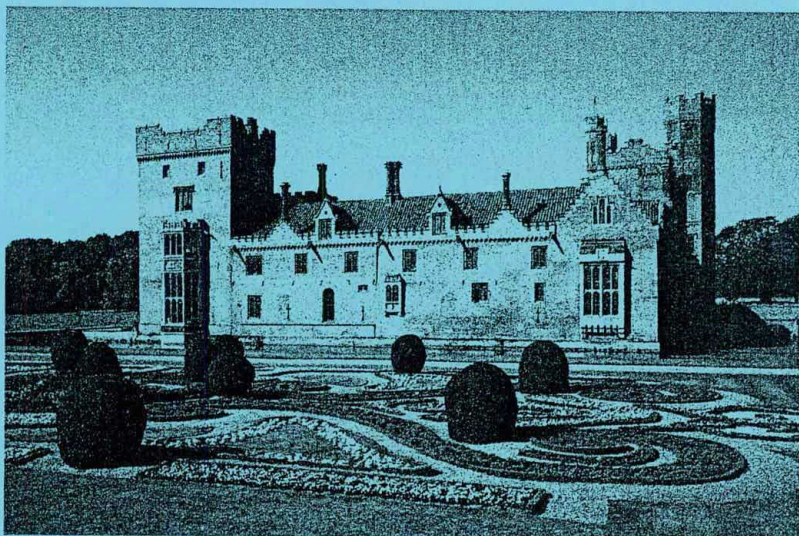


AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 7 No. 6

December 2004

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CONTENTS

Introduction; Winter Party announcement	143
<i>Aylsham Directories 1793-1937</i> by Tom Mollard	144
Letter from Colin Ulph	144
Society News: Visit to Oxburgh Hall and Gardens	146
Mrs Girling and the Children of God by Geoff Gale	151
Queries	153
The Life & Works of George Skipper - David Summers	154
The Gospel Hall, Cawston Road by Peter Holman	158
Gravel Dispute between Aylsham RDC & Blickling Hall Est Office	159
Dates for your diary	162
Annual General Meeting	163
Editor's Note	165
Members' List	166
Publications Account:	167
Account for the Year ended 31st August 2004	168
COVER PICTURE Oxburgh Hall, East Front	



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

**JOURNAL &
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 7

No 6

At the recent Annual General Meeting in October, Peter Holman stepped down as Chairman. Peter became Chairman in 1997 at a difficult time for the Society after Jane Nolan, our Chairman, and founder member died. As the Secretary Valerie Belton retired that year, there were three new Officer appointments, Vice-Chairman Julian Eve, Treasurer Gillian Barwick and Secretary Betty Gee. Peter also took on responsibility for finding speakers and organising the Tuesday afternoon Course at the Friends' Meeting House. There has been a wide variety of subjects over the past seven years from Romans to railways, and the Courses have attracted members and non-members.

The Society is very grateful to Peter for his leadership. He will continue on the Committee as Vice-Chairman. The new Chairman is Geoffrey Gale, who became Vice-Chairman some years ago on the resignation of Julian Eve due to ill-health. See AGM (page 163).

WINTER PARTY at the BLACK BOYS HOTEL
Market Place, Aylsham 7 for 7.30 pm

THURSDAY 20th JANUARY 2005

This will be a Dinner with a varied menu

£14 per person, excluding drinks

Please return the form **as soon as possible**

Some days ago, I was working away in the garden, when the telephone rang. I welcomed the interruption as it was getting quite hot there. I did not recognise the voice on phone, and then to my delight I discovered it was Margaret Keable ringing from Australia. As I am sure everyone knows by now, Margaret is the great granddaughter of William Frederick Starling, whose biography we published so successfully a few years ago. Margaret has been a member of the Society for several years, although she would have a job getting to any of our meetings.

During the production of *Memories of Aylsham* countless letters and e-mails passed between us, but this was the first occasion I had ever heard her voice. It was a great treat, and it was like talking to an old friend. Margaret is quite keen to learn everything about Aylsham, and I think she knows more about the town than we do. She was one of the first to order a copy of our latest book *Aylsham Directories 1793-1937*, and she was ringing to tell us what a superb book it is - well, I would say that wouldn't I? But she was fulsome in her praise, and has been singing its praises locally.

So there is a good recommendation to anyone who has not yet purchased a copy here. Margaret sends her good wishes to the Society and particularly to Ron Peabody, who I think was the first to make a contact with her when he was caring for the town archives.

ooOoo

Two articles in the last edition No 5 drew more information from a regular correspondent.

THE ULPHS

Colin Ulph

Regarding the last excellent ALHS Journal, there were two articles I found particularly interesting, as they each had a bearing on the ULPHS.

First, a follow-up to the story of A R LAXEN, the saddler, His successor, **Mr Harry ULPH**, came to Aylsham from Nottingham in 1923, and ran the saddler's shop in Market Place until 1933, when he sold up and moved on to Halstead, Essex. He and his wife and four daughters lived over the shop, and Harry certainly entered into the life of the town. He was a member of the British Legion and a mason, he played cricket and took part in amateur dramatics. His family, like all other ULPHS, came originally from Norfolk. I understand that the Museum of East Anglian Life has some examples of his saddlery and, a few years ago, I borrowed from Suffolk County Library an interesting audio tape entitled *The Life History of a Saddler*, made by Harry Ulph in 1972. He died in Chelmsford in 1979.

Second, some background information on the 1887 indenture agreement between **George BURRELL** and his master, Thomas NEWTON. Young George was the son of William BURRELL of Erpingham and his wife, Lucy Susanna, and a grandson of John Hook ULPH, landlord of the *Cross Keys Inn*, Red Lion Street. After the deaths of both John Hook ULPH and his widow, Elizabeth Susanna ULPH, the inn passed in 1881 into the hands of William BURRELL and his wife. George the shoemaker died in 1939 and is commemorated on a tombstone in the new Norwich Road cemetery. His parents have a double gravestone in the old Norwich Road cemetery.

Incidentally, in view of the ULPH family's connections with Aylsham over 300 years, your readers may be interested to learn that I am currently working on the ULPH FAMILY HISTORY. This will be an illustrated, hardback book that I will be publishing next year. The official launching will take place at a 'clan' gathering at Burnham Market on Saturday 16 April 2005. I intend to donate a complimentary copy to Aylsham Local History Society as a token of my thanks for all the help given to me by Ron Peabody, Tom Mollard and others over the past 26 years of my one-name study.

Best wishes to all at the Society.

Colin Ulph

SOCIETY NEWS

VISIT to OXBURGH HALL & GARDENS Betty Gee

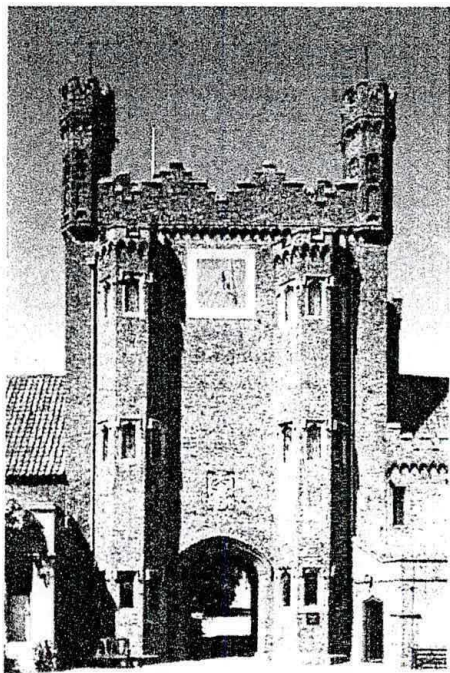
The Society visit to the fine early Tudor Oxburgh Hall and gardens took place on a lovely late summer's day in September. In 1551 the 9th Baronet Sir Edmund Paston-Bedingfield was forced to sell the estate for tax reasons. It was bought by a property developer and many of the contents of the principal rooms were sold but, thanks to the tireless efforts of Sir Edmund's mother, Sybil, Lady Bedingfield, (and Violet Hartcup and Mrs Greathead - niece and daughter of the 8th Baronet) the house was saved at the eleventh hour and given to the National Trust in 1952. Lady Bedingfield lived on to the age of 101, dying in 1985. Oxburgh remains the family home of the Bedingfields.

We arrived about 11.30 and would have about five hours to see not only the House, but the Roman Catholic Chapel and possibly St John C of E Church with the Bedingfield chantry chapel. We would stroll round in small groups, bearing in mind that the House and RC Chapel would not open until 1 pm. The National Trust has in 2004 inaugurated short garden tours by volunteer garden stewards at many houses, as well as Garden Days with longer Garden Tours and the tour at 1 pm would fit in well.

Sir Edmund Bedingfield built Oxburgh Hall in about 1482, but, despite the moat and battlements, he meant it to impress rather than to exclude. It had the typical features of medieval military architecture: gatehouse, moat and battlements and he received a licence to crenellate the battlements. The walls are of warm red mediaeval brick. The moat is shallow, a decoration rather than a defence. Until the early 18th century there was a drawbridge which could be pulled up in the event of danger. The Gatehouse is the best preserved part of the original 1482 building. Battlements crown the two towers, which are seven storeys high. There have been a number of structural changes through the

centuries, notably the demolition of the Great Hall in 1775 in the centre of the south front by the 4th Baronet. It was replaced by a Saloon where pictures could be displayed.

Once through the ticket office one passed the entrance to the Victorian kitchen garden and walked through the walled garden created by the 6th Baronet in the mid-19th century. The gateway gave a perfectly framed view of the Gatehouse and the Hall.



(Originally the approach to the Gatehouse was directly in front of it.) The excellent second-hand bookshop is situated in the Gun Room. We were then able to go to the Courtyard, where we found the entrance to the Shop. The tearoom (or restaurant) was open for early lunches. A comment from one member was that the food and service was excellent. It was pleasantly quiet everywhere; there were few cars in the car park, where the light refreshment kiosk (with tables and chairs) opened at 12 noon. We were able to picnic peacefully nearby.

Those interested in the garden tour (no charge) gathered together in the

Orchard. The garden steward took us first to the Victorian kitchen garden, past magnificent white and red dahlias. Nearby was a large cold frame, where garden volunteers were working. The kitchen garden was a very sunny sheltered place and there were many varieties of vegetables and fruits growing there,

which were now used to supply the restaurant. The walls were covered with clematis and other shrubs. We then toured the large orchard; this had been originally a series of compartments in the early 19th century laid out at about the time as the French parterre by Sir Henry Paston-Bedingfield 6th Baronet. Now to save labour, there remain plum trees, a fig tree, quinces, medlars and pear trees. We were told that the pears on one old pear tree were not good to eat.

From the bottom of the orchard we could see the South front and an area where there had been a water garden was pointed out. We then looked at the famous parterre, which originally had massed annual bedding plants in painted cement. To reduce the amount of annual bedding-out, the Trust has introduced semi-permanent plantings of blue rue and cineraria (Silver Dust) within a framework defined by gravel, dwarf box edging and yew spheres; blue and yellow geraniums and French marigolds are planted out each spring, reversing the colours yearly. Money was spent on the upkeep of the paths in the whole garden, using steel instead of wood.

We also had a good view of the east front, which is still occupied by the family. The south-east end has been rebuilt more than once. The 6th Baronet Sir Henry was responsible for many changes with the help of his architect John Chessell Buckler when he married Margaret Paston of Appleton, a wealthy heiress, in the early 19th century. A tower was added to the corner in 1860 and new bay windows improved the view over the parkland; the moat and ha-ha was also repaired and five small towers built on the kitchen wall.

Finally we walked along the long herbaceous border, which is sheltered by a yew hedge. It has a continuous edge of catmint, which we were told was often given to other Trust gardens. It is planted in repeated blocks of lupins, delphiniums, irises and aconitum, with clematis, roses and other shrubs on the wall

behind. The names of the roses had been lost in time so they had been given numbers.

Visitors cross the courtyard to enter the house and enter through double doors to the south passage. Passages were built in the 19th century and later covered so servants could get round the house under cover. This leads to the Saloon, decorated in red flock wallpaper from a design by Pugin, with an Adam-style chimney piece and frieze. Many of the full-length portraits once hanging here were sold in the 20th century. The present ones are mainly 19th century copies of royal portraits. Smaller portraits near the large oak buffet are on loan from the Bacon collection.

The West Drawing Room, Small Dining Room and Library are furnished in handsome Victorian style, with many pictures. The Library is particularly interesting with its books and sculptures.

After ascending the North staircase one reaches the North Room and Boudoir used by Mrs Greathead, which has interesting family pictures. Along the passage is the Marian Hangings Room where the famous needlework panels made about 1569-84 by Mary, Queen of Scots and Bess of Hardwick are displayed in specially controlled conditions. The Scottish Queen lived in Oxburgh about 1570 at the beginning of her 18 years' captivity by Queen Elizabeth, who saw her as a threat to her throne. It was Mary's son who ultimately inherited the English throne. The panels reached Oxburgh with Mary Browne of Cowdray Park who married Sir Richard Bedingfield 4th Baronet in 1761, where they were displayed on the bed now in the King's Room. After conservation by the Victoria & Albert Museum they were lent back to Oxburgh.

A short flight of steps leads to the King's Room, named after King Henry VII who occupied this room in August 1487. In Victorian times the room was hung with ancient tapestries, to which were fixed family portraits and armour. There is now a four-poster bed dated 1675 and thought to have come from the

Montagu family home, Cowdray Park with Mary. There are display cases with archive documents of the Bedingfield family. A small octagonal vaulted chamber leads to a former garderobe (lavatory) which was converted to give access to a priest's hole, which possibly hid fellow Catholics during Elizabeth's reign.

A circular brick staircase leads to the Queen's Room where Queen Elizabeth of York stayed in 1487. There is a huge tapestry map which is on loan to Oxburgh. Narrow stairs lead to the roof, where there is an excellent view of the courtyard, gardens and the Norfolk countryside.

The Bedingfield family suffered for their Catholic faith during Queen Elizabeth I's reign and during the Civil War, when they were forced to flee abroad. Oxburgh was almost burnt to the ground. Although Charles II rewarded the family with a baronetcy in 1661, he refused to pay its substantial losses. The Bedingfield's family tree, the lives of the heirs and their changes to the Oxburgh estate are well recounted in the National Trust Guidebook *Oxburgh Hall* reprinted 2002.

We had time to make a brief visit to the Roman Catholic Chapel of the Immaculate Conception and St Margaret built in 1836 by the 6th Baronet. There is a strong family tradition that the Gothic Revival designer A W N Pugin was the architect. There is a magnificent altarpiece with carved and painted scenes of the Passion story and a marble effigy of the 6th Baronet behind railings on a tomb chest of brown veined alabaster. In the Bedingfield chantry chapel at St John's parish church there are rare terracotta screens made about 1530. Near this church is the Bedingfield Arms where several members had an excellent lunch.

We just had time for light refreshments at the kiosk in the car park, which finished a delightful day at Oxburgh. We had learnt a lot about Oxburgh Hall and its gardens.

Sources *Guidebook - National Trust*

PALLAS GUIDE East Anglia by Peter Sager

MRS GIRLING AND THE CHILDREN OF GOD

Tom Mollard

Following our Annual General meeting, our new Chairman, Geoff Gale, spoke on the life of Mrs Mary Girling. This was a woman practically unknown today but during her relatively short life was extremely well-known in East Anglia and then nationally. Born in Little Glenham in Suffolk, one of 12 children, probably illiterate until she became adult, she married George Girling, a seaman from Woodbridge. Later, she started preaching in local Methodist Sunday schools.

All went well until she claimed to have had a series of visions, culminating in one which told her *"to go forth and declare the immediate coming of the Lord."* She was also told that 'she would achieve marvellous powers, avoid death, and that she would be able to speak in tongues'. Not surprisingly, she was banned from Methodist chapels and began holding meetings in villages around Woodbridge. She was clearly a most charismatic woman as these meetings grew more frequent and attracted increasing numbers of people. They also became more noisy and included singing and dancing, sometimes into a frenzy then collapsing into a trance. Not all of her audiences were sympathetic to her views and several meetings ended up in a riot with the police being brought in to restore order.

In 1871 she left Suffolk with two friends and moved to south London. There the same pattern was repeated with crowds of up to 300 people meeting under a railway arch, just off the Walworth road. At this point the name 'Shakers' was first associated with Mrs Girling. The Shaker religion was booming in the United States and many converts from this country went to join them in America. Girling's group began to be referred to as the "Walworth Shakers" or the "South London Shakers" although they were never officially a part of the Shaker sect. Their activities were also being reported in the national press, which had a field-day with some of their activities. The

movement also became well enough known to be parodied in the Music Halls, and several comic songs appeared, although few survive for us to enjoy. Geoff did have a copy of one to regale us with. Happily, he did not attempt to sing it, but read out a verse or two:-

My wife has joined the Shakers

*I used to lead a happy life, devoid of care, devoid of strife
I thought I had a faithful wife. We quiet were as Quakers,
But all my bliss has passed away,
My joy has turned to blank dismay
For sad to say, she ran away and went and joined the Shakers..
Oh, my cruel wife to me she's been unkind.
Oh, my cruel wife I never more shall find
Oh my naughty wife, on my heart she's left a load
Since she's been and joined the Shakers on the Walworth Road.*

The unwelcome publicity prompted them to move to Battersea, and then in 1872 Mrs Girling bought the New Forest Lodge Estate in Hampshire. A small nucleus of members moved into their new home followed later by a big influx of new members. The movement might have prospered, but within two years financial troubles beset them because of non-payment of the mortgage. In mid-December the community (by this time comprising 132 men, women and children) was evicted from the Lodge and were put out, together with their belongings into the lane outside. There they spent the night, a night of rain, sleet and then driving snow, sheltering under hedges, but still singing hymns.

Pity for their miserable condition prompted a local landowner to offer them the use of an empty barn. Later they moved into a field opposite their previous home, and spent the rest of the winter in makeshift tents. The authorities tried various ways to remove them, including attempts to have Mrs Girling certified and removed to an asylum. It is interesting to see that the legal

system was just as incompetent then as it is today, and they bungled the application and Mrs. Girling had to be released. The community continued life in the field until 1878 when they were evicted again and later found a home in another field opposite the Baptist chapel in Tiptoe where they stayed until 1886.

Mrs Girling died in 1886, and is buried along with 12 other New Forest Shakers in the graveyard of Hordle parish church. At the end there were 20 members of the community left – 12 women and 8 men. To the best of my knowledge there are no members of the Shaker community left in this country, although there are still some in the United States.

I doubt if many of us knew much about Shakers before this talk, but I found it fascinating to learn about the strength and religious intensity of this short-lived movement (in this country). Whatever opinions one might have about this sort of community, one must still admire the strength of the inner convictions that these people held, convictions that gave them the strength to endure the hardships that beset them, and made it possible for them to stand ankle-deep in waterlogged ditches, praying and singing hymns throughout a stormy winter night.

QUERIES

JARVIS Edmund

Earlier this year we had a query from Philippa Sankey, 20 Clifton Hill, Brighton BN1 34Q, regarding her ancestor Edmund Jarvis. His first wife Hannah CURTEIS died in Aylsham in 1786. He married Ann SYMONDS in 1796 in Aylsham and they had 5 children, Robert, George, William, Mary and Holman. Edmund and William and Holman were tailors and in 1820s moved to London. In *Aylsham in 1821* Edmund Jarvis is noted as in trade, living Upon the Hill, with family. However, in our *Aylsham Directories* there is no Edmund Jarvis only Edward Jarvis a grocer in 1822, & Robert Jarvis a grocer in 1839, among other Jarvises. Can any reader help?

BG

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF GEORGE SKIPPER, NORFOLK ARCHITECT (1856-1948) a talk by David Summers

Ann Dyball

One practising architect discussing and illustrating the imaginative talents of an earlier member of his profession: David Summers did not disappoint us in his talk on 28th October, when he taught much about the concerns of an architect as he described George Skipper's life and buildings. He focused on the difficulties many of his sites presented and the 'bending' of a building or an arcade, the creation of a lively and dramatic skyline, and the modelling of a facade to provide light and shadow, including detail which would illustrate the trade or profession of a client.

David Summers remembered some of Skipper's buildings from his childhood when he visited Norwich after the devastation in 1942. The Royal Arcade with its Art Nouveau design had excited him (where Langleys of course had a toy shop) as had the Edwardian Baroque Norwich Union building in Surrey Street where the bus company had thoughtfully placed a stop. Later he was asked to mount an exhibition on Skipper in the latter's home town of Dereham; a life long study thus began.

With George Skipper it seemed particularly necessary to understand his background in order to understand his work. A young man who was a skilled artist needed the support of his practical builder father. Skipper had spent three years at Norwich School of Art and made the first of a number of visits abroad, which were so to influence his eclectic style as an architect. Robert would back his son as an articled pupil in an architect's office, but not as an artist. So George went to a firm in London, where he did exceptionally well, and then returned to Dereham where he worked with his father and in 1879 set up his first practice.

The discussion of the Dereham sites was interesting. Even at this early stage George Skipper was alive to the drama of the skyline, and was designing octagonal towers on semi-detached houses and lead turrets. He was also gaining practical experience of a variety of materials, including traditional clay lump to which he was to return in 1919/20, when he was designing council houses in south Norfolk and Suffolk, and the Cosseyware of the Gunton works in Costessey, which he used so widely in Norwich later, but at the beginning only on a chimney.

We gained the impression of a man who was enterprising and ambitious (all those early competitions he entered, winning with a design for Cromer town hall) and good at 'networking'. Designing for Mr Clark (of shoe fame) in Street in Somerset led to a commission for Millfield School, while links with directors of hotel chains resulted in more work in Cromer, now on the railway and therefore of easy access for visitors. The Hotel Metropole was lost in the 1960s, but a number of members remembered it. We saw its low, bland replacement, on a prime site facing the magnificent flintwork of the south side of Cromer church. By contrast the Hotel de Paris remains, with its gables and chimneys and tower with its dome. Skipper dared to advertise before other professionals, as shown by the panels of family and craftsmen on his 1895 London Street office, all done in Cosseyware. He now had fifty people working for him . Later these magnificent terra cotta panels were absorbed into Jarrolds department store. In the description of the commissioning of the new store on the corner of Exchange street, we saw a man who perhaps became impatient with a client whose more narrowly focused business approach curbed his own more exciting designs. Clearly, however, by 1908, when his Surrey Street House for the Norwich Union was featured in the Architectural Review, George Skipper had arrived.

David Summers showed us many Norwich buildings for which Skipper was responsible. One that interested me particularly, on Guildhall Hill, housed the old Norfolk Daily Standard offices of 1901/2, and now Fired Earth. This eccentric building is topped by an Italianate tower with a spike and slit windows, with Romanesque arches below and Art Nouveau designs in the spandrels. Wittily the plaques featured Caxton the printer and Defoe the writer. However Skipper's main works were undoubtedly Surrey Street House and the Royal Arcade , together with the remodelling of Sennowe Hall, near Guist, for Thomas Albert Cook, the grandson of Thomas Cook founder of the travel agents.

Other ages have perhaps been more ruthless in destroying, rather than conserving, than our own. Certainly Skipper did not let a Georgian terrace and part of the Earl of Surrey's palace inhibit his development for the Norwich Union. This imposing Palladian Baroque design was designed to impress the firm's wealthy clients as well as suit their convenience, with its curving carriageway set back from Surrey Street so they could go straight to the Marble Hall. At the same time the design was innovative with its offices round the hall as a buffer from noise and its open plan, early form of air conditioning and electric lighting. There was a good story about Skipper's enterprise and nerve, when, with only

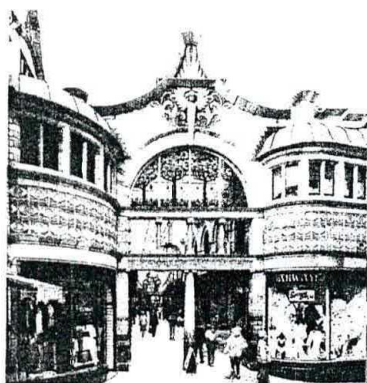
£3,000 left in his budget and the sorry thought of plastering inside, he obtained marble destined for Westminster Cathedral (where money had in fact run out, and which could not be consecrated if there was debt) for a mere £6,000 and then had to square that with the Norwich Union board.

Shopping arcades seem to have been as popular in the late eighteen hundreds as their very different successors today. David Summers really opened our eyes to the details of the Royal Arcade of 1899, which a contemporary journalist describes as "a fragment from the *Arabian Nights* ...". In his use of natural forms Skipper was part of an international movement to which Gaudi in Barcelona, Hector Guimard in Paris and Charles Rennie Macintosh in Glasgow all belonged. We looked at how Skipper had coped with the bend in the main axis that the site entailed, the lantern at the crossing where the 'transept' from White Lion Street enters, the space and the height. Then there was the diverse treatment of the Castle Meadow and Gentleman's Walk ends, the one with its coloured glass tree and Art Nouveau lettering, the other with its restrained facade with its three arches and almost Art Deco decoration on the columns. We saw the flora and the peacocks above the shops, the curved glass at the sides of their fronts and the subtle change in colour as you move up the pilasters. The exquisite drawings, delicately coloured, in the portfolio done by David's brother as a young student were a vivid reminder of the fine Royal Doulton tiles by W.J.Neatby and we were privileged to see them.

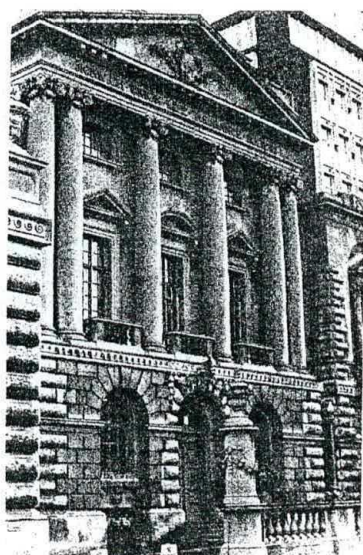
Totally different again was the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Golf Club at Lowestoft. This was a building simpler in its surfaces and of a pleasing clarity, whose design was influenced by Charles Voysey. Again the site was difficult, because of its triangular nature, but important as it separated the harbour and commercial interests from the beach. Again the skyline was dramatic with a lighthouse feature and a dome, and, as often, the windows were of particular interest; this time they formed a long round bay.

Greece and Rome, Egypt and Flanders, the Gothic world and the contemporary, we had visited them all in one evening, thanks to George Skipper, most exuberant of architects. We are grateful to David Summers for such a stimulating lecture. We look forward to an accompanied evening walk with Mr Summers next June or July, ending with sandwiches in the splendid hall of the Norwich Union.

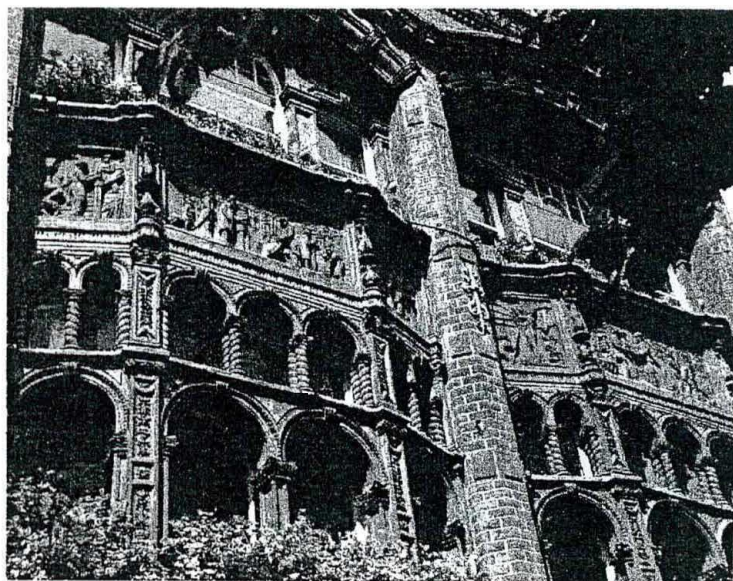
Tom Mollard gave an elegant vote of thanks.



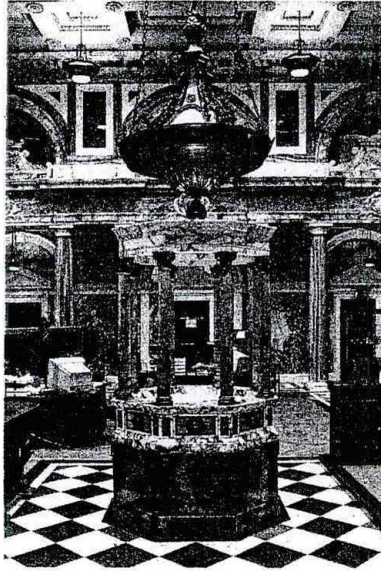
Royal Arcade



Surrey House



Jarrolds



Inside Surrey House

ooOoo

THE GOSPEL HALL, CAWSTON ROAD Peter Holman

As a result of the talk on October 28th about George Skipper the Norfolk architect with examples of his work in Norwich and Cromer and other places, it was suggested that there might be some of his work locally in Aylsham. The chapel in Cawston Road (next to the Fish and Chip shop) was suggested and it seems almost certain that this small building is by him or one of his firm. The frontage certainly shows his style with a mix of features crowned by a large date stone under a brick canopy with the date of AD 1891 - the A & D being divided by the figures. There is some slight scroll decoration round the frame. The building was erected by the Plymouth Brethren as a Gospel Hall. George Skipper was a member of the Plymouth Brethren.

It is said that it was unwise to travel with him in the same compartment in a train as he would try to make you join his Brethren.

It seems very likely that his being an active member of the Plymouth Brethren was the link with the design and building of this small chapel with its unusual facade. By George Skipper's standards this was a small job, and it well may be that he handed the job on to one of his many assistants as he ran a very large draughting office in Norwich.

I have so far been unable to find out much more about the Brethren at that time. How was the site acquired, and who did the building work? (This was not an easy job with straight forward brickwork!)

The Plymouth Brethren are a non-conformist sect founded in Ireland in the 1820s and established in Plymouth in 1840. They have no formal creed or ministers and each local chapel is autonomous. Sapwell in his *History of Aylsham* published in 1960 records the Gospel Hall in Cawston Road. Perhaps other members can help to bring the history up to date?

ooOoo

Gravel dispute between Aylsham R.D.C. and the Blicking Hall Estate Office

The following series of seven letters were sent to H G Wright Esq. At the Estate Office by Henry J Gidney, clerk to Aylsham R.D.C. The correspondence commenced 24th June 1897 and finished 13th June 1898, and concerns the price of gravel and silt taken from Ingworth Pit.

Roger Crouch

24th June 1897

Dear Sir,

As directed by the Highways Committee I send you Cheque £64:17:0 For 1297 loads of gravel taken from the Ingworth Pit, in discharge of all claims for damages and compensation due to the Landlady and tenant. Kindly let me have a receipt for the same.

Yours truly
Henry J.Gidney'

'14th October 1897

Dear Sir,

Referring to the Licence granted for obtaining gravel from the Ingworth Pit, I am directed by the Highways Committee to enquire if you will be good to allow gravel to be taken from this Pit for the parishes of Colby and Banningham. These two parishes are each named in the Licence, but the Committee are informed by their surveyor that Ingworth is the nearest pit, the next nearest being at Alby. There is no gravel in Colby or Banningham.

Yours truly
Henry J. Gidney'

'12th November 1897

Dear Sir

Ingworth Gravel

I am directed by the Highways Committee to state in reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo that the quantity of material taken from the Ingworth Pit up to the present time is as follows viz. 2223 Loads of Gravel and 28 loads of Silt, Total 2251 Loads. If you are really not prepared to accept 1/- per load for this, the Committee will be glad to have the price adjudicated by the Justices as soon as possible.

As however gravel is required at once for the parishes of Banningham & Colby, I have received instruction to apply for a Licence for this purpose, but I Should have been glad if you could have given a consent to this, without prejudice to price, or as to whether the existing licence is spent.

Yours truly
Henry J. Gidney'

'9th December 1897

Dear Sir,

Ingworth Pit

I am directed by the Highways Committee to state in reply to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, that the claims made in that letter cannot be entertained. The Committee are prepared to pay the same price per load as they pay in every other part of their District and which they believe is the same price as is paid throughout the County, viz. 1/- per load. If you cannot accept this it must be left to the Magistrate to fix the price. The 2251 loads includes the loads raised but not carted.

Yours truly
Henry J. Gidney'

'22nd April 1898

Dear Sir,

Ingworth Pit

Referring to our conversation, I find our Surveyors Estimates that he will require this season about 310 loads of gravel for the parishes of Erpingham & Ingworth, in addition he might also require a few loads of silt for the Aylsham footpaths.

Will you allow the Surveyor to take the above from the pit without a Licence,
Upon payment of 1/1 per load.

I shall be glad of an early reply.

Yours truly
Henry J. Gidney'

'11th May 1898

Dear Sir,

Ingworth Pit

I am directed to state in reply to your letter of the 25th ulto that the District Council are unable to agree to the terms mentioned in your letter, and have instructed me to apply for licences for the parishes of Ingworth and Erpingham.

Yours truly
Henry J. Gidney'

'13th June 1898

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the District Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant and in reply to state that the Council very much regret that you should consider the application for a Licence for the Ingworth Gravel as an act of hostility towards Lady Lothian. The Council are not actuated by any such feeling but on the contrary are very desirous of considering her Ladyships wishes in every respect, so far as they can do so, consistently with their duties to the ratepayers whom they represent.

The Council are quite willing to pay a fair market price for the gravel, which must be taken to be the price recently fixed by the Magistrates. In my letter of the 22nd April last I asked for permission to obtain gravel at this price, but in your reply of the 25th April you refused this and offered us the gravel at 4/= per load cast, which we were alternative but to apply again for Licences, If you will let us have the gravel at the price fixed by the Justices, the Council will be pleased to withdraw the application for the Licences.

As regards the Millgate Drainage, which is entirely a separate matter, the Sanitary Committee thought that when they met you on the spot, at your request, this little difficulty had been amicably arranged, subject to a suitable agreement being entered into, the heads of which were then settled, and it was in accordance with this arrangement I handed you the plan showing what was proposed to be done, for your approval.

The Council can only very much regret the turn that events have taken and express the hope that matters may yet be satisfactorily arranged.

Yours truly
Henry J. Gidney'

Here the correspondence I have ends, so how the dispute was resolved or not we can only guess and I do not expect that the subject of gravel and silt will excite anybody to delve into the outcome. I presume the gravel was required for the upkeep of the highways and paths, and it is ironic to think that in earlier times it would have been the responsibility of the estate owners to maintain the highways, which is why the highways fell into such a bad state of repair in the 18th century and were finally taken into local authority control.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Below is a selection of diary dates listed in the September 2004 - March 2005 Diary published by the Federation of Norfolk Historical and Archaeological Organisations. It is only a selection and includes those which might appeal to our members and which are close enough to Aylsham to be easy to get to.

2005

January

Wed 5th Wells; its literary connections Bernard Phillips **WLHG**

Wed 19 The history of the postcard Ken Holliday **CHS**

Sat 22 The development of Thorpe St Andrew
Trevor Nuthall **NAHRG**

February

Wed 2 More old views of Wells Eric Reading **WLHG**

Sat 12 Could Charles I have won the English
Civil War John Adamson **HA**

Tue 22 Exploring North Norfolk prehistory T Ashwin **BAHS**

March

Sat 5 Late medieval New Testament illustration -
Norwich Cathedral Bosses A Eijenholt-Nichols **NNAS**

Sat 19 The National Mapping Programme on the
Norfolk Coast Sarah Massay **NAHRG**

KEY

BAHS Blakeney Area Historical Soc, Methodist Chapel, High St, Blakeney. 7.30 pm

CHS Cringleford Historical Society; in Playing Field Pavilion, Oakfields Rd, Cringleford, at 7.30 pm

HA Historical Association United Reform Church, Princes St. Norwich 2.30 pm

NAHRG Norfolk Archaeological & Historical Research Group; CEAS, UEA, at 2.30 pm

NNAS Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Soc; Town Close Auditorium, Castle Museum Norwich

WLHG Wells Local History Group. The Maltings, Community Centre, Staithe St Wells 7.30 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held 7th Oct 2004

The Chairman, Peter Holman, welcomed members to a well-attended meeting. The Secretary, Betty Gee, said it had been a busy and successful year, although the number of members had decreased to 98. She reminded the Meeting of the visits, speakers and topics of the past year (already reported in the Journal). The February lecture had had to be cancelled due to a heavy fall of snow which prevented the speaker from reaching Aylsham.

The Tuesday afternoon Course by Mike Hardy on *The Roman Landscape of East Anglia* and, secondly, *The Dark Ages* had been much enjoyed by participants, as were the two expeditions arranged by Peter Holman. Our Winter Party in January, again held at the Aylsham Lodge Hotel, had once more had excellent food and intriguing quizzes but also a recital by Clive Ashwin and The Musical Friends of music of different eras, which was much appreciated.

The Secretary reported that the Twentieth Anniversary of the Society had been celebrated on three consecutive summer Saturdays; firstly a mobile display of boards about the Society's 20 years organized by Peter Holman; secondly a most enjoyable June Garden Party by invitation of Diana and Roger Polhill and, thirdly, a very well attended Celebration Event in the Town Hall on 3rd July. This had been notable for two Slide Presentations by Derek Lyons of "*A Changing Scene - Aylsham 1850s to 1950s*". The Secretary recorded the Committee's appreciation of the help received from members with Event refreshments and stewarding.

The Aylsham Old People's Welfare Association, from whom the Friendship Hall was let, was having it decorated and had obtained a lottery grant for windows.

Betty Gee then thanked all the Officers and Committee Members for their help and co-operation. She particularly mentioned the

Membership Secretary, Gillian Fletcher, the Minuting Secretary Diana Polhill and Tom Mollard. The new Programme Card had not yet been printed due to Committee changes and would be handed out at the next Lecture or posted with a receipt. The Secretary wished to thank those unseen Members who delivered circulars and helped with refreshments or, like John Harris, made sure the chairs were in position and the Hall warm. Ursula Warren had been in charge of refreshments for some years; she was thanked for this and for her lively contributions to Committee meetings. Finally Rosemarie Powell, who had made the Anniversary Cake, had kindly brought the part remaining for it to be shared amongst Members.

The Treasurer, Peter Pink, reported that the circulated Account had not yet been audited. There had been an excess of Expenditure over Income in the Publication Account due to the publication of the excellent new book *Aylsham Directories 1793 - 1937*, which would be a very good research tool. Our subscription income was less, due to the decrease in the number of members. He considered that the net cost of the Anniversary (£368) was worthwhile because it had brought the Society into contact with many more Aylsham people than before. We now had more funds in the Treasurer's Account and Business Account than a year ago. The audited Account is printed on the back page of this Journal.

The editor, Betty Gee, reported that there had been three Journals since the last AGM - in December 03, April 04 and August 04. She knew of two pieces of research being done and hoped to print them later. She thanked all contributors.

Geoff Gale, reporting on behalf of the Publications Subcommittee, said that the new book *Aylsham Directories 1793 - 1937* published in July, had been favourably received and would be taken to the Family History Fair in St Andrews's Hall, Norwich by himself and Tom Mollard. Seventy-five copies had so far been sold, without the book having been fully

advertised. The Publication Account is printed on page 167 of this edition.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE The following Officers, having been proposed and seconded, were elected:.

CHAIRMAN Geoffrey Gale VICE-CHAIRMAN Peter Holman
TREASURER Peter Pink SECRETARY Angela King

Mrs King was asked to stand so that members might recognize her. It was noted that the Committee had co-opted Gillian Fletcher as Membership Secretary and Diana Polhill as Minuting Secretary. The two retiring Committee Members, John Harris and Jean McChesney, were re-elected. Ursula Warren also retired as she was moving from Aylsham and Ann Dyball was elected in her place.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS Peter Holman thanked members for the support they had given him as Chairman over the past years. He had decided to resign from this position by reasons of *anno domini* and his increasing problems with eyesight. He would remain on Committee. Peter recorded his thanks to Betty Gee, retiring Secretary, for her work on Committee. She had been an asset to the Society.

There being no other business, the Chairman said that after refreshments Mr Geoff Gale would give a talk with the intriguing title *Mrs Girling & the Children of God*. **BG**

Editor's Note: The date for the WINTER PARTY on the Programme Card recently issued has been altered; it will be on THURSDAY 20th January 2005 at the Black Boys Hotel, Market Place, Aylsham. Please return the form enclosed **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

CONTRIBUTIONS needed for the next Edition, please
BETTY GEE

LIST OF MEMBERS - NOVEMBER 2004

Subscriptions fall due each October, and below is the list of current paid-up members. After this issue of the *Journal*, the circulation list for future issues will be based on this list, so, if your name does not appear there, you could miss out on future issues of the *Journal*! However, you can still receive them by paying a subscription to the Treasurer, Mr Peter Pink, 38 Lancaster Gardens, Aylsham NR 11 6 LD (Individuals £8; Married Couples £13). **With apologies to any members who might have renewed their subscriptions within the last few days and still missed inclusion in the list.**

Andrews, Mr K	Fox, Mr M	Nobbs, Mr G
Baker, Mr D W	Fry, Mr/Mrs	Peabody, Mr R
Barber, Mrs P	Gale, Mr/Mrs G	Pink, Mr P
Barwick, Mrs G	Garratt, Mr/Mrs A	Polhill, Dr/Mrs
Bayes, Mrs R	Gawith, Mr/Mrs C	Powell, Mr/Mrs I
Belton, Miss V	Gee, Mrs B	Preis, Mrs W
Bird, Mrs M	Haddow, Ms E	Radford, Miss N
Bowden, Mr/Mrs	Harris, Mr J	Rowe, Mrs M
Brasnett, Mr/Mrs D	Hawkins, Mr/Mrs A	Rust, Mr B
Bratt, Miss R	Holman, Mr/Mrs P	Sewell, Mr M
Brown, Mrs A	Johnston, Mr G	Shepherd, Mrs A
Case, Dr D E	King, Mr/Mrs M	Sheringham, Mrs
Coote, Mr A	Lefever, Mrs A	Smith, Mrs E
Cort, Ms J	Leggett, Mrs A	Smith, Mr/Mrs R
Cowern, Mr R	Lloyd, Mrs T	Snape, Mr/Mrs J
Cox, Mrs F	Lowe, Mr B	Stevens, Miss S
Crouch, Mr R	Lyons, Mr D	Steward, Mrs L
Davy, Mrs R	McChesney, Mrs J	Taylor, Mr H J F
Douet, Mr A	Merriman, Ms S	Ulph, Mr C
Downing, Mr/Mrs E	Miller, Miss C	Wadley, D A
Ducker, Mr G	Minns, Mrs E	Walpole, Lady
Duncan, Mrs B	Mitchell, Mrs M A	Wickens, Dr/Mrs
Dyball, Miss A J	Mollard, Mr /Mrs	Williams, Mr/rs
Eve, Dr /Mrs J	Newell, Mrs J	Wintle, Mrs S
Fletcher, Mrs G	Nichols, Mrs D	Wright, Mr J

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ON PUBLICATIONS

from AGM in October 2003 to AGM 2004

Income		Expenditure	
Balance – B/F	£2197.96	Printing “Aylsham Directories”	£3100.00
<u>Sales</u>		Purchase “Aylsham in 17 th Century”	
<i>Inns & Pubs of Aylsham</i>	178.80	from Poppyland Publishers	29.25
<i>Starling</i>	72.00	Stationery	27.98
<i>Wright's map</i>	34.00	Advertising & publicity material	80.00
<i>Aylsham in 1821</i>	6.00	Postages	27.85
<i>Norwich to Cromer Turnpike</i>	9.00		
<i>Aylsham in 17th Century</i>	7.00		
<i>Poor in Aylsham</i>	3.00		
<i>Six High & Lonely Churches</i>	9.00		
<i>Postcards</i>	1.90		
<i>Aylsham Directories</i>			
<i>1793-1937</i>	468.30		
<i>Misc. sales</i>	34.90		
Postages received with orders	20.68		
Grant towards publication of			
Aylsham directories	1000.00		
 Total	 <u>£4042.54</u>	 Total	 <u>£3265.08</u>
		Balances in hand – Giro a/c	689.31
		Cash	88.15
 Grand Total	 <u>£4042.54</u>	 Grand Total	 <u>£4042.54</u>

Tom Mollard 9.9.2004

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2004

2003	Income	2004	2003	Expenditure	2004
£		£	£		£
575	Publications A/c	1844*	309	Publications A/c	3265
812	Subscriptions	733	30	Subscriptions	30
1120	Course Fees	1405	1024	Courses (inc.rent)	1066
41	Visitors Fees	50	30	Programme Cards	32
6	Donations	1	-	Donations	25
25	Refreshments	22	312	Journal (Printg.etc.)	214
9	Bank Interest	15	120	Rent (F'ship Hall)	106
663	Social Event	686	813	Social Event	787
			40	Rent (Quakers Rms)	40
Visits					
	Hickling	126		Hickling	129
	NRO	150		NRO	130
229	Gressenhall		244	Gressenhall	
306	Thetford		220	Thetford	
238	Sedgeford		230	Sedgeford	
12	U3A Visitors				
			25	Questionnaire	
			60	Screen (purchase)	
			145	Lecturers Fees etc.	115
			54	Officers Expenses	30
	20 th Anniversary Events	154		20 th Anniversary Events	522
<u>£4036</u>		<u>£5186</u>	<u>£3656</u>		<u>£6491</u>
	Balances 1/9/03			Balances 31/8/04	
713	Treasurer's A/c	820	820	Treasurer's A/c	922
948	Business A/c	955	955	Business A/c	969
1932	Publications	2198	2198	Publications	777
<u>£7629</u>		<u>£9159</u>	<u>£7629</u>		<u>£9159</u>

Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year £1305

* Includes £1,000 grant from the Aylsham Partnership.

Peter Pink, Treasurer

Graeme Johnston, Accountant