

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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CONTENTS

The Norfolk Orchard Project, by Tom Mollard.....	323
Peter Holman's Brainteaser.....	326
Dye's House.....	328
Does Aylsham have a dark secret?, by Derek Lyons	329
Council for the Preservation of Rural England.....	330
The Cressey Henry Page Charitable Trust, by Ben Rust	332
Aylsham Post Office.....	333
Solution To Peter Holman's Brain Teaser.....	336
Local Government in Aylsham.....	336
Society News.....	340
The Norfolk Nelson Museum.....	342
Annual General Meeting.....	344
Notes and Queries	346
Aylsham in 1830.....	346

Cover Picture

Detail from the portrait by Sir William Beechey, of Horatio Lord Nelson, whose museum in Yarmouth was visited by the society in July.



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NORFOLK ORCHARD PROJECT

Tom Mollard

In March 1995, one of the lectures delivered to members of the society was a talk on Norfolk's industrial past, as explored by the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society. The speaker was Mrs. Mary Manning, and the talk was a great success and was duly reported for us by Ursula Warren - a report which appeared in the *Journal* [Vol.3 pp170-71].

Now you may well ask, what's the connection between the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society and the Norfolk Orchard Project? One of Mrs Manning's many other interests is her connection and work with the Norfolk Rural life Museum at Gressenhall. In 1995 the museum was launching the 'Norfolk Orchard Project' which was an attempt to gather together all the many varieties of apples (and pears?) which are associated with Norfolk. Individuals and organisations were invited to sponsor one of the trees in the heritage orchard. The orchard was to be formally opened on 22nd of October 1995 by our old friend Keith Skipper of Radio Norfolk fame (who, incidentally, had opened our own society's 10th. Anniversary celebration in Aylsham Town Hall in July the previous year)

Now here is the link - instead of asking for a fee for her talk to the society, Mrs. Manning had generously declined any payment and suggested that our society sponsored one of the Gressenhall apple trees instead. Jane Nolan, who was our chairman then, promptly did so, and now our society is the official sponsor of a "*Hanworth Codling*" apple tree.

For some strange reason, I missed all this, and our part in sponsoring a tree was never recorded in the *Journal*. It was only when reading through some old files that I became aware of it. So now I can put the record straight by recording it now, but more interestingly, I can also record what we were told at the time about the 'Norfolk Orchard Project' and also include the marvellous list of all the known apple varieties associated with Norfolk and their date and place of origin where known. This information was supplied by Gressenhall, and is the sort of information that can often take hours to unearth.

I have not visited the Rural Life Museum for several years and it is certainly time that I paid another visit, and when I do I shall seek out the heritage orchard and see whether our apple tree (which should have our name tag on it) is flourishing. If no one is looking, I might be able to sample an apple from it.

THE NORFOLK ORCHARD PROJECT

This exciting project will create an orchard of all apple varieties known to have been discovered, raised or developed in Norfolk, and those which have had very long associations with the county. When mature, the orchard will be a "library" where people can study these local apples, learn about their history and qualities, and use them to help identify other trees.

The orchard is on the site of the old burial ground of the workhouse (now the Museum). This was closed in 1902 and apple trees were planted, probably about 40 years ago. Many of these apple trees became diseased and unproductive; only a few of them, such as Dr. Harvey, were of particularly local interest. In 1993 all the diseased trees, mainly in the south of the orchard, were cleared and the remainder were carefully pruned to cut out diseased wood and to prepare the trees for grafting.

We have chosen to grow the local varieties in two different ways. One is by planting very young trees, known as maidens, in the south part of the orchard. The first of these will be planted in the autumn of 1994. The second way is to graft the local varieties on to the existing trees in the north part of the orchard. This involves taking a young shoot known as a scion, carefully peeling back the bark on a prepared branch of the old tree, inserting the scion and binding the two together. This work is done in early spring, so that when the sap of the tree rises, it flows into the scion and the two grow together. Obviously it takes longer for scions to reach the size when they will give fruit, but the advantages are that we can keep some of the older trees, and we can grow more than one variety on each tree.

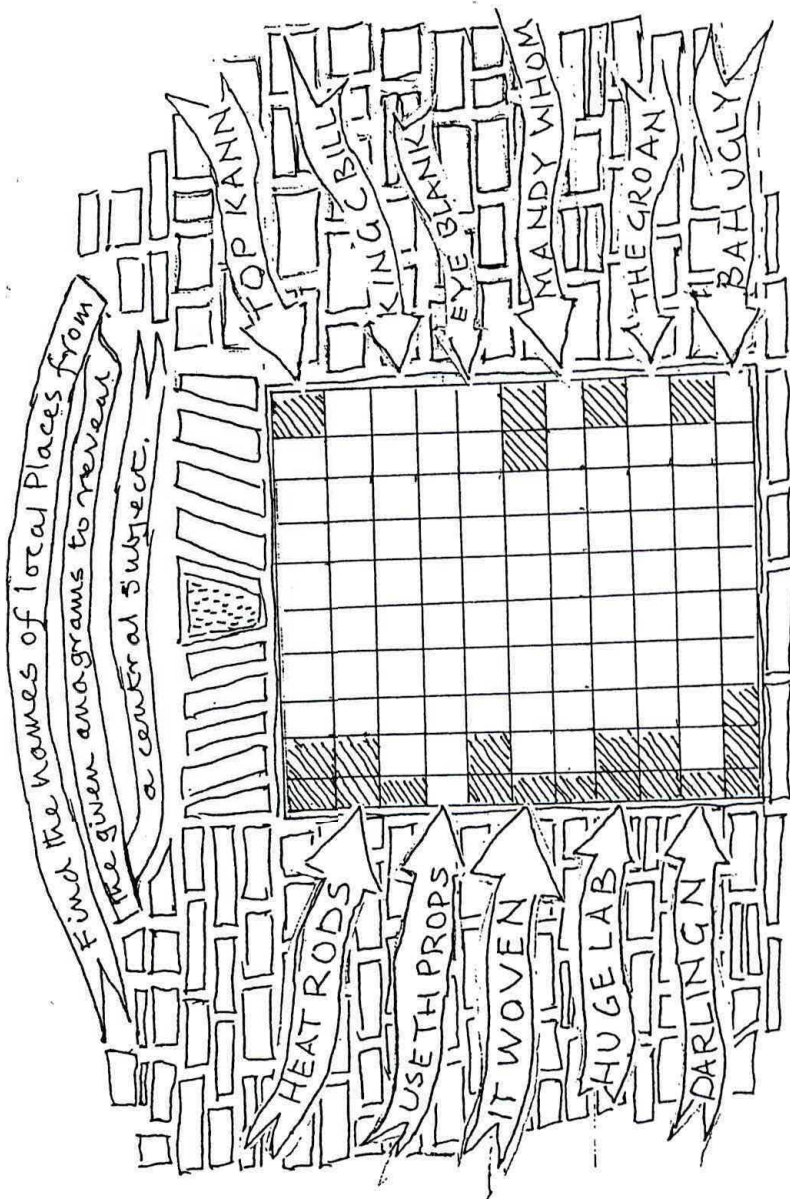
A great deal of research has been done to find these local varieties, and many scions have been obtained from local people who have been treasuring a special variety for many years. Most of these apples are no longer grown in commercial orchards, and some of them are not obtainable from nurseries or garden centres. There are a number of varieties which we are still searching for including the *Norwich Pippin* which was raised and sold by Daniels of Norwich in about 1900.

Here is a selection of some of the trees which will be grown in the orchard:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Origin</u>
Adams' Pearmain	1826	all eating apples originally known as Norfolk Pippin
Admiral	1921	A.K. Watson of Upton
Banns	1928	
Baxter Pearmain	1821	Arose in Norfolk, George Lindley, a famous nurseryman of Old Catton
Beachamwell	1700s	Late 1700s by John Motteux
Caroline	pre-1822	Raised at Blickling, named after Caroline, Lady Suffield
Emneth Early	1899	W. Lynn of Emneth
Foulden's Pearmain	1818	Found in the garden of Mrs Horrex of Foulden and intro. by G. Lindley
Glasbury	1979	From Norfolk
Golden Noble	?	Hare garden, Stow Bardolph, - discovered in an old orchard at Downham Market, exhibited in 1820 by Patrick Flanagan, head gardener at Stow Hall
Green Rowland		This was a cooker, popular during

PETER HOLMAN'S BRAINTEASER PAGE.

No prizes this time - just a test for the old grey matter. The solution is on page 336



		World War 2 as it needed little or no sugar for cooking!
Doctor Harvey	1629	One of the most popular East Anglian varieties and was sold in great quantities on Norwich market 100 years ago.
Hanworth Codling		
Harling Hero		
Horsford Prolific	1913	Found in the vicarage garden by Rev. Mountford in 1913
Horsham Russet	1760	Raised in 1760 by Mrs Goose of Horsham St. Faiths.
Hubbards Pearmain	pre-1800	G. Lindley
Jordan's Weeping		
Lady Hollendale	?	Wisbech area
Lady Henniker		
London Pearmain	1842/1948	Rediscovered at Attleborough Hall
London Pippin	1831	Lindley, Essex, or Norfolk
Lord Suffield		
Norfolk Beauty	1901	Raised by Mr Allen head gardener Gunton Hall
Norfolk Beefing	1698	
Norfolk Challenger		
Norfolk Coleman		Origin unknown but may be very old.
Norfolk Royal	c1908	Found at Wright's Nursery, North Walsham
Norfolk Royal Russet		Found in the garden of Rev. C.E.Wright at Burnham Overy Staithe and introduced in 1983
Norfolk Summer Broadend	1831	Lindley. Grown for the Norwich Markets in the late 1700s
Normans Pippin	1900	From Flanders
Robert Blatchford	1914	Raised by F. Chilvers of Hunstanton
Sandringham	1883	Raised by the head gardener on the estate.
Striped Beefing	1794	Found in a garden at Lakenham; Lindley
Vicar of Beighton	1894	Raised at Beighton near Acle
White Quarrendon		
Winter Majestic	1820	
Xanthe		

The most famous variety, the Norfolk Biffin, is growing in Cherry tree Cottage garden.

PEARS WITH A NORFOLK ORIGIN

Hacons Incomparable

Robin Pear

also to be grown: Old Warden (1528); Jargonelle (17th. century)

OTHER FRUITS

Mulberry; Cherry Merton Reward; Greengage; Damson- Merryweather

---ooOoo---

VISIT TO GRESSENHALL

If you wish to see more of Gressenhall for yourself, this is your chance - A visit is planned for Wednesday, 9th. October, by coach from Aylsham. Numbers are limited to 45, so fill in the application form enclosed with this issue of the *Journal*, and return it to Jean McChesney as soon as possible - and look out for that Hanworth Codling!

DYE'S HOUSE - Aylsham Market Place

Anyone visiting the Market Place during the last few months cannot have failed to notice the restoration work that has taken place at No.15 (Dye's House). During the restoration work various items came to light including the remains of several legal documents (some badly damaged). Liz Gale has sorted through these and listed and identified (where possible) and dated them.

The owners of Dye's House - Mr & Mrs Foster, have kindly agreed to place these papers in the Town Archives for preservation. Hopefully, there may also be some photographs to come illustrating the restoration work that has taken place. In addition to the documents there were various metal items which at first were puzzling, but Derek Lyons has solved the mystery which he now explains:-

Does Aylsham have a dark secret?

One expects a surprise or two when rummaging through the attic, but few of us would anticipate the sort of surprise that awaited Mr and Mrs Foster of Dye's House when they set the builders to work in their attic. Under the floor boards were found a small pile of ancient documents and a cache of old flintlock pistol fittings. Metal parts from at least three holster pistols and one pocket pistol were uncovered, all in rather poor condition. Also found was a rather flimsy steel buckle and an unidentified metal object which, at a guess, could be a moving part from a piece of machinery - possibly a clock. The builders had already thrown these things into the skip before Mr. Foster rescued them, so it is just possible that there may have been more things to find out, but if so, they are now long gone.

Here, indeed is food for the imagination. Were these pieces left there as part of some ritual to protect the house and its occupants? Their condition suggests that they had been around for a very long time. Or could they be the remains of weapons that had been deliberately destroyed, perhaps to mask some dastardly crime? The poor condition could be accounted for by their having been in a fire. The era of the flintlock was, after all, a period of widespread smuggling and lawlessness, when both Excise men and smugglers went armed. If you have any idea why this material should have been secreted away in this manner, do pass it on to the rest of us.

Derek Lyons

COUNCIL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF RURAL ENGLAND

Mainly through the instrumentality of Mrs. H. Johnson and Mr. C. A. Mileham, with the support of Sister Lucas, Miss Dunthorne, Miss K. Gilbert and Messrs. F.F. Hodds and H.W.T. Trotter, a meeting was arranged in the Bank Barn (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. B. Sewell) on Tuesday evening for the purpose of forming a local Countryside Protection Association, and to support the Council for the Preservation of Rural England in its valuable work. Besides those ladies and gentlemen mentioned, there were present Col. and Mrs Purdy, Dr. and Miss Sapwell, Mrs Lyon-Campbell, Mrs. Mileham, Mr. R.N. Gilbert, Commander Day, Mrs Iven, Mrs. Buckingham, Mr. E. Case, Miss Edwards, Miss Sewell (Buxton) and others.

Mr. Mileham was voted to the chair, and he explained the objects of the meeting. In his remarks, Mr. Mileham said that we lived in a part of the country which as yet has not been spoilt by the progress of industry, or by being overrun by tourists or trippers, in fact, the district had not as yet been what is commonly called 'developed'. At any time it might suffer from the effects of these agencies, and it was as well for those who appreciate natural beauties to be prepared for the coming of any change and to be able to meet any new circumstances so that as little damage was done to the district as possible.

For many years past, by the inattention of public bodies and private landowners, things had been allowed to drift and dumps of rubbish had been allowed to accumulate practically everywhere in the district. In this way, we had now certain places which had become practically recognised dumps, where people felt that they were quite entitled to shoot anything and leave it uncovered. Examples of these places were:- Abel Heath, the back premises of

the Anchor Inn at Millgate, the Buttlands, Jewel's Lane, Cawston Heath and Marsham Heath and there were dozens of others. There were of course a number of cottages and others who did keep their surroundings clean and free from rubbish, and it was this spirit of care and love of the natural beauties of the district that they wished to encourage.

Amongst other matters which called for attention was that of unsightly advertising hoardings. When dealing with advertisement hoardings it must be borne in mind that they were owned, and the site rented, often by people who lived out of the district. Mr. Mileham then dealt with what the Society proposed to do, and mentioned that members definitely registered their disapproval of the disfigurement of the countryside and all slovenly methods of disposal of rubbish.

. . . . After discussion, Col. Purdy proposed that a branch of the Association be formed for Aylsham and district and the resolution was passed unanimously. Mr. Mileham was asked to be president.

The above report dates from c1873, and shows amongst other things, that the problems that concern us now are by no means new. I have not discovered what was the fate of the Aylsham branch of the CPRE, or for how long it lasted. Today there is the Norfolk Society which is the county branch of the CPRE and to which the Aylsham Association is an affiliated member. The present Aylsham Association was founded in 1965, and continues today addressing the same sort of problems that concerned the people who attended the reported meeting in 1873.

Reading through earlier newsletters of the Aylsham Association shows that illegal dumping on Abel Heath was still with us quite recently.

Ed.

THE CRESSEY HENRY PAGE CHARITABLE TRUST

Ben Rust

This small trust is one of the few charitable trusts operating in Aylsham and has origins dating back to 1638. There are four trustees appointed by the Town Council for a term of four years, and who must be past members, or members of the Town Council.

The purpose of the Trust is for the relief of need due to sickness, disability, age or poverty; and the protection and preservation of mental health and emotional health and stability. The Trustees meet during the autumn to decide on the beneficiaries for the year. In the past gifts have been in the form of vouchers to use in Aylsham shops. More recently donations have been made to organisations. Total annual come is £300.

Origins of the Trust go back to 1638 when twelve tenements known as "*Smithsons and Grykes*" in Millgate, were bequeathed to the churchwardens by Thomas Cressey. In 1776 a workhouse was built by the parish on part of the land. The Tithe Map of 1838 shows the Workhouse situated in the angle between Commercial Road (Bureway) and New Road. The formation of the Aylsham Union in 1834 brought to an end the need for a parish workhouse, and the building was demolished in 1842. The land and remaining cottages were sold in 1856. The proceeds (£1138) were invested by the Charity Commissioners and known as 'Cressey's Charity'.

The Town Meadow, situated in Drabblegate between the road, the river and adjoining Aylsham Common, is just under half an acre. It was the gift of an unknown donor c1673. It has always been let and the money distributed to poor widows, as in the original bequest. The early rent was 5/- per annum. By the mid-1900s the rent had increased to £1 per annum. This sum was taken into Cressey's Charity for distribution.

In 1940, Henry Page, a prosperous tradesman in the town, bequeathed by will £3000 to the official trustees to be invested and

the income to be distributed annually to needy residents of the parish in the form of vouchers for food, clothing or fuel - these goods to be obtained from Aylsham tradesmen. This investment was known as the Henry Page Trust. All the investments were in undated stock, giving either 2½% or 3% return. Over the years, due to inflation, the value slowly diminished.

In 1990 with the agreement of the Charity Commissioners, it was decided to sell the investments and re-invest the money in the Clarinco Common Investment Fund; an investment giving a better return with some prospect of capital growth. At the same time it was decided that the three charities should be combined into one charity to be known as *The Cressey Henry Page Charitable Trust*.

During the ten years since amalgamation the Trustees have encouraged donations to build up the investment. The Town Council has kindly made donations from 'bottle bank' monies, and a small amount of income has been invested. All donations are very welcome. Today the income from investments is approximately £250, and with the rent from the meadow the total income exceeds £300. During the past few years a wheelchair has been given to Maingay House; chairs have been given to the Friendship Club and a donation has been given to A.C.T.

The Trustees continue to encourage donations which will be invested to give greater annual income.

---ooOoo---

AYLSHAM POST OFFICE

On Friday, 31st. May, 1935 the General Post Office held an inauguration ceremony to mark the introduction of a new telegraph service in Aylsham. The service wasn't actually new, it had been there for some time, but the rate of payment was new. From now on Aylsham people would be able to send telegrams all over the country at the new rate of 6d for 9 words then 1d per word beyond nine.

In the town archives is the printed programme prepared for the occasion and preserved by Harry Proudfoot, together with the impressive invitation card inviting him to the ceremony. The assembled company listened to three speakers welcoming the new service. The first was Mr. A.J. Gay, Chairman of Aylsham Parish Council, then Harry Proudfoot J.P. and finally Mr. O.D. Robinson, the Post Office Assistant Engineer. After the official speeches, Mrs A.R. Gilbert inaugurated the service by despatching the first telegram at the new rate, from Aylsham to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, and quick as a flash, H.R.H. responded with a similar telegram thanking her for it.

In his speech, Harry Proudfoot described his memories of early postal services in Aylsham when letters were delivered in baskets to town residents. For out-of-town residents correspondence was placed in the windows of the old post office in Hungate St. until called for!. Harry Proudfoot's brief *aide memoire* notes are still there scribbled on the back of his invitation card. His speech must have gone down well, as a few days later he received a letter from the GPO Eastern Surveyor's Office in Ipswich, written on behalf of the Postmaster General, Sir Kingsley Wood, thanking him for his contribution to stimulating interest in the new service.

How different it all seems from today with our mobile phones, text messages, faxes etc. Some younger people today would understandably not even know what a telegram was. Dr. Sapwell records that the new (our present) post office was opened on 16th. December 1935. That must have been its official opening. When the new telegraph service was opened in May 1935 the new post office was actually already in use. The newspaper report of the above occasion records that after the inauguration of the new service guests were treated to a conducted tour of the "recently opened new post office"

Tom Mollard

GENERAL POST OFFICE

..

Programme of
CEREMONY

At the inauguration of the Telegraph Service
at the New Rate at

A Y L S H A M

by

Mrs. A. R. Gilbert

FRIDAY, THE 31st OF MAY, 1935

at 2.45 p.m.

L. HEWITT & SONS, PRINTERS, NORWICH.

The solution to Peter Holman's Brainteaser on page 326

		K	N	A	P	T	O	N	
		H	O	R	S	T	E	A	D
	B	L	I	C	K	L	I	N	G
S	O	U	T	H	R	E	P	P	S
		B	L	A	K	E	N	E	Y
	W	I	V	E	T	O	N		
	W	Y	M	O	N	D	H	A	M
		B	E	L	A	U	G	H	
		T	H	O	R	N	A	G	E
	R	I	N	G	L	A	N	D	
			B	Y	L	A	U	G	H

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AYLSHAM

Tom Mollard

We are all familiar with the local government set-up in our area. In addition to our Town Council we are all part of the larger Broadland District Council which stretches over great swathes of the county. Broadland DC dates back only to 1974 when Local Government re-organisation introduced the new District Councils

to replace the smaller Rural District Councils which had existed from 1894. Before 1974 Aylsham was a part of the St. Faiths and Aylsham Rural District Council. What I had not realised was that earlier there had been an Aylsham Rural District Council which had governed a smaller area and met in Aylsham at the Poor Law Institution until it was absorbed into the neighbouring St. Faiths area. According to Dr. Sapwell, one of its first actions was to vote for a change of name to 'St. Faiths and Aylsham' to emphasise that Aylsham was the more important area!

The local newspaper records the final meeting of the Aylsham Rural District Council which was held on 26th. March 1935. As you see they went out in style:-

"Aylsham Rural District Council, after an existence of 41 years, held its final meeting yesterday at the Poor Law Institution. After April 1st. its area becomes absorbed in the adjoining Rural Districts of St. Faiths, Erpingham, Smallburgh and Walsingham.

Mr. A.G. Lambourne, who was in the chair, referred to the death of Mr. M.D. Howard of Cawston who was for many years a valued member of the Council and some of its chief committees. Those present stood for some moments in silence as a tribute to his memory. The Clerk, Mr. E.D. Browne, stated that he had that day received confirmation from the Ministry of Health, of the slum clearance orders made by the council in respect of property at Aylsham, Hevingham and Marsham, recently the subject of a local enquiry. It was reported that the arrears of rates on March 15th. totalled £167 1s. 5d.as compared with £196 at the end of March a year ago. Police court orders had been obtained for payment and it was hoped that the amount outstanding at the close of the financial year would be very small.

Following the business there was a happy gathering to mark the closing down of the Council. The members were joined by old councillors and Guardians and officials and some of their wives, and partook of tea provided by a committee of the women members of the Council - Mrs. Johnson, Mrs Gilbert, Mrs. Landon and Mrs. Lambert.

Speeches and musical items followed. There were violin solos by Mr. E.B. Larnier; a song by Mr. E.J. Land, and some much appreciated

surprise items by children belonging to the Institution.

Mr. Lambourne recalled that the Council was formed in 1894, its first Chairman being the late Mr. William Case and first Clerk the late Mr. H.J. Gidney, who for ten years previously had been Clerk to the Board of Guardians also. Their present Clerk, Mr. E.D. Browne, was appointed on Mr. Gidney's death five years ago, but he had been assistant to Mr. Gidney throughout the life of the Council and for four years prior to its birth in connection with the meetings of the Board of Guardians.

The oldest member, as regards membership, was Mr. A. E. Powell of Stratton Strawless, who had been on the Council from the beginning. Mr. Lambourne went on to detail some of the work accomplished by the Council, paying tribute to the services of Mr. Edward Stimpson as Chairman of the Housing and Sanitary Committees for many years. He mentioned that since 1919 the Council had built 252 houses, of a type that was a credit to the Council and its building surveyor (Mr. Larner), and said they were particularly proud of the fact that they had erected 120 five-bedroomed houses, which they had let at 2/6d per week plus rates.

The speaker also made reference to the great improvement in the highways, with a tribute to the part played by the County Council in this respect, and he went on to speak of his own fourteen years' membership of the Council and to express appreciation of the loyal support given him by members and officials while he had been chairman.

Mr. Powell, in a humorous speech, presented to Mr. Browne a canteen of cutlery. This bore an inscription testifying that it was a tribute of appreciation from the members of the Council of the recipient's long and faithful service as Clerk. Mr. Browne made an appropriate response. He recalled his 45 years official connection with the Council and Guardians and thanked all members for the great help and courtesy he had received during that time. He particularly thanked the chairmen of the committees and the sanitary inspector (Mr. H.W.T. Trotter) and the building surveyor (Mr. E.R. Larner)

Mr. Edward Stimpson spoke in reminiscent vein of his long membership of the Council and Board of Guardians, contrasting present day methods with the old . . ."

AYLSHAM R.D.C.



FINAL MEETING

OF THE COUNCIL

followed by Tea, Speeches and
Musical Items, on Tuesday afternoon
the 26th day of March, 1935, at 3.30

Speech by the Chairman

Song Captain Beard

Speech and Presentation

by Mr. A. E. Powell

Reply by Recipient

Violin Solo Mr. E. B. Learner

Song Mr. H. F. Proudfoot

Speech Mr. Edward Stimpson

Song Mr. E. J. Land

"Auld Lang Syne"

. . . and so on. Although it was the end of the road for Aylsham District Council, it seems to have passed off as a happy occasion. Perhaps council meetings nowadays would be more attractive events if the agenda was interspersed with a few violin solos and the occasional song, and finished off with afternoon tea and cakes.

The leaflet describing the meeting lists the events. One of the items listed was a song by Captain Beard. This was the Captain Beard, former Master Mariner, landlord of the Black Boys and then the Red Lion Hotel. He was a man of many talents that you can read all about in the article by Liz Gale in the *Journal*. Vol.5 pp41-45. Strangely enough, although Captain Beard was listed in the programme, he is not mentioned in the newspaper report of the meeting. Perhaps, in the end he did not attend the meeting.

One other person listed in the programme, who was also not mentioned in the newspaper report, was Harry Proudfoot. We know now why he was omitted from the newspaper report. In his scrapbook, preserved in the archives, next to this newscutting is a note in Proudfoot's handwriting which reads: "*I did not go to this. H.Proudfoot*". Perhaps he was sad to see it all come to an end.

---ooOoo---

SOCIETY NEWS

Publications - I should have acknowledged in the last issue, the receipt of £12 from Valerie Belton. This sum was raised from the sales of "*The Norwich to Cromer Turnpike*" which Valerie has published at her own expense. She asked that any receipts from sales of this book at the recent 'Aylsham Past and Present' exhibition in the Town Hall, should go into the society's funds. I have paid the amount into the Publications account. Our thanks to Valerie.

Lectern - The speaker's lectern which is used at our meetings in the Friendship Club was made by Julian Eve, who regularly brought it to

meetings for the use of lecturers. It has now kindly been donated to the society by Julian. Our thanks to Julian.

Sutton Hoo Outing - The first of the summer outings for this year took place on Thursday, May 23rd. when thirty members and friends went by coach to the ancient burial site at Sutton Hoo near Woodbridge.

As we set out the sky was heavy and storms were forecast for the afternoon. However, the weather was very kind to us and we enjoyed good sunny spells all day! The new visitor facilities comprising Exhibition Hall and Treasury, Restaurant and Shop were only opened to the public on March 14th. It was a new experience to visit a National Trust site which was so new, and yet housed and revealed things very old.

The site had changed out of all recognition for those who had visited Sutton Hoo some time ago as part of the Winter Course, when there was little more than an old wooden hut for shelter. Over five million pounds has been spent on this project, and, most would feel, well spent, I think. The main buildings are a sombre grey colour in order to blend in with the landscape, yet are light and airy inside. The restaurant will comfortably seat eighty persons and serves a variety of snacks and meals. Well marked circular walks may be taken which lead round the burial ground itself and on through the undulating wooded grounds that rise up from the banks of the river Deben. The visitor will find time spent in the Exhibition Hall and Treasury most rewarding. The story of the discovery of this major Anglo-Saxon burial site is told through a series of photographs and descriptive panels, augmented by models, reconstructions, and replica objects. However, the highlight for many will be the precious objects actually found at this site in 1939 which are on loan from the British Museum and tastefully displayed in the Treasury. Amazing craftsmanship which had lain undisturbed for over 1300 years! It is said that what we now see at Sutton Hoo is the completion of the first phase of the development of this historic site. However, there will not be further excavations there for many years to come. This is to allow the archaeologists and historians time to fully absorb the meaning and implications of all that has been found to date, and to allow time for further developments in techniques of non-destructive mapping. This will enable more information to be gathered as to what lies under the surface without actual digging, which is

always destructive.

For those who visit as individuals or families, there is ample car parking, a picnic area and childrens' play zone with high quality equipment. Altogether a most stimulating and memorable day. Thank you, Betty, for all the organising that went into this visit. **John Harris**

VISIT TO GREAT YARMOUTH

The idea of a visit to Yarmouth was really the tail-end of the *Norfolk Ships and Seafarers* course which was held last Autumn, and which included a tour of Kings Lynn waterfront. This was mainly for class members.

On Wednesday, July 10th. we set off for Yarmouth, on time, with over 30 members in the coach. The weather was fine and sunny as we proceeded towards Yarmouth. Yarmouth is full of strange junctions and one-way systems, but the coach driver put us down right outside the places we were to visit. - The English Heritage *Row 111 House*, and the old merchant's house. The guide gave us a short introduction and then turned us loose. These houses showed us the prosperity of Yarmouth at its height - large houses, fine brickwork and deeply moulded ceilings. We went up floor by floor, for the houses had later been divided vertically, and occupied by large families, hence the many narrow twisting staircases. There was little furniture in the rooms, but many of the walls were lined with wooden features that had been rescued from the bombing and later demolition of the famous rows. These included windows and small doors, carved beams and iron features, hinges, dates and wall plates. Amongst these were lifelike (and life size) groups of people - a man at a table, on which there was an unfinished meal. At his feet lay a dog, by its clean empty plate.

There was another group of three women dressmaking, with one woman cutting a pattern out on the floor. Their recorded voices gave realism. On an upper floor a boy lay reading a newspaper dated 1936. Some pages of newspaper were pasted on the wall to absorb the smell of fish from the clothing of the Scottish fisher girls who came down to Yarmouth each year to help with the herring harvest. Some members of our party went on with the guide to the remains of the Franciscan

priory, now known as Greyfriars cloisters. Others went to the Tolhouse museum, or to the Elizabethan House (NT). We went on to the nearby Norfolk Nelson Museum which has recently opened. This is a splendid presentation of his life with good clear diagrams and bold captions. The nautical theme is cleverly carried through the displays, some of which have a quizzical slant on his life ashore! His death at the moment of his great victory is a sad ending to his life. There is an interesting mock-up of life on the lower deck with hammocks and a huge cannon. The voices of sailors can be heard discussing the coming battle, by pressing a ship's biscuit on the wall! The cannons roar, men shout and scream in a lifelike way - we withdrew and shut the door behind us! In the future more will be opened upstairs. Tom Mollard, an official adviser has yet more work to do.

And so we made our way to the Star Hotel, where we entered another time warp. The outside is mock, black and white, half-timbered. Inside it is old fashioned and rambling. However we settled into one of the many soft settees and asked for tea and scones. When they eventually arrived, with clotted cream and jam, we were able to relax. Other members of the party arrived, and so did the coach, promptly at five o'clock. The return journey was enhanced by a cross country run through Worstead, Skepton and Burgh. Betty Gee is to be congratulated on her preparative work, and the information sheets that she prepared for this, the final visit she will arrange for us. Many thanks, Betty.

Peter Holman

(Our chairman, Peter Holman, has kindly provided an account of this visit to the Nelson Museum. Exactly one week later the museum enjoyed its official opening ceremony, and another of our members, Ron Fiske, who also happens to be the Chairman of the Trustees of the Norfolk Nelson Museum, reports on that event)

The Norfolk Nelson Museum was officially opened on Thursday, 18th. July 2002, by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. He arrived at 26 South Quay on a bright sunny day to be met by strains of "Hearts of Oak" played by the Bernard Matthews Brass Band. He was led through a guard of honour formed by local sea scouts to be met by Ron Fiske, Chairman of the Trustees, John Hudson, Mayor of Great Yarmouth, and other local dignitaries. After cutting the navy blue ribbon, the Duke was conducted round the museum by Ron and Faith Carpenter, the

museum curator. HRH showed a keen interest in the exhibits and was quite knowledgeable about Nelson and his times. During the tour he took time off to speak to the lifeboatmen, coastguards and representatives of the helicopter and oil companies, who had been involved in the search for the helicopter and its crew and passengers who had tragically been lost in the North Sea the previous Tuesday.

The Duke of Edinburgh continued up to the first floor gallery where he met members of the Borough Council, the Trustees and Advisors of the Museum, and the late Ben Burgess's daughter and family. The party then adjourned to the adjoining marquee, which had been pleasantly decorated with flags and floral displays. Here the Duke met leading donors, the building and design team, and other contributors and representatives. The Duke who was quite relaxed and informal, signed photographs of himself for the museum and the Town Hall and made a light hearted speech thanking those who had "*put their hands in their own pockets, - as well as those of other people*".

Finally the Duke walked over to the Quayside to meet and chat with some of the cheering and waving crowd. He then left, having taken up more than his allotted time, which seems to indicate how successful the visit had been.

Ron Fiske

(As a final note - it was a memorable day for Mr & Mrs Editor, who not only had the pleasure and privilege of meeting and talking to the Duke of Edinburgh in the morning, but finished the day at the Sandringham Garden Party - slightly overwhelmed by the occasion and all the champagne.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 3rd at the Friendship Club. The agenda and full details should accompany this issue of the *Journal*. There are one or two changes to watch out for.

One thing that won't change is the subscription, which will remain at its present rate - (£7 single£12 married couples). Members are encouraged to renew their subscriptions, if possible, ahead of the AGM to help avoid the hold-up that can occur when everyone is attempting to pay at the same time, at the beginning of the meeting.

Sheila Mollard, who has held the post of Membership Secretary for the last six years is retiring, and Mrs. Gillian Fletcher will succeed her as Membership Secretary. Details of where, and to whom, subscriptions should be paid will be in the AGM papers included in this copy of the *Journal*.

Following the business meeting there will be an illustrated talk by one of our own members, Mrs Daphne Davey, on St. Michael's church, Aylsham.

There are two vacancies for Committee members. Please consider whether you could be nominated. There are six meetings a year on a Thursday afternoon.

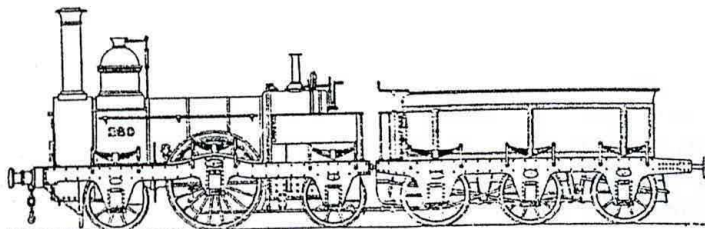
---ooOoo---

Just a reminder . . .

RAILWAYS IN THE NORFOLK LANDSCAPE

This Autumn term, Adrian Vaughan will deal with aspects of the railways and their effects on the countryside of Norfolk; in ten sessions starting on Tuesday 24th. September at 2pm at the Friends Meeting House, Peggs Yard, Aylsham. We hope that the course will be able to cover the many ways in which the planning and building of the new lines affected local life, through their heydays to their decline and ultimate closure. Adrian Vaughan has much knowledge of these matters and will bring a deep understanding of the subject to the class.

Further information from Peter Holman, Class Secretary, 3 Forster Close, Aylsham. NR11 6BD Tel: 01263-733434



NOTES & QUERIES

Dashwood family - this family was fairly well known over several parts of Norfolk. Jarret Dashwood was prominent in Aylsham in the early 1800s. Anyone who has any information they could offer is asked to contact:- Mrs. K. Lart, Manor Farm House, Great Smeaton, Northallerton, North Yorks. DL6 2EH. phone 01609-881456

Samuel Taylor - Dr. Taylor lived in Aylsham where he was appointed parish doctor in 1827 and was also doctor to the workhouse. He had also been junior partner to Dr. Piggon. He lived in the Market Place, but exactly where is not known. He also owned several small pieces of land. Any further information about him would be welcome, and the person to inform is our secretary, Betty Gee who has the contact details.

---ooOoo---

AYLSHAM IN 1830

Although we are nearing the end of the series of County directories which covered Norfolk, I thought it might be interesting to pause and backtrack a little so that we can bring in a directory, earlier than any I have included so far. This is not strictly a county directory. It is *Pigot & Co.'s National Commercial Directory 1830*. This claims to cover all the principal cities, towns, seaports and principal villages in Norfolk and Suffolk. It is therefore very selective and omits many parts of the county, but fortunately for us, it does include Aylsham, although Aylsham information is lumped together under *Aylsham, Cawston and Neighbourhoods*.

Small points of interest - The description of the churchyard is so different from today - *"the views are extensive, from whence may be obtained an unobstructed prospect of great diversity"* which makes one realise how much the trees have grown since then. Also, I am always suspicious of the level of accuracy in all these directories. Even modern directories can be full of errors. I do wonder whether Ann Horstead really was a bricklayer? . I did also wonder about Charles Clements. He

was the printer, stationer, bookseller etc and predecessor to Barnwells on the Market Place. He is in the directory, but not as a bookseller; he is listed as a boot & shoe maker. Had they got his name in the wrong column? However, when I checked in a later directory (*White's 1836*) he is listed twice - as a bookseller and as a boot & shoemaker! Perhaps Ann Horstead was a bricklayer after all.

Aylsham is a small and neat market town and parish, in the south division of Erpingham Hundred; 119 miles from London; 14 from Norwich and 7 from North Walsham. Situated in a fine part of the county, on a gentle eminence which is watered by the Bure. This river is navigable to Yarmouth for craft of 14 tons burthen, and upon its stream are many corn mills.

The parish of Aylsham extends over three manors, viz. Aylsham on the part of Lancaster, of which the Dowager Lady Suffield is the owner; Aylsham Wood manor, possessed by Mrs. Catherine Copeman; and Aylsham Vicarage, of which the Rev. Charles Norris, Vicar of Aylsham is lord. The whole was originally held under the Duchy of Lancaster - it having been granted by Edward III to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

The places of worship are, the parish church of St. Michael, and two chapels for dissenters. The charitable establishments are a national school, conducted on Dr. Bell's plan, and a well regulated poor house. The church was erected by John of Gaunt, and is a fine old building, having a nave, two aisles, two transepts and a chancel adjoining. It has a square tower, in which is a peal of ten musical bells. The country about Aylsham is extremely beautiful, and the land very productive. It is richly wooded with fine old oaks. The views are extensive especially from the churchyard, from whence may be obtained an unobstructed prospect of great diversity. There are several handsome seats in the vicinity of the town; the principal one is Blickling House, the seat of Lady Suffield, situate about 1½ miles distant, in the midst of one of the most extensive and beautiful parks in the county of Norfolk. The mansion is an ancient building of brick, re-erected about the year 1628 by Sir John Hobart. In the original mansion, it is said, Queen Anne Boleyn was born, and Henry VIII married her from this house.

About a mile from Aylsham is a Spa, formerly very celebrated, but for many years fallen into disuse. It is, however, intended to erect

baths and drinking rooms, and there is every probability of it again becoming a favourite resort, several respectable individuals having obtained relief from drinking the waters. The market (which is a tolerably good one for corn) is held on Tuesdays. The fairs are 23rd. March and the last Tuesday in September. The parish contained, in 1821, 1853 inhabitants.

Cawston - is a village and parish in the same hundred as Aylsham, about 4 miles from that town, and eleven from Norwich. It contains nothing of particular interest, nor any building of consequence but its parish church, which is a rather handsome edifice. The living is a rectory of which the Rev. Richard Bulwer is the incumbent, and his curate is the Rev. J.W. Flevall. Here are also two chapels for dissenters. This place has a charter to hold a weekly market, but the inhabitants do not avail themselves of such privilege otherwise than to preserve the right, which is effected by holding one annually on the last Wednesday in April. A fair is holden on the 1st. of February for cattle and another on the last Wednesday in August for sheep. The parish contained, by parliamentary returns for 1821, 929 inhabitants who are chiefly employed in agriculture.

Post Office, Market Place, Aylsham. Elizabeth Nobbs, *Postmistress* - letters from London, Norwich and all parts of the north arrive every morning at half past twelve, and are despatched every afternoon at half past two - Letters from Cromer arrive every morning at twelve, and are despatched at one.

**NOBILITY, GENTRY AND
CLERGY**

Allen, Rev. Stephen, Erpingham
Bane, Rev. John, Millgate
Bayfield, Thos. gent. Market Place
Blake, Rev.H.W. Banningham
Blomefield, Miss Mary. White Hart
St.
Bulwer, Rev. Dr. Richard. Heydon
Chad, George Wm. esq.
Churchill, Rev. J.D. Blickling
Clark, Mrs Mary, Hungate St.
Cook, Thomas, gent, Market Place

Copeman, Mrs. Peter, Market Place
Cremer, Rev. Cremer, Metton
Elvin, Mrs Sarah, White Hart St.
Fennell, Capt. Edward, Heydon Rd.
Field, John, gent. Millgate
Flevall, Rev. J.W. Cawston
Gay, James Esq. White Hart St.
Gotterson, Mrs. Penelope, Market
Place
Heath, Rev. Charles, Hanworth
Hogg, Joseph, Esq. Saxthorpe Hall
Holley, Mrs. Sarah, Market Place
Hovee, Mrs. Elizabeth, Whitehart St

Kent, Chas, Esq. Cromer Rd.
Blickling
Lown, Mrs Ann, Whitehart St.
Lubbock, Mrs. Elizabeth, Whitehart St.

Marsh, Rev. - , Erpingham
Mayow, P.W. Esq. Hanworth
Orford, the Earl of, Wolterton Hall
Parmeter, Rev, J.D. Blickling Rd.
Pering, Rev. Benedict, The Hill.
Peterson, Benjamin, Gent.
Rackham, Thomas, Esq. The Hill.
Rayner, Miss Kathleen, Millgate.
Read, Mrs Hannah. Market Place
Scotto, Mrs Ann, White Hart St.
Seaman, Miss Sophia, The Hill.
Secker, Jno. Gent. Schoolhouse Lane
Sharpe, Mrs. Nancy Maria, Paradise
Shaw, Mrs Ann, Pinfold St.
Suffield, the right Hon. Dowager
Lady Caroline Hans, Blickling House.
Tattam, George, Gent. Hungate St.

ACADEMIES & SCHOOLS

Ashley, Elizabeth [boys & girls]
Market Place
Hindry, Benj. & Eliz.[boys & girls]
Market Place

NATIONAL SCHOOL, Schoolhouse Lane,
John Balls, master.
Wright, William [boys boarding and
day] New St.

ATTORNEYS

Copeman & Parmeter
Copeman, Robert (and clerk of the
peace for the County of Norfolk)
Pike, Henry, Whitehart St.
Repton, William, Market Place

AUCTIONEERS AND APPRAISERS
Boulter, Thomas, Holt Rd.

Burrell, George Elden (and building
surveyor) Market Place.

BAKERS & FLOUR DEALERS

Marked thus * are Confectioners

Abbott, Peter, Whitehart St.
Barnes, Fiddy. Red Lion St.
Bennett, Robert. Cawston
Cory, Thomas, Millgate
*Laxen, Richard, Unicorn Yard,
Hungate St
*Peck, Geo. Red Lion St.
Robins, Joseph. Cawston
Sexton, James. Hungate St.
*Stoneham, Thomas, Market Place.

BANKERS

Copeman, Robert & Edward, Bank
St. [draw on Hankeys & Co]
Savings Bank, National School,
Schoolhouse Lane - Robt. Cope-
man, treasurer; Jas. Harrod, Sec.

BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS

Hill, Wm.(stationer, circulating
library & porter dealer) New St.
Silence, Ephr. (& printer) Red Lion
Street

BOOT & SHOEMAKERS

Barnes, Edward, Hungate St.
Carman, Thos. Red Lion St.
Clements, Charles. Market Place
Elden, William. Market Place
Frary, Robt. Hammond. Red Lion St.
Medler, William, Millgate
Norton John, White Hart St.
Payne, James, Red Lion St.
Rust, Vincent. The Hill
Starling William, White Hart St.
Thirtle, Robert, Market Place.
Tuddenham, Stephen. Cawston

White, George. White Hart St
Wiggett, William. Cawston

BREWERS

King, Mary. White Hart St.
Tuddenham, Stephen. Cawston

BRICKLAYERS

Horstead, Ann, White Hart St
Ward, Thos. (& plasterer)
Cromer Rd.

BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

Bartram, William. Millgate
Bowers, Robt. (& and wood turner)
White Hart St.
Burrell, Geo. Elden. Market Place
Glistler, Thomas. Pinfold Lane
Hopkins, Thos. White Hart St.
Lowe, William. White Hart St.
Proudfoot, John. Hungate St.

BUTCHERS

Batson, Potter. Red Lion St.
Bond, John (& cattle salesman)
Cawston
Chapman. John. Hungate St.
Clark, James. Red Lion St.
Wortley, Samuel. Red Lion St.

CARVERS AND GILDERS

Bowers, Robt. White Hart St.
Harvey, Robt. White Hart St.

COAL DEALERS

Hotson, Richard. Hungate St.
Maidstone, Mary. New St
Peachman, Thos. (merchant) Red
Lion St.

CURRIERS AND LEATHER DRESSERS

Clark, Richard. Pinfold St.
Frary, John. Hungate St.

DRESS MAKERS

(Marked thus * are also Milliners)

*Dadley, Jemima. Market Place
*Fitt, Ann. Red Lion St.
Moon, Sarah. Millgate
Salmon, Elizabeth. White Hart St.

DRUGGISTS

Bane, William. Red Lion St.
Connold, Thos. Market Place
Nobbs, Elizabeth (and tea dealer)
Market Place

FIRE, & C. OFFICE AGENTS

CLERICAL, MEDICAL & GENERAL (life)
Thomas Connold, Market Place
EQUITABLE (fire) James Harrod, Bank
Street
NORWICH UNION John Wright Clover
Market Place

GARDENERS AND SEEDSMEN

Fitt, James. Millgate
Fitt, John. Hungate St.
Raymes, Joseph. Hungate St.
Stearman, Jas. (seedsman) New St.
Stearman, James. Cawston Rd.
Ward, George. Hungate St.

GROCERS AND LINEN DRAPERS

Bardwell, William. Millgate
Clover, John Wright. (& woollen
draper etc.) Market Place
Fisher, Marker. Cawston
Jarvis, Edwd. White Hart St
Matchin, Jas. (& hosier) Red Lion St
Pitts, Robert Taylor. (& tobacconist &
hosier and haberdasher) Market
Place
Powell, Benjamin. Market Place.
Powell, Robert. Cawston
Williams, Phoebe. (grocer) Millgate

HAIR DRESSERS & PERFUMERERS

Cobb, John. Market Place
Wilton, Philip Penn. Red Lion St.

INNS AND PUBLIC HOUSES

Anchor; William Wilson, Millgate
Bell; Thomas Tuddenham, Cawston
*Black Boys Inn (& posting house and
Excise Office)* Charles Cooke
Tucker, Market Place
Bull; John Puncher, Red Lion St.
Cross Keys; Lucy Ulph, Red Lion St.
Dog Inn (and posting house) John
Davy, Bank St.
Kings Head; Dennis Herrell, Cawston
New Inn (and posting house) Samuel
Scotter, Red Lion St.
Red Lion; James Butler, Red Lion St.
Star; Phillip Penn Wilson, Red
Lion St.
Unicorn; Theoph. Wells, Hungate St.
White Horse; Thos. Clarke, Cawston
Wood Row; William Eke, Cawston

IRONMONGERS

Cook, Wm. Barnard (& brazier and
tin-plate worker) Market Place
Fisher, Marker. Cawston
Platten, Edward Suffolk (& brazier
and tin-plate worker) Red Lion St.

MALTSTERS

Davy, John. (& hop dealer) Bank St.
Parmeter, R & Sons. Millgate

MILLERS

Broughton, James
Parmeter, R. & Sons (and corn and
flour merchants) Millgate
Robins, Joseph. Cawston
Soame, Geo. Cawston Rd.

PAINTERS, PLUMBERS & GLAZIERS

Elvin, Robert. White Hart St.
Pert, William. Red Lion St.
Pratt, Robert. Red Lion St.

SADDLERS & HARNESS MAKERS

Butler, John. Church Yard
Frankland, James. Red Lion St.
Hounsfield, Edwd. Market Place.
Laxen, Richard. Market Place
Lemon, Benjamin. Red Lion St.
Prior, Peter. Cawston
Tillett, Benjamin. Red Lion St.

SMITHS

(Shoeing and jobbing)

Burton, John. White Hart St.
Butler, William. Pinfold Lane
Pike, William. Red Lion St.
Porrett, Christopher. The Hill.
Whittam, Stephen. Pinfold Lane

STONE AND MARBLE MASONS

Abbot, Charles. Millgate
Stanley, John. Cromer Rd.
Thompson, Mary Ann. Cromer Rd.
Weaver, Frederick. Hungate St.

SURGEONS

Ficklin, Horace Pettus. Hungate St.
Gray, Francis. Cawston
Saunders, William. Hungate St.
Smith, Fred. Parsons. Pinfold Lane
Taylor, Samuel. Market Place

TAILORS

Breese, Steph. (& draper) Red Lion St.
Flaxman, John, Red Lion St.
Fox, Thomas. Cawston Rd
Frary, John jun. Hungate St.

Haddon, James (& glover) Red
Lion St
Hopkins, John, Red Lion St.
Spooner, Henry (& clothes salesman)
Red Lion St.

WATCH AND CLOCK MAKERS

Barber, William. Red Lion St.
Connold, Thomas. Market Place
Fitt, John. Red Lion St.
Russell, John. Cawston
Wade, Charles Rice. Market Place

WHEELWRIGHTS

Bond, William (& pumpmaker and
well sinker) White Hart St.
Bowers, Robt. (& pump maker) White
Hart St.
Dodman, Thos. (& carpenter) Red
Lion St
Glister, Thomas. Pinfold Lane
Proudfoot, John. Hungate St.

MISCELLANEOUS

Beckham, Benjamin. net maker and rope and
twine dealer. Hungate St.
Boorne, Wm. timber merchant, Basin and
Erpingham
Canfor, Ellis. basket & sieve maker. Red
Lion St
EXCISE OFFICE. Black Boys Inn. Market
Place. Francis Parker, Collector.
Richard Mileham, supervisor.
Frary, Robert Hammond. dealer in brushes,
pattens, etc. Red Lion St.
Grimson, John. cabinet maker. Hungate St.
Jarvis, Edward. china, glass and earthenware
dealer. White Hart St.
Lazarus, David. licensed dealer in silver
plate
Lazarus, Judith. straw hat maker.
Red Lion St.
Parker, John. cooper. White Hart St.
Philips, Benjamin. chair maker. Millgate.
Porrett, Thomas. upholsterer, White Hart St.

Rainforth, John. patten &c. maker. Market
Place
Smith, Richd. veterinary surgeon. Pinfold St.
Smith, Robt. gig maker. &c. The Hill
STAMP OFFICE - Market Place, John Wright
Clover, *sub distributor*.
Tipple, Thos. machine thresher. New St.
Whitted, John. Hat manufacturer. Red Lion
St.
Wickes, William, tanner. Millgate
Woods, William. millwright and machine
and iron and brass pump maker,
Cawston Rd.
WORKHOUSE - New St. - William Morris,
governor.
Wright. Thomas, boat builder. Basin

COACHES

To CROMER the *Mail* from the Star, every day
at half past one; goes through Banningham,
Colby, Suffield, Hanworth and Felbrigg.

To HOLT a *coach* from the New Inn every
Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evening
at five.

To NORWICH a *coach* from the New Inn every
day (Sunday excepted) at nine - and the
Accommodation from the same house, every
day at two.

CARRIERS

To NORWICH - Baxter, from the Bull
every Tuesday morning - John Chapman
from Hungate St. every Tuesday and
Saturday morning at half past five - Robert
Boughey from Hungate St. every Monday
morning at nine, and Wednesday and
Saturday at five - and George Moore from
his house, Hungate St. every Saturday
morning at five; all go through Marsham,
Hevingham and St. Faiths.

CONVEYANCE BY WATER

To YARMOUTH - R. Parmeter & Sons
wherries, from the Basin, every week.