ourselves included, undertook to survey different parts of the county, and happily, we can now report that our part in the survey is completed. It has been a long drawn out operation - not because the survey was particularly difficult, but because of the problems of busy people finding opportunities to set out in pairs to cover all the parts of our area. Our area was the whole of the South Erpingham Hundred, and those of us who took part in the survey, worked in pairs, and what follows is an account of how each pair got on.

It became clear just how timely the survey was. The strong Non-conformist movement in East Anglia left Norfolk well endowed with its places of worship. The extent to which they are disappearing, or changing their use, is greater than one realises. From one group of six buildings surveyed, only two are still in use as chapels; of the remaining four - one had disappeared, one became a village hall, one a builder's store. The last one is a private house. If these buildings are worth recording at all, then now is the time for it to be done; the future of many of them is far from secure.

Everyone involved received great help and patience, and time generously given, from the people who still cared for these buildings, or who were living in them as homes. Our thanks are given here to them all. All the chapels surveyed were subsequently photographed, and the results of all our labours were

passed on to the Norfolk Archaeological Rescue Group. Our best reward will be, if the county survey is eventually published, and the work made available for future local historians.

Our final thanks are due to Ivan Morris, who drew the delightful sketches which illustrate this article.

(Peter Holman writes) Wendy McGregor and I tried to deal with the chapels in the South-East of the Hundred of South Erpingham, in the eleven parishes stretching from Burgh and Brampton down to Coltishall and Belaugh. We started off well, by arranging to go out every Tuesday afternoon. Our first attempt led us to a strange building attached to the back of a pub at Scottow, which turned out to be an Oddfellows Hall of the Durrant Lodge of the Manchester Unity which was not quite what we were looking for.

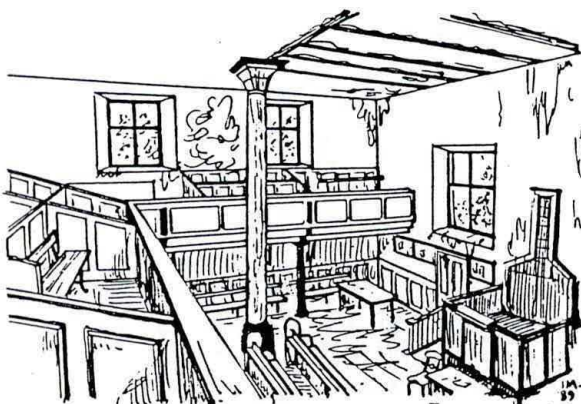
At Swanton Abbot there were traces of Swedenborgians, and a chapel turned into a working garage, where, when they dug a hole for an inspection pit for their buses, they found an unexpected interment under the floor. This was said to be the remains of the Wesleyan who had funded the chapel. His remains, after some legal problems, were transferred to the local churchyard.

At the Heath, Buxton (not Buxton Heath!) we found the very overgrown remains of what at one time, had been a flourishing Baptist centre, with local memories of day-long sessions for distant families. We found many chapels now turned into homes, mostly done with care. Several chapel officials were very helpful in arranging to meet us, and open their premises, and gave us the knowledge that they had. The most difficult one to get into, proved to be the most recently-built chapel on our list, at the RAF base

at Coltishall, where we nearly got our car blown up as suspect terrorists.

These afternoons led to some interesting times, giving as they did, a purpose for looking more closely into our locality, and a glimpse into other denominations, flourishing or faded, and a feeling of satisfaction when we finally tracked down through local questioning, the half forgotten site of previous dissenting activity.

But enough is enough, and we wish the computer at UEA success with our findings.



Oulton . Congregational Chapel. Interior. (now disused)

Ted Hicks and Jill Fletcher surveyed the North-West portion of the area, and found perhaps, the oldest of all the Chapels. Ted Hicks writes:-

When we were approached to carry out surveys of Non Conformist chapels we were taken aback at the

challenge; even more so when presented with technically worded forms which caused problems to some.

However, once we commenced our visits - in bright but chilly weather - we began to enjoy the task, particularly when finding such gems as Oulton Congregational Chapel (1728) and Itteringham Common Chapel, now converted into residential use.

Although many chapels had similar characteristics, meeting helpful local folks added extra interest to a satisfying task.

Valerie Belton and Tom Mollard set out to survey the chapels in Ingworth, Erpingham, Wickmere, Colby and Banningham. Not too difficult, as it turned out, particularly at Ingworth where the former Wesleyan chapel no longer exists, except as an obscured site, and in people's memories.

None of the other chapels were of particular importance architecturally, with the possible exception of the 1846 (restored 1891) chapel in Colby, which has now been converted into a private house - the home of Mr. & Mrs. Wells. It possesses, by far the most interesting frontage, and every feature of that frontage has been carefully preserved. Colby is fortunate to have possessed two chapels, and the other, smaller one, at the opposite end of the village is still in use as a chapel and lovingly maintained. Erpingham chapel was the one we used as a guinea-pig,

and there we worked out how to understand the questionnaire - at least I think we did. I am curious to know how our results compared with those elsewhere. Our oldest building turned out to be the 1828 chapel in Mill Road in



Erpingham - Reformed Methodist Chapel.

Banningham. This is a plain, unadorned building, easy to pass by without realising that it was once a chapel. Alas, it is no longer in use; we were unable to see inside it, and it appears to be used solely as a store.

Wickmere has been converted into a cosy church hall, and only Colby and Erpingham are still used for their original purpose. Altogether it was an enjoyable experience, and much of the pleasure came from the kindness of the people we met on our way round.

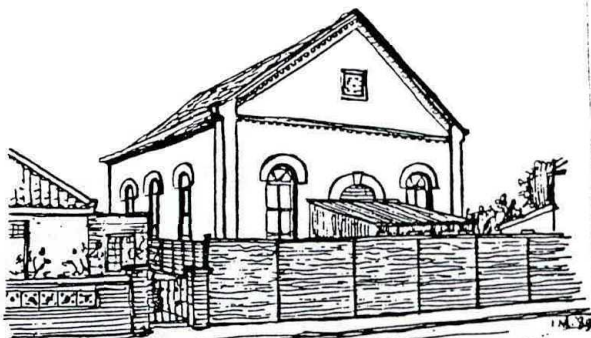
TM.

The central area was surveyed by Ivan Morris and Jane Nolan. This final report is from Jane Nolan:-

We undertook the surveying of the Non-conformist chapels in the town; these were Aylsham Methodist church, the Tabernacle, the Cawston Road chapel, Aylsham Mill Road Primitive Methodist chapel (now Freemasons), and also the Roman Catholic church. We also did two 'outliers': at Tuttington and Hevingham. Aylsham Baptists had been covered earlier by Tom Mollard and Jane Nolan.

I count myself very fortunate to be paired with Ivan whose professional skills in measuring up and recording are such that I had little more to do than hold the end of the tape measure. My attention was therefore, directed to the recording of plaques, memorials (inside and out) and to gleaning what one could of the history of the buildings from key-holders, neighbours, members of the congregation etcetera.

In appearance our buildings ranged from the rich and florid Victorian decoration of the Methodist church in White Hart Street to the simple rectangular red brick block of the chapel at Tuttington, (now a potato store). Each had its own individual interest as an expedition, sometimes in the buildings themselves, sometimes in the people we met, sometimes in the unanswered questions they raised. For example, there was the elderly keyholder in Hevingham from



Aylsham - Mill Rd Primitive Methodist - Now a Masonic Lodge.



whom we learnt that the chapel had been Marsham property, the landowner being the then Vicar of Marsham, who had presented the chapel to the Parish Council at the request of my informant! Which then poses the question - Why did the Marsham family have this

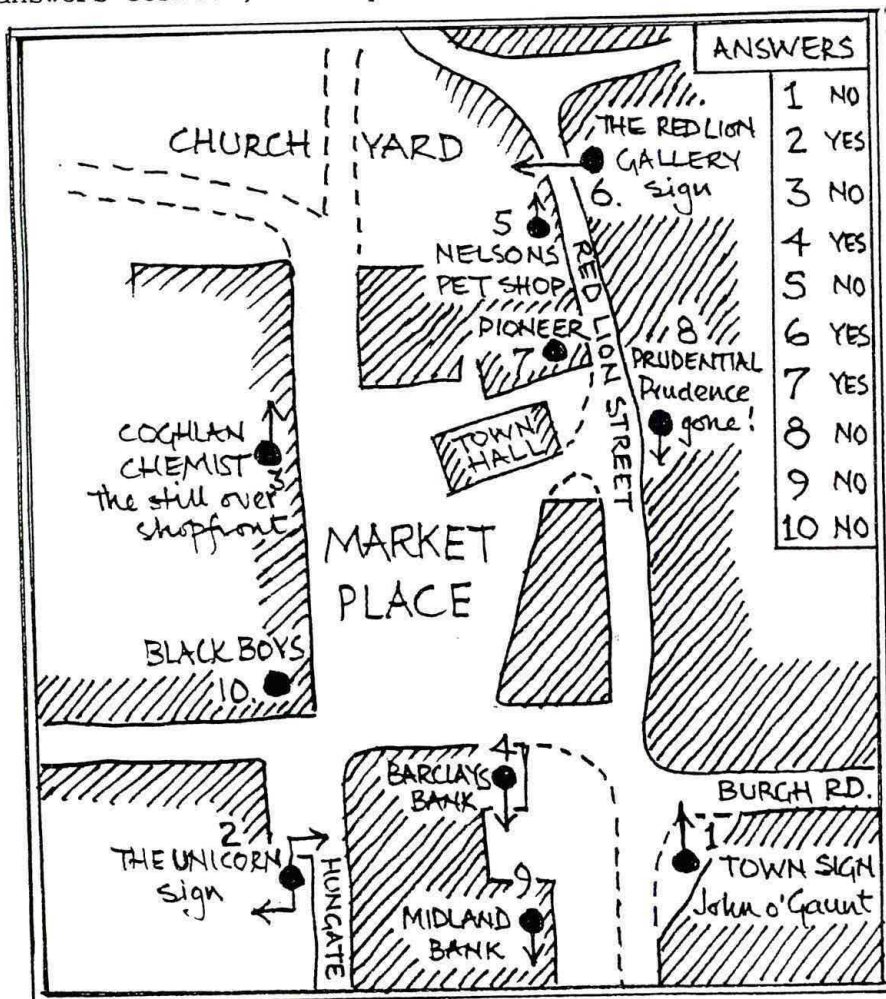
chapel? Had they built it? If so, when and why? Again, why did the Methodists, who were worshipping in the present Baptist Church building in White Hart Street, build themselves a new building on the street nearby around 1840, and sell out to the Baptists? Was this when the street began to be called Chapel Street? When did the street then become White Hart St.?

The Roman Catholics (post Reformation at least) seem to have been latecomers on the scene in Aylsham. Their presence owes much to the contribution of the well-known Shephard family of Abbot's Hall.

When the survey of Non-conformist chapels in Norfolk is complete, we may learn more of how, what we have found in the Hundred of South Erpingham fits into the whole pattern. In the meantime, there may be Aylsham folk, now, who can contribute to what we know of Aylsham's denominational church history.

BRAINTEASER TIME

The answer to Peter Holman's Brainteaser in our last issue appears below. No-one managed to get all the answers correct, so no prizewinner this time.



For the new Brainteaser, see page 223

SOCIETY NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - The sixth AGM of the Society took place at the Friendship Club on Wednesday, 4th. October, with almost 40 members attending.

The meeting followed the pattern of all previous AGMs with officers' reports on the Society's affairs. The Treasurer's report submitted by George Collins, and his accounts, certified correct by Ted Hicks were accepted. (The statement of accounts is published separately in this issue). The Chairman and the Secretary reviewed the year's events and activities. These included our part in the N.A.R.G Chapel survey, the successful archives study course, the recent acquisition of high quality tape recording equipment so that we can begin our oral history project, and the photographing of the 1839 Aylsham map.

We were also pleasantly reminded of the successful outings that many of the membership had enjoyed - a membership that now has reached 112.

Officers and committee for the coming year were elected, or re-elected, resulting in the following:-

Chairman: Jane Nolan
Vice-Chairman: Ron Peabody
Secretary: Valerie Belton
Treasurer: George Collins

Committee - Jill Fletcher, Peter Holman, Wendy Macgregor, Tom Mollard, Kay Mosse and Alan Quinn.

After some discussion on the Society's finances it was agreed to raise the annual subscription to £3. This is the first increase in subscriptions since the Society was formed, and the increase was approved without dissent, in view of our increased commitments, and particularly on account of the increased costs of producing our "Newsletter & Journal"

In the chairman's remarks and outline of future programme, the need to start as soon as possible, on the Oral History project was stressed. The equipment to be used was on display at the meeting. We were notified that another Local History Fair would take place in 1990 and our participation was agreed. The New Year Party was also approved.

There were many ideas for future outings ranging from a guided walk through Norwich; a visit to the Dragon Hall and King St.; Bury St. Edmunds and Ickworth; Ely or Colchester to an exchange visit with the North Walsham Local History Society. Plenty of ideas for the committee to consider.

Two forthcoming events were noted. We agreed to assist with a visit to Aylsham from the Friends of Norfolk Heritage, and our Vice-chairman reported that another gathering of the Ulph family would take place, this time in Aylsham, on 30th. May next, and help from members would be welcomed. The final report was on the Parish Map, and Peter Holman informed us that it would soon appear and be displayed where the Aylsham Association notice-board is presently situated.

One new appointment was announced - Ron Peabody has agreed to act as our PR representative, and will issue reports on the Society's activities.

This concluded the business part of the meeting, and after a break for refreshments, we were treated to not one but five speakers! - First Eileen Rush spoke on Aylsham Watch and Clockmakers. She updated the information already recorded in some of our earlier issues of the Newsletter. Norfolk clockmakers were the equal of any from London, and the examples on display could prove that. Another Mathew Read clock had been located, but still no reference had ever been found to Green of Aylsham, although five clocks with that name had been seen. Amongst the attractive examples on display was a gingerbread clock - not a clock made in

Aylsham, but one bought by her parents many years ago with trade tokens issued by Henry Page.

This was followed by Peter Holman on the Aylsham Navigation. Peter added to the already extensive information already published in our last Newsletter, and talked at greater length on the annual inspections of the Navigation which started at the White Horse Inn at Horstead and made their leisurely way upstream until they reached Aylsham. Even more interesting was the saga of the steam dredger which was ordered to keep the waterway clear. After a most chequered history, and a full three years after it had been ordered from Crabtree of Yarmouth, it was never actually used, and in 1897 it was finally towed away into oblivion.

Three speakers combined to give the final talk. Wenda Wiles, Valerie Belton and Ray Balls covered different sections of the Norwich/Aylsham/Cromer Turnpike. This had begun with an Act of 1793, and work on the Norwich/Aylsham section started at once. Work began simultaneously from each end, and meetings of the Commissioners were held regularly and alternately in Norwich and at the Black Boys in Aylsham. This section was almost completed at the end of 1794, which seems a surprisingly short time considering the amount of work involved.

The Aylsham/Cromer section began in 1811 and followed largely the line of the existing roads, except for where it passed through Ingworth and part of Erpingham. Apparently the sharp bend in Ingworth can be blamed on the surveyors of the Turnpike who departed from the line of the original road at Ingworth church.

Human nature does not change, and the troubles experienced then were no different to those experienced today. Great ingenuity went into avoiding the payment of tolls, even to the extent of forging tickets. Side gates were a great problem, and were bypassed by enterprising travellers whenever possible. The whole affair ceased in 1876, by which time railways had reduced the

importance of both the Turnpike and the Navigation. It was a most successful finale to an Annual General Meeting, and greatly enjoyed by all present.

WANTED - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - It is becoming increasingly clear that the Society is in need of a Membership Secretary to look after all matters concerning membership. Up to now, several people handle different parts of the business, and this can sometimes lead to problems or confusions.

This would be a new post, not one that would involve a great deal of work, but one that would be of great assistance to the Treasurer, the Chairman and the Secretary, who at present handle it between them. Any volunteers? - if you feel that you could undertake this part of the Society's work, please offer your services either to Jane Nolan or Valerie Belton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - The increase in subscriptions has been reported already. Not many members have had the chance to pay their subscriptions so far, but those who have not are asked to do so as soon as convenient. A list of paid-up members should appear in the next issue.

BURE VALLEY RAILWAY - The committee recently met with Mr. Shorthose, Marketing Director of the Bure valley Railway. The line is expected to be in operation by June 1990, and from all the signs of hectic activity on the site, it seems likely that the target date will be met. The company is looking ahead to the time when between 4 to 6 trains per day will be bringing anything up to 200 passengers per train into the town. They have several ideas for attracting and entertaining passengers when they arrive in the area, and they regard the trip itself as an 'enriching experience' and a visit to Aylsham as a chance to see a typical market town. Our co-operation has been asked for, and agreed to, and the Society will undertake to produce a walking-tour guide to the interesting features of the town to help visitors

make the best use of their visit. This brief guide, which will be produced by the railway company, would be on sale to all passengers at a low price. The Society will receive a small proportion of the income received which will make a useful contribution to our funds, and may even help to build up a publication fund to finance other publications.

To carry out our part of the task, a small sub-committee has been formed consisting of Peter Holman Tom Mollard, Jane Nolan and Ron Peabody. More details as they unfold.

EAST ANGLIAN FILM ARCHIVE - August 14th.'89 Film Show.
A combined audience from the Naturalist and Historical Societies welcomed the return of John Watson with a further selection of films from the East Anglian Film Archive. As on previous occasions, he endeavoured to include material to interest both societies, but on this evening he opened with a short film showing the Archive activities in finding and preserving old material. We then enjoyed seeing Edward VII visiting Norwich accompanied by the mounted Horse Guards followed by the sight of numerous ladies and gents in their splendid Edwardian dress attending the celebration of a new wing to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.

We then saw scenes of detachments of various armed forces and support services in Aylsham Market square during a 'Wings for Victory' campaign during the Second World War - we have since found that it was taken by the father of Maggie Baird - a dear lady known to many of us. After the interval, we saw a splendid film taken about the early 1960s, of yachting and other boating activities on the Broads, and saw some great shots of bird life, such as bittern, Marsh Harrier Short Eared Owls, Bearded Tits, Grey Heron, including some birds quite rare now in 1989. Equally, wild flowers in profusion were pointed out. Our sincere thanks to John Watson, once again, - we hope to see him again next year.

Ted Hicks.

AYLSHAM BRIDEWELL

The following letter and illustrations are taken from the Gentleman's Magazine for 1795. See also Vol.1 pp.98 - 102 of our Newsletter & Journal for an earlier article on Aylsham Bridewell.

Norwich
Jan. 1st.

Mr.URBAN,

Upon a wall plate of oak, or chestnut, five inches in thickness, under the projection of the first floor, in the front of the Bridewell at Aylsham in Norfolk, the following legend is embossed: (fig.1)

GOD SAVE : OUR : SUPREMHED : KYNG HENRY : THE HYGHT PRAY
: FOR : THE : GOOD PROSPERYTE : AND ASSTATE : OF ROBERD :
MERSHM : AND : JONE : HIS : WYFE. THE : WICHE : THIS :
HOWSE : THEY : CAWSID : TO : BE : MADE. TO : THE HONOR : OF
THE : TOWNE : BE : THIR : QWYCK : LYFE. FINES. *

It is in one line of 37 feet 10 inches in length, and over the entrance door, is still preserved a flat Gothic arch, in wood (of the style prevalent at that time, and first used in the reign of Henry VIII), 3 feet 11 inches in length, and has the following legend:

THIS : HOWSE : WAS MADE : IN : THE : YER : OF : OUR :
LORDE : 1543. (fig.2)

and on the shields of the spandals of the arch the initials R.M. and J.B. The letters are painted white on a brown ground, and are in good preservation, sheltered from the weather by the projection of the superincumbent floor. I imagine the Robert Marsham to have been of the family of Marshams of Stratton Strawless, from whom the present Lord Romney is a descendant, although I find no mention of him, or Joan his wife, to accord with the date in Blomefield's account of the Marsham family. He was probably a son of John, who died in 1515, called in evidences, Senior of Stratton.

W.W.

Fig. 1.
GOD SAVE OUR SUPREMACY IN GERMANY. GERMANY

PRAY FOR THE GOOD PROSPERITY AND ASSURANCE

OF OUR BROTHERS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY

WHICH IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE CONQUEST OF

GERMANY AND THE CONQUEST OF THE WORLD



SIGN ON THE FRONT OF AYLSHAM BRIDWELL

*The legend is noticed in Blomefield's Norfolk (Vol. 3 p556)
but not correctly copied.

A VIEW OF INGWORTH

Checking through the Gentleman's Magazine for the previous article also brought to light the following letter and illustration on Ingworth. They first appeared in 1799.

Dover Street
May 3rd.

Mr. URBAN,

The inclosed is a view of Ingworth church in Norfolk, which lies on the road between Aylsham and Cromer.

Ingworth, written in Domesday book Inghewarda and Ingewrda, takes its name from its situation by the low meadows on the river.

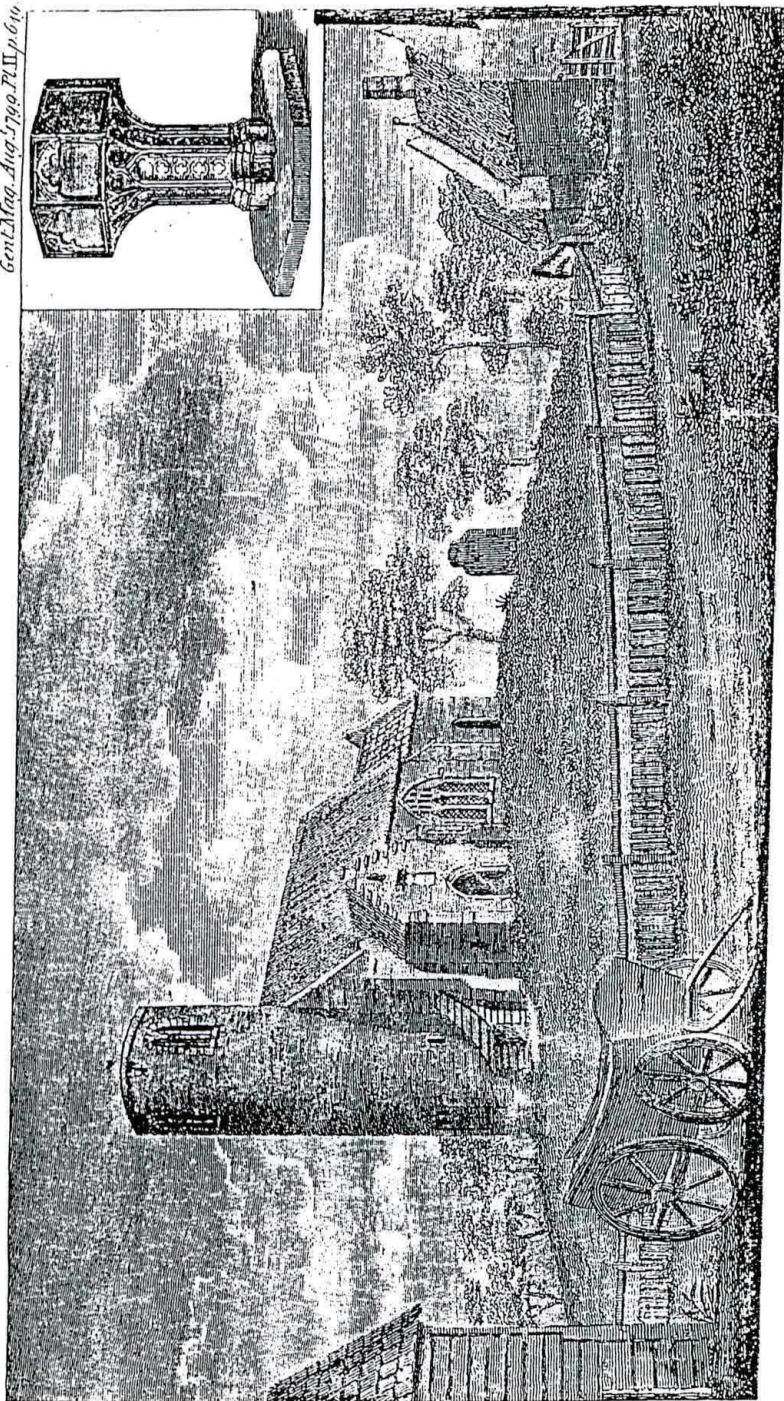
The date of this church is not mentioned, but, from the style of an arch within the church, and from the account mentioned by Blomefield, who says that William Rufus gave a mediety of this church to Battle Abbey, in Sussex, we may conclude it to have been built about the reign of William Rufus, if not earlier; about the upper part of the tower is more modern.

The view of Ingworth, taking in the church with the mill ornamented by a Gothic screen (taken out of Aylsham church) and the whole landscape surrounded by wood, form a beautiful scene as a picture; but the Gothic screen, although beautiful in its general effect, has not been done many years ago, and the parts not being executed according to the character of Gothic, it would be a disgrace to take into the Gentleman's Magazine.

I have inclosed a sketch of a font from this church, which is modern.

Yours, &c.

REPANDUNUM.



INGWORTH CHURCH

QUERIES and NOTES

A variety of Notes and Queries for this issue. Hopefully, one of our members can provide the answers. The first two queries are from Molly Long.

1. Why are Sir William's Lane and Yaxley's Lane so called? Does anyone remember Sir William's Lane being referred to as Williamsons Lane as it was in the 1930s.
2. Where in our churchyard is the grave of the last man hanged for sheep stealing? He was reputed to be innocent; his son being the culprit.
3. Mr.T.L.Beckham, 33 Eleanor Rd. Bowes Park, London N11 2QS would like to know more about his family in Aylsham and district. They are mentioned in Parson Woodforde's Diary. In the directories for 1839-50 Benjamin Beckham is listed as a rope, twine and net maker, living in Hungate St., and in the WI Grave survey several Beckhams are listed as being buried in the Parish churchyard. (Ron Peabody)
4. Colin Ulph, 281 Upper Shoreham Rd. Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. BN4 6BB is organising a re-union of the Ulph, Hulf and Alf families in Aylsham Town Hall on Wednesday, 30th.May 1990. As part of the programme, visitors will be shown round our town in the afternoon, and I would welcome any assistance so that we can make up small parties, as 50/70 people may attend the re-union. Harry Ulph had a saddlery shop in our Market Place from 1923-33, and if any members have any photographs, or other information, I would be grateful if they would contact Ron Peabody.

5. Mr.F.S.Allen, 11 The Drive, Norwich Rd. New Costessey Norwich NR5 OEF wishes to know if anyone knows anything about navigation on the River Bure before it was canalised?
6. Mr.W.A Pask, The Bungalow, 27 Mill Rd. Aylsham (opposite the Friendship Club) is looking for any items which could be photocopied, or borrowed for an exhibition of Pask family mementos which they are hoping to stage at a re-union in Reepham in 1990. There was a Pask, tailors and breeches makers shop in Red Lion St. for a number of years, and Billy Pask was a well-known councillor before the last war.

According to Blomefield a THOMAS PASKE was vicar of Aylsham up to 1634. His name does not appear in the list of vicars in Sapwell's history. See Newsletter Vol.1 p.199

No doubt Mr.Pask has seen the letter in that excellent magazine 'North Folk', now ceased publication. It is from Billy Pask's daughter. See North Folk, issue No.9 p.48

EDITOR

As the membership of our Society has grown considerably since our foundation, it is timely to reproduce our rules & regulations, or Constitution, for the benefit of more recent members, and as a useful reference for us all.

CONSTITUTION OF THE AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

1. The name of the group should be the Aylsham Local History Society
2. Objects:-
 - a) To study the local history of Aylsham and the immediate locality.
 - b) To encourage members and others to take an active interest in local history.
 - c) To issue, from time to time, publications, newsletters and other literature, i.e. research produced by members and others, and to keep a permanent file of such publications
 - d) To provide and arrange exhibitions, lectures and other means of promoting the objects of the Society.
 - e) To note, where possible, the location of Historical records not already deposited in the Norfolk Record Office, the Aylsham Parish Archives and Parish Church.
3. Membership shall be open to anyone willing to accept the objects of the Society, and willing to comply with its conditions of membership.
4. A subscription shall be fixed by the Society.
5. An Annual General Meeting shall be held at which the reports and accounts shall be presented.
6. The committee to be elected at the AGM shall consist of 10 members including, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and six members, with not more than three co-opted members. One third of the committee shall retire each year, and be eligible for re-election.
7. The committee shall, out of the funds of the Society, authorise the payment of any sum which in their view has been properly incurred for the administration of the Society, but grants and

donations to any other Society or cause must be authorised by a general meeting.

8. Any amendment to this Constitution may be made at a general meeting, provided not less than one months notice is given to the Secretary, and not less than 10 members sign the notice as supporters of the proposal.
9. Notice of all meetings shall be in writing. Except in an emergency, 7 days notice shall be required.
10. At a committee meeting, a quorum shall be not less than half the persons entitled to attend including the officers. At a general meeting, a quorum shall be not less than 10% of the membership, or not less than 10 members.
11. Neither the committee, nor the general meeting shall have the power to borrow or pledge credit, and all monies not required for immediate use shall be kept in a bank account.
12. If the Society's affairs shall need to be wound up, then all records shall be handed over to some suitable and responsible authority, and any funds shall be distributed among any societies or groups in the parish, which in the view of the committee will serve best to meet at least some of the aims of the Society.

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(Continued from p. 214) NEW YEAR'S PARTY

the catering without including any drink of any sort. Members are asked to bring their own wine to the party with them and to make their own arrangements. Do remember to bring something with you, or it could be a dry old night!

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Accounts for September 1988 to August 1989

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Brought forward 31.8.88	692.12	Aylsham parish Council (CUEMB)	154.00
Subscriptions	180.00	Postage	14.67
Lectures & Refreshments	8.90	Stationery	20.78
C.U.E.M.B.	336.85	Photocopying & printing	110.69
Party	211.75	Travel expenses	2.50
'Aylsham in 1821'	7.50	Transfer P/C to C/A	38.47
Council Chamber (CUEMB)	29.00	Poppyland Publications	185.01
Visits	342.00	Expenses	38.67
Donation Wymondham visit	1.50	'Excavatores Brantunae'	10.00
Transfer D/A to C/A	150.00	F.N.H. & A.O.	11.50
Newsletters	19.70	Party	161.68
Interest	33.41	Aylsham Parish Council (Map day)	6.50
Norfolk History Fair Award	12.50	Norwich Meeting Society of Friends	35.00
'Rental' sales	202.50	Norfolk Research Comm. Subs.	3.00
Cheque - Canon Vyse	5.00	Refreshments	2.78
Transfer P/C to C/A	20.00	Admission to Burghley House	96.80
		Travelwide Coaches	148.00
		Repayments (Burghley House visit)	13.00
		Samaritans	30.00
Balances in Accounts	2189.68	St. Michael's Appeal Fund	25.00
Current account	154.36	Starlings Coaches	60.00
Deposit account	475.64	Chapel Survey	3.90
Petty Cash	43.73	Transfer D/A to C/A	150.00
Total:	673.73	CUEMB	204.00
		Income over expenditure	673.73
		Total:	2189.68