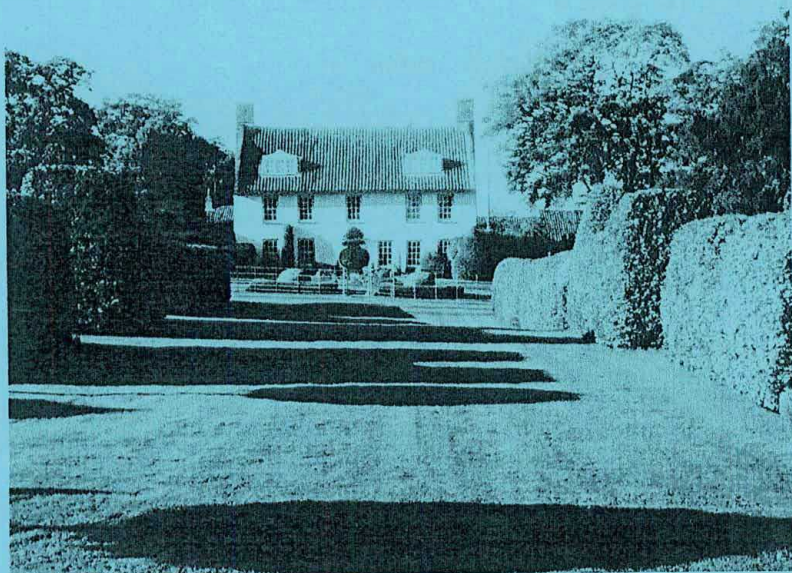


AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 7 No. 9

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AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

**JOURNAL &
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 7

No 9

This edition gives an account of the Society's visit to the *Nelson Museum* in Yarmouth when members heard a most interesting lecture on "Trafalgar", but concentrates on the autumn meetings. Peter Holman's afternoon course on the *Historic Gardens & Parks of Norfolk* has been much enjoyed and the course visit to Hunworth was a delightful afternoon to remember. Below the Chairman gives an appreciation of Tom Mollard's work in the Archives. I fully endorse all he writes – I would not have ventured to become Editor without Tom's advice and support.

Betty Gee

The Chairman writes

The Annual General Meeting of the Society this year was marked by one of the last talks Tom Mollard will give as the Town Archivist. At the end of October he resigned from that key position in the town's history and he will be sorely missed. It's hard to believe that Tom has only been the town's Archivist for five years since he has been a such familiar figure in the Archives since 1988 when, shortly after retiring from the Library Service, he joined to assist Ron Peabody, the previous Archivist.

Tom has also been associated with the History Society since its inception in 1984 and a year later became the editor of a paper which soon grew into the Society's Journal. He continued to edit the Journal until three years ago when he handed the editorship over to Betty Gee. During the Mollard years there were often little anecdotes he had found in the archives or in the Cathedral Library, where he was the librarian and these amusing trifles would find their way into the Journal. The Aylsham parts of the Kelly's Directories and other directories would also appear in the Journal and it was these excerpts which were the seeds of the "*Aylsham Directories 1793 – 1937*" published by the Society in 2004.

After the exhibition to mark the Society's tenth anniversary in 1994, we published "*A Backwards Glance*", a record of the work in the exhibition. Although the society had published a number of books prior to this, it was after that we began to publish more substantial books of members' research. A small Committee was formed to help with these new publications and Tom's involvement with the work of the Committee has been invaluable.

It's appropriate that I should wish Tom a happy third or fourth retirement to enjoy a quieter life and thank him for all his help on the Publications Committee, but if he has any thoughts of resignation from that Committee I hope it is a very long way away.

Geoff Gale



THE BUILDING OF THE PARISH CHURCH

Daphne Davy

My talk of 19th May 2005, was entitled '*The building of Aylsham Parish Church*'. The intention was to show how, over the centuries, the edifice changed as alterations were made, directed by the patrons, clergy and laity of Aylsham.

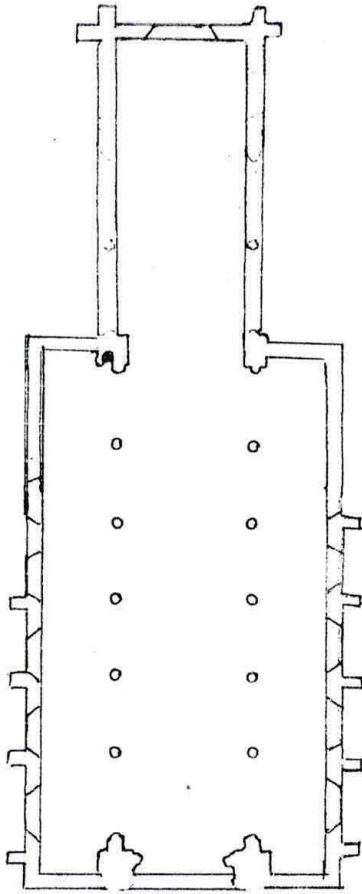
Unfortunately, my equipment was faulty (yes I know 'a poor workman blames his tools'), and displaying A4 copies of the transparencies is not the best way of explaining a development, which has taken place over centuries, to any audience. I welcome, therefore, an opportunity to convey the meat of my talk in this distinguished journal.

First I offered a number of caveats. The first was that I would not be referring to John Of Gaunt . His dates are 1340 to 1399, and he became Lord of the Manor of Aylsham in 1370. There is no available evidence that he ever visited Aylsham. As you will see, these dates do not tie in with the building of the church. The second caveat was that with limited time, the dating evidence would not be gone into. The third and final caveat was that, again due to limited time, the talk would be almost entirely about the plan of the church, and that very little would be said about its elevations.

It is worth noting that for the purposes of this piece, I have taken Early English to mean circa 1190 to 1290, Decorated as 1290 to 1350, and Perpendicular as 1335 to 1530. Obviously they are all encompassed by the term 'Gothic'.

The history of our church begins without any known evidence, and can only be surmised. There is a reference in Domesday to an incumbent, with a Saxon name – Brithric. It is reasonable to surmise that he was in position before the Norman conquest, and that there was a church in which he served. There remains no visible evidence of this church, but it is possible that it would be a simple rectangle, the width and length of the nave without nave aisles, chancel, transepts and tower. It might, possibly, have a semi-circular apse, where the present chancel is.

Figure 1



The tower, west end and porch can be dated to about 1300 CE. The south transept is datable to 1320 CE, and the north transept to 1380 CE. By 1400 CE, therefore the plan would be as in figure 2, and the main outline could possibly look very much as it does now.

Around 1270 CE, the first datable evidence suggests a plan of the church as in fig 1. The construction of the nave pillars can be dated to this, and these would have been put in when the nave aisles were erected. As well as the nave aisles, the chancel and sanctuary can also be dated to a similar period. If there had been an apse, any evidence for this would have been covered.

Figure 2

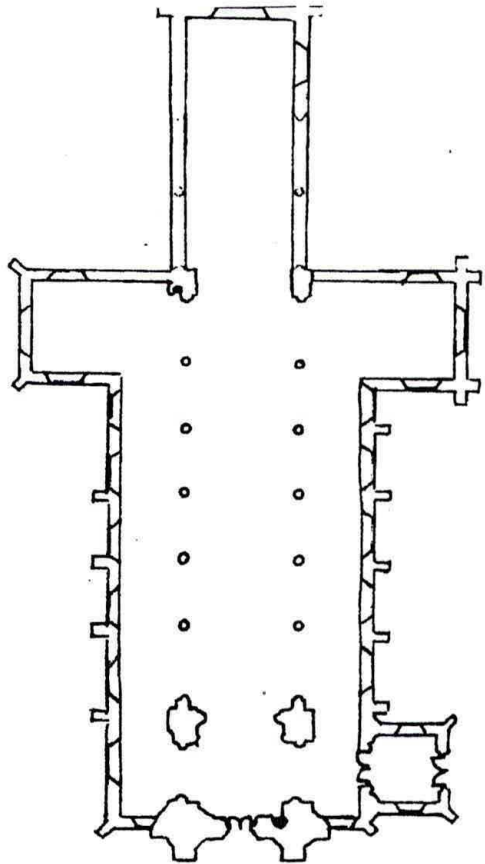
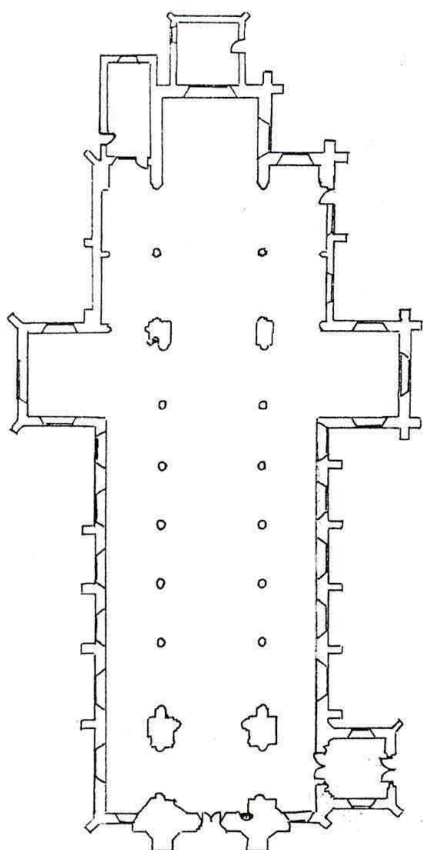


Figure 3



In 1488 CE we have evidence of the building of the upper floor of the porch (by Richard Howard), and the chancel aisles are circa 1500 CE. Only minor additions of a clergy vestry, chancel house and spire have occurred since then. The current plan is as figure 3.

Dr Sapwell describes our church as “a well proportioned . . . cruciform building . . . very complete and unaltered”. His footnotes suggest only minor modifications to an original plan. Looking at the current plan, it is obvious that ‘cruciform’ is somewhat of an over statement. ‘Unaltered’ is also inaccurate, as can plainly be seen from the lack of symmetry, the varying quality of the flint work, the different types of buttressing used, and the differing windows, some decorated, some perpendicular.

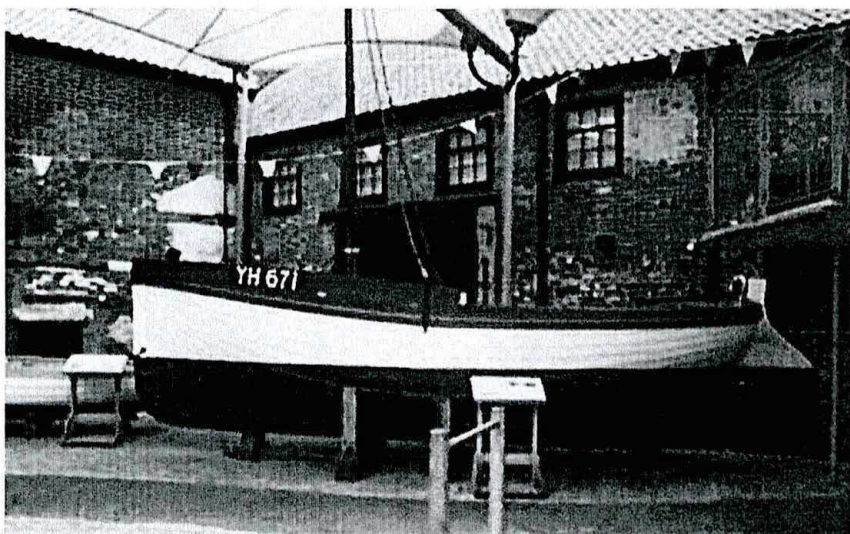
Finally, what has our generation put into the church? Our new work at the west end is not cast in stone, but can be removed if and when necessary. A visitor offered the suggestion that it ‘looks as if it has always been there’. I cannot think of a greater compliment.

SOCIETY REPORTS

MEMBERS' VISIT TO YARMOUTH

Angela King

On the 19th July 2005 nineteen members of the Society travelled to Yarmouth by coach. The first stop was at the 'Time and Tide' Museum which proved to be surprisingly large and with many innovative exhibits. It was originally a Victorian herring curing works. On leaving the reception area one enters a reconstruction of a Yarmouth 'Row' and, with the aid of an audio guide, are able to listen to the stories of each of the residents. The remainder of the ground floor is devoted to the history of herring fishing and curing in the town. The story is told with the aid of reconstructions and film shows in addition to exhibits and information boards. Even the smells are evocative.



Coastal Drifter in Courtyard

The first floor of the museum tells the story of Yarmouth from its first settlement to the present day. Sadly time ran out and many members felt that a second visit would be necessary to do justice to the wealth of information displayed.

Having rejoined the coach we then moved to the Nelson Museum on South Quay. Although some members had visited on a previous occasion, a new exhibition of portraits of Nelson and those close to him proved extremely interesting. One can only assume that not all the portraits of Nelson were painted from life as some could have been a different man entirely.

The party then removed to the Star Hotel for supper before returning to the Nelson Museum for the lecture. This was held in a room on the second floor of the building. Ticket requests had far outnumbered the seats available so the Society was lucky to have secured approximately one third of the tickets.

‘Trafalgar’

Dr Colin White, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Dr White explained that a huge amount of new material is becoming available and the way that people look at Nelson and Trafalgar is changing.

1805

Napoleon turned his attention on Britain in order to complete his domination of Europe. He assembled invasion barges at the Channel ports but needed the support of the French Navy which was scattered in the harbours at Toulon, Brest, Rochefort, Corunna and Cadiz. He ordered the ships to leave for the West Indies where he hoped to concentrate the fleets into one body before bringing them back to support the invasion. However, his lack of knowledge about winds and tides meant that the plan fell apart as ships were unable to carry out his orders due to adverse weather conditions.

Nelson was blockading Toulon when the French fleet sailed for the West Indies. He followed them across the Atlantic, realised their intention and sent a fast ship back to London to warn the Admiralty. Barham was able to mobilise the British Channel fleet under Calder and, on the 27th July 2005, they attacked the combined French and Spanish fleets under the command of Villeneuve off Finistere driving them south to Ferol and later Cadiz with the loss of only two enemy ships. (Calder was later court-martialled for failing to push home the attack more effectively). At this time Napoleon also heard that the Austrians were mobilising so he tore up his plans to invade Britain and marched his armies south.

By September 2005, Nelson, having spent two years continuously at sea, was at home in Merton with his mistress, Emma Hamilton and their daughter, Horatia. He was posted to take charge of a new fleet formed by recommissioning ships and combining them with ships from the Mediterranean. Two days before leaving Nelson and Emma exchanged rings in Merton Church.

Nelson was by now a popular hero and thick crowds around the jetty at Portsmouth forced him to leave from the beach in order to join his flagship. As the fleet had been assembled in such a rush, Nelson found himself in command of an inexperienced team of captains, ten only having served previously with Nelson, and of these only six having experience of battles at sea.

Nelson had an energetic style of leadership and used social occasions to bind his captains together into a team. The night after the fleet arrived off Cadiz he held a famous dinner in which he discussed his plan for the forthcoming battle, an unusual action for the times. His plan was to divide his fleet into three divisions, the first to hold the enemy line and the other two to break through and split the line. Although this tactic had been used before in naval battles, Nelson's style of leadership was new – he told his captains he trusted them to carry through the plan. A drawing which has recently come to light shows that Nelson had planned the strategy eight weeks earlier.

In mid October, Napoleon ordered Villeneuve to leave Cadiz and move into the Mediterranean in order to attack Naples in support of the Austrian campaign.

On the 21st October the British sighted the French Fleet off Cape Trafalgar at first light, however, light winds meant that the fleets closed slowly and the first shot was not fired until noon.

Before the battle Nelson wrote a codicil to his will asking that the nation should look after Emma and Horatia. Nelson then went to every gun crew and spoke to them about the coming battle before going up to the poop deck to use a new invention, the letter signal flags to send a message to the fleet. Nelson requested 'England confides that every man will do his duty' but his signal officer changed it to 'England expects' to make it easier to send.

Nelson did not have enough ships in his command to form three divisions but used only two. Collingwood led the enveloping manoeuvre to seal the rear and prevent the enemy turning back to Cadiz. Nelson made a feint by sailing directly towards the enemy van but, having reached the line, he turned and sailed parallel with the enemy line looking for a gap. The 'Victory' crashed its way through the middle of the line and allowing the British fleet through.

Many of the British ships sustained very heavy damage. There were huge acts of gallantry on both sides. Slowly Nelson's plan began to work and by the time the enemy van was able to return to the battle in the light winds much of the rest of the fleet, some 18 French and Spanish ships, had been destroyed with 4 being caught later.

Nelson was hit early in the engagement by a sniper's bullet which severed his spine, although he lived for 3 hours in agony until he heard that the battle had been won.

Before the news of Trafalgar could be sent home, a storm hit the battle area and sailors from both sides worked together to save the remaining ships. Wounded sailors from both sides were taken into Cadiz where they were given medical help thus fulfilling the wish in Nelson's prayer before Trafalgar, 'may humanity after Victory be the predominant feature in the British Fleet'.

On the 4th November the first ship reached Falmouth with news of the victory which was then rushed to London by fast carriage. Nelson's body came home preserved in a barrel of brandy before being laid in state at Greenwich. His body was taken by funeral barge up to London before being laid to rest under the dome in St Paul's Cathedral.

Dr Colin White was an excellent speaker and I would like to thank Ann Dyball for arranging tickets for this event, in addition to arranging the rest of the activities making this a very worthwhile visit to Yarmouth. Members who would like to access further information about this subject should visit www.seabritain.co.uk.

COURSE on HISTORIC GARDENS and PARKS of NORFOLK
held at the Meeting House, Pegg's Yard, Aylsham commencing Tuesday
afternoon, 20th September 2005

This course, organised by Peter Holman, was unusual in that there were several speakers, rather than a single lecturer. Merlin Waterson spoke on Sheringham Park, Paul Underwood gave a talk on Blickling and there were talks about two less well-known gardens – Hunworth by Charlotte Crawley, and Corpusty Mill by Roger Last. The topic for the last session was Follies by Ann Gore. As well as speaking on Mannington Gardens and Wolterton Park, Lady Walpole started the Course by giving an interesting account of the history of English parks and gardens in the past centuries.

HISTORY OF PARKS & GARDENS by Lady Walpole

Monastic houses and mediaeval gardens had a formal structure but planting was informal. There were herbs and vegetables grown but also roses. It was recorded that monks in Glastonbury had a list of vegetables grown there, including cauliflower, beans, carrots, quince and medlers. There were often gardens outside castles, where they were trying to create privacy which they could not get inside the walls. Henry II had an arbour built in order to meet his mistress. Chaucer described the planting of roses. The earliest gardening book was by John Gardiner in 1440; the meanings of names of roses were described.

A period of peace came with the Tudors, when structure became important. In Stuart times the difference between parks and gardens became marked. Deer parks were for hunting; there was interest in new shapes and planting in gardens. The first botanic and civic gardens were created. There was a concentration on elaborate patterns. In the 17th century more fruits, plants and trees were brought from abroad. In the middle of this century there was "tulip mania"; not only tulips from Holland but vases and ornaments became part of the gardens of great houses.

The 18th century was a period of changing landscape design. For example, the famous gardens of Stowe (east of Banbury) were begun from 1713 in a formal style with straight avenues. William Kent later introduced classical elements, with a number of temples and from 1741 Lancelot (Capability) Brown, head gardener, added dark clumps of trees and bright

patches of water for a softer landscape. Humphry Repton (1752 - 1818) started his landscape designing career in 1788. He strove for harmony between house and landscape, surrounding houses with terraces, flowerbeds and kitchen gardens; he produced a little red book to show a client the effects of his innovations.

Jane and John Loudon did much in the early Victorian era to promote interest in gardening. The difference in cottage gardens and town gardens became more marked. Botanists went to distant parts to collect particular species; the aspidistra was introduced in 1850. Gertrude Jekyll (1843 - 1932) became the most distinguished garden designer of her generation. She (a painter until her fifties) used flowers like water colours and had a successful partnership with Lutyens, a leading British architect.

After the 1914-18 War there were fewer gardeners in large parks and gardens. Rockeries became popular. In the thirties a huge variety of vegetables and seeds became available. After the 1939-45 War large Garden Festivals became popular; containers and pots and later decking were introduced. Gardens became an extension of living space. **Betty Gee**

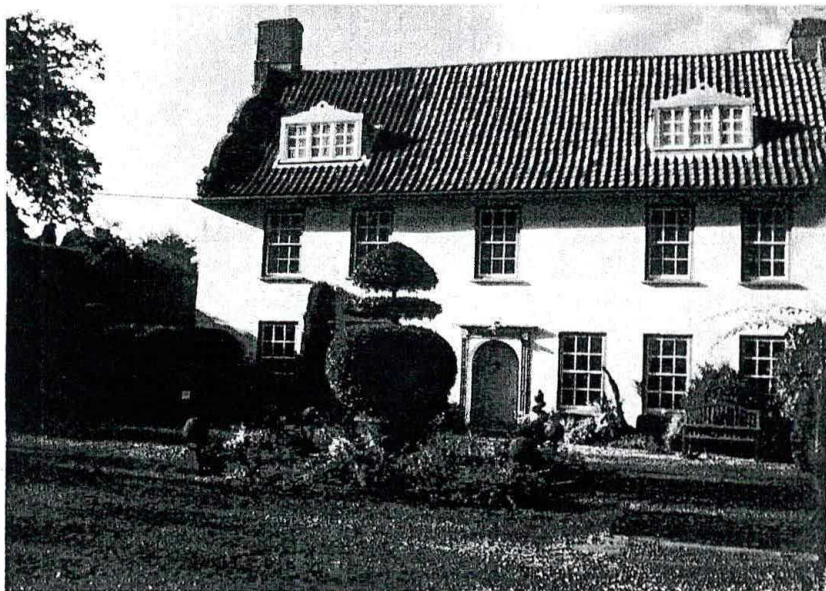
DUTCH FORMAL GARDENS - a talk by Charlotte Crawley on 18th October 2005 followed by a later Visit to Hunworth Hall Garden

Charlotte reminded us that in 1689 William of Orange and his wife, the elder daughter of James II, became King (William III) and Queen (Mary II). They were cousins and devoted to gardens; inspired by their interest a number of Dutch gardens were created in England. Formal Dutch gardens were rectangular, often had parterres, statues and topiary; hedges and trees were used to define boundaries. The Dutch landscape was similar to that of Norfolk. It was said by Defoe that King William did much to influence the gardens at Hampton Court, although he only reigned until 1702. Dutch influence was already quite strong in East Anglia through the Dutch Protestant refugees.

Charlotte mentioned various places in England which once had Dutch gardens, such as Raynham Hall, Riston Hall near Beccles, Melton Constable Park (now a sad wreck) and even Old Hall, Aylsham, which belongs to the Blickling estate. One garden which can still be seen is at Westbury Court, Gloucs. The house was now an old people's home, but the garden still had a thousand holly trees, yews and syringas and also escalier fruit trees.

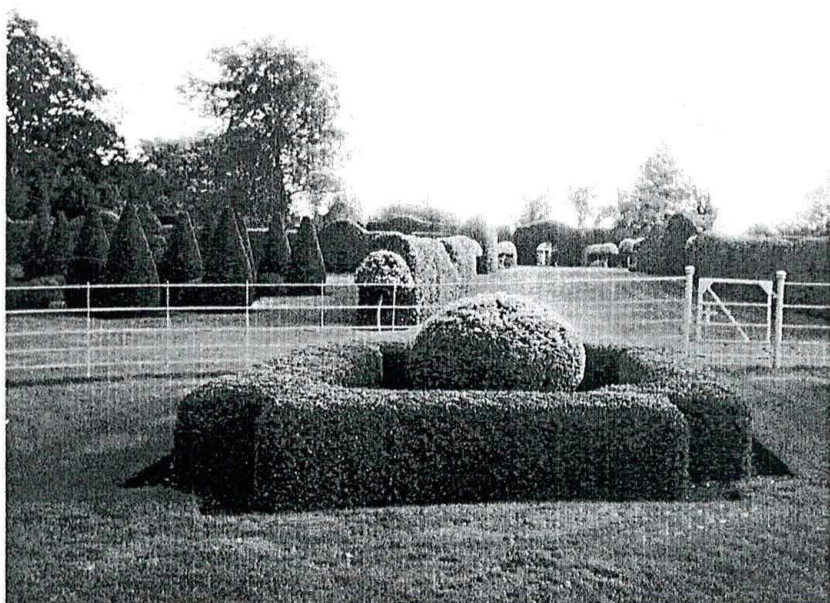
In 1983 Charlotte and her husband had moved to Hunworth Hall, which her parents-in-law had owned since 1965. Her husband then conceived the idea of recreating a Dutch formal garden in front of the 17th century Grade II listed house. They first divided the paddock into three areas, one of which was the vegetable garden already established. The house, which is depicted on the front cover of this edition, had some time previously had another wing on the western side. Several high hedges were retained there and herbaceous borders remained at the front of the house, with a number of topiary shapes beyond them.

She explained that the whole garden of 2½ acres had a gentle slope towards the River Glaven, which was beyond the access road on the east side. In 1993, in order to improve the perspective view, they decided to transform the middle area by building an orangery on the eastern boundary linked by a long canal to a brick folly on the western side. The lines of the canal were emphasised by yew and holly trees. They had also added 2 lines of poplar trees near the western boundary, and, more recently, had put in a grand stairway leading from the house to the western side. Course members enjoyed the talk and slides and were most impressed at the work they must have done in their spare time.

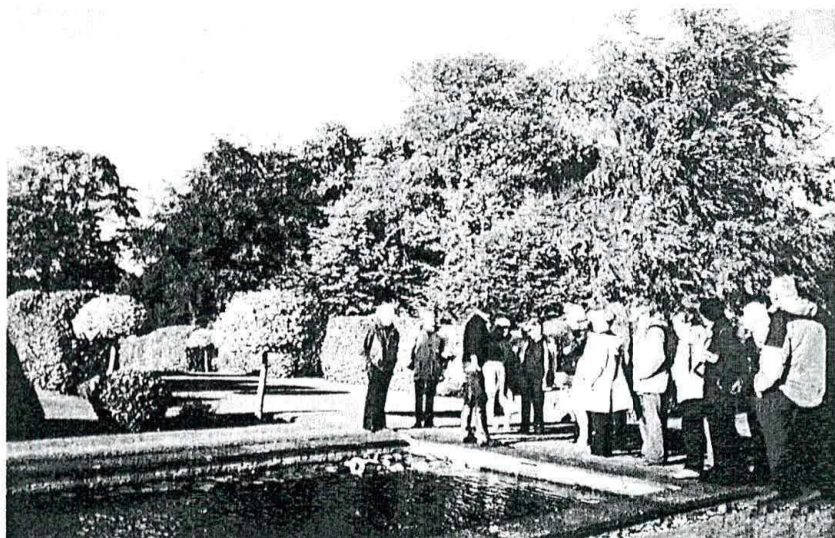


Hunworth Hall

THE VISIT TO HUNWORTH HALL GARDEN 25th October 2005



View from the house



We arrived promptly at 2.30, having first passed through the pleasant village of Hunworth. It was a most beautiful sunny early autumn afternoon, and as we stood with Charlotte in front of the house we admired the lavender and white flowers in the round flower beds as well as the elegant shapes at the centre of them. The avenue of poplars outlined the garden edge on the right.

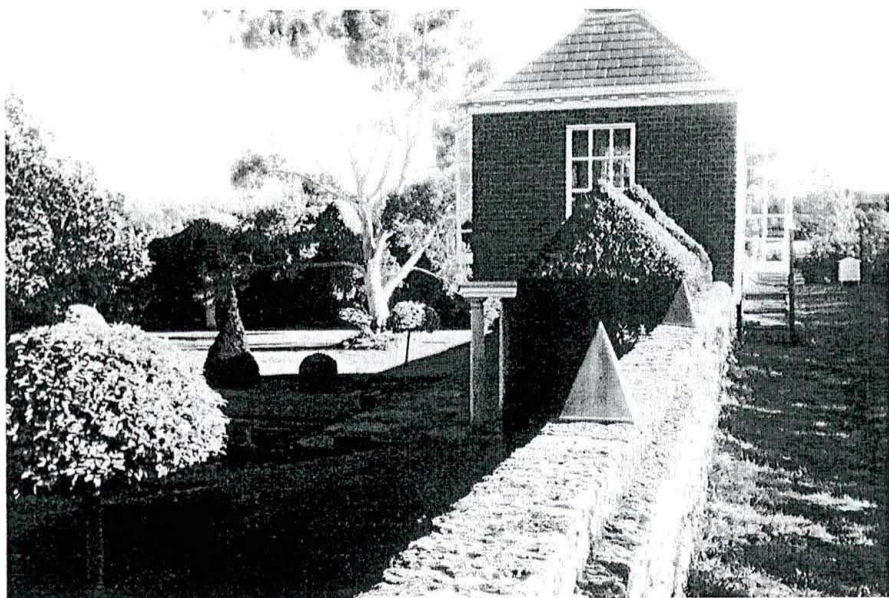
The black and white photos do not do justice to the lovely colours of the whole garden. She told us that there was a wonderful view from the bedroom windows in moonlight and in snowy weather. In spring added colour was given by tulips.



View of the canal from the Folly

Charlotte then led us towards the eastern side where there was a low boundary wall and then through the very tall and thick beech hedge to the orangery. Here we were able to look at the long vista of water to the folly, and see also the unusual trees such as the Tasmanian eucalyptus and monkey puzzle tree on the left side. There were golden holly trees and yew trees alternating at the sides of the canal. The highest hedge was

about 15 ft high, rising to about 18 ft at its highest point, making cutting it a task for two people. There were also statues and openings in the hedges.



The Folly

We walked up by the canal to the folly. This had seats in the open and also an upstairs room. This had comfortable chairs and wonderful views of the garden and neighbouring church. The trees and bushes just beyond the eastern boundary shone in the sunshine. We walked along the avenue of poplar trees towards the house and were shown the area where it was thought an earlier house stood.

We descended the wide steps towards the house and had a final look round the garden before entering the house for teas and cakes served by our hostess. We were also fascinated to see some of the photos and articles written about Hunworth. Peter Holman thanked Charlotte on our behalf for giving us a lovely afternoon's visit to a unique garden. BG

HUMPHRY REPTON'S WORK at SHERINGHAM PARK - a Talk by Merlin Waterson

Jean McChesney

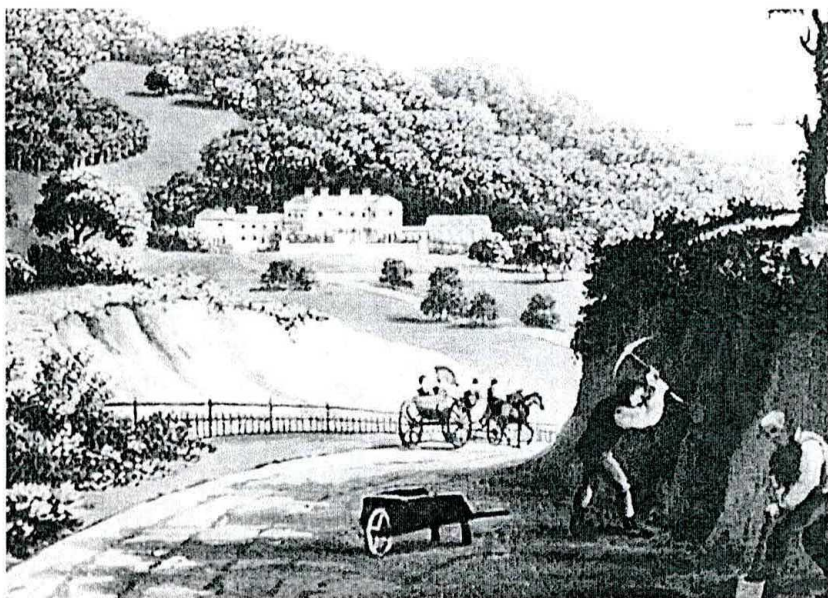
On 1st November, Mr Merlin Waterson, a past Regional Director of the National Trust, gave the Course a fascinating account of Humphry Repton's work at Sheringham Park, accompanied by well-chosen slides. This outstanding landscaped Park, of over 770 acres, is now owned by the National Trust, and, whilst having a natural beauty of undulating countryside, mature mixed woodland and fine views of the seas, owes much of its attraction to the work of the renowned landscape gardener Humphry Repton, who is buried in the churchyard of St Michael's, Aylsham.

Repton was born in Bury St Edmunds in 1752, and attended Norwich Grammar School. In 1778 he married Mary, settled at Sustead Hall and "as a young man of artistic tastes" he became a friend of William Windham of Felbrigg, borrowing books from the substantial library at the Hall, making drawings and engravings, and meeting William's friends, politicians and local society - his future patrons. When in 1783, William Windham was appointed Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland Humphry Repton accompanied him to Dublin as his private secretary, but stayed for only three months, as his employer returned due to ill-health.

He returned to the seclusion of his house at Sustead but did not lose sight of the valuable connections which he had formed with the great. For a few years he continued in Norfolk sketching, gardening and spending much time in looking after Windham's political interests in Norwich and Coke's in the County. Soon, in 1788, he embarked upon a new career, later involving his sons, and before his death in 1818 he had become the foremost landscape gardener in England - the acknowledged successor of "Capability" Brown, who had fortuitously died in 1783. Repton's innovative idea of the *Red Books* caught the imagination of many wealthy patrons and he prepared over four hundred of these, including Holkham, Woburn and Houghton. He was at the height of his career when in 1811 Abbot Upcher bought Sheringham Park estate from Cook Flower, a client of William Repton, a solicitor in Aylsham and son of Humphry.

Cook Flower had created the framework for the present park by planting shelter belts of woodland on the more exposed hill tops. The new owner Abbot Upcher was fully aware of the natural beauty of the place and

called it *Sheringham Bower* - a hoped-for Paradise for his young wife Charlotte. They commissioned Humphry Repton to remodel the landscape and as Flower's old farmhouse was felt to be unsuitable for their growing young family, a new house also was to be designed. Repton set to with enthusiasm, and turned to his architect son John Adey to build the new house in the Italian villa style of John Nash, in whose office John Adey had worked as an assistant.



Sheringham Park

The Upchers wanted to build their new house with sea views on the side of the hill, but were persuaded against this by Repton, who reminded them that it was to be a permanent family residence, not a mere summer villa on the Bay of Naples, and would have to withstand the harsh climate of the North Norfolk coast in winter. He argued for a sheltered site in the lee of the oak wood with a South facing prospect, and his view prevailed; so Repton presented his proposals in the form of one of his famous Red Books bound in red morocco leather, and complete with lavish

illustrations, watercolours, “flaps”, text in a fine copperplate hand, and suitable poetry and prose – a work of Art in itself.

The plans were received with enthusiasm, but work got off to a slow start due to the ill-health of the owner. In July 1813 the foundation stones of the new house were laid. In 1815 the new kitchen garden and the Upper Approach (the main drive through the woods) was established, giving a stunning vista of the new house site nestling beneath a sheltering wooded hill with the sea behind. Work continued slowly in the orchard, parkland and house and in November 1816 the slaters completed the roof.

The family had hoped to move into their new home in the summer of 1817 but Abbot was again struck down by fever and left Sheringham, never to return – he died aged only thirty-five years old in February 1819. Humphry Repton had died the previous year; the Hall remained empty and unfinished for the next twenty years.

Charlotte Upcher and her six children remained in Flower’s old farmhouse. From here, she managed the estate and took an active interest in the village and church activities until her death in 1857. The house was finally completed on a slightly more modest scale by her son Henry Ramey, who moved in on his marriage in 1839. Successive generations of Upchers continued to develop and maintain the estate broadly in accordance with Repton’s Red Book, allowing the public to have regulated access to the beach and park.

Two charming thatched lodges were built – Park Lodge, and Ivy Lodge, a keeper’s house at the entrance to the South Drive (the Upper Approach). The latter was occupied from 1828 – 30 by *Lawrence Banville, game-keeper to the Buxton family and writer of the well-known diaries. This lodge was burned down at the turn of the last century and the present cottage built in 1904 to a similar plan of Repton’s but without the thatch.

The Upchers were a wealthy and philanthropic family, taking an interest in social welfare, the anti-slavery movement, missionary societies, education and the Sheringham lifeboats. Henry Morris Upcher inherited the estate in 1892. He was a keen sportsman and ornithologist and filled the Hall with stuffed birds. He provided land and money for local projects, including

the golf course, promenade and sea defences that turned Lower Sheringham into a thriving centre of tourism.

He was succeeded by the keen farmer, Sir Henry Upcher, after the First World War, and in 1951 his unmarried son Thomas took over the running of the estate. Thomas was particularly keen on managing and diversifying the fine collection of rhododendrons introduced by his grandfather in 1850, and not part of Repton's original plan. Repton's design for a garden Temple at a point now planted with trees was never built. The present Temple erected in 1975 was built nearby on a mound left vacant by dead elm trees, by Thomas Upcher on his 70th birthday.

Having no heirs, Thomas wanted the National Trust to become guardians of the House and Park, but at first his offer was refused and the estate went to a nephew. Eventually the Trust realised their error in refusing this most complete and best preserved example of a park and house designed in harmony by Repton – indeed his “most favourite work”. Later, sufficient funds were raised and in 1986 the Trust became the owners of Sheringham Park.

A cousin of Thomas Upcher, Mildred Cordeaux, née Upcher, was very instrumental in the acquisition of the property and left her London house as an endowment. As a child she had frequently climbed the gazebo on top of Oak Wood, and paid for a modern replacement to be opened in 1988.

The Trust considered the rooms of the Hall to be too small and insignificant to be opened to the public, so it is let to a tenant. Boardwalks, look-outs and the gardens around the Hall have been improved. Recently a new Visitors' Centre and extended car park enable the public to enjoy and appreciate the walks, views and harmony of this, Repton's “favourite and darling child which possesses more natural beauty and local advantages than any place I have ever seen.”

Note: * The Banville Diaries: Journal of a Norfolk Gamekeeper 1822-44 by Norma Virgoe and Susan Yaxley

CORPUSTY MILL GARDEN - Talk by Roger Last

On 8th November the Course had a very interesting Slide Show from Roger Last about his 4½ acre Corpusty Mill garden. More than a hundred slides recorded the dramatic changes which had been made over the last twenty-five years, many made by Roger and his brother.

The mill wheel displayed no longer functioned. The river Bure was originally at the northern boundary but now went all round the garden, making it an island. There were originally 105 poplar trees but they had been removed with permission. The very large hedge bordering the minor road was removed and replaced by a handsome wall which took three men six months to build; it had interesting heads on it. A large lake was dug at the back of the garden.

In the 1980s a very large barn had been used by his father to store grain on one side of the garden. It dominated the garden in winter and so was removed and the area transformed. Features of this most original garden were several follies, one a 21 ft slim modern shape but others made of brick. A stream running through the garden had several bridges over it. A dramatic contemporary garden, made partly of stainless steel, had lights inside it.

Another series of slides showed some of the many wonderful plants in the garden. There were forty different varieties of daffodil (not yellow). There were colourful acers, magnolias and camelias; also red hot pokers, viburnum and a tulip tree. Roger also told us that he had a sluice to control the river and overflow fields to take any flood water.

Peter Holman expressed our thanks for the vivid talk Roger had given us about his beautiful and original garden.

Betty Gee

Severe Weather Procedure

1. All Committee Members will be contacted before 10.0 am.
2. Members should ring a member of the Committee to determine if the meeting is/is not to go ahead as planned. Names and telephone numbers are on the back of the membership card.
3. Radio Norfolk will be contacted with a request to broadcast a cancellation notice.
4. If any member wishes to be contacted by e-mail we will attempt to do this. Please ensure that the Membership Secretary has your correct details.

AK

NOTE:

The following is abridged from the Minutes prepared by Diana Polhill.

Annual General Meeting held on 6th October 2005

The Chairman, Geoff Gale, welcomed members to the 20th AGM of the Society. The Secretary, Angela King, reported another successful year with the number of members slightly up at 102. She reminded members of the speakers and topics covered last year (already reported in the Journal). The February meeting had had to be postponed due to poor weather conditions and was held in May, when Peter Pink, Daphne Davy, and Geoff Gale reported on their research, and there was a display by Mrs Bunting of items and photographs of 'Greens' shop in Red Lion Street.

The Committee had devised a 'Severe Weather Procedure' (outlined on page 246 of this edition). The Autumn Afternoon Course on 'Market Towns of East Anglia' was given by Nesta Evans and attended by eighteen members. The Winter Party was held at 'The Black Boys Hotel', a new venue for the Society. The food was excellent but space was limited. Peter and Biddy Holman were presented with Life Membership of the Society.

Ann Dyball had organised three excellent visits, the first to see Churches with angel roofs and the second to see George Skipper buildings in Norwich, both of which had been reported on in the Journal. The third to Yarmouth is described on page 232 of this edition.

The Hickling History Society had visited Aylsham in October; Elizabeth Gale had talked to the visitors about Inns and Public Houses and Daphne Davy had shown the party round St Michael's Church. After tea at the 'Old Tea Rooms', they were shown material from the Archives and the COMMA project.

The Aylsham Old People's Welfare Association, from which the Friendship Hall is hired, had completed the redecoration programme; the heaters would be replaced when funds allowed.

Angela King ended her report by thanking the Officers and Committee Members for their help and support during her first year as Secretary. She thanked the Chairman, Geoff Gale, for his guidance throughout the year and also Betty Gee for her advice as past Secretary and her work in producing the Journals.. Tom Mollard was thanked for his help with the list of members and for organising the printing of the membership card.

Angela concluded by thanking members for their support, and particularly those who distributed the Journal.

The Treasurer, Peter Pink, reported that the circulated Account had not yet been audited as the auditor was very busy at this time. The subscription income was less, but the overall state of the finances was quite healthy. The Editor of the Newsletter and Journal, Betty Gee, had sent in a report. Although there had been more contributors in the last year, she asked members to consider writing something for the Journal. She thanked Gillian Fletcher for organising the distribution of the Journals and Tom Mollard and Derek Lyons for all their help over the years in producing items and photos from the Archives.

REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE Geoff Gale reported that 158 copies of *Aylsham Directories* had been sold. "*The Poor in Aylsham 1700-1836*" and "*A Backward Glance*" had been reprinted. "*Millgate*" was being prepared for reprinting with two new chapters – one on inns and public houses and the other on The Belt. It was hoped that it would be out by Christmas, using new technology.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Officers were all re-elected en bloc. The retiring two members, Felicity Cox and Thelma Lloyd, did not wish to stand again. Since there were no new nominations, it was decided to make Gillian Fletcher (Membership Secretary) and Diana Polhill (Minutes Secretary) full Committee members, instead of co-opted members as hitherto. John Harris planned to move out of Norfolk and when he did there would be another vacancy.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Geoff Gale said that sadly this was the last public appearance of Tom Mollard as Archivist. Lloyd Mills, who was present at the Meeting, would be taking over. Tom had also been on the Publications Sub-Committee and Geoff would greatly miss him. Peter Pink was now on the Cittaslow Committee. Geoff was looking forward to next year's visits which were now being planned. The Members' Meeting this year had been a success and it was hoped to repeat it in a couple of years. He asked members to think of possible subjects. It was important for members to be pro-active.

WINTER PARTY A discussion took place regarding the venue for the next Party. It was finally decided that the Secretary should go to Aylsham Lodge Hotel to negotiate a suitable menu and price (see enclosed circular).

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW

Geoff Gale

The talk by Tom Mollard, a "Pictorial History of Aylsham", after the AGM was a veritable mélange of pictures from the collection in the Archives. It is almost impossible to give any detailed account because of its wide range of subject matter but all the pictures touched on some detail of Aylsham life. They ranged from those large public dinners given in the market place through to the changing form of traffic. The first public meal to be pictured in the market place was one that took place in 1814; after that others were to follow commemorating the end of the war or as part of a celebration around a Coronation.

Those narrow streets of an old market town have always been a problem especially after the introduction of the petrol engine, although a similar situation had probably existed when there were only horse drawn vehicles; the earlier pictures of Red Lion Street and the Norwich Road illustrated this problem. The wherries and the railways for all the eccentric lines of the railways were insulated from this difficulty but in time they both declined under pressure from the bus and the car. This complete circle of transport was well illustrated by photographs, local postcards and comments by the speaker.

There were some surprises in Tom's collection of pictures, such as the Dog Inn which had not been seen before. It was also a surprise to see the range of soldiery that had been pictured in the town, who were stationed locally during both of the world wars. Perhaps the most interesting of the pictures was the collection of drawings and paintings of the town by a variety of artists over the years. The most familiar of these is the watercolour by Walter Mileham of the 1850 Aylsham Regatta, painted from a site still undiscovered.

LIST OF MEMBERS - NOVEMBER 2005

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.**

Baker, Mr D W	Fletcher, Mrs G	Oakes Mrs S
Barber, Mrs P	Fox, Mr M	Peabody, Mr R
Bayes, Mrs R	Fry, Mr R	Pink, Mr P
Belton, Miss V	Gale, Mr/Mrs G	Polhill, Dr/Mrs R
Bird, Mrs M	Garratt, Mr/Mrs A	Powell, Mr/Mrs I
Bowden, Mr/Mrs	Gawith, Mr/Mrs C	Radford, Miss N
Brasnett, Mr/Mrs D	Gee, Mrs B	Rouse, Mr P
Bratt, Miss R	Green, Mr M	Rowe, Mrs M
Brown, Mrs A	Haddow, Ms E	Rust, Mr/Mrs B
Burton, Mr A	Hagen, Mr M	Shaw Mr/Mrs
Cain, Mrs D	Harris, Mr J	Shepherd, Mrs A
Case, Dr D E	Hawkins, Mr/Mrs A	Sheringham, Mrs J
Collins, Mrs R	Holman, Mr/Mrs P	Smith, Mrs E
Cook, Mrs M	Johnston, Mr G	Smith, Mr/Mrs R
Cook, Mr R	Jones, Mrs H	Steward, Mrs L
Coote, Mr A	King, Mr/Mrs M	Ulph, Mr C
Corbin, Mr/Mrs N	Lloyd, Mrs T	Vaughan-Lewis Mr/Mrs
Cort, Ms J	Lowe, Mr B	Wadley, D A
Cox, Mrs F	McChesney, Mrs J	Walpole, Lady
Crouch, Mr R	McManus, Mr/Mrs S	Wickens, Dr/Mrs
Davy, Mrs R	Merriman, Ms S	Williams, Mr/Mrs
Douet, Mr A	Miller, Miss C	Wintle, Mrs S
Ducker, Mr G	Mills, Mr L	Wright, Mr J
Duncan, Mrs B	Minns, Mrs E	
Dyball, Miss A J	Mollard, Mr /Mrs	
Elsey, Mr/Mrs	Newell, Mrs J	
Eve, Dr /Mrs J	Nichols, Mrs D	
Mr R Fiske,	Nobbs, Mr G	

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ON PUBLICATIONS from AGM in October 2004 to AGM 2005

Income		Expenditure	
Balance - B/F	777 - 46	Printing costs "Wrights Map"	30 - 00
Sales		6 High & Lonely churches	65 - 00
Inns & Pubs of Aylsham	165 - 46	A Backwards Glance	100 - 00
Starting	78 - 00		5 - 25
Wright's map	8 - 00	Stationery	
Aylsham in 1821	15 - 20	postages	28 - 87
Norwich to Cromer Turnpike	2 - 00		
Aylsham in 17th Century	7 - 00		
Poor in Aylsham	18 - 50		
Six High & Lonely churches	15 - 00		
Postcards	8 - 00		
Aylsham Directories 1793-1937	860 - 39		
Misc. sales			
postages received with orders	27 - 33		
Total	<u>1982 - 34</u>	Total	<u>229 - 12</u>
		Balances in hand - Giro a/c	1642 - 17
		- cash	111 - 05
Grand Total	<u>1982 - 34</u>	Grand Total	<u>1982 - 34</u>

Tom Mollard 17.9.2005

AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2005

2004 £	INCOME	2005 £	2004 £	EXPENDITURE	2005 £
1844	Publications	1205	3265	Publications	229
733	Subscriptions	676	30	Subscriptions	30
1405	Course Fees	765	1066	Course(s)	759
50	Visitors Fees	51	32	Programme Cards	32
1	Donations	11	25	Donations	25
22	Refreshments		214	Journal	221
15	Bank Interest	24	106	Rent (F'ship Hall)	138
686	Social Event	644	787	Social Event	648
			40	Rent, Quakers	8
	<i>Visits</i>				
126	Hickling		129	Hickling	
150	NRO		130	NRO	
	Oxburgh	204		Oxburgh	203
	Nelson	358		Nelson	347
	Skipper	44		Skipper	25
	Angels	336		Angels	370
			115	Lecturers' Fees etc	87
154	20 th Anniv. Events		522	20 th Anniv. Events	22
			30	Officers' Expenses	66
<u>£5186</u>		<u>£4318</u>	<u>£6491</u>		<u>£3210</u>
	Balances 1/9/04			Balances 31/8/05	
820	Treasurer's A/c	922	922	Treasurer's A/c	1032
955	Business A/c	969	969	Business A/c	991
2198	Publications	777	777	Publications	1753
<u>£9159</u>		<u>£6986</u>	<u>£9159</u>		<u>£6986</u>

Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year £1108

Peter Pink, Treasurer

Graeme Johnston, Accountant