

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 PICTURE - "Bramleys" formerly 'Top Spot' at No.16 The Market Place, where we enjoyed the visit of the Liss Historical Society. Drawn by Hazel Keeler and reproduced here by permission of the proprietors of Bramleys.



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

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A QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP Tom Mollard

In our "*Millgate, Aylsham*" book the chapter on the Mash family and Mash's Row makes reference to the blacksmith's forge which once existed near Mash's Row:

At the staithe, and near to No.1 Mash's Row there was a small blacksmith's forge. James Martin is on record as being the blacksmith in 1858 and living in the house with his family. By 1879, John Martin and his son are listed as blacksmiths with a further forge at Burgh. John Martin was succeeded by his son, Walter John Martin, both at the staithe and at Burgh in 1892. During the 1914-18 war troops were billeted at the mill, and the military horses were shod by a blacksmith at the staithe. The forge was abandoned between the wars and fell into disrepair and was rebuilt as a double garage in the 1970s. . . .

Some newspaper cuttings of the year 1914 tell us more about the blacksmith's forge and how its ownership was hotly disputed in a court case held in February 1914 at Aylsham County court before his honour Judge Mulligan K.C. By this time all the Mash's Row properties and other estates acquired by William Mash had passed into the ownership of his daughter, Katherine Howlett, a widow. Possession of the forge had also passed into the hands of another

widow, Mary Anne Martin, and the two widows were in dispute.

It is quite clear that all the men who might have been involved in this affair had wisely taken the easy way out and died. The two widows were made of sterner stuff, and slogged it out in court through their respective counsels.

The newspaper cuttings belong to John Matthews through whom Liz Gale has acquired copies. As is usual with reporting of that period it is almost verbatim, and the lengthy report makes interesting reading. The ownership of the piece of land on which the forge stood was the nub of the problem. For the Mash family it was claimed that the land belonged to one of the cottages built by William Mash and was formerly part of the garden. Title deeds, maps and letters were produced to substantiate this.

The Martins' argument was that the land belonged to the Navigation Commissioners who had let the land to Martin's predecessors, and the site was later occupied by the Martins for several years as squatters, and they had paid no rent, and now the land belonged to them. Each side produced witnesses who gave very convincing, if conflicting, evidence. For Mrs. Howlett several contemporaries stated that they could remember the land being Mr. Mash's garden, long before a forge was built on it. With evidence like this and the existence of title deeds, maps etc. one would think that the argument was crystal clear.

However, the defence produced William Burcham, a former wherryman, who could remember the land where the forge now stood when it was all under water and belonging to the Navigation Commissioners. Stanley Bullock, the miller, also appeared. He was one of the Navigation Commissioners, and he declared that the land definitely belonged to the Commissioners. Not so clear, after all!

There was only one piece of light relief reported. After hearing a succession of elderly witnesses - e.g. William Spink of Marsham, aged 85; William Francis Hill of Cawston Road, aged 84 and Stanley Bullock also aged 84, it must have been a relief

Aylsham Local History Society

New Year Party, Friday, January 31st, 1997

7 for 7.30pm

at the Friendship Club, Cawston Road, Aylsham

Mulled wine will be served on arrival and fruit juice during the meal.

If you would like wine please bring your own.

After a buffet supper there will be a competition.

The cost per person will be £8.00.

If you wish to come please return the slip with cheque made payable to
AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY to:-

Valerie Belton,
Cherry Tree Cottage,
Ingworth,
Norwich NR11 6AE.

by Friday, January 17th, 1997.

.....
AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEW YEAR PARTY 1997

I/we requiretickets (supplied at door).

I/we enclose cheque for £.....

I/we would likevegetarian meals.

Signed

Please print name

when James Hook took the stand, and apologised for being “only 77” which caused laughter in court. He also stated that the area had once been water, later filled in by old Martin, who subsequently built his smithy on it.

Despite the several column inches of reporting, I am still as confused as ever over the rights and wrongs of the case. The jury must have been equally confused, and were unable to reach a clear verdict. His Honour decided in favour of the defendant, then set the judgement aside and directed that there should be a fresh trial.

Sadly, the newspaper cuttings do not reveal whether a fresh trial took place. The original hearing was in February 1914. On May 15th of that year, Mrs. Howlett was laid to rest in Aylsham cemetery. She had been taken ill a month previously and had repaired to Sidcup where she died. The coffin was brought back to Aylsham for burial, by the Great Eastern Railway. Mrs. Howlett was 72. She was also a fairly wealthy woman at the time of her death. On 12th. August 1914, the newspaper reported the sale by her executors of 11 separate lots. Messrs Ireland offered for sale at the Black Boys:-

- Lot.1 Two semi-detached small residences, Lark's Hall, White Hart St. with gardens, stabling etc. also adjoining two cottages with outbuildings. copyhold. Withdrawn at £600
- Lot.2 Two semi-detached villas, known as Mafeking and Pretoria, with gardens, sheds, facing Town lane, also having an entrance from White Hart St. Copyhold. No offer.
- Lot.3 Small dwelling house with gardens approached from White Hart St. copyhold. Withdrawn at £100.
- Lot.4 Double cottage with gardens and outbuildings, facing Town Lane and adjoining Lots 2 and 5, as occupied by Messrs. Neale and Williamson, copyhold. Mr. J.F.Bond, Aylsham. £120
- Lot.5 Small residence with garden, Edgefield House, abutting Town Lane. Mr. W.E.Tuttle, Aylsham. £220
- Lot.6 Three dwelling houses, with gardens, facing Town Lane.

Mr. W.E. Tuttle, £250.

- Lot.7 Three similar dwelling houses and gardens adjoining. Mr. W.E. Tuttle, Aylsham, £235
- Lot.8 Small dwelling house and garden and stabling, situate off Hungate St. Mr. J.F. Bond, £90
- Lot.9 Double cottage and gardens, adjoining the Cawston Rd. Withdrawn at £115.
- Lot.10 Two similar cottages and gardens adjoining Lot 7. Withdrawn at £115.
- Lot.11 Three cottages with gardens at Drabblegate, copyhold. Mr. Shackcloth, Calthorpe. £183.

Just a few days previously, Stanley Bruce, auctioneer, had already disposed of five other lots, including the Mash's Row property occupied by Mrs. Martin. [see p.68 of "*Millgate*"] All in all, it made arguments about the plot of land where the forge stood seem trivial.

Perhaps with Mrs. Howlett's death the dispute had resolved itself. Whatever happened, there were soon to be graver things to worry about - World War I was on the point of exploding into life.

—ooOoo—

MORE FROM CUPID'S HERALD, original Valentines and answers.

(With acknowledgement to David Walker who kindly lent us the book)

From a Miller

My head's turning round like my *mill*
So deeply in love I'm with thee;
Oh! be not ungenerous still,
But kindly to bless me agree.
More bliss doth my dwelling afford
Than can in a palace be found,

For plenty crowns always the board,
and the *mill* it goes merrily round.

A favourable reply to the miller would be:-

You're so kind, and I think so sincere,
For thee no aversion I feel -
and besides, as the *corn* is so dear,
I'll live where there's plenty of *meal*

if the lady was not impressed, she could reply:-

Your *clapper* continually goes -
To tell you the truth, so does mine;
Then why, Mr *Miller*, suppose,
I'd make you my dear valentine?

From a farmer

My dearest girl, I don't know how
But I can neither plough nor sow;
I think so of your matchless charms,
and wish I had them in my arms
So sweet, so lovely you appear
That you I dote on, I declare;
and hope you shortly will be mine
As you are now my Valentine.

In the book, a favourable reply is not even considered. The poor farmer is simply given the heave-ho:

Good Farmer Jolt, I'm not a colt,
To be broken by words of thine
So you may go, gee-up gee-ho.
You shall not be my Valentine.
And to finish, still on an agricultural theme, how about this from a
Poulterer ?

Oh you are my chicken, my duck
Whom I've picked for my dear Valentine
And sure I'll be crammed with good luck
If you will consent to be mine.

The lady has a choice of two replies. If she couldn't stand the man,
then:-

Pray give to this nonsense a truce.
Your chicken I never will be
For you are, I think, Sir, a goose
And therefore I cannot agree.

But if, deep down, she quite liked him, then:-

My heart it must surely beguile,
When I am your chicken you tell me,
How delicate, Sir, is you style
As nice as the fowls that you sell me
Then I only shall add, I am thine,
And you are my picked Valentine.

I expect that that is as many valentines as you can stand.
There are a few left for next issue, but I thought you would like to
have a few handy for next Valentine's Day. It will be too late in the
next issue. Ed.

—ooOoo—

Dr. WYNNE'S VISIT TO AYLSHAM

Throughout this volume we have published various extracts from the diary of Dr. Wynne. We have now reached the final part, of which some portions have already appeared in the *Journal*. These appeared in the article "*Aylsham River in the last century*" by Geoffrey Nobbs. (see *Journal* Vol.3 No.6 pp.173-178) The

extract below expands them and brings to an end the diary excerpts. We still do not know who was responsible for these diary excerpts which appear to have been copied from Dr. Wynne's sailing logs which are preserved in the Record Office.

In July 1877 Dr. Wynne decided to sail to Aylsham and visit the scene of his boyhood days. On the way he stopped one night on Wroxham Broad where:-

"Morton of Aylsham came alongside and had a chat."

July 23rd. ". . . got to Coltishall lock. Let through by an old man who said he had often helped the *Daphne* through. Halted on the other side of the bridge to lay in supply of biscuits, bread, butter and beer."

He frequently got aground on the way up to Buxton:-

"We got aground in the middle of the river. Hauled off by getting a rope over to the opposite side."

Apparently they did not sail but just rowed or towed.

"Towed to Buxton lock without getting aground. Got into and out of lock easily. Borrowed a tent peg for a handspike off a small boy."

They stayed the night at Buxton, and on July 24th.:-

". . . started about 9am for Aylsham. . . got aground close to Oxnead lock. Helped through by a miller. Here I took the tow rope and towed to Burgh lock and on to Burgh bridge. Here Bob took the line on to Aylsham lock which we reached at 12.30. Aylsham church came into view after passing the bridge and looked well in the distance."

After lunch. . . ". . . started for Aylsham under mizzen on foremast. Hauled it down very shortly after as we got into foul reach. Reached Aylsham about 4pm. and went straight into the mill pool. Very few people about, and saw only Foster amongst the wherryman class. Called

on Stanley Bullock who asked me to use his house etc. Purchased meat at Nicholls and called at the Market Place. . . and went on board to cook dinner. . . after which I went into Stanley Bullock's and had supper tea. Meat purchased at Aylsham a little fly-blown."

July 25th. Wednesday. "Up at 6am. Fine day. Thornton Bullock came on board. Got boat out of mill pool at 7.30am towing with jolly boat. Bob buckled on tow rope, and in 20 minutes we were at Aylsham lock. Breakfasted and . . . started at 9am for Coltishall. I towed to Oxnead lock. Got aground after leaving Burgh lock and got off by warping from opposite shore. Bob started towing after passing through the lock [Oxnead]. Got aground near Ladies Bower. Made Buxton lock at 1pm and passed through safely, having our lunch on the Coltishall side. I towed up to the bridge beyond Buxton lock. Bob then towed to Coltishall lock which we reached and passed through about 5pm. We got aground badly near Coltishall and had some trouble getting off. We cut up the rest of our mutton into the stew pot which we set over the slow lamp while we rowed the craft round to our moorings near Allen's yard. . . and dined off the stew which was very good, notwithstanding we had to throw some of the meat away, from being high. Bob very dainty and hesitated to partake of the meat. saw Buckle on the bank. . ."

" . . . Here ended our cruise to Aylsham which was not altogether quite a pleasure trip, being a dead tow there and back, and the frequently getting aground and the loss of time spent in getting her off with the jolly and tow rope was at times very annoying from the delay. Again, on arriving at Aylsham I saw no old friend and the place looked dull and strange, and for the first time I felt a stranger in the old town and was glad to get away from it as quickly as I could. I had determined to fly my flag in Aylsham mill pool, and having done so and accomplished my purpose I felt glad to get back to broad waters where I could again hoist sail. I was fortunate in having fine weather, otherwise towing would have been very disagreeable, and dirt no end carried on board.

The "*Mosquito*" having now been to Aylsham will not go there again, at least such is my resolve after the experiences of this her first voyage."

(It is wiser, perhaps, not to go back to the scenes of boyhood happiness, you are apt to destroy a dream. H.B.)

—ooOoo—

RICHARD PORSON (1759-1808)

John Sapwell

Those misguided people who assume that Norfolk birth is synonymous with bovine stupidity will do well to consider the case of a boy from a humble Norfolk home who became one of the greatest scholars of all time. Richard Porson, the son of a worsted weaver and parish clerk of East Ruston was born on Christmas Day 1759. At the age of nine he went to the Free School at Happisburgh, and soon showed such promise that the Revd. Thomas Hewitt, vicar of East Ruston, took him to study with his own sons whom he was educating privately.

In 1774, through the patronage of John Norris Esq. of Witton Park he was sent to Eton, where, however, he made no particular mark. In 1778 he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, as a pensioner; was later elected a Scholar, and took his degree, somewhat surprisingly in mathematics in which he was always interested. In 1782, he won the first chancellor's medal and was elected to a fellowship at Trinity.

Residence as a fellow was not obligatory, and he took chambers in the Temple in London, where he began to engage in classical and contemporary literary criticism, and also a certain amount of Whig political journalism. In July 1792 he vacated his fellowship, being unwilling to take Holy Orders as required by the statutes of the college, an action which was probably more due to intellectual honesty than lack of religious belief. The loss of income involved, left him in precarious circumstances, but his

London friends subscribed to buy him an annuity of £100. In November of the same year he was elected Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge at a nominal salary of £40 per annum which had not been increased since the chair was founded by King Henry VIII. The post was virtually a sinecure and left him free to continue his classical studies in London, except for occasional visits to the university.

At the age of 36, Porson who appeared to be a typical and confirmed bachelor surprised his friends by marrying, but his wife died only five months later and he never re-married. In December 1804 he paid a visit to his married sister at Coltishall, and in writing to her after his return to London, asks her to send him a turkey, "*that may do our dear county some credit.*" In August 1808 he again visited Coltishall. During his stay there his father died and he attended his funeral at East Ruston.

Since his undergraduate days Porson had unfortunately over-indulged in wine, an enslaving habit as always which must have affected his health. The year 1808 was one of increasing debauchery and ill-health. On 19th. September he had a stroke from which he made a temporary recovery, but died a few days later and was buried in the chapel of Trinity College.

Porson's fame rests little upon his original works, for he published few of any consequence. His *forte* was the collation and emendation of Greek texts, particularly of Euripides and the other Attic dramatists in whom he delighted. To his textual criticism he brought outstanding intellectual powers, meticulous care and honesty, and fortunately a beautiful calligraphy. Porson's writing of both Greek and Arabic characters was a marvel of clarity and elegance, and he helped to design the type known as '*Great Porson Greek*' which was adopted by the Cambridge University Press.

He also did a good deal towards the evolution of the rules of syntax and metre, and the canons which he established have had a lasting effect on classical education. Porson's work did not cover a

wide field, but within it he dug deep, and nobody was better fitted for the rôle of Greek textual critic, or brought to the task greater intellectual ability. For this, the son of the poor parish clerk of an obscure Norfolk village has brought credit on his native county by earning a reputation as probably the greatest Greek scholar this country has produced.

NORWICH, AYLSHAM & CROMER RAILWAY.

In a previous issue of the *Journal* and also in *A Backwards Glance*, we looked at the proposals put forward for a tramway between Norwich and Cromer via Aylsham. This was proposed in 1872 but never came to anything.

Even earlier, back in 1859, plans for a full scale railway had also been considered, which, had they been completed would have resulted in a slightly more direct route than we have today. Instead of a line to North Walsham with a branch off to Aylsham from Wroxham, we would have had the opposite - a line (via Wroxham) to Aylsham with a branch from Brampton to North Walsham. From Aylsham the line would have been a direct line to Cromer, via Ingworth, Erpingham, Aldborough, Metton etc.

Thanks to our member, David Walker, it is possible to reproduce the plan of the proposed railway together with the surveyor's report to the promoters. Despite the Engineer's report being very favourable, the plan came to nothing, but we can read what might have been.

GENTLEMEN,

Having, at your request, examined the country between the City of Norwich and the towns of Aylsham, North Walsham and Cromer,

with a view to selecting the most suitable line of railway for accommodating the district, and also having the advantage of Mr. Andrew's careful examination of the ground previously to his departure for the Cape of Good Hope, I am enabled to report that the route selected appears to me both to afford easy construction and gradients, and (what is of equal importance) to pass through a populous and fertile district.

The proposed line leaves Norwich at the Thorpe Station and proceeds by the present railway towards Yarmouth for about two miles, when it diverges by an easy curve, and runs straight in the direction of Wroxham Bridge. Here would be an important station for cattle and agricultural produce within a mile of the bridge. From this place it follows the west bank of the Bure valley, running, in nearly a direct course, through Horstead, Buxton, Brampton and Burgh to Aylsham, and accommodating Belaugh, Coltishall, Hautboys, Oxnead and Lammas.

From Aylsham the main line continues northward, passing near to Ingworth and Calthorpe, between Aldborough and Thwaite, close to the village of Metton, and terminates at the Turnpike Road about a quarter of a mile south of Cromer church. I propose to make the terminal station here, as it would not interfere with any residential property, and would be of great advantage to the neighbouring lands. The proper time has not yet arrived for describing precisely the minor stations which would be available, but I may remark that in addition to that near Wroxham Bridge, convenient sites are afforded for Rackheath and Plumstead, Horstead and Coltishall, Buxton, Brampton and Oxnead, Ingworth, Erpingham and Calthorpe, and Aldborough, Hanworth etc., besides the more important towns of Aylsham and North Walsham. Stations at these places would in every respect be conveniently situated for the population generally, as well as for the several mills and maltings on the line of the Bure Valley. At Aylsham, the most suitable place for a station would be at the head of the Navigation, where property belonging to the Owners would be available with advantage to both the Railway and water communication.

The branch to North Walsham is proposed to be carried from the Main Line at Brampton, about 14 miles on the line from Norwich; it will pass near the villages of Tuttington and Felmingham, and reach a

convenient point for a terminal station at a distance of five miles from the Main Line, thus North Walsham will be 19 miles by railway from Norwich.

The distances by this line of railway would be:-

From Norwich to Aylsham.....	16¾ miles
From Aylsham to Cromer.....	9¼ miles
	<hr/> 26 miles
Branch to North Walsham.....	5
Total.....	<hr/> 31 miles

of which about two miles would be over the line of the Norfolk Railway Company.

The cost of constructing this Railway must depend to a great degree upon the amount of accommodation offered, weight of traffic, and whether constructed as a double or single line. I strongly recommend the latter, as suitable for all present purposes, and if land be purchased for a future double line, I conceive that sufficient will be done for all reasonable contingencies. In attempting to execute a Railway at a cost likely to prove remunerative, it is to be expected that the land shall cost no more than a fair though full agricultural value, and that every facility will be given by landowners for keeping down all contingent expenses. If these conditions be fairly complied with, I think that a sum of £8,000 per mile would be sufficient to cover every contingency, including parliamentary expenses, and to afford an effective line of railway, with stations and other necessary works.

This would make the total capital requisite about £240,000

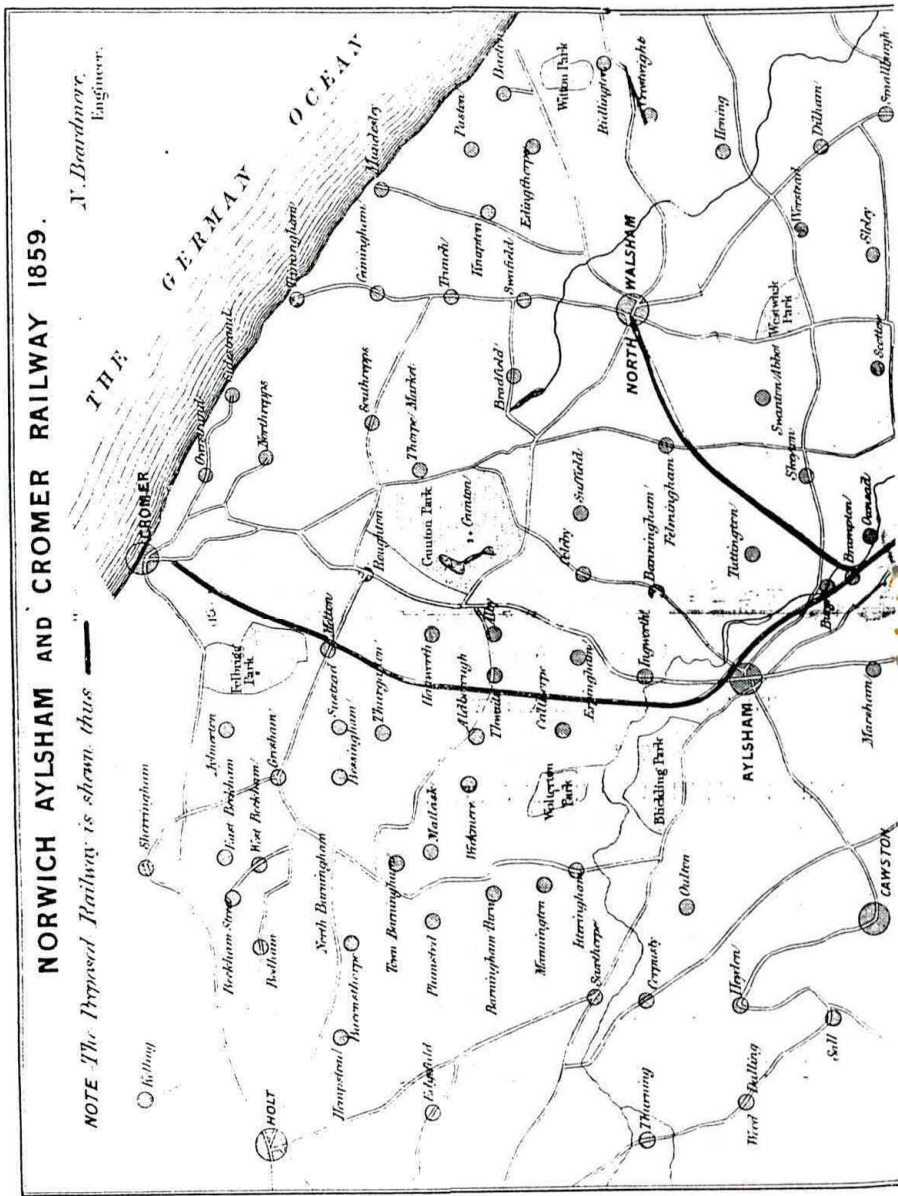
There would probably be some expenses attached to the use of the two miles belonging to the Norfolk Railway Company, and there would also be working stock to provide, in case your company should

(Continued on page 370)

NORWICH AYLSHAM AND CROMER RAILWAY 1859.

N. Beardmore,
Engineer.

NOTE The Proposed Railway is shown thus —



(Continued from page 367)

think fit hereafter to work the traffic themselves, but I have no hesitation in saying that the best policy would be to have such a line worked on fair terms by the tenants, for the time being, in possession of the Norfolk lines. There is no reason why this should not be done with advantage, both to your company and the parent one, whose rolling stock would necessarily form the chief portion of your trains, even if the working were kept in your own hands.

With regard to the probabilities of a return on the capital invested, much must depend on the line being *bonâ fide* constructed within the capital. At present rails, timber and all other materials are cheap, and I have no doubt that if it were necessary an efficient contractor might be obtained, who would guarantee the entire work and all expenses at my estimate, provided the landowners were to assist and give their entire co-operation.

I apprehend there is no line in the East Anglian district on which the earnings average less than £16 per mile per week, and the general character of population and mills on this line would certainly indicate a revenue above this average in addition to the special revenue which would accrue from Cromer and its neighbourhood in the summer months. This traffic might be worked under contract at from 45 to 50 per cent of the gross receipts, on which basis there would be an average return of upwards of 5 per cent per annum on the capital of £240,000.

Personally I am much impressed with the general facilities offered by this line, both with regard to prospect of fair return to the projectors and certain advantages to the residents, traders and landowners of the district accommodated.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

NATHANIEL BEARDMORE,

30 Great George Street, Westminster
26th. March 1859.

To the Promoters of the Norwich, Aylsham and Cromer Railway.

SOCIETY NEWS

Liss History Society - Their members paid a visit to Aylsham on Sunday 25th. August. This lively society from Hampshire contacted Ron Peabody for a guided tour of Aylsham as part of their trip to Norfolk. Ron made the necessary arrangements and the result was that our Vice Chairman, Peter Holman, Tom Mollard and Ron Peabody assisted by his daughter, Jane, met the party at the Town Hall, and after tea at Bramleys, set off in three separate parties to tour the town.

This was a most happy occasion and enjoyed by all of us. Liss History Society is a most enterprising society, and this visit to Norfolk was typical of their usual jaunts. Not for them a day trip - they go out in style for 2/3 days at a time. On this trip they had already stayed the night in a hotel in Norwich, enjoyed a guided tour of the city and Norwich Cathedral, and on the next day, before arriving in Aylsham they had enjoyed a specially arranged tour of Blickling Hall and garden.

We enjoyed their company and hope they enjoyed ours. Ron and I were particularly pleased to meet one of their members, Mrs I. Opie, who was joint editor, with her late husband, of the *Oxford Book of Nursery Rhymes*, and *The Lore and language of schoolchildren*. - titles we both used frequently during our now distant working days.

Where do you think they were off to after they left us? - they had dinner laid on at the Hainford Chequers, a hotel in Norwich, then a grand tour of Bury St. Edmunds on their way home next day. They can teach us a thing or two.

Extra-Mural Study Course - on East Anglian churches has made a good start under tutor Gerald Randell. Some 20 members turned up for the first meetings, and the course looks interesting with two day trips promised looking at Norfolk and Suffolk Churches. The first of these trips has already taken place. The second will be held early in 1997. On 16th. November we made our first tour, of four west Norfolk churches, starting with the one furthest away at West Walton. This is a striking and unusual church with its detached tower standing a good 60ft. away

from the church itself, forming the entrance to the churchyard and serving as a lychgate. The interior is awash with bright light from the clear glass perpendicular windows, and the capitals on the piers of the nave are compared to those of Lincoln cathedral. With its two broad aisles it looks remarkably spacious inside, but sadly, much of the appearance inside is tired-looking and in need of much restoration. The local parishioners are conscious of this and plans are in train to counter this. The years plus the type of land on which the church stands have taken their toll, and what would have been a striking west doorway is marred by the later, necessary, buttresses added to counter subsidence.

By contrast, Walpole St. Peter was much more appealing to the eye, and one can see why it is such a popular venue for the annual flower festival held there. There was so much detail to see within the church, from the unusually raised high altar to the attractive west screen. Together they left the impression of a bright, clean, well-cared for church. Our next stop was in the centre of Kings Lynn where our party rapidly dispersed in all directions to attend to the needs of the inner man, and an hour later, suitably refreshed, we set off to visit East Walton church. This is an attractive round-towered church with plenty of Saxon remains. Inside there is also interesting Georgian alterations which include the chancel arch and the three-decker pulpit and pews. Altogether a very attractive church.

We finished our tour with a visit to Beeston, which we had previously visited on one of Peter's *Mystery Tours* but it is always worth an additional visit. Everything about this church is remarkable. The almost complete parclose screens and the remains of the rood screen are a delight to see and the hammerbeam roof is wonderful, although some of the carved figures have been badly defaced.

Our trip was a valuable addition to the study course, and we could see on the ground actual examples of what we had been studying. It was a pity it was such a bitterly cold day. On that sort of day, a Fenland church is a match for any refrigerator, but at least the welcome we received at West Walton was of the warmest - from the welcoming words of the vicar to the hot coffee which followed. At East Walton the reception was just as warm. The old fashioned stove had been specially lighted for our benefit and was much appreciated. Some of us were even photographed at West Walton - ostensibly for the parish records - on

the other hand, if anything has gone missing there we could end up having our collars felt now that they know what we look like!!.

I jest, it was a wonderful day and our thanks are owed to Gerald Randell, our tutor, for making the arrangements,

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING took place in the Friendship Club on the 10th. October with an excellent attendance of over 70 with several new members joining the society. The usual annual reports were given with a quick survey of the year's activities, and Jane thanked all those whose labours had made it another successful and varied year. By the end of the business meeting the state of the society was as follows:-

Chairman	Jane Nolan
Vice- Chairman	Peter Holman
Secretary	Valerie Belton
Treasurer	Betty Gee

Committee members elected were:- Julian Eve, Elizabeth Gale, Geoffrey Gale, Derek Lyons, Ursula Warren and Tom West. Sheila Mollard was co-opted as membership Secretary

Secretary Valerie Belton gave notice that she would soon be hoping to retire from that post, and gave the opportunity for other members to come forward to replace her. Elizabeth Gale and Derek Lyons both reported on the work of the Oral History Group. They had both worked together for the last three years and produced several taped interviews with older inhabitants of Aylsham. These interviews now exist as tape recordings, with copies lodged with U.E.A. and in the town archives, and as typed transcripts. Both members now wished to pursue other activities and seek replacement members to take over their work. Jane thanked them both and stressed how important it is to continue this part of our work and the need for replacements to continue the good work of Liz and Derek.

Our Treasurer gave a comprehensive report on our finances [see page 384 for details] and explained the need to raise our subscription rates which had been unchanged for some years. Her arguments were

obviously convincing and members approved the new scale of subscriptions as £7 per member, or £12 for couples.

General discussion centred on the various activities that the society might undertake in future years, and various ideas were put forward. The pattern of the New Years Party was also considered and it was generally regarded that the pattern introduced last year was a success and should be followed for next year.

Membership of the society last year was 92

In place of the usual Chairman's remarks, Peter Holman spoke on the recent visit of the Liss History Society, and described how that society enjoyed its outings. Without arguing one way or the other, he left us with food for thought about the way we enjoy ours!

After refreshments, members settled down to see a programme of archive films brought to us by the East Anglian Film Archive of the University of East Anglia presented by Alice Leftley. These are always enjoyable and we were particularly pleased to see Aylsham featured in some of the film sequences. In an earlier issue of the *Journal & Newsletter* we featured a "Wings for Victory" parade held in Aylsham during World War II. It was an added pleasure to see film of that parade taking place and indeed at least one of our members had taken part in it.

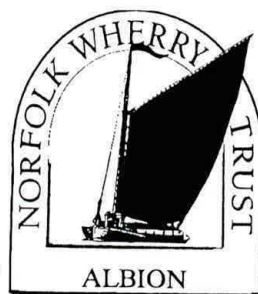
Trafalgar Day 1996. - On 21st October, Trafalgar Day, two members of our society, Ron Fiske and your editor, commemorated Nelson's day by visiting Ickworth House in Suffolk.

The purpose of our visit was to take a selection of memorabilia from the *Ben Burgess Nelson Memorabilia Collection* to display to the people attending a National Trust "Candelabra" dinner at Ickworth House. We cannot claim to have been representing our society on this occasion, but wearing our different hats, we had a most enjoyable evening. The dinner arranged by



the National Trust was excellent, and the tour of the house that followed it, was a delight. It was also a useful opportunity to help publicise the *Ben Burgess Memorabilia Collection* which has now grown to a substantial size and we hope might soon find a permanent home in the Old Naval Hospital at Great Yarmouth.

The Norfolk Wherry - This talk on the 24th. October was clearly a great attraction judging by the numbers that attended, including many who were not members of the society, but shared a similar interest in this topic. Two speakers - John Cooper and Roy Elson from the *Norfolk Wherry Trust* talked on the history of the Norfolk wherry from its origins in the Viking warships to the last surviving trading wherry, the "*Albion*".



At its peak there were over 400 vessels trading in Norfolk and Suffolk waters, bringing goods imported to Great Yarmouth to all those parts of the local waterways that could be reached by wherry. This of course included Aylsham until 1912 when the flood destroyed the Navigation. Some wherries were actually made in Aylsham. A regular trade continued for many years until road and rail traffic killed it off.

By 1949, when the *Norfolk Wherry Trust* was formed, there were less than ten surviving wherries. Many others had been abandoned or sunk in various broads. Some had been converted into holiday charter boats or wherry yachts. The *Albion*, which the trust acquired from Colmans in 1949 was the only trading wherry left.

The aim of the Trust is to preserve this boat and to add to it if possible, other restored vessels. Money, as always, is the greatest problem. It costs £3500 each year to keep *Albion* afloat, and incidental expenses like replacing a mast, could cost over £4000. The talk was illustrated with excellent slides showing the past glories of the wherry fleets, and the many cargoes they carried throughout Norfolk and Suffolk. Even the 98 year old *Albion* featured in some of the pictures. She is still making history, having featured recently as the vessel used to carry the stone from the quarry in Normandy, from Great Yarmouth

to Norwich Cathedral.

We were promised a poem about the wherries, but sadly no copies were available that night. Now, thanks to the speaker sending us a copy of the society's magazine, we can reproduce it for the delight of all. Actually, it is more about the dedicated band of volunteers who work hard to preserve the wherry rather than the vessel itself.

ODE TO THE JOYS OF MAINTENANCE

Water round my ankles	It's not the first time it's happened
Snow falling on my head	I've done it thrice before
Why did I get up early	I must be mad I tell myself
And leave my nice warm bed?	But I'll still come back for more

It's all the fault of the Wherry Trust.	The hatches need repairing
I should have steered well clear	And we need a brand new rudder
And not get involved in maintenance	The decking has to be replaced
At the coldest time of year	But the cold - it makes you shudder

*And so on for several more verses. . . It is dedicated to the workers and volunteers who, every year, keep **Albion** afloat.*

It could equally be applied to all those other volunteers who slave away to preserve all sorts of projects so that we all might enjoy them.

Sir Thomas Erpingham - The Sir Thomas Erpingham Symposium went off very successfully under the auspices of the Norfolk Heraldry Society. Following a full day of events and talks in Norwich Cathedral with some eminent speakers, the next events were held in Erpingham church on the following day. A very realistic archer demonstrated his techniques and spoke very knowledgeably about his skills, and also about how he would have experienced Agincourt. He was followed by equally authentic looking knights who described their techniques to a surprisingly large attendance - the church was well filled, despite the awful weather which might have kept some people away. Happily it

cleared just in time for the occasion. The afternoon was completed by a guided tour of Erpingham church conducted by Charles Roberts, followed by a service in church by the Erpingham rector, Brian Faulkner.

Cawston in the 16th. and 17th. Centuries. The Lecture given by Christopher Barringer at the Friendship Club on the 28th. November was extremely well attended by members and visitors. As Cawston is a near neighbour of Aylsham, it was of particular interest.

Chris Barringer began his lecture with slides of maps showing Cawston in the 1500s, many of which were drawn by the surveyor George Sawyer, a prominent local figure. Each succeeding map that was shown charted the changes made in 200 years of Cawston's history. A great deal of land was owned by the crown in the 16th. and 17th. centuries and leased to various Lords of the Manor. The land that the Lord of the Manors of Cawston retained was used for sheep grazing and for rabbit warrens. In addition, many acres of land were gradually enclosed by tenant farmers, and the large area of woodland surrounding Cawston, detailed in the Domesday Book, was eventually converted into agricultural land. Very little of this woodland now remains.

We learned that Cawston was occupied by the Romans because pottery from that period has been found on various sites, but disappointingly none from later periods. Cawston gradually expanded with the building of cottages and houses on the main roads and lanes that led to nearby villages. There is evidence in some Cawston buildings that their origins date back to the 1500s or 1600s.

A great deal more historical information could be written about this most informative and interesting lecture. The Aylsham Local History Society is very grateful to Chris Barringer, not only for his lecture, but for the support he has given over the years and for his helpful advice to many members with their personal research. We all enjoyed his lecture and hope that he will return to give us another at sometime in the future.

Elizabeth Gale

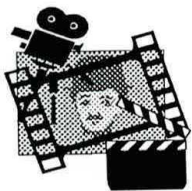
—ooOoo—

EAST ANGLIAN FILM ARCHIVE

We acquired a list of videos available from the East Anglian Film Archive, following their visit to us at the AGM. Below is a short list of titles available.

- To Plough to sow.** 27 mins. £15
- East Anglian Craftsmen.** 60 mins. £15
- East Anglian farming scenes.** 40 mins. £15
- And now they rest.** [Windmills] 20 mins £10
- Agricultural shows in East Anglia.** 30 mins £10
- Industrial Archaeology in East Anglia.** 34 mins. £15
- Nick Williamson's Braintree.** 59 mins. £15
- Clacton-on-Sea.** 29 mins. £10
- Colchester past** 54 mins. £12.50
- Don Chipperfield's Ipswich.** 58 mins £15
- Do you remember? - Ipswich,** 60 mins. £15
- Lowestoft - East Coast fishing port.** 29 mins. £10
- Manningtree, Mistley and Harwich on film.** 59 mins £15
- Norwich 1909-39** 30 mins. £15
- Norwich 1940-87** 33 mins. £15
- Do you remember? 1950s Norwich.** 50 mins. £15
- Southend Bygone Years on Film.** 42 mins. £10
- Southend Bygone Years on Film. 2** 49 mins. £15
- The Life and Times of Southend Pier** 32 mins. £12.50
- Barrett Jenkin's Southwold.** 37 mins £15
- Ben Culey's Thetford.** 40 mins £15
- Great Yarmouth.** 43 mins. £15
- Scenes of Norfolk Life.** 55 mins. £15
- Suffolk Past.** 50 mins. £15
- Cambridgeshire and the Fens.** 50 mins £15
- Scenes of Essex Life.** 45 mins £15
- Flood!** 54 mins. £17.50
- Railway miscellany.** 58 mins £15
- A Look back at the Broads.** 38 mins. £15

Travels in East Anglia. 59 mins. £17.50
GI Airmen in East Anglia. 40 mins. £17.50
Three Films of Ransome's 69 mins. £15 [Ransomes of Ipswich]
Chasing the herring. 30 mins. £12.50
John Betjeman in Norfolk. 35 mins. £12.50.



ORDER BY POST
 East Anglian Film Archive.
 Centre of East Anglian Studies.
 University of East Anglia.
 Norwich NR4 7TJ
Prices include VAT and P & P

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

LIST OF MEMBERS - DECEMBER 1996

Below is a list of paid-up members of the society, correct at the time of issue of this number of the *Journal*. This list appears in each December number of the *Journal*, together with the notice that it will form the distribution list for future issues. So - if your name does not appear on the list, then this is the last issue of the *Journal* to be automatically delivered to you!

However, all is not lost. If your name does not appear, you can easily put that right. Just forward your annual subscription to our new Membership Secretary and she will be delighted to add your name to the list. Membership Secretary is Mrs. Sheila Mollard, Flint Cottage, Calthorpe Rd. Erpingham. NR11 7QL and current subscriptions are :-

Single membership -	£7
Couples	£12

[Details are on the membership card and also on p.373/4 of this issue]

With apologies to any members who might have renewed their subscription within the last few days and missed inclusion on the list

BAILEY Mrs.P	GRIMBLE Mr.J.	RADFORD, Miss N.
BARWICK Mrs. G.	HARRIS Mr. J	ROWE Mrs. M
BAYES, Mrs. R.	HAWKE Mr & Mrs D.A	RUST, Mr. B.
BELTON Miss V.	HOLMAN Mr & Mrs.P	SEWELL, Mr. M
BIRD Mrs. M.	HUSAIN, Mrs. B.	SHAW Mr & Mrs A
BRATT Miss R.	JOHNSTON Mr.G	SHERINGHAM Mrs.J
CLARKE Mrs. B	LAMB Mrs.J.	SMITH Mrs E
COOK Mrs. M	LONG Mrs. M.	STEVENS Mr & Mrs C.
COOTE Mr. A	LOWE Mr. B.	STRONG Miss M
CORBIN Mr & Mrs.N	LYONS Mr & Mrs.D.	SUTTON, Mrs. G.
CROUCH Mr.R	McCHESNEY Mrs.J	TUDOR Mr & Mrs R.
DAGG, Mrs.I	McMANUS Mrs. S.M.	TURVILLE-PETRE Mrs J
DAINES Mr & Mrs J.	MARSH Revd. P.	ULPH Mr.C.
DUCKER Mr. G	MASTERS, Mr. K.	VYSE Revd. Canon J
EVE Dr. & Mrs.J	MOLLARD Mr & Mrs T	WARREN Dr. & Mrs J.
FLETCHER Mrs.G	MORRIS Mr & Mrs.L	WEST Mr.T
FOX Ms. A.	NOBBS Mr. G.	WICKENS Dr & Mrs. G
GALE Mr & Mrs.G	NOLAN Miss E.	WILSON Ms. C.R.
GARDNER Miss O	NOLAN Mr & Mrs F.	WINTLE Mrs. S.
GEE Mrs.B	PEABODY Mr & Mrs R.	WORSENCROFT Mrs K.
GREEN, Mrs. M	PINK Mr P.	

NOTES & QUERIES

Can anyone help?? - Mrs. J.L. King, 77 Cheam Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3EG writes seeking information about the family of CRANEFIELD.

There was a Philip Cranefield born in Erpingham c.1756/57 who lived on to be the oldest inhabitant in the village and died in 1841.

There is also another Philip Cranefield born 3.3.1756 son of John and Elizabeth who married a Sarah Maria Paul in Baconsthorpe on 25.11.1783 who was a baker in Baconsthorpe (and later in Aylsham?)

Mrs. King thinks that the Cranefield she is researching is probably the baker from Baconsthorpe. She would be interested in information about him or the Paul family. She would also be interested in any details of any of the Cranefield family.

—ooOoo—

A date to remember



From the editor. . .

This issue of the *Newsletter & Journal* marks the completion of Volume Four. The next issue, in March of next year, will start volume five and will appear in a different colour to the current pink. For those who bind up their copies of the *Journal* there will eventually be a title page and index supplement available. I hope this will be ready before the March issue appears. There will have to be a small charge for this supplement and the charge will depend on how many pages are needed to produce the supplement. It would be

helpful if those members who will want copies of the supplement would inform the editor so that he knows how many copies to produce.

—ooOoo—

COUNTRY GREETINGS Dr. John Sapwell

One stormy winter night, a good many years ago, I was cycling along a country road when I passed another cyclist going in the opposite direction. As he passed me he called out, "*Good night*" to which I responded in like form. Neither of us had the remotest idea who the other was (nor ever will have); it was just two lone souls reaching out in the darkness to acknowledge one another's existence, and this perhaps is the essence of all greetings.

Greetings are generally benevolent in intention - the essential elements being an enquiry into the status of another party, with an implied hope that it may be well with them. So when we give someone "the seal of the day" by using the trite phrases 'good morning, afternoon, etc.' we are in fact expressing a wish that another's day may be good.

Slightly more solicitude is expressed in the conventional enquiry forms "How do you do?" usually on first acquaintance, ruralised into "How're yer goin' on?" The reply to the former being conventionally in higher social circles. "Quite well, thank you, and how are you?" or to the latter, with typical Norfolk conservatism, "Middlin," or "can't complain."

More detailed enquiries into a person's state of health involve a subtle shade of nuances of which it is essential to have a complete and accurate grasp in order to avoid possibly serious misunderstanding. "*Middling*" is quite satisfactory; "*poorly*" or "*sadly*" less so. "*Queer*" means 'ill', and "*moderate*" or "*Werry moderate*" means extremely, or dangerously ill.

I once heard of a doctor (not in Norfolk) who delayed visiting a patient who was reported as being 'moderate' on the assumption that he was only moderately ill, but when he arrived, the patient was dead!

Valedictory greetings are likewise benevolent in form and intention, expressing a hope that things will continue to be well after parting. The commonest - "Good-bye" is an easy elision of "God be wi' ye" but my favourite, with which I may well conclude, by addressing to my readers is, "*fare ye well.*"

And finally. . .

Three Trappist monks, who follow the rule of complete silence, asked the Abbot's permission to speak to one another.

The Abbot granted the oldest monk the privilege to speak one sentence that year on a coming feast day. The youngest was granted the same right for one year later, and the third monk the same for the year after that.

Following breakfast the first year, the oldest monk said, "*I hate porridge*"

One year later, after breakfast, the youngest monk said, "*I like porridge*"

Another year passed, and the third monk said, "*I'm getting quite fed up of this constant bickering about porridge.*"

"*I'm going to marry a doctor*", said a teenager to her friend,
"*then I can be ill for nothing*"

"*Well, I'm going to marry a parson*" the friend replied, "*then I can be good for nothing.*"

—ooOoo—

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY **Account for the year ended 31st. August, 1996**

	<u>1995</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>1996</u>
36	Sale of Journals & Postcards	64	117	Officers' expenses reimbursed	116	
517	Subscriptions	506	308	Journal Printing & Photocopying	282	
405	Receipts from Visits	528	392	Payments for Visits	468	
371	Party Income	376	403	Party Costs	348	
411	UEA Course Fees	318	397	UEA Course Costs	335	
-	Antiques Evening	260	-	Antiques Evening	223	
480	<i>Backward Glance</i> Receipts	192	703	<i>Backward Glance</i> Costs	-	
11	Visitors' Fees	25	90	Friendship Club Rent	84	
4	Donations	11	-	Methodist Hall Rent	15	
150	Wright's Map Receipts	33	-	Quaker Room Rent	35	
32	Profit on sales of <i>Milgate</i> publication	-	200	Wright's Map	-	
-	Coffee Profit	20	30	Donation	10	
19	Bank Interest	15	122	Lecture Fees	88	
			20	Research Organisations Subscriptions	20	
				Programme Cards	<u>58</u>	

2436	TOTAL INCOME	2348	2782	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2082
	<u>Balances, 1st. September 1995:-</u>			<u>Balances, 31st. August 1996:-</u>	
30	Bank Treasurer Account	60	60	Bank Treasurer Account	118
638	Bank Moneymaster Account	352	352	Bank Moneymaster Account	362
9	Petty cash	10	10	Petty Cash	16
275	Girobank Publications account	606	184	Girobank Publications account	376
					872
3388		2954	3388		2954

Checked with records and found to be correct. 7th. October 1996. Graeme Johnston, Accountant, Treasurer, Mrs. B.M.A. Gee.