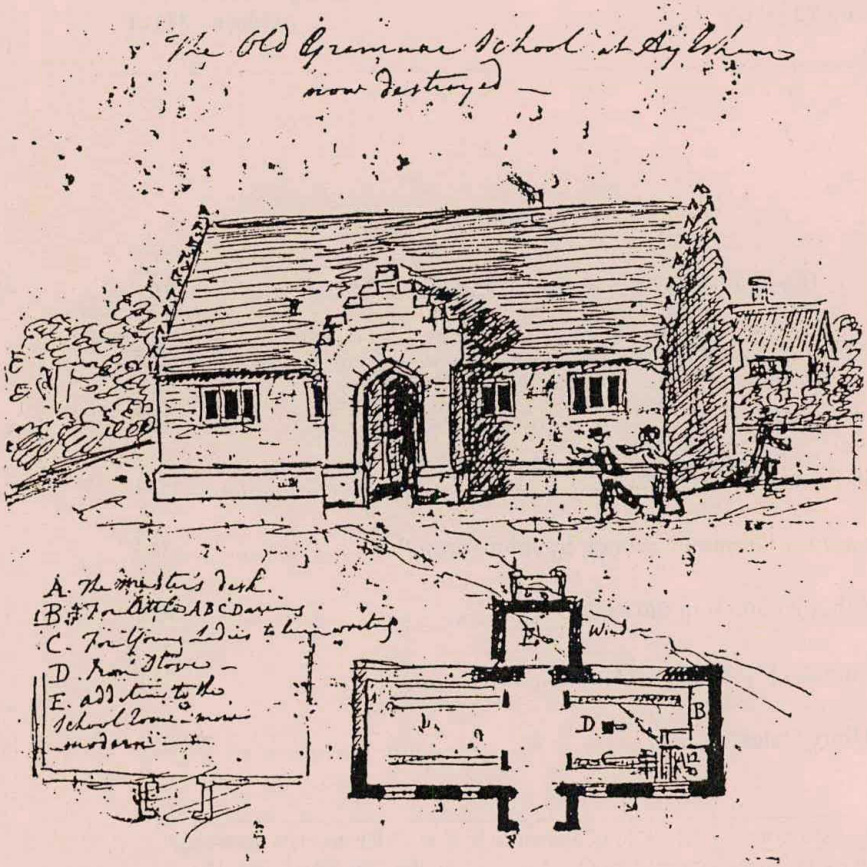
AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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The JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER is the Quarterly publication of the Aylsham Local History Society. It is published each March, June, September and December, and is issued free to members. Contributions are welcomed from members and others. Contact:-

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: - "The Old Grammar School in Aylsham, now destroyed" from a sketch by Repton, dated 26 October 1822, in the Town Archives. The sketch was posted to Lady Elizabeth Repton at Aylsham from Corfe Castle.
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AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4 No. 10

EPIDEMIC ILLNESS IN AYLSHAM

Julian Eve

Nowadays we forget how large a part illness used to play in the community. The high mortality in the 18th. century is well recorded - almost half the babies born failed to reach adulthood[1] - but the risk of early death was still present even in Victorian times.

The prevention of smallpox, the great scourge of the 18th. century, is one of the few success stories in medicine. Inoculation, practised in the Near East, became an accepted procedure in Europe and knowledge of the technique spreading to England is usually attributed to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762). The virulence of smallpox varied with each epidemic[2] and a mild attack protected against any further attack. Inoculation entailed taking matter from a pustule of someone suffering from mild smallpox, and introducing into a break in the skin of someone who had not had the disease. This artificially introduced smallpox was said to be safe. Lady Mary's letter to her friend in England, written from Adrianople (now Edirne) in Turkey in 1717 gives a vivid description:-[3]

> ". . . The smallpox, so fatal and general amongst us, is here entirely harmless, by the invention of *ingrafting*, which is the term they give it. There is a set of old women who make it their business to perform the operation every autumn, in the month of September, when the great heat is abated. People send to one another, to know if any of their family has a mind to have the smallpox; they make parties for this purpose, and when they are met (commonly 15 or 16 together) the old woman comes with a nut shell full of the matter of the best sort of smallpox, and asks

what vein you please to have opened. She immediately rips open that [part] you offer to her with a large needle (which gives you no more pain than a common scratch), and puts into the vein as much matter as can lie upon the head of her needle, and after that binds up the little wound with a hollow bit of shell, and in this manner opens up four or five veins.

. . . . .Every year thousands undergo this operation and the French ambassador says pleasantly, that they take the smallpox here by way of a diversion, as they take the waters in other countries. . . . as you may well believe, I am well satisfied of the safety of this experiment, since I intend to try it on my own little son."

On Lady Mary's return to England she endeavoured to introduce it nationally, but the resistance of the medical profession prevented it. However, she had her own child inoculated safely. Smallpox epidemics continued and Aylsham had several cases between 1737 and 1742. Horsham St. Faith had a severe epidemic in 1742-3 and Norwich was also affected at this time. At Swaffham in 1758 the annual race meeting had to be postponed because of an outbreak.

As soon as towns were clear, or almost clear of smallpox, they advertised it in the local press and Aylsham is in the list of towns advertising at this time, as were North Walsham, Cawston, Holt and Beccles.

"Upon the strictest enquiry made of the present state of SMALLPOX in BECCLES, it appears to be in eleven houses, and no more, and that the truth may be constantly known, the same will be weekly advertised alternately in the Ipswich and Norwich papers by us,

Thomas Page. Rector
Osm. Clarke & Is. Blowers, Churchwardens.[4th.Nov.1755]

Beccles had another attack in 1763 and the state of smallpox in the town was advertised for 13 successive weeks before it was clear.[4]

Although still frowned on by many members of the medical profession, the practice of inoculation spread and had reached Norfolk by 1760. Practitioners of inoculation were not popular in towns because anyone infected by inoculation with 'mild' smallpox could infect others more severely, and perhaps cause an epidemic. Surgeons who practised it

had to be sure their cases were nursed in isolation. Domestic servants who had already had the smallpox were still sought after, for example:-

> "Wanted a nursemaid. None need apply who cannot bring a good character from their last place and has had the smallpox."

Another example from John Fox of Dedham in Essex, 1762:-

> "Wanted an apprentice to an eminent surgeon in full practice in the County of Suffolk. If he has not had the smallpox, it is expected he will be inoculated for it, before he enters the business"

Parson Woodforde, who was at Weston, Norfolk, from 1776 to 1803, describes many cases of smallpox. His neighbour, Clarke, with his wife and four children were all *"taken with the smallpox"* in 1785. The parson had had his two servants inoculated in 1776. There were cases in Weston as late as 1791 when Mr. Custance, the local squire, paid for six children to be inoculated because of the local threat.

In 1796 Dr. Edward Jenner demonstrated that vaccination with cowpox, which caused little upset in humans, produced immunity to smallpox. Such vaccination, however, was slow to reach Norfolk except among the well to do, but after an epidemic arrived in Norwich in 1812 vaccination began to be offered to the poor. Another major outbreak in 1819 revealed how many had failed to be vaccinated. Three thousand people contracted smallpox and 530 died in Norwich.[5] Vaccination became compulsory for children in 1853.

There were other outbreaks in Norfolk in the early 20th. century. One epidemic in 1928 was a mild form of smallpox, known as *variola minor* or *alstrim.* There were 63 cases in the county and it was the last smallpox outbreak to occur in Norfolk.

The last case to occur in Aylsham was on 30th. March 1902.[6] The sufferer, a Mr. R. T. Payne, had brought the infection from Cambridge prison. As soon as the news became generally known, on the 4th. April, the Parish Council was *"specially summoned to consider the case".* They established the facts, which were that there had been cases of smallpox in Cambridge prison, and Mr. Payne had been then vaccinated. He had felt ill on Wednesday 26 March and had been examined by the prison doctor

who could find no signs of infection. He was therefore discharged the following day, his day for release, to travel by train to Aylsham. He felt ill on the train and went to bed when he arrived home. His Aylsham doctor was not called until Sunday, the fifth day of illness, when he clearly had signs of smallpox. This was confirmed by Dr. Black, the M.O.H. for Aylsham District. The Parish Council resolved to write to the Home Secretary and Sir William Gurdon, MP for North Norfolk, *"that he be required to ask a question in the House of Commons on the subject."* Sir William did this, but the prison doctor was exonerated on the grounds that the smallpox rash does not usually appear until the third day. [The prisoner should really have been quarantined for 16 days]

The Medical Officer at Aylsham took action and an iron hospital was set up *"on a meadow in the town"* so that the patient could be nursed in isolation. This hospital had four beds - three for patients and one for the nurse. The patient made a good recovery and there were no more cases in Aylsham. However, there must have been other earlier cases in the region as the *Aylsham Almanac* reported that during February 1902 *"owing to an outbreak of smallpox in the various parts of the county, a number of persons in the town and in the neighbourhood, including the teachers at the National Schools were vaccinated."*

The 'iron hospital' remained in situ, but empty, for many years. The Medical Officer of Health mentions it in his report of 1920 when it was not serving any useful purpose. Later the Walsingham Union workhouse at Great Snoring became the smallpox Isolation Hospital for the County.

Public health and sanitation

Rural Local Government, such as it was, was made responsible for public health in 1848. It was now generally recognised that poor housing conditions were associated with infectious disease, but little was done about the bad sanitation until the cholera outbreaks in Norfolk; first in Cawston in 1831, where there were 55 cases - 17 fatal - and later in 1848-9 at Norwich and other Norfolk towns. Altogether 387 people died in the county.[7]

At Aylsham the Vestry met in 1851 and appointed a committee "to examine the sewage of the town and the nuisance arising from open cesspools and dung heaps with a view to a more efficient drainage of the

town." The members of the committee were Messrs. Parmeter, Repton, Warnes, Copeman and Yates.[8]

They first visited Hungate Street and examined the open cesspits and dung heaps in Unicorn Yard. There were several other pits, all too low lying to drain anywhere. Owners were to place covers on all the open pits which were *"most offensive and constantly emitting foul gas."*

At Carr's Corner all the privies belonging to the several cottages drained into *"an abominable collection of open cesspools containing matter in a constant state of decomposition"*. The committee were in no doubt *"that in the event of fever or contagious disease of any virulent character, it would become the focus of disease."* They concluded that the only inducement for living there was the lowness of the rent. Their solution was to provide a culvert along Hungate Street leading to Palmers Lane and then to the ditch leading down the hill to the pit.

The committee noted several other public nuisances. Purdy's Yard off Red Lion St. was particularly offensive, but the problem could easily be resolved, at little expense, by running a drain into the open culvert along Red Lion Street.

Perhaps the worst public nuisance was at the top of Town Lane. They describe an *"offensive, disgusting privy close to the footpath"* whose cesspool was not even connected to the open road drain which took the washings from the brewery and ran down the lane to the junction with Millgate. Here, there was a pond with no outlet and the overflow *"finds its way down the road as best it can"*.

The committee's recommendations were put to a Vestry Meeting, and action seems to have been taken. Where insanitary conditions were ruled to be a public nuisance offenders were threatened with indictment if they did not carry out the necessary work. However, the only way to cope with the sewage was to make use of the drains intended for surface water, and the MOH's report for 1906 points out that the surface water drains have become public sewers, even to the extent of fitting ventilating shafts and gullies, as they take slop water, sink water, and drainage from stables and slaughter houses. He continues, *"fortunately very few water closets are connected with these sewers since only the better class houses possess these conveniences and cesspools are provided in the large gardens attached to them."*

Three main outfalls of the town, via various lengthy ditches and

settlement tanks, flowed into the river Bure, and the fourth into a large pond south-east of the town. The doctor remarked *"although the drainage of Aylsham can not be said to be in accordance with modern ideas, yet it serves the requirements of the town fairly well."*

Water Supply

Water supply at Aylsham was entirely from private wells, and in dry summers some of them dried up. A single well often served a whole row of cottages. A few cottages had no official water supply and the tenants had to beg borrow or steal. Through the kindness of the owner a number of people, who had no wholesome supply, obtained their water from the "Malt House Pump". It was a deep well and provided pure water. Many wells in the town were shallow and situated near privy pits and subject to surface soakage. In 1904 the Parish Council held a public meeting in the town with a view to arranging a public water supply, but the idea was opposed by an overwhelming majority. The need for pure water remained and the pump with its thatched shelter at Carr's Corner, in memory of John Soame, was presented to the town in 1913 and supplied water from an artesian well 170 feet deep.

Objections to a public water supply, on the grounds of costs to the rates, continued right into the 1930s, and mains water was not brought to Aylsham until 1937. (Main sewers did not arrive until 1953)

As we might expect, cases of typhoid fever were not uncommon. Between 1897 and 1908 there were 14 cases in Aylsham. There was one worrying case in the Aylsham Rural District, at Marsham village shop. The relations who were nursing the victim at home continued to serve and handle food in the shop. The Medical Officer advised the provision of a trained nurse and the rector paid for one. Due to her skill, he claimed, there were no more cases in Marsham.

The Infectious Fevers.

"There is a general impression that Aylsham is immune to infectious disease" writes the MOH in 1904, and then he states, *"that infectious diseases are in nowise conspicuous by their absence."* He tables the incidence of infectious disease from 1897 to 1912.

Diphtheria, more commonly a disease of large towns, was the cause of an epidemic in 1907. There had been only four cases in the previous ten years, but during 1907 there were 32 cases in the district and 16 the following year, and two infants died. Children were not permitted to return to school until their throat swabs were clear - a new and successful innovation for the county. Another diphtheria outbreak occurred in the district in 1920. Aylsham was spared, but Heydon was hit badly, and although the affected children were excluded from school they continued to play with other children out of school hours. It was decided to open an isolation camp for convalescent and "carrier" children. Mrs. Bulwer suggested it be set up in an ideal spot in Heydon Park. The infected children spent two months very happily under the care of a lady who acted as commandant. They were lucky with the weather and the infection was stopped. The total cost of the camp was about £40. (Coltishall had a more severe epidemic and four children died).

Isolation of infected cases was a problem in the country. Cottages tended to be in groups and isolation within a cottage was out of the question. In 1906 the MOH made a personal inspection of all the cottages in Aylsham valued at £5 or less. There were 190 cottages and although 21 had only one bedroom these were all occupied by single persons or aged couples. There were 117 two bedroom cottages but in only a few cases was there any overcrowding. In three bedroom cottages the sexes could be separated, even if beds were shared. He also noted that 76 of the 190 cottages had no garden at all while another 87 had gardens of less than 10 rods (302.5 sq. yds. or 1/20th acre.) which made disposal of slop water, rubbish and privy bins difficult. They depended on local smallholders for emptying their 'ash pits', and they came, perhaps once a year, only at their own convenience.

Scarlet Fever was another cause for anxiety. There were regular epidemics in Aylsham. In 1897 there were 35 cases with another outbreak in 1900 producing 22 cases, and a further outbreak in 1912 with similar numbers making a total of 52 cases in the rural district that year. There were no fatalities as it was fortunately a mild form.

Epidemics of whooping cough were the most lethal as young babies frequently died of infection (ten babies died of whooping cough in Aylsham Rural District in 1908). Measles caused less worry, but an epidemic often closed the school for weeks at a time. Tuberculosis was ever present in

various forms and averaged about 20 deaths a year in the district.

Reading these old reports makes one grateful for the advances in public sanitation, the reduction in poverty and for the discovery of antibiotics.

REFERENCES

1. Eve, J.R. "History of Horsham St. Faith" p.75
2. There were thought to be two types of smallpox. Variola major was severe and had a high mortality, while Variola minor, or alstrim, was mild with a very low mortality.
3. Andrews, W. "The Doctor in history" p.154, published 1896
4. Goodwyn, E.A. "Elegance and poverty, Bungay in the 18th. century". p.60.
5. Batty Shaw, A. "Norfolk & Norwich medicine". p.23
6. Aylsham Parish Council minutes. 4 April 1902. Town Hall Archives.
7. Batty Shaw, A. p.25
8. Aylsham Town Hall Archives. Box. A.11
9. Aylsham Town Hall Archives hold the reports of the Medical Officers of Health for the years 1906, 1908, 1912 and 1920.

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SOCIETY NEWS

Joint Meeting with the Aylsham Association- ANTIQUES EVENING: On the evening of March 26th. 1996 members of the Aylsham Association and the Aylsham Local History Society held a joint meeting in the Aylsham Motel. Members and friends of both societies (some 50 people came) were invited to bring with them one or two objects which were antiques, curios, memorabilia or otherwise objects of interest. These were placed on display and we were invited to inspect and examine them.

We then sat down. Two valuers from Key's, the local firm of auctioneers, proceeded to talk about all the objects in turn in terms of their history, or their use, their attractiveness, or their value as seemed appropriate. Refreshments were available, and the meeting was a happy occasion providing, as it did, an opportunity for members of both societies to talk with each other about matters of common interest. Perhaps we may hope that the joint committee which planned this event may think of further joint meetings from time to time in the future. **J.N.**

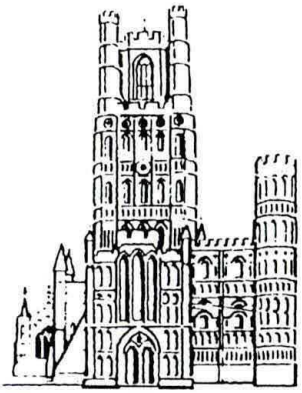
Leisure in History - A good audience of over 60 attended David Dymond's lecture at the Friendship Club on April 25th. Mr. Dymond had visited us once before, some years ago, to talk on Bury St. Edmunds, and perhaps happy memories of that visit had helped to draw a healthy audience. Leisure is an important aspect of our lives, but not always recognised as such. So often, we study how people worked, what they did to support themselves, and less often how they enjoyed themselves. Leisure is our own 'personal' time, and how we use it says a great deal about ourselves.

In pre-reformation days there was a healthy approach to leisure and its enjoyment. The humblest working man could expect up to 90 red-letter days each year in the church's calendar of holy days, or holidays. Quoting from the records of Thetford Priory* Mr. Dymond showed how the monks there also enjoyed a regular programme of leisure events. The reformers cut all this back to about 30 days, and this together with the abolition of the gilds with their socio/religious activities, dramatically altered the way of life and its enjoyment, of the ordinary working man. The authorities feared that too much leisure would lead to drunkenness, gambling, swearing and sexual immorality - all leading to the dangers of riot and rebellion. The later Puritans, who regarded much of what we regard as leisure, as being sinful, tried to prevent everyone else, as well as themselves, from enjoying "sinful pleasures". However, it is to these objectors, with their aptly described 'literature of disapproval' that we know what we do know about former leisure activities. Their disapproving tracts went into great detail of what some of these 'sinful' pleasures were.

Now the pendulum has probably swung too far the other way with too much emphasis on pleasure. Perhaps it is not a bad thing - opportunities for leisure had been reduced to just Sundays, and we were still expected to spend most of that day in church. We could have reached a stage where the only thing to look forward to was a good weekend punch-up with the local meeting of the Lord's Day Observance Society. Certainly our pleasure was improved by hearing Mr. Dymond's excellent talk, and Derek Lyons conveyed the thanks of us all to him. TWM

*David Dymond has just edited the first part of the Register of Thetford Priory (1482-1517) as volume LIX of the *Norfolk Record Society*. 1995

Visit to Ely - On Thursday, 23rd. May, about 30 members and friends - enough to make a comfortable coach load - set off at 8.30am from Aylsham Market Place bound for Ely. After a comfortable journey in pleasant weather, we arrived without incident at the Market Place in Ely, and set out to enjoy our well organised tour. It started, as all civilised visits should, with coffee and biscuits. This was all arranged for us in advance in the elegant setting of the Almonry Tea rooms which contains a 12th. century undercroft, all part of the former priory buildings.



Ely Cathedral West Front

Once inside the cathedral proper, we were instantly impressed and had our breath taken away, as must every visitor before us, by the beauty of what lay before us. We were also quickly taken in hand by an excellent and knowledgeable lady guide who was waiting for us. This lady did not allow herself to be put off by the background noises of stone cutters, masons and other craftsmen who did their best to drown her out. The reason for all the noise became apparent later on when we could see all the extensive restoration work in progress in the south Triforium. We were impressed by most of what we saw - from the site of St. Etheldreda's shrine to the later 16th. century chantry chapels, and particularly by the Lady Chapel tucked away in the NE corner, almost separated from the main building

This is the largest Lady Chapel in the country, and on entering it from a rather undistinguished connecting porch, it leaves a startling impression. The brightness and spaciousness inside comes as a surprise. The walls are covered by a continuous frieze of carvings illustrating the events in the life of the Virgin Mary. Sadly, despite the great number of carvings, not one remains intact after the 'reformers' had finished with them. The other feature of the chapel was a seven second delay echo with which our guide had to contend.

However attractive the Lady Chapel might be, nothing could equal the magnificance of the Octogan, the 14th. century replacement to the

"In the Transept, Ely". A drawing by Joseph Pennell from the book *Highways and Byways in East Anglia* by William A Dutt. 1904

collapsed Norman tower. Like every visitor before us we gazed in wonder, and marvelled at how it was supported. We needed some light relief after all this, and it was a pleasurable break to set off in search of lunch. I can now thoroughly recommend the "Lamb" Hotel for its food and drink which fortified us for the afternoon, when we split into smaller groups to visit various other attractions. Some of us returned to the cathedral to visit the Stained Glass museum in the Triforium gallery. This rather rare type of museum was well worth the visit and kept us fully absorbed.

Other groups visited Oliver Cromwell's House nearby, or the Ely Museum or whatever else took their fancy. The final arranged part of the programme was to meet Jane Kennedy outside the cathedral for a guided tour of the external architectural features. Jane, a former Aylsham citizen and a member of our society, is responsible for the fabric of Ely Cathedral, and with her specialist knowledge added the final touch to this well organised visit. There was a final bonus for this group, which, after the visit and on its way back to the coach, was invited into a private house en route, to see some recently uncovered 16th. century wall paintings. It added the final touch to an excellent day out.

An enormous amount of work goes into organising all the essential details of an outing like this, and it is easy to take all our secretary's hard work for granted, but we owe a handsome vote of thanks to Valerie for arranging this successful visit. **T.W.M.**

Proposed railway museum - Our committee members have met Bridget Yates, from the Norfolk Museums Service, who has explained what problems would be involved. Following this it was accepted that the society could not provide the degree of support required and would be unable to offer any real practical help. However, the society wishes the idea well, and some help would undoubtedly come from some individual members.

Publications - No great activity by the Publications sub committee. *"Backwards Glance"* is now sold out, and occasional orders are still received for *"Millgate"* and *"Aylsham in 1821"* and stocks of both of the latter titles are almost exhausted.

One title which is still active is *"The Poor in Aylsham"* by Julian Eve. Besides writing the book, Julian has also handled the production and sales of the title single-handed. Copies have been produced in small quantities to meet demand; even so, 70 copies have been produced so far,

and all but 8 of these have been sold. All of Julian's hard work has already produced a modest profit for the publications account. Copies can still be obtained directly from Julian at £3 each for members.

The *"Wright's map"* has only been produced to meet specific requests, and copies can still be obtained directly from Geoff Gale. It has never been intended or expected to make a profit from sales of the *"Wright's Map."* It is sufficient just to cover the costs of making it available. I expect that the Publications sub-committee will be cosidering fresh ideas for new publishing ventures after the Summer recess.

NOTES & QUERIES

An enquirer is seeking information about Julia McCreedy of Aylsham, and hopes that one of our readers can help. Harcourt McCreedy was postmaster at Aylsham from 1896 until 1921 and was succeeded by his wife Julia at some stage. The enquirer wishes to know - when did Julia and Harcourt die? What were the names of their children? who did the children marry? - in fact anything of interest is sought. It is believed that one of the children, Stella, married Mr. Bruce, the auctioneer. The family lived at 21 Market Place, Aylsham. If you can help please contact:-

Diana J. Spelman, 118 Stafford St. Norwich NR2 3BQ
01603-664186

A second enquiry concerns local mobile cinemas. John Watson, The Five Gables, Lingwood, Norwich. NR13 4TF can remember seeing one in Aylsham in the 1930s. He recalls it visiting the Town Hall on a Saturday, and can even remember going to a performance there. What he now would like to know is - Who ran it? for what period did it operate? Are there any posters or other publicity extant? What were admission charges? and did the same cinema visit other places such as North Walsham? Any information would be welcomed by John.

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NORFOLK RECORD SOCIETY

With a couple of pages to spare to complete this issue, I am happy to take advantage of it and unashamedly give an unsolicited 'plug' for the Norfolk Record Society. This is a society which is under-valued and not well enough known. Every year, since 1930, the Record Society has produced an annual volume containing documents relating to the history of the county. Each document is transcribed and introduced by editors who are experts in their subject. The subjects covered range from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries.

Each volume is beautifully produced in a cloth bound and hard backed uniform edition. Amongst the 59 volumes produced to date there are such treasures as:-

Vol. XI - The first register of Norwich Cathedral Priory.
Vol. XIV - The correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston.1603-27
Vols XXXII & XXXIII - Registrum Vagum of Anthony Harison
[i.e. the letter book of Bishop Jegon]
Vol.XXXVII - Mary Hardy's Diary. [of Letheringsett]
Vol.LIV - Notebook of Robert Doughty 1662-1665 [of Hanworth]

A few weeks ago, members received the latest two volumes, which were:- *The Farming Journal of Randall Burroughes" 1794-1799.* of Wymondham, and the *"Register of Thetford Priory. Part 1 1482-1517"* By the end of this year it is expected that another two volumes should appear, which will bring the publishing programme of the society up to date.

Some of our members already belong to the society and know already of the value of its publications. I am sure many others would want to share the same benefits if only they were made aware of them. For a mere £12 per annum all these could be yours!!! - Don't delay - write to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Barbara Miller, 17 Christchurch Rd. Norwich NR2 2AE. I don't know of a better bargain.

It is actually a better bargain than I first realised. I now learn that the society needs to dispose of some back numbers, simply to make space.

Not all volumes are still available, but those that are can be acquired at £5 from the Hon. Secretary. This is a one-off offer, and unlikely to be repeated.

The volumes available are:-

Vol. 15 Minutes of Norwich Court of Mayorality. 1630-1631

Vol. 19 Inventory of church goods. 1368

Vol. 35 Cartulary of Creake Abbey.

Vol. 36 Minutes of the Norwich Court of Mayorality.1632-1635

Vol. 38 Index of wills proved in the Consistory Court of Norwich 1751-1818

Vol. 39 Great Yarmouth Assembly Minutes. 1538-45

Vol. 41 Communar Rolls of Norwich Cathedral Priory

Vol. 43 The letter-book of John Parkhurst, Bishop of Norwich 1571-75

Vol. 44 Crime in East Anglia in the 14th. century.

Vol. 45 Norfolk Lieutenancy Journal. 1660-76

Vol. 46 Nathaniel Bacon Papers. Vol. 1

Vol. 47 Index of Wills proved in the Consistory Court of Norwich 1818-1857

Vol. 48 The records of a Commission of Sewers for Wiggenhall 1319-1324

Vol. 49 Nathaniel Bacon Papers. Vol II

Vol. 50 Survey of Houghton Hall Estate. 1800

Vol. 51 Parliamentary Survey of the Dean & Chapter properties. 1649

Vol. 52 Index of Norwich City Officers.

Vol. 53 Nathaniel Bacon Papers. Vol. III

All the above are available at £5 per volume including P & P

The normal price per volume is £15 plus £1.50 P & P, so clearly a good bargain.

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AYLSHAM FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Amongst the Town archives there are a few papers of the late Dr. John Sapwell, some published, others unpublished. The following article first appeared in the Eastern Daily Press in August 1976, and is reprinted here by kind permission of the editor of the EDP.

The Free Grammar School at Aylsham was founded by Robert Jannys, a native of the town and later a prosperous Norwich merchant who was Sheriff of the city in 1509 and Mayor in 1517 and 1524. In his will dated April 20th. 1530, he directed his executors to purchase land sufficient to bring in rents of £10 per annum to provide the schoolmaster's salary.

The first master was to be nominated by the executors, but subsequent ones were to be chosen by the Bishop and Mayor of Norwich from three candidates presented by the bailiff and churchwardens of Aylsham, and were to hold office for life so long as they fulfilled the ordinances.

In 1573, considerable problems arose over the appointment of a master leading to protracted negotiations, and after his appointment(with some misgivings on the Bishop's part), his ultimate dismissal for heterodoxy.

On July 22nd. Thomas Pecke, the Mayor of Norwich, wrote to the Bishop, John Parkhurst, recommending, after conference with Lancelot Thexton, vicar of Aylsham, and *"divers others of the most ancientist and gravest men of the inhabitants"* the appointment of Robert Harrison, *"notwithstanding that of late he hath in some wise given offence in the manner of his marriage"*, for which, however, he had *"shewed some penitencie"* and promised not to be factious.

The Bishop replied that he was unwilling to appoint Harrison, on the grounds that he was too young and inexperienced, and that he condemned the reading of prophane [i.e. secular] authors to children, and that he *"suffered from a frenesey which being incurable, makes him incapable of teaching the imps of Aylsham"*. The present meaning of 'imps' suggests mischievous boys, but the contemporary meaning was probably simply 'children'.

In addition the Bishop had grave doubts about the sincerity of his 'penitencie' with regard to his marriage, which was probably performed in an unorthodox manner.

The next event was a letter from the Secretary of State, Sir Thomas Smith to the Bishop, asking for the appointment of Mr. Johnson. To this the Bishop sent a favourable reply and Johnson was apparently appointed on a temporary basis. The Bishop certainly seems to have taken the matter seriously, for, before making any permanent appointment, he referred the three candidates nominated by Aylsham to a court of examiners - William Maister his chancellor, Stephen Lymberte, headmaster of Norwich Grammar School, and Henry Birde.

Of the three candidates, Johnson failed to attend, and Harrison was preferred to Sutton, after which the Bishop appointed him, taking however, the precaution of drawing up a written list of articles and covenants designed to secure his orthodoxy and good behaviour, which Harrison was obliged to sign.

Harrison was appointed on September 30th. and it was not long before he gave cause for offence, for when standing godfather to John Allen's child on October 26th. he prevailed upon Thomas Gladon, the presiding deacon, to make various minor alterations in the wording of the service and to omit the sign of the cross.

All this was duly reported to the Bishop, and set out in a detailed schedule dated December 4th., witnessed by Gladon and seven of the leading inhabitants of Aylsham, including John Orwell, the Bailiff, and in a letter to Archbishop Matthew Parker on January 29th. Parkhurst states categorically that he has discharged Harrison and replaced him by Sutton.

After his dismissal Harrison somewhat surprisingly obtained the post of Governor of the Great Hospital at Norwich. His religious conscience subsequently caused him to become a separatist, and in about 1580 he joined Robert Browne, who had been his contemporary at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in forming a puritan sect in Norwich which came to be known as "The Brownists" and is regarded as the origin of Congregationalism.

In January 1581, Browne and Harrison emigrated with their congregation to Middleburg in Holland, where they subsequently quarrelled, and where Harrison probably died in 1585 at the early age of about 35.

John Sapwell.

The cover illustration in this issue shows the sketch of the Old Grammar School by Repton. Humphry Repton had died in 1818, so this sketch, dated 1822, must be by his son, George Stanley Repton [d.1858] who, as an architect, assisted his father in the design of the Brighton Pavilion. He made a runaway match with Lady Elizabeth Scott, eldest daughter of Lord Eldon, 1817. Editor

—-ooOoo—-

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

With such a wealth of history and literature of our county available to us it does make it easier for an editor to find something that will fill those empty pages.

Now this is dangerous comment coming from an editor who is always pressing for as many contributions as possible from his readers, so can I stress that contributions from our own members are still the life blood of a *Journal* such as this. No other contributions can match up to them, and this is giving me a suitable opportunity to keep reminding members that I can never have enough!

That said, it is still interesting to discover previously unknown

books that offer tasty tit-bits. One recent discovery is the *"East Anglian Handbook and Agricultural Annual for 1884"* Priced at 6d. for over 300 pages. It was a jolly good bargain. Amongst the contents is a length feature entitled "Traditions, superstitions and folklore of Norfolk & Suffolk" by John T. Varden. I have chosen two selections from it because of the local connection:-

SIR THOMAS BOLEYN'S RIDE

Dead rides Sir Morten of Fogelsang - Saga of King Olaf

"Blickling Hall, situate about thirteen miles from Norwich, in 1452 passed by sale from Sir John Fastolf, of Caister castle, to Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, Lord mayor of London in 1457. From him it descended to the eldest son of his brother, Sir Thomas Boleyn, father of the unfortunate queen Anne Boleyn and Viscount Rochford both of whom, according to Spelman, were born there.

Annie was married to the lascivious Henry VIII on November 14th. 1532 and beheaded on charges of infidelity to her highly moral spouse on May 19th. 1536. To *'atone for a share he is said to have had in her decapitation'* Sir Thomas is said to have been condemned to drive a coach drawn by four headless horses over a circuit of twelve county bridges in the vicinity of Blickling, namely, Aylsham, Burgh, Oxnead, Buxton and Coltishall, the two Merton bridges, Wroxham and four others. The signal for this apparition was the execution of Viscount Rochford:-

That very time, at dead of night,
Four headless horses took their flight,
Dragging behind them as they ran
The spectre of a headless man !

Beneath his arm a head he bore
Its tangled hair all wet with gore
Pursued he was by demons foul
With piercing shriek and dismal howl

O'er hedge, o'er ditch, o'er fence, o'er gate
They gallop on at heedless rate
Over twelve bridges they must bound,
Ere morn shall stop their horrid round

Few rustics dare to linger on the bridges named above after dark, but there is a story that a belated villager was one night hailed by the apparition, and asked to open a gate, but - *he wasn't such a fule as to turn his head, and well 'a didn't, for Sir Thomas passed him full gallop like"* and he heard a voice which told him that he [Sir Thomas] had no power to hurt those who turned a deaf ear to his requests, but that if he had complied he would have carried him off.

"Lady Anne Boleyn is said to ride down the avenue of Blickling Park once a year with her bloody head in her lap, sitting in a hearse like coach drawn by four black headless horses, driven by coachmen and attendants who presumably out of compliment to their mistress have also left their heads behind them." *according to Walter Rye in "Eastern Counties Collecteana"*

The second tale is entitled :-

THE MANNINGTON GHOST

"Was it Campion or Henry Walpole, or Father Gerrard, or which of the devoted seminary priests who dared the prison, the halter and the hangman's knife for their religion, that appeared to good Dr. Jessopp at midnight on the 10th. October 1879, in that room, with the *'huge fireplace and a grand old chimney'* at Mannington Hall.

Most fitting was it that an apparition with closely cut reddish-brown hair, and arrayed in an ecclesiastical habit of thick corded silk, or some such material, close-up to the throat, and a narrow rim or edging of about an inch broad of satin or velvet, serving as a stand up collar, and fitting close to the chin (evidently a priest's cassock) should have visited one who in his papers on Bowthorpe and Breccles Halls, and in his larger work *"One generation of a Norfolk House"* had portrayed so vividly the struggles and

vicissitudes of Catholic recusants and their priests who risked their lives to minister to their spiritual wants.

The good Doctor, according to his published statement in the *Athenæum,* was sitting over some half dozen books in a room adjoining the library, reading and transcribing as he required. Just as his work was drawing to a close he suddenly saw a large white hand within a foot of his elbow, and turning his head, he saw the figure of a somewhat large man, dressed as described above, sitting with his back to the fire, and apparently examining the books he had just laid aside. It made no movement whatever, but on the doctor reaching his hand forward to the books, it vanished.

He proceeded wih his writing for about five minutes, when the figure re-appeared in the same place and attitude as before. Then the most interesting point in connection with the event occurred. The doctor, who said that he felt no fear whatever in the presence of his ghostly companion, says, *"I was framing a sentence to address to him, when I discovered that I did not dare to speak. I was afraid of the sound of my own voice" There he sat, and there sat I. I turned my head again to work, and finished writing the two or three words I still had to write. Having finished my task, I shut the book and threw it on the table. It made a slight noise as it fell- the figure vanished."*

It appeared no more. The doctor replaced the books, lit his bedroom candle and marched off to bed, where he says, *"I slept the sleep of the just, or the guilty - I know not which - but I slept very soundly."*.....

The good Dr. Jessopp, referred to was Dr. Augustus Jessopp, D.D. Rector of Scarning. Born in 1823 he became an author of many popular works, paricularly on Norfolk history. He was Chaplain to the king from 1902, an honorary canon of Norwich Cathedral, and was headmaster of King Edward VI Grammar School, Norwich from 1859-1879. His books are still useful today, paricularly his diocesan history of Norwich published 1884, the same year that this account was published. There is currently an attempt to boost the reputation of Dr. Jessopp which is considered to be not fully appreciated.

MY MEMORIES

Mrs Ivy Edwards

Although I was five in September 1919, my school days did not commence until the following January. The school which I attended was only a few minutes walk from the house. I was rather a shy child, and felt strange amongst all those children. No doubt they felt the same. We were taught to write and draw on slates to begin with, we did not use pen and ink for a year or two. I don't appear to remember much about that first year. We all went home at dinner time, at least all those who lived near by, which most of us did. Like all children I gradually made my few special friends, one of which I keep in touch with to the present day. The school holidays were often spent with the grandparents at Aylsham.

I had only been at school about a year when I was smitten with diphtheria, which was quite prevalent at that time. I arrived home from school one afternoon, listless and with a dreadful sore throat. Doctor Fox, from St.Giles who had delivered me when I was born, called in to see me. He only had to take one look at my throat, which was almost covered with a white film, and I was immediately admitted to the isolation hospital on Bowthorpe Road (now the West Norwich Hospital). A horse-drawn cab came to collect me with a nurse to take charge of me on the way. A man drove the cab. I don't know what he looked like, only that he carried me up to the road wrapped in a red blanket. On the way to the hospital, the nurse called over to the driver and told him not to make any more stops as I had developed a rash which turned out to be scarlatina. These memories come flooding back. I was put in quite a large ward, or so it seemed to me, quite by myself, for what seemed like hours before anyone came to see me. I thought I was forgotten, but of course this was far from true. The next day I was transferred to a room, again quite by myself in a private cubicle. I was so ill, everywhere was glass. I had only been there two or three days when another bed was being put in my room, and I was told by a nurse that a lady was coming in with me that afternoon. It turned out to be my mother, as when a swab of her throat was taken, it was found that she had the virus in her throat. Of course I was glad to see her. Her stay in hospital lasted for two weeks, I was left for another month.

This was a very worrying time for my father. When we had visitors they had to stand outside closed windows, and talk and make signs as best they could. I remember I had a thick wad of cotton wool round my throat, and each week a layer was removed. Everyone was very kind, but to a young child in isolation the time seemed long. When we were able to go out into the grounds, we would run down that slope towards the road, which is still there, to meet Dr. Legget who was Medical Officer of Health at that time, and he would throw pennies for us to run and catch. This was a form of therapy, as I know for weeks my legs were so stiff I could not bend them to board a tram or mount steps. I was able to go home, but not to return to school for some time. When an infectious disease such as diphtheria had been diagnosed, the house had to be fumigated right through. Later that summer we went to visit aunt Dorothy in Yorkshire. She lived in a small village called Badsworth, not far from Wakefield. We were met at the station by uncle Reginald in a pony and trap.

Almost exactly a year later I developed scarlet fever, so was once again admitted to the isolation hospital. This time I was in a ward with several other children so we were able, when we got a little better, to play games and amuse one another. The isolation block used to be on the left hand side of Bowthorpe Rd, and in those days the opposite side of the road was the old workhouse. I don't think there is an isolation block there now, but the buildings are almost the same, although modernised. I missed quite a lot of my early school days through illness, as I also developed measles, mumps and chicken-pox, all in succession. I was very often punished at school for so-called 'not paying attention'. In actual fact, I could not see the blackboard at any distance, and when the visiting eye specialist came to test our eyes he discovered my bad eye sight. I suppose I thought that it was normal as I had never known anything different. So, from the age of eight I wore glasses, and have done so ever since. I will say at this point, I do not find writing my memoirs easy with my poor eyesight, but I am determined to finish if at all possible. I have had much encouragement from various people without whose help I don't think I would have started.

As time passed, and war was forgotten, although never for those who had lost sons, husbands and fathers, and by those who had come home maimed for life, or shell-shocked, life drifted on for us into a routine of school and holidays. My very best friend was Mary. Our parents were also

friends, and although I was an only child, there were four children in her family as she had three brothers, Ernest, Tom and Peter. I spent a lot of my time at their house, and was included in most of their activities. We all attended the same Methodist Sunday School, as leisure time was still greatly centred round the churches and chapels.

On Saturdays, one of the grandparents from Aylsham usually came by train to visit us. One of them had to remain at home to attend to the gates. If grandfather Daniel came he would bring a bag of garden produce for us, and after dinner he would often go to the city to look round the market stalls. He would come home to tea, often having bought oranges and bananas, they always had plenty of other fruit in the garden. When grandmother came, it would often mean a trip to the city to buy a new hat or a length of dress material. If the purchase was a hat, she would take it home and immediately re-trim it with a fresh ribbon bow, or a bunch of artificial flowers or fruit, (sometimes both). I never knew my father's parents, as they both died during the war.

During the long summer holiday from school quite a lot of time was spent backwards and forwards to Aylsham. It was harvest time so we would go to the fields and sometimes bring home a rabbit. Then, of course, there were the blackberrying days, going round the hedges in the fields of the local farmer, who was also a family friend. This meant jam and jelly making when we returned home.

Christmas

Christmas in Norwich always fascinated me as the shop windows were decorated much differently to these days. There would be figures and sometimes chariots all made from hundreds of handkerchiefs. This all started about three weeks before Christmas, not in October as today. Grandfather would come and bring the usual holly bough which was never decorated until after I had gone to bed on Christmas Eve. My pillow case was hung at the foot of the bed, but I never could stay awake to see it filled, not with large presents, as do some children of today, but perhaps, for example, a pencil case, or a box of handkerchiefs, a book, a few sweets and an orange. The day was spent at home. Sometimes my father would be called out. The 'wireless' had not come in the early 1920s so we played board games such as ludo, or snakes and ladders, and my father would roast chestnuts on the open fire.

On Boxing Day we always set off quite early to visit the grandparents, usually by train, until those open-top double decker buses started to run. This was a more exciting day, as other aunts and cousins all came. Dinner would consist of a home-reared chicken followed by plum pudding. Tea would be bread and butter and celery from the garden, sausage rolls and cake. To my mind sausage rolls never tasted so good as grandmother's. Before we went home, grandmother insisted that we all had a glass of ginger wine and a mince pie, as she said it was to keep out the cold and help us on our journey home.

The New Year would bring parties. My friend Mary held quite a big one at their house as there were her brothers' friends to invite as well. In their house they had quite a long hall, and we would have games marching up and down, singing *'The Grand old Duke of York'* and playing 'Postman's knock'. The girls would be in their party frocks of pale pinks and blues. They were much better off than we were, but I was always included in their activities.

When the new, 'cat's whisker' wireless sets were invented, the Pantry family [that was Mary's surname] soon bought one. There would be lots of crackling noises, and headphones had to be worn. Eventually, one would get some reception of music and news items. On Sunday evenings there would be a Service broadcast, and we would be invited to listen in. We all lived quite near Mousehold Heath, and we would spend hours in the summer walking and playing games. It was safe for children in those days. No doubt George Borrow trod those paths, which inspired him to write *Romany Rye* and *There's a wind on the Heath, brother.*

As we grew older, our activities changed. It meant homework to do for school the next day, on most evenings, and Mary's family were first to acquire a piano, so that meant music lessons. Mary was a little older than me, but my turn was to come. Our piano was purchased, I may add at some hardship to my parents, but they wanted to be sure that I would be able to play. Like another well-known Norfolk author, I was sent to Miss Barker's on the Earlham Road for my lessons. That meant an hour's practice had to be fitted in most days. There was no easy excuse to get out of it, even if the sun was shining outside. First, there were scales and arpeggios, then on, gradually, to small tunes. I did not become very professional, but when we had visitors, I was always asked to play a 'piece' to them or accompany hymns to the aunts when they came to stay.

I was also very friendly with another family of three girls, - Lucy, Chrissie and Joan. They were all musical, and from time to time we would visit each other's houses and have quite a musical evening. Lucy played the piano quite well, Chrissie the violin, then Joan and I would be about the same level with the piano. I suppose this would appear very dull for most young people of today with the television and videos, but we were all very happy, and I am sure mixed a lot more

In the pre-Second World War days, in the early 1930s, Municipal concerts were regularly held on Saturday evenings in the winter time, at St. Andrew's Hall, and we schoolgirls, aged about 14 and upwards, would walk all the way through the Cathedral Close, and queue at the side entrance, and pay sixpence to sit up in the gallery, near the organ. Apart from the orchestra, conducted by Maddern Williams, there would always be a soloist or pianist. Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth, and many others too numerous to mention, would come. My father's employer, Mr. Thomas Glover, gave a new grand piano to the city, in memory of his wife who had recently died, and Dame Myra Hess was the first person to perform on it. I am not sure if that same piano is there today. (I must go one day and look for myself).

At this point, I do not wish to give the reader the impression that we were any more clever than young people of today. It was just all a different way of life. When the concerts were over we would then walk all the way home.

We all began at this stage to wonder what form of occupation we would pursue when we left school. Again, there were not the opportunities there are today. It left me about three choices - office work, nursing or shop assistant. One occupation which was dying out after the First World War, was domestic service. People, who in the past had kept a maid, now found they had to fend for themselves, doing their own cooking, etc. and perhaps just employing a woman to go in for a few hours on odd days. The whole way of life had changed. During the war, women had undertaken much of the work of men, working in factories and doing farm work. They had their freedom which was to last.

The average school leaving age was fourteen in the 1920s and early 1930s. Most of my friends and I were about fifteen, as we could stay on and take further subjects. Those who wanted to train for nursing had to reach the age of seventeen before training could commence. Most of us went into

various offices in the city, at least for the time being. We worked long hours for very little money, but we felt independent and still enjoyed our various pastimes.

A big gap came into my life when we learned that Mary and her family were to move to London, as her father had quite an important promotion regarding his work, so he bought a house in Harrow for them. They were all sad to leave, but of course they had to go. When Mary arrived in London, she became a secretary in her father's office as she had taken a course of shorthand and typing in Norwich. Joan, one of the three sisters I have mentioned, was determined to go into nursing, but in those days one could not train at the local hospital, so she was eventually accepted and did her training at Balham near London. Lucy, Chrissie and I resumed our office work. I always felt that I would like to have gone into nursing, but somehow, that was not to be. However, I joined the British Red Cross and was able to take an interest in that and made many friends. I was in Mrs. Fox's detachment, wife of our doctor at that time. We had some good times, going to their house at the top of St. Giles, to practise bandaging. We also had courses in home nursing. Of course there was a more serious side to all this, as we knew we could be called upon to help in times of emergency. I will, at this point, without trying to be presumptuous, mention that I came third in all Norfolk for bandaging when we had a competition.

I will now return to Mary who had moved to London. She had not been there long when the sad news reached us that she had developed tuberculosis. She had a long spell in Brompton hospital, then returned home for a time. I used to go and stay at Harrow, for holidays, to see the sights of London, but these visits were overshadowed by her illness. Just when we all thought she was recovering, she had a bad relapse. Again she was admitted to hospital where she was ill for so long, despite having the very best treatment of the time. She was then removed to a nursing home at Bournemouth, where she was to end her days. I visited her on one occasion when I was staying with her parents, and the last photo I had taken with her was in the gardens of the nursing home. Mary died on December 12th. 1937, aged 24 years. That was one of the saddest times of my young life as I had lost my best friend. In fact, Mary's passing had a lasting effect on me, as for quite a long time I was not at all well. No doubt in these days of antibiotics and modern drugs she may have been saved. However, life had to go on and I regularly stayed with her parents right up until the time that

I was married.

Just as when a child I loved to roam the country lanes, I grew to take an interest in old Norwich with its cobbled streets and yards, now replaced by car parks and blocks of flats. Barrack St. was very narrow with slum-like houses with doors opening straight on to the narrow paths, and their yards leading off the street at various points. It was all very unhealthy with children playing in the streets in hot weather, and grown-ups would take a chair outside and sit on the narrow paths. There was no air in those houses with their small windows and doors. There was much drunkenness as although wages were so low, beer was cheap. Ber Street was another slum area, as was Rose Lane and King Street. The yards and small cottages very often only had one outside lavatory which had to be shared by up to six families. Often, two or three in one family could develop tuberculosis, which was rife until better drugs and hygiene had been brought to their notice. I recently heard that these diseases are showing again, as now in 1994 homelessness and poor living are again spreading; cardboard boxes are once again shelter for the night.

Mr. Thomas Glover, my father's employer, became Lord Mayor of Norwich in 1928 when I was 14 and still at school. I was quite proud to think that I knew of the various activities that someone in that position had to undertake. It meant a lot of extra work for my father, as he was taking his master to all manner of functions. I was always ready to hear about all that was going on, and what being Lord Mayor of such a city entailed. I wrote quite a long essay about all this for one of my English lessons. I will just add at this point that sometimes on a Bank Holiday Mr. Glover would knock on the front door, and I would hear him say, *Charles, you can borrow the small car for the day.* This car was an open-top two seater Morris Cowley. We would set off to the grandparents, with mother and father in front and me sitting in the dickey seat. This was a small seat in the back which opened from the back of the car. If it came on to rain we would have to stop and put the hood up. Grandmother was always pleased to see us on those days as it meant that she could have a car ride in the afternoon - very much a novelty for her.

At that time we were members of Calvert Street Methodist church which was the first main building to be built in Norwich for worship. Of course there were small meeting places for followers of John Wesley. I think he once preached in a small meeting place in the vicinity of Palace Street.

The Calvert St. church had very large premises and was very well attended. Quite a number of well known families worshipped there. I will add at this point what a great divide there was years ago between Church of England and Nonconformists. Going back to about 1900, when Aunt Dorothy was young, she would very much have liked to have been a school teacher, and at Aylsham the school was run by the church. In those days one did not always have to go to college; many started as pupil teachers at the school and worked their way up from there. My grandfather went to see the vicar about Dorothy training, as she had the ability, but there was one condition and that was that the family changed from Methodism to Church of England. Grandfather would not agree to this, so that was the end of Aunt Dorothy's teaching career. Things are much better now and all denominations work together.

The annual Bazaar held each year at Calvert St. at sometime in November, lasted for two whole days finishing on the last evening with a concert performed by church members, and a very popular feature was called *"Living Pictures"* for which members would dress up and stand quite still, so that when the curtain was raised there was a well known picture portrayed for all to see. It was not at all easy to keep quite still and not bat an eyelid. We had some very happy times. Sadly the church was demolished to make way for the Magdalen St. flyover.

[the final instalment will appear in our next issue]

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SOME DIARY DATES

A selection of forthcoming events arranged by our own society, and other societies in the area - All within easy reach of Aylsham.

JUNE

Friday. 21st. Midsummer Concert at Oulton Chapel. 7.30pm. arranged by the Norfolk Society.

12 - 13th. Medieval Festival and Market. Norwich Cathedral from 9.30am.

JULY

Thursday. 4th. "From Super 7 to supercar" - the story of Lotus. Arranged by the Norfolk Industrial Archaeological Society, [to be confirmed]

Friday. 5th. "Relocation of the Jewel House in the Tower of London"by Hamish Mackinlay, at United Reform Church. Princes St. Norwich. Arranged by Norfolk Heraldry Society.

26 - 27th. The Cathedral at work - Behind the scenes tours 9.30-4.

AUGUST

6 - 11th. "Fire from heaven" - Son et lumiere. at Norwich cathedral. 8.30pm

OCTOBER

Wednesday. 2nd." Heraldry at Blickling Hall." by Tony Sims, arranged by Norfolk Heraldry Society.

Thursday. 10th. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Aylsham Local History Society - details later, but subscriptions will probably become an important item for consideration as ever rising costs outstrip subscription income.

Saturday. 26th. October. **"The Sir Thomas Erpingham Symposium"** in Norwich Cathedral. 9.30 to 15.25pm. A full day programme with many guest speakers including Robert Hardy
Sunday. 27th. [continuing Sir Thomas Erpingham] at Erpingham church:-
1.45 Paul Hitchin on "The English Archer"
2.30 Charles Roberts - conducted tour of Erpingham church.
3.30 Commemorative service.

November

28th. "Cawston in the 15th. and 16th. centuries" by Christopher Barringer. [details to be confirmed]

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