## Aylsham Local History Society



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AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN<br>SECRETARY<br>Mrs. J. Nolan<br>Aylsham 732226<br>Miss V. Belton<br>Aylsham 734121<br>\section*{EDITOR}<br>Tom Mollard, Flint Cottage, Calthorpe Rd. Erpingham [Cromer 761638]<br>

## THE DISAPPEARING CHAIRMAN?

Most of us have occasion to ring up our Chairman from time to time, for advice and information. Usually she is there to answer our enquiries, but not always. Sometimes she is mysteriously absent. Frank is very cagey when he answers the phone, and usually says that Jane is out shopping in Aylsham. I have always accepted this up to now, but I have just discovered where she really is!

On our recent holiday in California, we watched the television news broadcasts each night giving the latest reports on the widespread brush fires which did so much damage. Imagine my surprise when the interviewer said:-
"We are now going over for the latest report on the situation from the chief fire officer for Ventura County, Jane Nolan."

Mystery solved. Now we all know where she gets to.

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## AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## JOURNAL \& NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3
No. 12

## SOCIETY NEWS

MYSTERY HISTORY TOUR - On Thursday, September 9th. everyone was assembled, ready and waiting before the scheduled time, so that when our coach arrived we were away promptly and heading towards Norwich. As Peter never reveals the slightest hint of our destination, speculation began at once as to where we were heading and what we were likely to visit. Here, I have to admit that I "guessed" all five places we were to see. I also have to admit that in each instance, I "guessed" wrongly. I never once got it right. As we travelled along the Norwich ring road, I was quite confidently predicting that we were heading for Caistor St. Edmund, to the Roman site, so I was pleasantly surprised when we turned down the road to Lower Tasburgh and arrived at Rainthorpe Hall. Full marks went to the coach driver who took us round the tightest of corners and over the narrowest of bridges to get us there.

The Hall is tucked away completely out of sight and in the most attractive of settings. It is now the home of the Hastings family. It had been bought in 1579 by Thomas Baxter, and fortunately passed through the hands of sympathetic owners who had done nothing to spoil the hall over the years, and had enhanced its character. One was Frederick Walpole, one of the younger sons of the 3rd. Earl of Orford (of Wolterton). He acquired it in 1853, and was followed in 1878 by Sir Charles Harvey. Both were keen antiquaries and collectors. It was easy to see from the present state of the Hall why it is a favourite setting for TV companies to choose for their locations.

From here we left Norfolk and moved over the border into Suffolk. We stopped in the centre of Bungay to explore Roger Bigod's castle, built in the reign of King Stephen. Although in the centre of the town, it is not easily visible, but it was well worth the visit. The ruins are surprisingly extensive, and one can still see the remains of a mining gallery built under the keep to undermine it during an attack, but was never used as such. Some of us were able to fit in a quick visit to St.Mary's church, once the church of a Benedictine Nunnery founded in the 12 th. century.

We lingered in Suffolk; our next stop was at Mettingham castle remains. Although built as a castle it became the home of a College of priests who moved there from Raveningham in Norfolk in the 14 th. century. As it is now all in private hands, we were not able to get inside, but at our next stop we did get inside Ringsfield church to explore its contents and its churchyard monuments. It is an attractive, thatched church tucked away in the backwoods. Its remote position ensured that its medieval font was spared the attentions of the reformers, and its decoration is undamaged. The church has been much restored by the Victorians, but still contains a lot of Jacobean features. However, it was the features in the churchyard which aroused greatest interest. There we saw four memorials one in Art Deco style which seemed so unexpected in this rural setting. The second was an Elizabethan memorial, complete with mermaid and the date 1599, and the third was an ornate memorial to Caroline Murat, grand-daughter of Napoleon's sister, even more unexpected in a remote Suffolk churchyard. These all provoked the usual amount of comment, but it was the final memorial - a modern and very recent grave - which left everyone silent and at a loss for words.

Our final visit was to Barsham; another round towered church with connections with Lord Nelson. It also has a remarkable east window, the like of which we had never seen before. The east wall is built with a trellis pattern in the stone forming a pattern of stone lozenges, and the east window is a contimuation of the same pattern. Its date is uncertain, but it could be as early as the 14 th. Century. The original glass has long disappeared and has been replaced by Victorian glass by Kempe. Altogether, a most
interesting church. I wondered afterwards whether the medieval glass might by chance have ended up in Rainthorpe Hall, as our host and guide there professed not to have the slightest knowledge of where his had come from.

Once again, Peter Holman had devised a most successful mystery tour which everyone seemed to enjoy, and once again, our thanks T.ш.m.
"MILLGATE, Aylsham" - When I reported in the last issue of the Journal that we had finally published "Millgate, Aylsham", I had, in fact, just received the copies from the printer, and as I was writing the report, I was looking at the boxes containing all the copies waiting to be sold and clutching a printer's bill for several hundred pounds which the society had to pay. I must admit I was somewhat apprehensive.

However, six weeks later all my worries had gone. The book had sold well (and is still selling), all our bills had been paid and we were beginning to show a modest profit. The reasons for this success must be varied, but one reason certainly must be because it is a good book and has been well received, and the Archive Group members can be congratulated on their work. We were also treated well by Chris Stokes who produced an excellent publicity article in the Eastern Daily Press complete with a photograph of our chairman poring over an indenture from one of the 'Bishop Bundles'. This article, which also appeared later in the North Norfolk News, must have been seen by many readers and certainly sparked off lots of sales.

In September we were given extra publicity with an interview on BBC Radio Norfolk as part of Keith Skipper's Dinner Time Show. Our Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Editor ventured into Norwich, wondering what we had let ourselves in for. Our fears were soon allayed by Keith Skipper who quickly put us at our ease, and we enjoyed a 20 minute mardle about the book, and came away admiring Keith Skipper's professionalism as well as his relaxed approach. If Keith Skipper is reading this on his way home from work, then "thank you, bor, and I hope the train is not too late".

This is probably all we will ever need to report on 'Millgate, Aylsham'. I am sure we are all ready for the next project, whatever that might be.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - This took place in the Friendship Club on 7th. October with an attendance of 40 members. Our Chairman had, first of all, to report with great regret the death of two of our members - Thelma Osborne and Ivan Morris. The business of the meeting was then dealt with in a concise but informative way. The Secretary reported on the year's activities, most of which have already been reviewed in these pages, and particularly mentioned the Architectural Study Day - the brainchild of our chairman which had been a most interesting innovation. The society was most grateful to those Aylsham residents whose houses we visited with the guidance of Mr.Vic Nierop-Reading. The Archives group, having completed work on Millgate, had turned its attention to the Aylsham Poor Law records. The tutor had been Dr.John Pound and the group had been greatly helped by Julian Eve. The Archives group's work on Millgate had been organised into a suitable format by Tom Mollard assisted by a small sub-committee, and Tom had then undertaken the onerous task of preparing the book for publication. Valerie thanked all those who had helped her with typing and duplicating, mentioning in particular Maureen Strong, and expressed the gratitude of all members to Jane Nolan for her enthusiastic and energetic leadership.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT - The chairman invited Elizabeth Gale to speak about the progress of this project which is supported by the Mardler Talking Newspaper and The Centre for East Anglian Studies. Those whose recollections were being recorded were first asked to give consent to their being made public. Transcripts would be made, and copies would be placed in the Aylsham Archives. She appealed for more volunteers to be interviewed.

JOURNAL \& NEWSLETTER - This report was given by the Chairman in the absence abroad of Tom Mollard. The recently produced issue (Vol. 3 No.11) was the penultimate one of the present volume. The December issue would be the 34th. issue since the Journal began in 1985. Material for future issues would be welcomed. The editor
had wondered if members felt that they would like a new editor with fresh ideas, a suggestion which was immediately rejected unanimously by the meeting. The chairman recorded the society's sincere thanks to Tom, and his wife Sheila, who had done much proofreading. The editor had expressed his gratitude to all contributors.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The Treasurer gave details of the satisfactory state of the Society's finances; total balances being $£ 537.24$ [see Account on back page of this issue]. This was, in part, due to the increased subscription and in part to the help given by members in various tasks. She pointed out that, as well as moving current and deposit accounts from Barclays Bark to Midland Bark, to avoid the imposition of bank charges, a new Girobank Publications account had been opened to be operated by the editor. This with the addition of a loan from one of our members had been used to finance the publication of our book on Millgate. The Treasurer thanked the auditor, Mr. Graeme Johnston, for once again auditing our books.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS \& COMMITTEE: The Officers - Jane Nolan (Chairman), Valerie Belton, (Secretary), and Betty Gee (Treasurer) were all re-elected. Two committee menbers, Tom West and Maureen Strong, having retired after a three year term, Tom West and Geoff Gale were elected for a new term. Elizabeth Gale was elected to fill the outstanding two years of Frank Stageman's term.
CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: The Chairman thanked all officers and committee members for their hard work and also expressed her appreciation of those members who assisted in many other ways. Jane then outlined the lecture programme for the winter, mentioning lectures on the anaesthetist, Joseph Thomas Clover and the painter, Joseph Clover, and on Saxon Norfolk. She announced that the society planned to celebrate its 10th. anniversary during the first weekend of July 1994, when the Town Hall had been booked. Various ways of marking the occasion were under consideration. The chairman suggested that, having looked at some Aylsham roofs and attics in the summer, perhaps next year there could be a tour of some Aylsham cellars. She would also like to make it possible for members to use their particular abilities. During the course of an interesting discussion, members made suggestions for future activities. Coffee was then served.
B.GEE

ST.FAITH'S FAIR \& THE DROVERS - Following the AGM, Dr.Julian Eve gave us a fascinating account of the Drovers' Fair held at St.Faiths during the seventeenth century. He showed us how drovers undertook the enormous task of driving cattle from the Highlands of Scotland to the East of England, via the Scottish Lowlands, Carlisle, Yorkshire, Grantham and thence to Norfolk, where cattle were fattened before being sold at the Fair. The drovers followed special routes to avoid paying tolls. One can only be amazed at the way they transported up to 500 cattle along the byways of England.

The Fair lasted three weeks and became notorious for drunkenness and licentious behaviour. By 1830, the wishes of local landowners prevailed, and the Fair was closed, although cattle continued to be sold at St. Faiths for some years. The development of railways in the nineteenth century brought the system of driving cattle through England to an end.

We also saw slides of unusual Highland cattle; finally, Julian showed us interesting slides of the old priory at St.Faiths, where after the removal of fine wood panelling, thirteenth century murals were revealed, in very good condition, depicting life in earlier times. Derek Lyons, on behalf of members, thanked Julian for his most interesting talk.
B. GEE

THE CLOVER LECTURE - The applause which followed Geoff Gale's vote of thanks, following the first of the two lectures about members of the Clover family, showed how much we enjoyed Dr.Christopher Woollam's illustrated lecture on Joseph Thomas Clover, the pioneer anaesthetist who was born in Aylsham.

As consultant anaesthetist at the Norfolk \& Norwich Hospital, Dr. Woollam was well qualified to talk about him and his place in medical history. He guided us through the intricacies of the Clover family tree, and their confusing use of the Christian names - John and Joseph. The family was prominent in Aylsham in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Wright's map of 1839 records that they owned over 250 acres scattered about the town in 71 plots, and, as Geoff Gale pointed out, one plot was quite close to the Friendship Club in Cawston Road where the lecture was given in October.

It was interesting to see the piece of anaesthetic apparatus invented by Clover, which Dr. Woollam had rescued from a cupboard at the Norfolk \& Norwich Hospital. Clover, we heard, was a practical man who devised a number of useful medical instruments. Dr. John Sapwell wrote of him that despite suffering from a chronic chest condition:-
"in character he was modest and sympathetic to the needs and cares of others. Wholly dedicated to his profession, he was content to follow the path of duty as he saw it, so long as his strength lasted."

I look forward to the second lecture to be given in the Spring, when we learn about Clover's uncle, Joseph Clover the portrait painter. The Clover/Snow collection of archives in the Woocduard Biomedical Library, University of British Columbia, mentioned by Dr. Woollam, has been written up in the October 1972 issue of "Anaesthesia", a copy of which is in our Parish Council archives.
R. PEABODY

## 1994 CELEBRATIONS

Next year we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of our society. We are still a very young society compared to many, but even a tenth anniversary is worth celebrating. The officers \& committee feel that members would want us to do something to mark the occasion, and a small sub-committee, under our chairman, will work at this. To be successful, we will need the help of all members. The Town Hall has been booked for the weekend 2-3rd July, but how we use the occasion still needs to be determined. So our Chairman needs offers of help, and particularly ideas of what sort of a programme can be presented. One thing that will be needed is material from members on Aylsham's history; photographs, memorabilia etc. Now is the time to be thinking about what is available. It takes time to prepare materials for copying or display, and we will need all the available time between now and next July to do things properly. If you can help in any way, contact Jane Nolan.

The fact that some Norfolk farmers are now being allowed to grow cannabis was reported in the press and on television recently. My first reaction was surprise, followed quickly by the realisation that this is no new crop but a centuries' old one revived. Cannabis is, of course, hemp (Latin name: cannabis sativa) from which comes the name 'canvas'.

This news item reminded me of some correspondence I had some years ago about the growing of hemp. It arose out of our study of the list of landowners recorded in "Aylsham in the Seventeenth Century" [1988]. In that rental there were two landholders listed as having, in addition to other properties, hempland or a hemp yard. There was William Orwell who with Christina, his wife, had extensive properties in the parish including the one called 'Paradise', near the church (now The Wilderness!') and one described, but unidentified as a capital messuage (i.e. large house and grounds) with barn, malthouse and other buildings along with - 'an orchard containing one rood and a hemp-land 26 perches and le backsyde'. There was also Thomas Cressy, who lived in the Angel Inn on the corner of Burgh Road and the Norwich Road where the old Bank House now stands, and which may incorporate some of the older building. He had property in Millgate which he left by his will in 1615 to the poor of the town. The rental states that the property consisted of - 'a messuage and diverse lands adjoining with the hemp yard'. This property was later pulled down and replaced by the workhouse.

Curious to know more about this crop, I was advised to write to Oliver Rackham, the author of "The History of the Countryside" who responded with a very helpful letter from which I give some extracts:-
'Cannabis was the main fibre plant in England from AngloSaxon times until the 19th. century, and was grown all over the country, but especially in Norfolk. The growth of cannabis was made compulsory in 1532 by statute [ 24 Hen VIII c.4] to reduce unemployment and encourage home 362
industries. . . ."The Kinges Highnes. . . to avoyde that most abhomynable vice of ydelnes out of this Realme, hath enacted. . . that all man'perstnes. . .having in their occupacion threscore acres of arrable land or pasture. - . shall yerely for ever. . .till and sowe one rood that is to say the iiij [fourth] parte of one acre. . with Lynseade otherwise called flax sead or hemp seade, or with both. . .upon peyne to forfait iijs iiijd (3/4d) for every thre score acres."

I have no evidence at all that during the thousand years in which cannabis was grown, anyone ever suspected that it had any property other than that of being a fibre plant.'

From the writings of Arthur Young at the end of the eighteenth century and articles in the Eastern Daily Press (see references below) it is clear that hemp growing and processing was once a highly organised industry in Norfolk, particularly in the Waveney valley and the product was widely used for shirts, sheets and table-linen.

## Sources

Oliver Rackham; Personal communication.
E.Pursehouse. 'Hemp - a forgotten Norfolk crop'. [EDP. Feb 1961]

Fussell G.E. 'Waveney Valley Hemp' [EDP. October 1954]

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## THE AYLSHAM ASSOCIATION COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF AYLSHAM

Miss Gwen Gaymer, who was secretary of the Ay1sham Association for many years (retiring in September 1986) compiled these notes in June 1983 on the Photographic Survey of Ay1sham which was made in 1975.

They give some background information about the survey which was sponsored by the Aylsham Association. 363

To many of us the photographs can seem to be almost contemporary, but already they are acquiring a period atmosphere. They are almost 20 years old, and a lot has happened to Aylsham in that time. They form a striking example of the value of keeping photographic records of the everyday scenes around us. It was an inspired action on the part of the Aylsham Association to sponsor the project back in 1975

A photographic survey of Aylsham was undertaken by the Aylsham Association in 1975 to mark European Architectural Heritage Year. That campaign was supported by over 80 nations; its object being the protection and enhancement of Europe's historic towns and monuments.

In the U.K. a committee was set up under the presidency of the Duke of Edinburgh. One of the reasons for the project was to draw people's attention to the fact that the world is squandering its resources at an unprecedented rate. Some assets are natural, like the minerals below ground. Some are man-made, like inherited works of art. All are irreplaceable, and once lost they can never be recovered. Paintings, sculptures etc. can be put into museums, but what of historical monuments, buildings, towns and villages? We have a duty to preserve what is left for the benefit of future generations, and its obliteration must not be accepted as the inevitable price of progress. This is what the Council of Europe had in mind when it designated 1975 as European Architectural Heritage Year.

The above is the background to the collection of photographs taken by Mr. Andrew Paton and now housed in the Parish Archives. The photographs are grouped under nine headings - religion, education, industry, commerce, recreation, services, domestic, health \& welfare, and agriculture. They formed the basis for an "eyes wide open" competition for the local schoolchildren and were displayed for several weeks at the back of the parish church.
[from notes supplied by Ron Peabody]

## NOTES \& QUERIES

One query in our last issue has been answered by Canon Jack Vyse. The enquiry asked "who was the thatcher whose gravestone is in Aylsham churchyard". The name is now illegible although the date 1759 can still be read. Jack reminds us of the booklet he produced in 1980 when he was rector of Aylsham, and writes:-
"In it I make reference to Greenwood the thatcher as one of the people who had known it as their parish church, and the tail-piece is a sketch I made of the headstone in question. The wording seems to be - "In memory of Richard Greenwood, who died. . . "

The sketch from the booklet is illustrated here. It is disturbing that an inscription which was legible as recently as 1980 has already disappeared. Local historians will be forever indebted to the local W.I. groups which responded to the suggestion of recording the monuments and gravestones in their local churchyard. Aylsham W.I. did respond and a copy of their survey of St.Michael's churchyard is now amongst the Parish Archives.


Jack Vyse also casts doubt on the other gravestone in the churchyard which was referred to in the article by James Hooper, in the same issue. This is the grave of Robert Gibson who died

April 10th. 1824. He was reputedly the last man hanged in England for sheep stealing. Jack maintains that an executed felon would not have been buried in consecrated ground. Neither has he ever found a reference to this particular execution which was supposedly at Norwich castle. Could this provide a suitable challenge to one of our members to prove, one way or another, whether this story is true?

MILLGATE, AYLSHAM - It was inevitable that many details would be omitted in our recent publication on Millgate, and that there would be gaps in some of the accounts of Millgate's story. To fill one of those gaps, Mrs. J.Duff Dick of Clover Court writes in connection with the Anchor Inn:-
"My uncle, Clifford Spink, was landlord there for 25 years, up until 1962 when the brewery sold it and it became a private house. You may also be interested to hear that my mother's family lived in Millgate, in Rose Cottage. They may not have been one of the most notable families, but they must have been one of the largest; there were sixteen children. My mother lived there until 1920, when she went into service. Three of the family are still living. Clifford is now living in Gressenhall."

I am grateful to Mrs. Duff Dick for helping to complete the picture.


## ORAL HISTORY

Elizabeth Gale

In the March 1993 issue of our Journal members were informed of the formation of a committee for Oral History. A programme was outlined and Jane Nolan and Elizabeth Gale were appointed to make the recordings and they have recently been joined by Derek Lyons. In the following months, a number of recordings were made, and the tapes with transcriptions will be deposited in the Aylsham 366

Archives. The Centre of East Anglian Sound Archive, at the University of East Anglia, will be given copies

The 'Mardler' (Talking Newspaper for the Blind) has access to these recordings, and will use any items which could be of interest to their listeners. We are grateful to all those who have recorded their memories for the Oral History and have given their permission for this information to be used for research, publication, education, lectures and broadcasts.

Many members of the society have responded to our request for the names of those whose memories should be recorded. We are grateful for this response and are following up these recommendations, but it will take time to make all the recordings. This does not prevent additional names from being added to our list and we rely on members to keep us supplied. If you have anyone whom you wish to recommend, write or telephone:-

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Elizabeth Gale, } 2 \text { Mash's Row, Millgate, } \\
& \text { Aylsham. Norwich NR11 6ST } \\
& \text { Telephone: (0263) } 734252 \\
& \text {---ooDoo--- }
\end{aligned}
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## RAF Oulton Memorial Association

The Association is planning the erection of a permanent memorial to be built near the playground in the Street. A Book of Remembrance is also to be placed in Blickling church.

The dedication of the book and memorial is planned for

## 15th. May 1994

The Association would be pleased to hear from anyone living in the Aylsham area who may have been stationed at the airfield during the war. The address of the Association is :- "St.Clair", 47b Albany Road, St. Leonards, East Sussex. TN38 OLJ.
Further information is available from Paul Killingback; on Aylsham 735139

## SOME AYLSHAM DATES - SOME ANSWERS

## The answers to Peter Holman's competition in our last issue:-

1. c. 500 The arrival of Aegel who may have given the town its name
2. 1085 The Domesday Survey
3. c1380 Rebuilding of the parish church - perhaps under the influence of John of Gaunt
4. 1543 The Bridewell built at the top of Burgh Road by Robert Marsham - some cells still exist
5. c1624 The Aylsham Rental produced. [now published as "Aylsham in the Seventeenth century" by the Society, in 1988]
6. 1779 The completion of the Navigation
7. 1849 Aylsham Union Workhouse built - now St.Michael's Hospital
8. 1857 Building of the Toun Hall, originally as a Corn Exchange
9. 1912 The Great Flood - destroyed many local bridges and locks on the canal
10. 1913 The John Soames Memorial. [The thatched pump at Carr's Corner]
11. 1981 The building of the by-pass; four miles long to avoid Aylsham and Ingworth
12. 1990 The Bure Valley railway - narrow guage line on the trackbed to Wroxham.

As there were no completely correct answers, the editor has managed to avoid having to hand out any wonderfully expensive prizes.
AYLSHAM IN 1890
After a lengthy interval, it is time to resume publication of our
sequence of directory entries for Aylsham taken from the county directories.
We started off with 1836 and still have quite some way to go to reach the
final one of 1937 . The last one we produced was in September 1992 (Vol. 3
No. 7 ) so we are overdue for another.
This entry is from White's directory of Norfolk for 1890 . One problem
with these later directories is that they become awkward to reproduce
because of their larger size. For this reason they are reproduced in this
sideways format.

AYLSEAM is a well-built market town, pleasantly seated on the southern acclivity of the vale of the
 and Midlands railway culled Aylsham Town; nearly 12 miles N. by W. of Norwich, it is head of a poorlaw union and a

 side of the river, increased 4,308 ., of which

 Vicarage, of which the vicar is lord, and Bolwick Hall, of which Mrs. Calvert is lady.
 arbitrary. The Marchioness of Lothian, Philip C. Shepheard, Esq., R. J. W. Purdy, Esq., C. L. Buxton,
 parish. Here are many large and handsome houses, among which may be mentioned Bolvick Hisl, $1 \frac{1}{2}$ miles S.W., Bushy, on the Cromer Road, Woodgate and Sankence, on the Cawston Road, the Manor House and Orchard House, on the Station Road, and the Belt. Abbott's Hall, erected in 1616, by a member

 few years, and is often called the "garden of Norfolk," from its picturesque appearance and the number of garclens and trees in its vicinity. It has a fine open market-place, in which are the Bank, the Town Hall, the Black Boys' Hotel, and a number of good houses and shops. The streets and most of the houses and shops are well lighted wiuh gas from works in Millgate, erected in 1849 at a cost of $£ 1,500$, raised in $£ 10$ shares. Consumers are charged at the rate of ōs. per 1,000 cubic feet. Mr. W. Mileham is clerk to the company. At the Norman Conquest the manor extended into Tuttington, and had 18 carucates, 20 villeins, and 28 bordars, with woods sufficient for the maintenance of 400 swine. During the reigns of Edward II. and III., Aylsham was the chief town in this part of the kingdom for the manufacture of linen, then called "Aylsham Webbs," "Cloth of Aylsham," \&c.; but in succeeding reigns this branch of business was superseded by the woollen manufacture; and in the time of James I. the inhabitants were chiefly employed in knitting worsted stockings, breeches, and waistcoat pieces. Since the introduction of frame-work knitting, the latter trado has also been discontinued. The town was formerly governed by a bailiff, and had a weekly market on Saturday; this has been changed to Tuesday, but is now of no importance. Two cattle fairs are held anmually on March 23, and the last Tuesclay in September. May 29 is a general holiday here, and is called the Club Anniversary, as all the clubs walk in procession on that day. The Bure, which washes the foot of the town, was formerly only navigable from Yarmouth to Coltishall ( 11 miles below Aylsham Bridge by the water, and 7 by land) ; but in 1773 an Act was obtained for extencling the navigation to Aylsham for boats of 14 tons burden, drawing two feet 5 inches water, which was completed, after many difficulties and interruptions, in October, 1779, at an expense of upwards of $£ 6,000$, including the cost of the basin and wharves near the bridge, where much business is done in coal, corn, timber, \&c. The Town Hall is a commodious building of red brick, erected in 1857, at a cost of $£ 2,100$, raised in $£ 10$ shares. The large room is 60 feet by 30 , and is used for balls, concerts, public meetings, and magisterial and county court sittings, \&c. One of the rooms is well supplied with all the principal newspapers and periodicals; and there is a library of 800 volumes, belonging to the Literary Institution, which numbers about 150 mombers. O. R. Dowhirst, Esq., is prosidont, and Mr . Goo. H. Askor, honorary socrotary.
Petty Sessions are held at the Town Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month for South ErpingS. Marsham, Buxton, Eisq., -yº Jout si residence and ed in Aylsham Esq., registrar and high-bailiff, and Mr . Esq. Rev. Esq., attendi Pam district. The magistrates usually ham district. Major Alfred Blundell, Robert Horace Walpole, R. Rogers, Esq., Rev. R. th. Beilin R, The Polices Station, on two cells. The Countr Count is
The Church (St. Michael) is a handsome structure of Decorated architecture, with Perpendicular insertions, situated near the summit of an abrupt acclivity, on the north side of the Market place, commanding an extensive and picturesque view of the surrounding country. It has a nave, with
 tower surmounted by a small spire, and containing a clock with quarter chimes and a peal of ten bells. John of Gaunt, whose Duchy Court was once held here, is said to have built the chancel, nave, and south transept. A fine-toned organ was given by the Rev. E. T. Yates, a former vicar, who also contributed largely to the restoration of the church in 1853. The font is octagonal, and on the bowl carvings of the emblems of the four Evangelists, alternately with a crucifix and the instruments of the Passion. On the
 another family. The north transept was called the Chapel of St. Peter, and had a guild in 1490 ; the sotth



 side of the chancel were filled with stained glass in 1842-3; since then many other windows have been stained. The pulpit is a fine specimen of oak carving in the Jacobean style. The chancel stalls have

 and another to Thomas Wymer, who is represented in his winding-sheet, and who caused the screens and roof to be beautifully painted with saints, martyrs, \&c., in 1507. Here is a monument to Bishop Jegon, who died in 1617 ; and in 1841 a neat monument was erected in memory of a former vicar, the Rev. .hilip Hunt, LL.D., who died in 1838. A brass in memory of Robert Wm. Parmeter and Sophia, his wife, who
died in 1880 and 1881 respectively, has recently been added. In 1888 a new heating apparatus was presented to the church by Mrs. Frances, of Cambridge. The fine peal of ten bells was rehung by Messrs. Day and Son, of Eye, and the belfry thoroughly repaired in 1890 at a cost of $£ 285$, raised by subscription. The registers date from 1652. In the churchyard, enclosed with iron rails, and planted with roses, heart'sease, \&c., is the grave of Humphrey Repton, the celebrated landscape gardener, who died in 1818. The benefice is a vicarage, valued in K.B. at $£ 17, ~ 9 \mathrm{~s} .7 \mathrm{~d}$. endowed with the rectorial tithes of a portion of the parish, together with a small manor attached. The rectorial great tithes belong to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The advowson of the vicarage belongs to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and is now held by the Rev. John Gurney Hoare, M.A., Rural Dean of South Ingworth, who has a yearly rent-charge of $£ 685$, awarded in lieu of tithes in 1838 , when the rectorial tithes were commuted for $£ 716$ per annum. The vicarage house is a good brick residence, pleasantly situated in its own grounds adjoining the churchyard.

There is a small Cathoric Chaprel at Abbott's Hall. The Baptists, Wesleyans, Wesleyan Reformers, and Primitive Méthodists have each chapels in the town, the latter built in 1888 at a cost of £000. There are several Lodges of Oddfellows, Foresters, \&c., Benefit, Friendiy and other societies, \&c., some established for many years. The Cemetery, comprising two acres, was formed in 1855 at a cost of $£ 600$; part of it is consecrated. The Frej School, near the Churchyard, was founded in 1517 by Robert Jannys, who endowed it with $£ 10$ a year, now paid by the Norwich Charity Trustees, out of the revomues of the Groat Hospital ; it was originally intended for seven free scholars, but has for many years been conducted on the national system ; find a neve school was built in 1848, on a piece of land granted by the trustees ; in 1875 the school was greatly enlarged, and has an attendance of 340 . Archbishop Parker tounded two scholarships in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge,

 1889, deposits amounting to about $£ 27,000$ belonging to 526 individuals, 18 Friendly and 10 Charitable

 V.B.N.R. was formed in 1859, and numbers 75 men. Benjamin B. Sapwèll, Esq., the captain ; Henry Jas. Gidney, Esq., lieutenant; and Henry Brawn, drill instructor.
They have also soveral cottages, given by Simon Porter ing to the poor, and is let for 20s. a year. They tho lord of tho manor in 1738 ; and Edward Snolling in 1737. In tho roign of James I., Thos. Crossoy loft two honsos and 2a. of land in Millgato Street for thu poor. Those premises, with additional buildings, wore aftorwards converted into a Workhouso, and were used for that purpose till the formation of the Union in 1836. They now produce a rental of about $£ 30$ a year, which is distributed in flannel and calico among the poor at Christmas. Aylsham was once noted for its SPA, which is situated about half a mile south of the town, and now belongs to Mr. Robt. J. W Purdy This chalybeate spring, though now not used, was formerly much resorted to by invalids afflicted with asthma and other chronic diseases. In 1805, an earthen pot, containing 500 pieces of ancient silver coin, chiefly groats of Henry VII., and pennies of the Edwards, was ploughed up in a field near Aylsham. On Stow Heath, about two miles to the east, aro several large tumuli or barrows, in which two urns, containing human bones and ashes, were found in 1808.
Aylsiram Union comprises 31 parishes in South Erpingham and 11 parishes in Eynsford hundred,
These 45 parishes comprise an area of 68,056 acres, or 106 square miles; and in 1881 had 18,560 inhabitants. Their average annual expenditure, during the three years preceding the formation of the Union, was £20,391; but in 1838 it was only $£ 9,652$, and is at present about $£ 10,000$ a year. The Union Workhouse is on the Cawston Road, and was built in 1849, at a cost of $£ 12,000$, in lieu of the two old Houses of Industry at Buxton and Oulton. It is a handsome brick building, with about 12 acres of land attached, and has accommodation for 619 inmates, but has rarely more than 130. Henry J. Gidney, Esq., of Aylsham, is union clerk and superintendent registrar ; Mr. R. Proudfoot is registrar, and Mr. C. Clements, deputy-registrar of Marriages ; Messrs. F. Roe, of Aylsham, and Alfred W. Seeley, of Reepham, are the relieving officers, vaccination officers, and registrars of births and deaths-the former for Buxton district, and the latter for Eynsford district; Mr. C. P. Scott Wayman, of Foulsham, public vaccinator for the third district. Messrs. R. K. Morton and F. Little, of Aylsham, E. V. Perry and E. Reeve of Reepham, H. Trylor, of Coltishall, T. D'Amant, of Foulsham, Wm. G. Heasman, of Aldborough, are the union surgeors, and F. Bateman, M.D., of Norwich, medical officer of health for the Aylsham Union Sanitary Authority. The Rev. S. M. Shepheard, B. A., of Erpingham, is chaplain; Mr. Richard Bushell and Mrs. Helena Bushell, master and matron; Mr. J. W. Wesson and Miss Lizzie Drake, school teachers.
The following enumeration of parishes in the union shows their territorial extent，their population
in 1881，and present rateable value ：－

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Post, Money Order, and Telegraph Office, and Savings Bank at Mr. Charles Clements, Market Place. Deliveries commence at $7 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. and $2.45 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$., week days ; Sundays, $7 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. only; mails are deрия чялян" Cromer at 10 p.m.; Sunday despatch, 5 p.m. only.
Wall Lerter Box, Cawston Road, cleared at 12 noon, 4.45 p.m., and 7.25 p.m. week days.
Abbott Alfred, baker and confectioner, White IFart st $\mid$ Bruce \& Son, auctioncers, valuers, estate agents and accountants, manure and lime agents, and agents for the Norwich Union Insurance Co. Bank street
Bruce Willam ( E Son) ; h Blicking road treet
Bullock Stanley, miller, maltster, corn, cake, seed, and
timber merchant and manure agent, Millgate
Burrows Miss Elizabeth IB. St. Michael's villas, Cawston road
Bushell Richard and Mrs Helena, master and matron, Union Workhouse, Cawston road
Carr Miss Louisa Maria, Market place
Carver William, timber merchant, Cawston road
Case James Lee, farmer, Valley farm, Heydon road
Cemetery, Norwich road. H. J. Gidney, Esq. clerk to
Burial Board; George Neale, sexton
Clark Mrs Margaret, Commercial
Clarke Alfred Fuller, baker, Church hill
Clarke Geo. Probert, ironmgr. \& frnture. dlr. Market
Clarke George William, draper, milliner,
hosier, clothier, and outfitter, Red Lion st. binder, newsagent, dealer in toys, fishing tackle, and fancy goods, and postmaster and stamp distributor, Market place ; and North Walsham
Clipperton John, fishmonger, White Hart street
Clover Miss Mary, Market place
Coffec ''avern, White Hart street. Thos. Churchman, proprietor
Bartram Robert, :builder and contractor,
Beck Mark, agricultural implement maker and general
smith, Burg Millgate
 Bird Edward John, school attendance officer and sanitary inspector
Bird George, beerhouse, White Hart street.
Blackburn Mrs Matilda, farmer, Burgh road
Blofield William, butcher
Blyth Miss Emily, Church hill
Brady and Pert, plumbers and painters, Church hill Brady Henry (B. and Pert) ; h Church hill Brawn Henry, drill instructor, Penfold street Breese James Thomas, tailor, woollen draper,
farmer, Red Lion stree
Bruce Sidney Ernest (\& Son) ; h Blickling road

F'orster William, solicitor and commissioner for oaths, perpetual commissioner, clerk to the magistrates, steward of the manors of Aylsham on the part of Lancaster, Aylsham vicarage, and Aylsham wood, Market place; h Blickling lodge

Fox Thomas, gold and silversmith, watchmaker, jeweller, and optician, Red Lion street

Fox Wm. Ernest, bookseller \& stationer, White Hart st Frankland Richard, ironmonger, tinner, and brazier, Hungate street
Frostick John, farmer, Buxton road
Frostick John, jun. farmer, Peterson's lane Hungate street
Frostick John, farmer, Buxton road
Frostick John, jun. farmer, Peterson's lane Gas Works, Millgate. Walter Mileham, sec. ; John

Gibson Mrs Anna Maria, clothier and boot and shoe
Gidney Henry James, solicitor and comsr. clk. to the Board of Guardians, supt. registrar, clk. to the Burial Board; inspr. of Lighting and Watching, Conservative agent for the North.Ne parliamentary
Conservative agent for the Northern parliamentary
division, Station road division, Station road

Gillman Mrs Cordelia, St. Michael's villas, Cawston rd Goodwin Iobert, butcher, White Hart street Goodwins Robert, shopkeeper, Cawston road Gotterson Thomas, wheelwright, Church hill Goulder Mrs Frances, Church hill

Goulder John, farmer, Cromer road
Grand George, market gardener, Burgh road Grimes George, farmer, The Spa

Grimes James, farmer and butcher, Millgate
Grimes Mark, superintendent of police, Blickling rd
Gunton Mr George, White Hart street

station; and Norwich. Samuel Nott, manal, Woodbine villa, Cromer road
 and Itteringham

Cook Miss Helen, Church terrace s Inn, Red Lion st Cooke John Hannant, vict. Cross Keys Inn, Red Lion st Cooke William, beerhouse, Hungate street Copeman Miss Louisa, Blickling road

Copeman Mr Thomas, Blickling road Copland Mrs Mary Ann, lodgings, Gotemist, Market pl Corder Octavius, pharmaceutirk

Crane John, beerhouse, Dunkr contractor, stonemason Culley Frederick, buidder awston road
and timber merchant, Cresser, bird preserver, tobacconist, and fancy dealer, Red baker, Butts' land peo.t uодs

 London Accident, General Hail-storm and Imperial Live Stock Insurance Companies, Market place Digby Joseph, farm bailiff, Hungate street pillgate Ducker Samuel, beerhouse \& wheelwright \& carriage. builder, White Hart street Durrenn George, farmer, Cawston road
Edwards Mrs Elizabeth, glass, china and earthenware dealer, Market place

Fitt Mr Edrard, Burgh road
Flint William Earle, shopkeeper, Hungate street
Le Neve Chas, farmer, The Spa; h Marsham
Le Neve Mrrs Emily, School house, Hungate street
Ling Benjamin, jun. manager, Station road
Literary Institution, Market place. Charles R. Dew-
hirst, president; George H. Asker, hon. sec.
Little Frederick, M.R.C.S. surgeon; medical officer to
the 4th district Aylsham Union, Manor house,
Station road
Lomax Samuel, butcher, Red Lion street
Love Frederick, general and furnishing ironmonger,
oil and colourman, copper, iron \& tin plate worlker,
furniture dealer, and agricultural implement agent,
Market place
Maidstone Samuel, county court bailiff, bill poster, \&
town crier, Red Lion street
March John, hawker, Peterson's lane
Martin John, blacksmith, Millgate
Maude Major, manager, Red Lion street
Mayes Francis, carter, Penfold street
Medler Cubitt Cubitt, butcher, Hungate street
Middleton Mr John, Commercial road
Mileham Walter, accountant, rent and debt collector,
sec. to Aylsham Gas and Town Hall Co.'s lim,
advertising and insurance agent, and assessor and
collector of taxes, Millgate
Miller Henry, boot and shoe maker, White Hart street
Miller Thomas, boot and shoe market, Market place
Miller Thomas junr. lodgings, Burgh road
Miller Watts, lodgings, White Hart street
Morton Richard John, M.R.C.S., L.S.A. surgeon,
Market place
Moy George, boot and shoe maker, Penfold street
Neale Arthur John, bricklayer, Cawston road
Neale George, parish clerk and town hall keeper,
Market place
Gurney $\& \cdot$ Co. bankers (drow on Barclay, Bevan \& Co.), Market place. Fill Thomas, national schoolmaster, School lane dean Hoare Rev. John Gurney, M.A., vicar and rural dean of South Ingworth, The Vicarage Hoṛner Frederick, blacksmith, Cawston road Horstead Miss Emily, Hungate street Horstead John Maystone, builder \& bricklayer, Hungate street; and brickmaker, Banningham ${ }^{2}$, and Heer retailer, Hungate street
Howlett lRobt. clerk to Wickmere School Board and to

 rlazier, and gasfitter, Red Lion street
glazier', and gasfitter, Red e builders, Cromer road Ingate Lewis (\& Son) ; h Cromer road
Ingate Lewis, jun. ( $\&$ Son) ; h Oak cot. Cromer road James William, assistant superintendent, Prudential Assurance Co. Penfold street
Jarvis Jas. Wm. bootmaker \& shoplipr. Hungate st.
Jarvis Robert, bootmaker, White Hart street

 Lake Wm. farm bailiff, Frogs hall, Cawston road
Larner Miss Lucy, The Lodge, White Hart stree
Laxen Mrs Ann, saddler and harness maker, Market place and Heydon
Lemon William, saddler and harness maker, Red
Lemon William Plane, auctioneer, valuer, and estate
agent, Red Iion street; h Stonegate farm

Rawlinson Mrs Auna, Blickling road liay Mrr John, Paradise house

Reading room, Market place; Geo. Neale, caretaker Riches Rich, peo. Roe Frederic, registrar of births and deaths an
lieving officer for Bur of births and deaths and reCawston road $\begin{aligned} & \text { Buston district, Aylsham Union, }\end{aligned}$ Roughston William Rought William, market gardener, Cawston road Sandell George, farm bailiff, Abbott's hall Sands Diss Mary Ann, dressmaker, Burgh road Sapwell Mr Benjamin Beckham, landowner and farmer, Sankence, Cawston road

Savings Bank, Market place; Henry G. Wright, sec Seymour Berney, photographer, Commercial road Sha
(retired), Abbott's hall Candler, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.
Shreeve Edward Frederick, milliner, hosier, and fancy mert. and farmer, Railway station ; and the Staithe, Soldwick-mills, Cawston and Buxton; h Buxton rd Shuckburgh Miss Elizabeth, Beech grove
immons William, agent for Prudential Assurance
Sinnock Miss Georgina, St. Michael's vlls. Cawston rd Smith Mrs Blanche, Market place

Smith Mrs. Eliza, West End lodge, Blickling road
Smith Mrs Honoria, White Hart street
Smith Richard, horse dealer, Burgh road
Soame, Miss Emily, ladies' boarding and day school, Elm house, Cromer road

Needham Walter, umbrella maker, White Hart strect
Newdigate Maj.-Gen. Henry Richard Legge, C.B., J.P.
Newton Thomas, boot and shoe maker, Market place Nicholls John, furniture broker, Town lane Nicholls Mrs Susanna, vict. White Horse Inn, and butcher, Millgate

Nuthall Edwin, pharmaceutical chemist, Red Lion st.; and Norwich
Orton George, farm

Orton George, farmer, Stonegate Overed Walter, veterinary surgeon, School lane Page Mr Alfred, Penfold White Hart street Page Mr Alfred, Penfold street

Page Henry, grocer, wine, spirit \& ale merchant, tailor Parker John, travelling draper, Whit Lion street


Pashley Wm. vict. Dog Inn (commercial), Station rd Payne William, shoemkr. leather dealer \& tobacconist,


Pegg Mrs Mary Elizabeth, Commercial road
Pellias Sarah, Commercial road
Police station, painter (Brady \& P.); h Church hill
Poll Henry, f, Blickling road; Mark Grimes, supt Poll William, vict, Bull Inn road

Post office, Market place; Charles Clements, postmstr Prino Rev Gad Son, brcklyrs. and plstrs. Blickling rd Pring Rev Gad (Baptist), White Hart street
and registrar of marriages,
Pryke James Barnett, grocer and druper, Millate
Woodgate, Cawston road

Soame James, farmer, The Spa
Soame John, farmer, Spratt's green
Soame Mrs Maria, The Doles, Cawston road
Soloman George Fredk. G.E. stationmaster
Spink Wm. fishmonger and greengrocer, Red Lion st Stabler Rev Alfred (Prim. Meth.), Red Lion street Stackwood Robert, bootmaker, Hungate street

Stamp Office, Market pl. ; Chas. Clements, distributor Stapleton Christmas, vict. Black Boys hotel, commercial and posting house, and wine, spirit, and ale merchant, Market place

Starling William, ironmonger, boot dealer, and basket
Stevens Sam. threshing machine owner, Commercial rd Sutton Mrs Susanna clothier \& outfitter, Red Lion st Temperance House, Red Lion st.; Jas. Applegate, prop
 road; and Willingham, Cam. Ben. Ling, jun. mngr Tight James, vict. Anchor Inn, and fish curer, Millgate Tuddrab, Ma

Tuddenham Robert, builder and contractor,
cabinet maker, and undertaker, Burgh road
 Helena Bushell, master and matron

Vince James, artificial manure manufacturer and merchant, Dunkirk Vincent Henry, tailor, White Hart street

Wade Charles Frederick, watchmaker and gunsmith, Hungate street

Wiade Walter, joiner and carpenter, Penfold street
Wall Miss ITarrict, shopkeepur, IIungato street
Ward Charles Harvey (C. If. \& Son); h Market
AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY. ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST. AUGUST 1993.

| INCOME | EXPENDITURE |
| :---: | :---: |
| Sale of Newsletters \& Publications 73.12 | Officers' expenses re-imbursed 90.54 |
| Subscriptions 544.50 | Printing \& photocopying 296.16 |
| Receipts from visits 442.00 | Payments for visits 400.00 |
| Atlas fees 218.50 | Atlas costs 190.00 |
| Party income 310.00 | Party costs 262.87 |
| UEA Tuesday course fees 329.00 | UEA course costs and rents 337.30 |
| Day conference fees 150.00 | Day conference costs 80.00 |
| Visitors' fees 26.00 | Friendship Club rent 105.00 |
| Coffee profit 5.00 | Lecture fees 60.00 |
| Miscellaneous donations 13.35 | Old Peoples Uelfare Ass. Donation 10.00 |
| Bank deposit interest(net of charges) 2.70 | Research Committee subscription 8.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME $2,114.17$ | TOTAL EXPENDITURE 1,839.87 |
| Balances 1.9.92 | Balances 31.8.93 |
| Bank Current a/c (7.39) | Bank current a/c 40.69 |
| Bank Deposit a/c 270.00 | Bank moneymaster a/c 226.33 |
| Petty cash $\quad 0.332 .94$ | Petty cash 20.17 |
|  | Girobank (Publ.A/C) 2537.24 |
| $£ 2,377.11$ | $£ \overline{2,377.11}$ |
| Treasurer: Mrs.B.M.A.Gee | Graeme Johnston Accountant |
|  | Audited: 1st.October 1993 |


[^0]:    COVER PICTURE: Rainthorpe Hall, near Tasburgh. One of the places visited on our last Mystery History Tour.
    [see report on pp.355-57]

