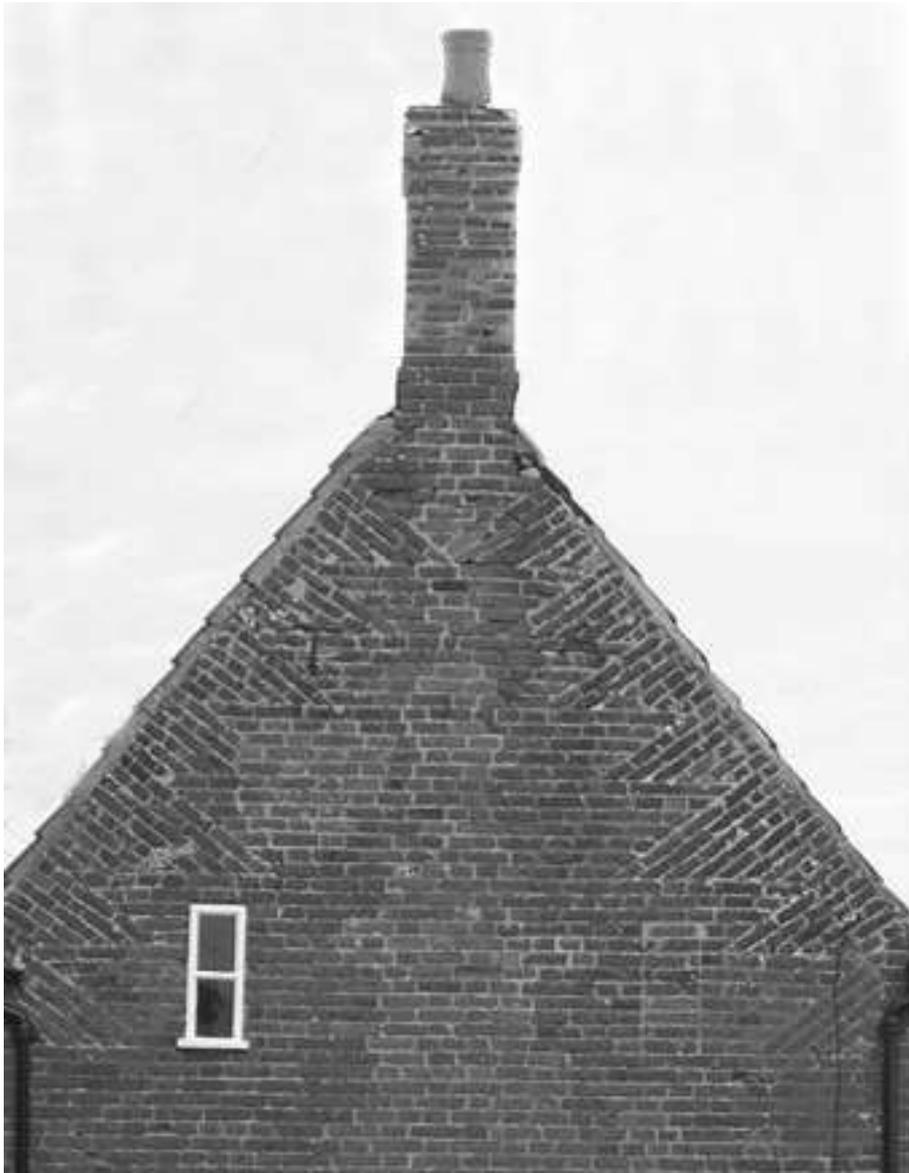


# **AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**



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Cover illustration: “Tumbling” bricks support a gable on a house in Silvergate.



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY

**JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER**

Volume 8

No. 10

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This is the last part of Volume 8. If anyone would like a list of contents and an index for the volume please let me know.

We are most grateful to Derek Lyons for showing us again after the AGM in early October the films he had prepared for the Open Days in 2009 and 2010. The lectures at the end of October and November were also well attended and much appreciated. We still have three more lectures in the current season:

Thursday 27 January. *'The Norfolk Wherry'* by Peter Bower.

Thursday 24 February. *'The Reformation of East Anglia: The Material Evidence'* by Vic Morgan.

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. *'Developments in Agriculture'* by David Papworth.

Please see the back cover and insert for details of the Social Event scheduled for Thursday 7 April 2011. Ann Dyball kindly arranged a coach to London on 18 November so we could visit the Gauguin exhibition at the Tate Modern. She has arranged a visit to East Barsham Hall on Monday 9 May and to Kirstead Hall on Thursday 15 September. She is planning a summer visit to Long Melford. Details of the WEA Spring Course and the Day School on 14 May are on the back cover.

There are also plans to run a tutored research group on the Aylsham Navigation led by Dr Sarah Spooner from the School of History at UEA, starting in February – see the Secretary's report on p. 316 and our website at [aylsham-history.co.uk](http://aylsham-history.co.uk). If you would like to be involved please let me know.

## **Introduction: The importance of brick in our landscape**

What is the common factor between The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, The Great Wall of China, Brunelleschi's Dome in Florence, the Taj Mahal, the Colosseum in Rome, 1200 miles of sewers under London streets, and most of the houses in Aylsham? The answer is 'brick'. Bricks have been used in construction for about eleven centuries. Bricks have provided the strength and durability to give a permanence to buildings that the major civilisations have exploited. They are easier to cut and use than stone, simply manufactured to standard sizes, made from clay that is available in nearly every part of the world, and easily stacked and bonded.

While the Romans used bricks in their building, it is curious that bricks were not made here again until the late Middle Ages. But now, the brick is a dominant feature of our built landscape, and of particular interest in North Norfolk where stone is largely inaccessible. North Norfolk, a wealthy and populous area in the Middle Ages, has an abundance of beautiful brick buildings spanning several centuries. Many of these were once thatched, and have since had the benefit of more durable pantile roofs. Together, red brick and pantile present the traditional North Norfolk building. Aylsham is at the centre of an area graced with many such buildings, hundreds of which are listed as being of special historical interest. Matthew Rice asserts that 'Norfolk has the best preserved built environment in England'.

Unfortunately, brick has become such a common feature of our building that we tend not to show much interest. The aim of this article is to share some of the features of brick, and to provide the reader with some basic knowledge of what to look for. It has given me an interest in buildings wherever I go, but particularly here in the Aylsham area.

### **The ways in which bricks are made**

All bricks are made from clay, with the addition of sand or other matter. The clay is 'won' (dug out), mixed with water and shaped. Shaping is usually with moulds which provide for evenly sized and shaped bricks.



Photo. 1. Diagonal skintling, Burgh Road.



Photo. 2. Horizontal skintling on the same wall, Burgh Road.

Today, machines are used. Once the wet, clay brick is turned out, it has to be dried sufficiently to prevent cracking when fired. Bricks were set out in hacks for several weeks, and covered from the rain. Today, they are dried in heated sheds. Finally, the brick has to be fired. This is a precise process. The temperature must be right throughout firing, and the cooling must be gradual. When bricks were fired in local kilns, sometimes by itinerant brick-makers, the inconsistencies in temperature and brick positions resulted in very mixed quality bricks. Today, bricks are fired in vast, permanent kilns.

Previously, local clay was used, and the phrase ‘clay pits’ can still be found on maps. Bricks were fired at local kilns and names, such as ‘Brick Kiln Farm’ on the right of the North Walsham Road at Banningham, and ‘Brick Kiln Road’ at Hevingham, remind us of this. One local brick pit was established, probably for the building of Blickling Hall, and is situated about quarter of a mile past the Hall on the left hand side of the Saxthorpe road. This pit may have provided bricks for some of the estate houses, such as those in the Silvergate area, and even some Aylsham houses.

The stacking of bricks to dry was done in particular ways. From the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century the bricks were stacked on top of one another in zig-zag rows, and diagonal raised marks were left called skintlings. From about 1770, bricks were stacked in parallel rows that left horizontal skintlings. Early good examples of these can be seen on buildings in Millgate which were constructed at about the time that the Upper Bure Navigation was opened in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The danger of using skintlings as evidence for the age of a building is well illustrated on the street wall of the old Red Lion Inn in Red Lion Street where both diagonal and

horizontal skintlings can be seen. Mixed batches of bricks or re-used bricks have been used in the construction, or repair or alteration of the wall. There is the possibility that the wall was built in the 1770s when both types of skintled brick were in use, but other features tell us that the building is older. Using skintlings to date a wall is now widely discredited.

### **‘A brick is a brick’; variety in colour, size, pattern and shape, and type**

The way in which a brick is made will determine its colour, shape, texture, strength, resistance to fire and weather, and longevity. The mud brick was first used in about 9000 BC, the moulded brick in about 5000 BC, and the fired brick in about 3500 BC. A fired brick is resilient, easily shaped, and capable of being glazed, so providing a variety of colours, finishes and qualities. Through the Middle Ages, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism spread brick-making and bricklaying techniques across much of Europe, North Africa and Asia. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, brick was the standard material for industrial premises and housing. New techniques are still being developed, and the importance of brick as a building material looks set to continue.

The colour of the brick is generally determined by the minerals in the clay that is used. Where there is an iron content bricks will fire red or pink; a lime content yellow or cream. The exact colour will be determined also by the position of the brick in the kiln, and the amount of oxygen admitted. There was an irregularity in the colour of bricks. The way a brick was facing could result in the faces being differently coloured on the same brick. This was exploited, so that the small end face of the brick (the header) could be made black or grey. Many old brick walls display patterns with dark brick headers. Brick colours have been fashionable: red in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries; grey and brown in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century; grey, yellow and white in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century; and red again in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when yellow bricks were seen as ‘working class’. In North Norfolk, the standard locally made brick remained the usual building brick for longer than many areas because of the difficulty with moving building materials from other parts of the country. Examples of style and brick brought from outside of the

area can be seen in the Victorian and Edwardian villas along Burgh Road, Oakfield Road and Church Terrace.

The railways came late to North Norfolk, but it was they that delivered the first major influx of building materials from elsewhere, as opposed to vernacular (locally made) materials. Bricks can be made with special finishes. A specially made brick in our locality is the Costessey brick, which was used to build the Aylsham town post-office, now the Co-Op.

The shape of a brick is generally cuboid. However, a Roman brick is much more the shape we associate with a tile. The dimensions of the cuboid have changed. Brick size was first regulated in this country in 1571 when the legal standard size was set as  $9 \times 4.5 \times 2.25$  inches. In 1776 the standard size was changed to  $8.5 \times 4 \times 2.5$  inches. Finally, the size was metricated in the 1960s to  $215 \times 102.5 \times 65$  mm. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century a brick tax was introduced, and larger bricks were made for about twenty years.

This is a suitable point to place a health warning against attempts to date a building by its brick. Bricks can be stored for long periods, and brick structures can be demolished and the bricks re-used. While the dimensions of a brick may be an indicator of the age of a building, they may also be the source of misleading evidence unless supported by other features of the structure.

Bricks can be shaped either by cutting the standard size before firing, or by producing bricks from non-standard moulds, or by cutting standard bricks once they are fired. Shaped bricks have been particularly utilised for the tops of structures to provide angle and slope for the run-off of rainwater. Bricks can be laid in patterns. Indeed, this was a major attraction of the brick in older buildings which may display fine patterns of bricks for instance in herring bones, chequer work (Tudor), and diamonds (often set in flint).

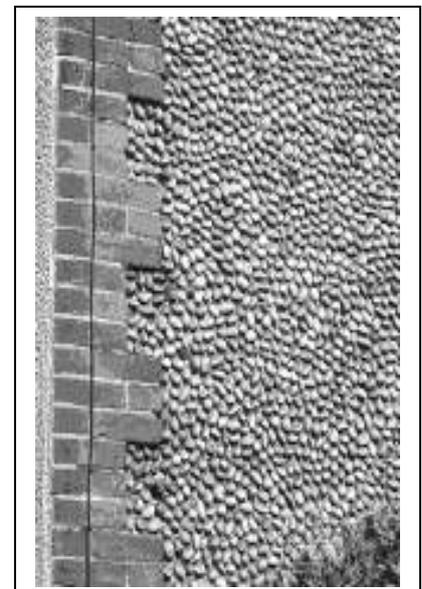


Photo. 3. The need to strengthen and straighten corners is well shown by this wall in Millgate.

Quoins, the strengthened corners of buildings, are usually thought of as stone. However, in this area, where flint is the main material used, brick is usually the straightening and strengthening material.

Cornices are ornamental projecting features on the walls just beneath the eaves. The two most common designs are dentilation, in which the headers jut out slightly, and dogtooth, in which the bricks are laid at an angle so that the corners project.

Bricks known as ‘specials’ are usually made for appearance, such as the Costessey brick. These are called ‘facing bricks’. Bricks made for great strength and low absorption are known as ‘engineering bricks’. These are commonly used for sewers, and can be seen locally on railway structures. There are fine examples along the Weavers Way footpath where it follows the course of a disused railway at Drabblegate Bridge, the bridge over the old Cromer Road, the bridge crossing of the river Blackwater, and Felmingham station. Similar examples can be seen along the Bure Valley railway and the Marriot’s Way footpath which also follows a disused line. Bricks used where no special attribute is required are known as ‘commons’.

### **The ways in which bricks are laid**

In order to make a brick structure strong, the bricks need to be laid in particular ways, and they need to be bonded. This is done with mortar, and the consistency, colour and width of the mortar lines can greatly enhance the appearance as well as the strength of the building.



Photo. 4. This house in Silvergate shows how bricks can be laid at angle to strengthen the gable parapet, called ‘tumbling’.



Photo. 5. These very well-laid bricks can be seen in Drabblegate railway bridge over the Weaver’s Way footpath.



Photo. 6. English bond brickwork, and a denticulated cornice, Millgate.



Photo. 7. Flemish bond brickwork, and another fine denticulated cornice, Millgate.

Metal fittings are now used to bind layers of brick together so that the internal wall is attached to the external wall. Before these fittings were available, the two layers had to be held together by bonding the bricks not only on the wall but between the two walls. The three main types of bond are English bond, Flemish bond and stretcher bond. The longest face of the brick is called the ‘stretcher’ and shortest face is called the ‘header’.

Each layer of bricks is called a ‘course’. English bond has alternate courses of headers and stretchers. The headers bonded one wall to the other. This bond was used mainly from 1550 to 1700. Flemish bond is where all the rows have alternate headers and stretchers. This style took over in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Stretcher bond is where all bricks are laid as stretchers. This became possible in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when metal attachments held the internal and external walls together, instead of the header bricks.

Again, it is unwise to judge the age of a building by the brick bond alone. In Aylsham there are many examples of brick walls being built with older bonds as a retro-feature or as a requirement of the planning office. The wall recently repaired along Petersons Lane is one example.

‘Tumbling’ was a way of stabilising gable parapets. The gable is constructed with triangles of brickwork coursed at right angles to the line of the gable. Early examples have tumbling the full length of the gable and later this was reduced to two or three (see photo 4).



Photo 8. Stretcher bond brickwork, sloping brickwork on the gable and brick cornice on a modern building, Mill Row.



Photo 9. A decorative brick-string, Millgate. Tie plates can be seen to hold the wall straight.

A string course is a long projecting course of bricks. It may be moulded, in a differing colour of brick, or laid in a different pattern. It is usually there as decoration. There are many examples around Aylsham.

Old brick walls tend to bow outwards with the pressure of the weight of the upper floor and roof. This is held in check by the use of metal ties. These are rods which are run through the building, usually at first floor height. They are secured against the outside wall with a metal plate, which may be in the shape of a bar, a disc, a cross or an S-shape. Again, these are common in houses around the area, and are well illustrated on the side wall of the old Cross Keys Inn, now Granville Bond, in Red Lion Street.

I hope that this article might add to the interest in our built environment in the area. I am not an expert in this subject, and would welcome correction and addition that will add to our body of knowledge.

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My thanks to Stephen Heywood, Historic Environmental Services, Norfolk County Council, for advice.

## **SPURRELL AND BOND FAMILIES IN AYLSHAM**

**by Jonathan C. Spurrell**



Thurgarton House (formerly Thurgarton Hall or Thurgarton Old Hall). The current house dates from the 1730s with an 1820s extension seen here on the right, but the Spurrell family has lived on this site since the early 1500s.

When Richard James Spurrell of Thurgarton Hall (now called Thurgarton House) died in 1896, he owned several hundred acres of land throughout North Norfolk. His will mentions property in Thurgarton, Bessingham, Gresham, Sustead, Banningham, Erpingham, Saxthorpe, Corpusty, Salthouse, Kelling, Foxley, Saxlingham, Heigham and – last but not least – Aylsham.

In Aylsham, Richard listed several properties, usually naming the most recent tenant. He bequeathed St. Michael's Villas (which comprised two houses, one rented by Mrs. Gilman, the other unoccupied but previously rented by Mrs. Dixon), three-quarters of an acre of land to the south of

the road and four and a half acres opposite the Villas (occupied by Mr. Culley) to his wife Lucy “for the term of her natural life, she keeping the houses and buildings in the said premises in good and tenantable repair and insured against loss or damage by fire”. After Lucy’s death, the Villas and the land around them passed to Richard’s second son, Dr. William Dewing Spurrell.

Richard also left his “house garden and premises stables and land situate in Aylsham now in the occupation of William Wade” and “all those four acres and a half of land or thereabouts situate in Millgate Aylsham and lately occupied by Bartram” to his son William.

Richard was part of a long line of Spurrells who had lived and farmed at Thurgarton since the early 1500s, a line that has continued into this century with another Richard, who sadly passed away last summer. For many centuries the family were yeoman farmers with small or medium-sized farms that they gradually built up over the generations.

The transition from yeoman farmers to prosperous landowners came in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century with the marriage of John Spurrell to Elizabeth Flaxman in 1771 at Felbrigg. Elizabeth’s father James owned land in Roughton, Felbrigg, Sidestrand, Northrepps and Southrepps, and most of this was eventually bequeathed to the Spurrell family.

Thurgarton was always considered the family’s seat, however, so it was John and Elizabeth’s eldest son William (1774–1827) who inherited the Thurgarton estate while the Flaxman properties went to his younger brothers. On his death in 1827 William left the estate to his eldest son, William Dewing Spurrell (1803-1880) while also providing for his two other sons, including Richard James Spurrell (1819-1896), the youngest. Richard was given a farm at Aylsham that his father had bought from Mr. Saunders, but he had to wait until his mother’s death in 1843 before actually taking possession of it.

Whether or not Richard ever farmed the land himself is not known. It is likely that he simply enjoyed the rent he received from his tenants. In 1836 he had written the following note from the Pottergate Academy in Norwich to his brother William Dewing Spurrell:



Richard James Spurrell (1819-1896), who inherited Thurgarton House on the death of his brother William Dewing Spurrell in 1880.

*Having been placed at this Academy to obtain an education suitable to the situation which you intend me for, I am endeavouring to make the most of my time and so satisfy your wishes. ... It is my earnest wish however to do my best, and should I fail to excite your admiration at least to obtain your approbation of my industry.*

The situation intended for Richard was probably that of a landowner and gentleman farmer, and he seems to have fulfilled his brother's wishes. In 1851 he was living in Barningham where he owned 353 acres of farmland, and the following year began a 16-year lease on a farm at Stratton St. Michael belonging to Rev. Richard Hammond Gwyn, Rector of Southrepps. Richard James Spurrell and his family were still there when the 1871 census was taken (probably renting from Rev. Gwyn's successors), but nine years later had moved into Thurgarton Hall after his brother William Dewing Spurrell died unmarried and childless. Richard remained at Thurgarton until his death in 1896.

Considering how close Thurgarton is to Aylsham, it is not surprising that the Spurrells owned property in the town and also lived there at times. One member of the family who settled in Aylsham and whose descendants had connections with the town for several generations was Mary (1781-1863), one of the daughters of John Spurrell and Elizabeth Flaxman. In 1802 she married a widowed farmer named Robert Bond and went on to have nine children with him. In the 1841 census, Mary, Robert and their youngest daughter Frances Hannah were living at a house on Cawston Road, Aylsham. Not far away, on Penfold Street, was Mary's daughter Emily and her husband Richard Smith, a veterinary surgeon.

Emily had been born in about 1801, but the circumstances of her birth threatened to scandalise the Spurrell family as it tried to assert its position among the Norfolk gentry. For Emily's mother, Mary Spurrell, had become pregnant by her father's stable boy, John Stokes. Copies of letters scribbled in old farm books by Mary's brother William show how much "sorrow and concern" was caused by Mary's "dishonourable conduct". William explains how ten members of the family were getting ready to attend the Cromer Ball when Mary's secret was discovered. Only one of them went – to announce that the rest of the family would not be able to make it. "It's certain she must be excluded from society for a time," wrote William, although his natural love for his sister meant that "you may rest assured of my endeavours in our family affairs to consider you a sister". He expressed his sympathy in another letter to a friend or relative identified only as "G":

*I must beg to say a word in her favour, poor thing. Young as she is and shut up from the world, she certainly was an easier prey to the evil she must endure, encouraged by the villain's treachery and evil dictates, by dread of the awful hour of discovery. She then kept her secret, now openly exposed to shame and disgrace, [and] is left with the melancholy reflection of being deceived – and deceiving all who were most dear to her.*



William Spurrell Bond (b 1804), second son of Robert Bond (1769-1850) and Mary Spurrell (1781-1863).

Mary was moved between family and friends as William and his family sought to keep the situation a secret. “Your circumstance is very generally suspected and believed in the neighbourhood but your residence is known by none but the family,” he told Mary, while also informing her that John Stokes “follows husbandry at Aylmerton but [I] have not seen him since you went away”. Such situations were not altogether unheard of. One of William’s aunts had told him about “one in the neighbourhood near her of rather high degree who at this time is under the unfortunate disaster of the same nature ... by her father’s coachman”.

After giving birth to Emily in about 1801, Mary’s sins seem to have been forgiven by her family, and she was welcomed back into the fold.

Emily was even remembered in her grandparents' wills. In 1802 William summed up the happy ending:

*Mary remains at Erpingham and was about three weeks back married to Bond, farmer in that place, the acquaintance I suppose you have heard of, and to appearance seems pretty comfortable as this last plan of marriage was certainly a better one than the first proceedings by living with him as housekeeper unmarried.*

The censuses show that various Bonds lived in Aylsham throughout the nineteenth century. In 1851 Mary was still there, having lost her husband the year before. In the same house were her son William Spurrell Bond and grand-daughter Margaret Mary Howes. Margaret's parents Frances Hannah and Robert (a veterinary surgeon) were living on Hungate Street.

Ten years later, Mary was once again living in Aylsham with her children Mary and William. The two ladies were described on the census form as "Proprietors of Houses and Land" and William as a "House and Land Agent".

The Howes family were also in Aylsham in 1861, but by 1871 the eldest daughter Margaret Mary had married Harry Thomas Mileham, a solicitor, and had moved to London. Later censuses track their movement through the suburbs of London and also show that Margaret had used her grandmother's maiden name for her sixth and youngest child: Geoffrey Spurrell Mileham, born 1884.

Aylsham also crops up in relation to other Spurrells. In an undated letter, William Dewing Spurrell of Thurgarton Hall makes arrangements for a visit by his sister Elizabeth Frances Spinks. He tells her to stop at Aylsham, leave her luggage at the Red Lion Inn and go to Mary Bond's house so that the two of them may travel up to Thurgarton together. "My servant will call at the Lion and take up your luggage as he comes – should you not be in time for the bus in the morning, I will send up to Hanworth school in the afternoon," William informs his sister.

Several generations later, a memorial service was held in St. Michael's church, Aylsham, on 17 April 1953 for Major William James Spurrell of Poplar Farm, Banningham, a grandson of Richard James Spurrell.

William had been shot twice in the right hand while serving in France as an officer in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment during World War One. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1916 and the Distinguished Service Order in 1918 and was twice mentioned in dispatches. After the war, he and his wife Violet sought a quieter life in North Norfolk and become involved in many community projects and sat on numerous local committees, including the Aylsham hospital committee. In later life William ran a poultry farm at Banningham and from 1941 to 1945 took up command of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Norfolk Home Guard. Representatives of many local organisations attended the memorial service, including a member of the Aylsham branch of Toc H, with which William had been involved.

Aylsham has links to the Spurrell family of Thurgarton right up to the present day. The mother of the late Richard James Kingsmill Spurrell (1934-2009) spent some of her childhood in the town after her widowed mother and stepfather, Mr. Burnand, moved to a house called Bushey. Also, the building now occupied by Barclay's Bank has been taking care of the Spurrells' finances for several generations.

These are not the only Spurrells to have had connections with Aylsham. Inside St. Michael's Church is the grave of Thomas Spurrell, a miller who was buried on 23 June 1770, and in the town's Poor Book a Ralph Spurrell is mentioned as an overseer in about 1717, but I do not know if they are related to my family. However, the 1841 census shows two unmarried siblings, William and Charlotte, living together in the town on a 100-acre farm. They were sixth cousins of the Richard James Spurrell who was the focus of the first half of this article.

I hope my overview of the Spurrells and Bonds who have lived or owned property in Aylsham has been of some interest to the readers of this Journal. I would like to thank Roger Polhill for asking me to write this article. If you would like more information about the families mentioned here, please contact me by email ([jonathan@spurrell-genealogy.com](mailto:jonathan@spurrell-genealogy.com)) or by post (46 Beechwood Drive, Harwinton, 06791 CT, USA).

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### A look at Red Lion Street

Jim Pannell



Photo: Bob Farndon

*The following article was presented as a talk at the event 'Aylsham Then and Now' on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*

There are currently 28 entries for Red Lion Street on the Norfolk Archaeology Database.<sup>1</sup> Nearly all of the buildings in the street are listed as grade 2 buildings of archaeological or historical interest.

We are standing in Barclays Bank car park near the site of the old 'Dog Inn'. As you look down Red Lion Street from here, the narrowness of the street, the look of the buildings and roofs, immediately give one the sense of an old street.

The route across the Market Place and along Red Lion Street was already the route to Cromer and Millgate on the manorial map of 1624.<sup>2</sup> It later became the turnpike route, and the natural street for the establishing of hostleries.

On the opposite corner was Aylsham Bridewell, now making up numbers 2, 4 and 6. The frontage covers a timber frame. It was erected in 1543 by Robert Marsham to be a 'house of correction' for vagabonds and prostitutes. It became a lock-up. The Bridewell served the town of Aylsham as a prison for 282 years until it was eventually closed in 1825 when the county gaol was opened in Norwich castle. The original building served through until 1787, when it was rebuilt.<sup>3</sup> The original grounds stretched down almost to Oakfield Road. Some of the cells still remain to the rear of the building. The buildings have been converted into shops and dwellings and the purchaser was obliged to take down the corner of the building so that the road could be widened. You can see where the corner has clearly been cut off, leaving 1, Burgh Rd with an unusual triangular floor plan. Beyond the two doors of the bridewell, you can see what is now Postles electrical store. It is clearly one of Red Lion Street's old buildings with its front pillasters. It also has a nice iron bootscape by the door.

Beyond Postles was 'The Bull' public house. The Bull Inn was a small thatched-roof building dating from the 1600s. The Bull passed from private owners into the ownership of the brewery companies and was sold after its closure in 1907. The ground floor became a fishmonger's and then a cycle and motor works, later owned by George and Alan Cooper, who had moved from their bicycle shop in The Feathers, and they hired out and sold motor cars.<sup>4</sup>

Next door was The New Inn, situated at 10 Red Lion St. It was known as the King's Head until the name was changed in 1791. It was a fine timber framed building dating from 1689 and possibly earlier. The area at the rear of the inn extended as far as Oakfield Road with a yard, stables, outbuildings, a garden and a bowling green. The New Inn closed in 1953.<sup>4</sup> Following the demolition of Coopers' garage, the site was excavated in 2002–2003. It uncovered numerous features including Roman ditches, mediaeval buildings, bronze age pottery and postholes, and a series of cellars belonging to the two inns.<sup>1</sup>

Red Lion Street was THE street for inns. White's Directory of 1836<sup>5</sup> lists nine Inns and Taverns in Aylsham of which five were situated on Red Lion Street.

The coaches at that time ran to Cromer and Norwich. ‘The Mail’ ran from The Black Boys and ‘The Enterprise’ from the New Inn here on Red Lion Street.<sup>5</sup>

Now here we are in Blofield’s Loke. The information sign tells us that Red Lion Street retains its medieval layout. The shop fronts are of standard sizes and the plots are long and narrow running front to back, typically medieval and called ‘burgage plots’. Many of Aylsham’s shops are situated in this charming little street which, until the bypass was built, carried all the traffic between Norwich and Cromer. I remember this street then, and I can tell you that the bottoms of the houses and shops were always filthy with mud and fumes from passing traffic; some things do get better!

Many of the buildings that line this narrow street are older than they look. People refaced old timber framed buildings with brick in the latest 18th and 19th century fashions. The upper parts of the buildings show typical features – steeply pitched roofs, shaped or Dutch gables and sash windows. The roofs, being steep, were probably once thatched.

Loke is a local name for a lane leading in to the country, and Gilbert White<sup>6</sup> tells us that this was so back in the 1930s. He says that here was Blofield the butcher. This was joined to the New Inn public house next door with an archway. The marks of the archway could be seen on Whites until quite recently. Gilbert White says that ‘The lane was shaded with oak trees like a tunnel, blackberries were in abundance.’

If we look opposite and back, along nos. 1–7 the far end is no.1. This began life as two separate timber-framed houses, one 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> C, and the other 17<sup>th</sup> C. They were joined together in the 19<sup>th</sup> C and the fronts are from that time. No. 7, Lavender’s Blue, is 18<sup>th</sup> C brick and flint. It has a steep pantile roof and a string course on the north gable. The little alleyway leading through to the market square shows the old bricks, flint cobbles, and diagonal marks on the bricks all suggesting that these buildings are 18<sup>th</sup> C or earlier. Notice too the metal ties for keeping the walls straight.

No. 15, now Aylsham Computer Services, is 18<sup>th</sup> C part timber-framed, possibly built around an earlier core. It has a steep pitched pantile roof. The shop front is later. No. 17 includes The Little Clothes Shop. It is early 19<sup>th</sup> C. It has fluted pilasters. The shop front is original.

As we progress to Pegg's Yard, still on the east side, have a look up at the buildings, especially the roofs. Note the Tea Rooms and Hair Salon which part date to the 16<sup>th</sup> C and apparently have grand cellars. This was once the work place of a basket maker who used osiers from the banks of the Bure to make baskets and sold them from the ironmongers, Starlings, above.

My dictionary tells me that a 'Yard' is a flat area of stone or concrete where a particular type of work is done. Well plenty of work was going on along Red Lion Street, and in its yards. This yard is named after G. Pegg – a builder and plumber. Notice the wooden beams and a strengthening metal girder at the front.

The 1841 census shows 79 people living on Red Lion Street who were in employment. In 1901 the figure was 71. These figures are comparable to the whole of Millgate, and double those of the Market Place.

The 1841 census lists 249 people living on Red Lion Street, of an Aylsham population of a little over 2000. 157 people lived on the west side, and 92 on the east. This is a far higher figure than the population of Red Lion Street today.

In 1841 all the trades were represented such as dressmaker, carpenter, plumber, taylor, grocer, watchmaker, butcher, fishmonger and painter. The list includes some interesting trades that have long since gone from the street; blacksmith, wheelwright, hostler, 5 bootmakers, 3 harness makers, 3 braziers, hawker, char woman, basket maker, drover, coal merchant and currier.

Now here we are in the little yard immediately past Granville Bond the butcher. To the left are nos 20 and 22 Le Bon Bon and Ewing Self, originally one early 18<sup>th</sup> C building with a fine façade and flat pillasters. Opposite is Kays Clothing 21 and 21A which is 16<sup>th</sup> C and later. It has a timber frame, a steep pitch pantile roof, and is jettied. The passage to the left has exposed timbers. Nos 23 and 27 – Harveys and Optics – form a pair of early 19<sup>th</sup> C brick shops with pillastered fronts and a five bay façade.

And here we have the gable wall of nos 28 and 30 – Granville Bond the butcher. This was the Cross Keys Inn. Look up at the metal ties, the old brickwork, the brick string, diagonal marks on the bricks, and the lovely Dutch gable. There is another iron boot scraper. This is almost certainly

one distinct 17<sup>th</sup> C building. A yard at the rear had stables, cart-sheds, a few outbuildings, a wash house and a toilet. Access to the yard was through an entrance on the left of the building and here it remains to this day. For about 100 years the Ulph family dynasty were publicans beginning in 1785. Several members are buried in St Michaels churchyard, and their headstones can be seen. The Cross Keys was closed in 1931, the building was sold and the ground floor converted into shops. It is still possible to see the bracket on the front façade where the Cross Keys sign was once displayed.<sup>4</sup>

Here we are across the road at the entrance to Red Lion Yard and this building was The Red Lion. Notice that set in the ground on each side are stones, presumably to prevent carriages from passing so close to the wall that they would damage the building. Before we look more closely at the Red Lion and its yard, we can look across the street at the The Star Inn, now Cassie's Canine Cuts. The earliest documented date for The Star Inn is 1829. It was situated at 36, Red Lion Street and was a small establishment on two floors with an entrance directly from the street. To the right, a wide entrance between the inn and the building next to it, gave access to a yard and stables at the rear. The Star closed in 1900. The shop with direct entry from the street was the old entrance to the inn. The entrance, where horses were led through to be stabled in the rear yard, has been retained and adjoins the buildings on each side.<sup>4</sup>

Further to the left, the next yard is believed to be where Robert Gibson was apprehended for sheep stealing. He was hanged at Thetford in 1827, and buried in Aylsham churchyard. Local legend has it that he suffered to save his sons.

No 29, now Blossom and Green, is a 17<sup>th</sup> C house with shaped gables – a handsome building. Each side of Red Lion Yard entrance the corners have been chamfered to avoid damage to the walls and passing carriages.

Opposite is no 46, currently empty, which has traces of an 18<sup>th</sup> C timber frame building in the adjoining alley. It has been refaced and extended in the 19<sup>th</sup> C. No 50, Mrs Potts, is late 18<sup>th</sup> C with a pillastered 19<sup>th</sup> C shop front. It has an attractive 3 bay façade with architraves and arches.

Nos 52, 54, 56, and 56A make up an early 19<sup>th</sup> C house dated 1829 on the north wall. It has a later shop on the right, and is hipped at the north end.

In one of these buildings lived Mr Paine. His father owned a shop. He was released from Cambridge prison and returned to Aylsham. He brought back a surprise – smallpox! An isolation hospital was built at Dunkirk in 1902, and it is now buried below the by-pass. In others of these buildings lived a Thirkettle and a Laxen – probably the two men who emigrated to Saskatchewan in Canada where they founded a new place – Aylsham.

The earliest date known for The Red Lion is 1700. After it closed in 1972, the premises were converted into shops with a flat above. The roof line suggests that the original Red Lion was much smaller and that, at a later date, the building on the right was incorporated to extend the premises. These two steep pantile roofs are at different levels, and the line of bricks is not continuous indicating two separate buildings. This is where ‘Madcap Windham’ from Felbrigg Hall used to drive a beautiful four-in-hand coach and horses.<sup>7</sup> With two guards in crimson and gold liveries, he used to drive through Aylsham every Sunday morning in the summer at about 10 o’clock, from Norwich. Before he got into the town, one of the guards used to play a cornet, so everyone knew when he was coming. He came full-trot up the Norwich Road, and into the ‘Lion’ Yard, without easing his horses, when he would turn the coach round and come out again. He was very partial to Mrs. Osbourne, the landlady. He was known to be one of the finest whips in England.

Access to the rear yard was from Red Lion Street through a wide entrance to the left of the building. In this yard were stables and cartsheds, where farmers left their horses and carts or ponies and traps in the care of the publican while they attended Aylsham market. There were other buildings in the yard including a wash house and a men’s toilet. A well in the centre of the yard supplied water for the household and for the horses, but fell into disuse when a mains water supply was installed in 1938. The well has since been filled in. A separate building in the Red Lion Yard was known as a function room. This building was on two floors with the ground floor used for storage and a toilet; stairs led to a large room on the upper floor where various club meetings and social events took place.<sup>4</sup> We can assume that that was the function room (across the yard and to the right).

Tom West writes: The Red Lion was kept by Mr Albert Merton, a retired police officer who was also an ex-cavalry man.<sup>8</sup> He kept his sabre behind the bar in case of trouble.

Tom West also writes<sup>9</sup> that Mr Herbert Mallet recalled that Aylsham was an important centre for cattle sales, the sale ground being opposite 'The Feathers' public house, where the Friendship Club now is. A cattle train left Aylsham Great Eastern station for London at 4 am on the morning after the sale. The loaders, having worked all night, then repaired to the 'Red Lion' where they were each given a pint pot. Beer was then placed on the floor, in pails, and they helped themselves.

By 1930 the Red Lion had ceased to operate as a hotel. In that year, Captain Richard Beard (a very colourful and talented character well worth further investigation) moved from The Black Boys here to the Red Lion which was owned at that time by Trunch Brewery.<sup>10</sup> During World War 2, blackout curtains covered the windows and doors and the front entrances were kept locked so that customers had to come in through a back door. Many soldiers and airmen stationed around Aylsham visited in their off-duty hours and some joined in games of darts with the locals. The keen darts team transferred to the Stonemasons on Millgate when the Red Lion closed.<sup>4</sup>

Before we leave the yard have a close look at the back walls and you will see old brickwork, diagonal brick marks, and metal ties to keep the walls straight.

Here we are at the north end of Red Lion Street opposite Porkies, the sandwich shop. As we look from here across to White Hart Street, also named after a hostelry, we can see that there are many more buildings of architectural and historic interest.

In his memories, Gilbert White<sup>6</sup> says that on the corner of Cromer Road was Gidden's bakers. The bakehouse was open to the road with a half door. In the early morning the smell of new bread would hang in the air.

Behind us is the parish room. This has recently been renovated to become a heritage centre.

Finally, we are in the churchyard beside the church notice board.

From here, you have a very interesting view of the roofs of buildings along the rear of the west side of Red Lion Street. I think this is a very attractive scene, with the different pantiles, slopes and angles. The odd

one out is Aylsham's blue loos and architect's office, and I'll leave you to debate the merits of that!

## References.

- <sup>1</sup> Norfolk Historic Environment database. Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service and Norfolk County Council. (*Most of the references to periods of individual buildings are from this source.*)
- <sup>2</sup> Barringer, C., ed. (1988). Aylsham in the Seventeenth Century. Aylsham Local History Society & Poppyland Publishing.
- <sup>3</sup> Mollard, T. (1986). Aylsham Bridewell. Aylsham Local History Society J. 1: 98–102.
- <sup>4</sup> Gale, E. (2001). Aylsham Inns and Public Houses – a History. Aylsham Local History Society. (*Most of the information on hostelrys comes directly from this source by kind permission of Geoff Gale.*)
- <sup>5</sup> White's Aylsham Directory for 1836, in Aylsham Local History Society J. 1: 9–13 (1985) & Gale, G. & Mollard, T. (2004), Aylsham Directories: 17–22.
- <sup>6</sup> White, G.F. (1999). Memories of Aylsham 1913–1932. Aylsham Local History Society J. 5: 259–268.
- <sup>7</sup> Mollard, T. (1994). 'Mad' Windham. Aylsham Local History Society J. 4: 87–89.
- <sup>8</sup> West, T. (1989). The Inns of Aylsham.. Aylsham Local History Society J. 2: 166–168.
- <sup>9</sup> West, T. (1990). The Aylsham Branch. Aylsham Local History Society J. 2: 285–290.
- <sup>10</sup>. *Further reading on Captain Beard see Gale, Liz (1997), Captain Richard Beard M.B.E. in Aylsham Local History Society J. 5: 41–45 (1997).*

## Acknowledgements

My thanks to various people, including Geoff Gale and Roger Crouch, who provided information for this talk.

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## Hungate to Churchgate

Lynda Wix

*The following article was also presented as a talk at the event 'Aylsham Then and Now' on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*



Photo. Bob Farndon

Welcomes.

Here we are in the churchyard of St Michael's church with a view across the market place to Hungate Street and this way with a view along the Old Cromer road and White Hart Street. One of the cross roads of Aylsham.

First this place. The churchyard today is a way to the church for services and Monday sales. It's a place where relatives and friends still come to care for the memorials of loved ones, including those who fell in the Great Wars. It's a meeting place for young people by the lychgate. It's a short cut. It's a final resting place for many old Aylsham families and some of the famous. Here are the graves of the Palmer, Clover, Purdy, Soame and Peterson families to name but a few.

Here is a stone to Robert Gibson of Red Lion Street who was hung at Thetford Gaol in the early 19<sup>th</sup> C , one of the last to be executed for sheep stealing.

Just there is the grave of Humphry Repton who during his life lived at times in Sustead, Oxnead and Felbrigg. His son, a solicitor, lived at the house there. Repton is known nationally for designing the landscape around country houses in the 18<sup>th</sup> C in a move away from more formal plans. His options ranged from creating a lake, removing trees to make a view, placing a temple, planting trees to look natural in parkland. His sales pitch was to make a Red Book for each customer with drawings of the plan now and inserted parts of pages which could be flicked over to show how the grounds would look if the design was accepted. A before and after view which was open to negotiation. His work can be seen locally at Sheringham Park, which still holds its copy of the Red Book, in the view from the road at Barningham Hall and in Blickling Park. There are roses round his grave because he loved roses and loved flowers, including roses, to be planted right up to a house.

Just there is a mortsafe, like a metal rib cage. It was made at the time of the Resurrectionists, the body snatchers, who worked in secret at night to provide bodies to anatomy teachers for teaching dissection to medical students. There is a better system now!

Many tears have been shed here. Think of the war memorial here which lists the young men who set out from Aylsham to serve their country never to return. The Ducker family suffered losses in both world wars. Think of situations like the family of Ann Moore, buried here, who died in 1820 aged 24 years 'to the inexpressible grief of her parents'. It's a place for so many memories and stories.

But this churchyard has been a place of scandal too. In the Church on the wall is a list of vicars. During the time when the established church was changing from Catholic to Protestant, what we call the Reformation, it was not always an easy ride. John Bury, of catholic persuasion, is listed as the vicar in 1546. This is the date when Henry VIII died, to be succeeded by his son Edward VI who had radical Protestant policies. At this date Thomas Whitby became the vicar. He obeyed the new king's wishes. Then when Edward was in turn succeeded by his sister the Catholic Mary Tudor, back came the catholic John Bury in 1554.

There is a book called Fox's Book of Martyrs which was published some years after these events. It is rather biased against catholics. How true is it that John Bury was 'a great swearer altogether given to women' who collapsed and died in 1558, in this churchyard, after evensong, chasing a married lady.

The church porch in medieval times was used as a place to do business. Being so near the church perhaps guaranteed no one dare cheat. Also there was shelter to negotiate a deal.

At one time a lychgate was the traditional place to plight your troth, the old term for marriage. The covered gate too, protected pall bearers from the weather after they had laboured up the slope. Lych means corpse in old English. This gate was built for £10 in 1851.

Over there are the church rooms once used for a Sunday school and parish meetings and now the Heritage Centre, officially opened yesterday. Have a look in.

All who live in Aylsham are used to hearing the church clock chime and the bells ring. Tuesday night is bell ringing practice. There have been bells in the tower for centuries, some recast to retune. They were rung for the visit of King Charles II as he passed through from Blickling to Oxnead. They were rung for the victory at Trafalgar by Nelson. The bells are still rung on the anniversary of this battle. With special permission, because ringing the bells was the agreed signal for enemy invasion, they were rung after the victory of El Alamein. They rang in the millennium in 2000.

So where we are standing, there's been a lot going on – tragedy, scandal and thankfulness.

Moving on to the road system. In medieval times there was a way north that came through this churchyard. It was called Nethergate or Churchgate. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> C there was also a public highway from the old market, along Red Lion Street to Millgate and towards Cromer. The bridge over the river at Millgate was paid for by the sale of the church plate when the protestant vicar was in post, between the incumbencies of the naughty vicar.

Only pack animals, which carried goods, and pedestrians used the churchyard route once there was a better road and in time the pack horse animals must have stopped. The drop from here to the road was too steep for wheeled vehicles – the steps were put in to ease the way up for the pall bearers to the lychgate.

To the south, there was a road from Aylsham towards Buxton. It went along part of the current Norwich road from the market place down Buxton road and across what is now the bypass. But the main route to Norwich was through Hungate Street and along Hungate Lane, which is still there, to the A140 near Greens. In time Norwich Road as we know

it, was developed through to the roundabout and on to Marsham and Norwich. It's complicated, isn't it?

Hungate Street has always been very narrow so as traffic volumes grew it fell out of use as the main road to Norwich. A close look at the street shows pantiles, thatch, old bricks, white render, Dutch-style gables, timber beams. There are different roof levels. You can see the effect of a window tax at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> C. Some preferred to block up their windows rather than pay the tax. There are still 17<sup>th</sup> C houses in Hungate Street and you can see that some of the houses have been extended from the original building line on the ground floor to give more space. You can see evidence of the maze of yards infilled over the years with houses and stables. One area was known as the Rookery so crowded was it. Some still show entrances for a coach or cart, which is a clue that there were several pubs in the street.

The Unicorn pub dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> C with a timber frame inside. It is one of the oldest buildings remaining in the town. It used to have a thatched roof. Some of you may remember Tom Harper's fish shop, Percy's sweet shop, Postle's bake house and Hudson's plumbers yard, which were all clustered near the pub. Further on was the Half Moon, now a private house and the Swan on the site of the Exservicemen's car park. This pub was demolished in 1969.

Further down Hungate Street is the white gothic house with pinnacles and hooded window mouldings – this was once Miss Roy's school for young ladies. On the opposite side of the road was the Collegiate school for boys. You can still see where many of them scratched their names into the bricks on the side near the Salvation Army entrance. The lads used to roam around the town breaking windows in their exuberance but the local trade people did not want to lose the custom the school brought to the town so had to suffer in silence.

Even when houses have been refashioned the past can be seen. The waiting room in Hungate Street surgery has a circular table in the centre echoing the site of a well.

Hungate Street has just grown over the centuries. What of the future ?

It must have been tricky even in past times when the mail coach met a lumbering carrier's cart in the street. Will the vehicle entrance for the surgery be from the Buttlands? Will all residents have a device to lower a standing post in the road when they approach by car with all other access other than pedestrian denied?

The story of an ancient highway continues.

## **Book Review**

### **Good Neighbours: Itteringham, Norfolk in the Eighteenth Century by William and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis**

Lavenham Press, Suffolk. 2010. 270 pp. ISBN: 978-0-9561795-1-7.

Itteringham in the eighteenth century was a surprisingly complex community. The central story, which covers 1660–1820, is in the rise and decline of a family called Robins, now largely forgotten, and also the Bell family.

In examining the fortunes of the Robins and Bell families, many other people are inevitably drawn in, and a wealth of detail pervades the book, so the details and fortunes of many other families who share the area surrounding Itteringham are also drawn in. The accounts in the book and the wealth of detail are astounding – one rarely finds a book with such remarkable coverage.

Gradually the lives of many more individuals surrounding Itteringham appear and much information is revealed of people who lived as neighbours of both families. It reveals marriages between Itteringham residents and families outside the Itteringham area, and the picture expands all the time.

The book is enriched with many maps and photographs which help the reader to follow the history of the locals. Detailed information is also recorded of the lives and work of the locals, how they lived and worked with particulars of the farmers and landowners for whom they worked.

What strikes me most of all is the extent of the details the book reveals, and the amount of research which must have been carried out by the authors to reveal such a comprehensive and interesting picture. The authors deserve great praise and thanks for such an effort. Many of us will be envious that no comparable work exists for our own part of the county.

The book is beautifully produced and enhances the contents.

**Tom Mollard**

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# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7 OCTOBER 2010

**SECRETARY'S REPORT.** Jim Pannell reported that 2009–2010 had been a busy and successful year for the Society. He said that the Committee is constantly looking at ways of improving things for Members. An example is our annual card of Society information. This year there would be some changes in presentation. The card would also act as receipt for membership payment and have Members' name(s) on the front. If a card hasn't been received within a few weeks it may be that subs haven't been paid. If subs have been paid but no card received, please let us know.

The winter lectures were consistently well-attended and covered a range of interests including 'Norfolk Textiles' presented by our own committee member, Lynda Wix.

Ann Dyball had again organised memorable trips; most recently a much-enjoyed exploration of some Marshland churches.

The Society's Autumn course was 'The Norfolk Landscape' which was well-attended in the usual comfort of Pegg's Yard. WEA staged a course in the Spring titled 'The History of Science' which attracted a full house. It had been necessary to clarify responsibility for courses and, while Ann Dyball and a committee look after WEA courses covering a much greater spectrum of topics than history, it is now Jim's responsibility to organise the History Society's Autumn course. The current course is 'East Anglia and the settlement of America' presented by Douglas Baker.

The annual Society dinner was held at Sea Marge, Overstrand, and proved very enjoyable for the 30+ members who appreciated both the quality of the meal and the guided tour and history of the building. A similarly interesting and gastronomically indulgent evening is already being planned for 2011 (provisional date 14<sup>th</sup> April).

The committee is grateful to our past chairman and life member, Geoff Gale, who has continued to oversee the Society's maintenance and sale of publications. The committee is also grateful for the continuing liaison with Lloyd Mills, The Town Council's honorary archivist.

Recently we staged the successor to 'Window on Aylsham' entitled 'Aylsham then and now'. As previously, about 150 people attended and there was a lot of enthusiasm among the public, some of whom had not looked so closely with a historic perspective at our beautiful town. Keith Skipper rounded off the event in his inimitable Norfolk style, including a reminder of the importance of our Society in both valuing and sharing

our environment, and encouraging people to ‘mardle’. Special thanks must go to Sheila Merriman for her considerable organisational efforts, also to everyone who helped with the event. The committee has decided not to stage a similar event in 2011 – however, an opportunity for 2012 has appeared. August 2012 is the centenary of the great flood and the closure of the Bure Navigation. There is already a lot of interest from the villages along the Navigation, generated largely by Stuart Wilson from Brampton. Our committee plans that the Society will make a significant contribution. This may include an Autumn 2011 course on Canals and Navigations, and the possibility of a study group to research, collate and write a definitive account of the Upper Bure Navigation.

When we launched ‘Window on Aylsham’ in 2009 you may remember that Derek Lyons produced a wonderful film for the occasion. We were delighted that he produced an equally fascinating film for ‘Aylsham then and now’. Derek has made copies of both films which now form a part of the Aylsham Town Archives. Both films will be shown at the 2010 AGM.

Jim said it had been a pleasure to work as part of the Society’s committee, including Peter Pink guiding our finances and Gillian Fletcher overseeing membership matters, all under Roger Polhill’s leadership. Roger’s tireless enthusiasm and work as Chairman of the Society, as Editor of our excellent Journal, and as an ever-present researcher in the Town Archives are pivotal to the continuing good health of the Society.

Jim concluded by looking forward to the next year, planning and supporting another successful calendar of Society activities.

**Treasurer’s report.** Peter Pink presented the annual accounts. These were still to be audited and, when they have been, will be printed in the Journal. A particular difficulty in presentation in 2010 had been the requirement of ‘Grassroots’ that the accounts for their 2009 grant that covered the cost of ‘Window on Aylsham’, be recorded separately.

**Report on Newsletter and Journal.** Roger Polhill reported that a change of the cover of the Journal is planned. Currently it is dark blue which means it’s difficult to read anything printed on it. It is proposed to change it to a white, glossy, cover. This will lead to greater clarity and will permit colour printing, e.g. illustrations, on the outside. The current cost of printing is £100, changing the cover will increase the cost to about £140.

The Society now has a website [www.aylsham-history.co.uk](http://www.aylsham-history.co.uk) Please visit the website regularly as this will take it higher in the Google list.

It is planned that a research group will meet weekly in the Archives to develop a publication on the Bure Navigation. Those interested in participating should contact Roger Polhill, Jim Pannell or Ann Dyball.

**Report on publications.** Geoff Gale reported that Society books had sold steadily throughout the year. 'Aylsham in 1821' and 'The Poor in Aylsham' would both require a reprint.

**Report on Visits.** Ann Dyball reported that there had been successful visits in 2010 to Carrow House, also to the Marshland churches.

Some visits for 2011 are already planned. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May there will be the opportunity for 25 people to visit East Barsham Hall, a heavily restored Tudor house and gatehouse. On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September it will be possible to visit Kirstead Hall and workshops. The Hall is an E-plan Elizabethan house and the workshops are used for restoration of antique furniture. During the summer of 2011 a visit to Long Melford will be arranged to visit the magnificent church, with potential to visit either Long Melford Hall or Kentwell on the same day.

Ann asked for Members to advise her on their preference for transport for half-day visits. Coaches are very expensive, would people prefer to take cars, with a view to car-sharing?

Ann reported that she has arranged transport to London on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010. She has some tickets available for the Gauguin exhibition. Those using the coach do not have to go to the exhibition. The more people using the coach, the lower the cost per person. She also advised that the WEA course in the Spring 2011 will be 'Venice and its buildings'. The lecturer will be Margaret Forrester.

### **Election of Officers and Committee.**

Ann Dyball, Peter Pink, Jean McChesney and Gillian Fletcher were nominated and re-elected to the Committee.

The current committee comprises: Roger Polhill (Chairman), Ann Dyball (Vice-chairman), Jim Pannell (Secretary), Peter Pink (Treasurer), Gillian Fletcher (Membership Secretary), Sheila Merriman (Minuting Secretary), Jean McChesney, Rosemarie Powell, Victor Morgan, Lynda Wix (co-opted)

Peter Pink announced that he wished to stand down as Treasurer at the 2011 AGM. A volunteer is therefore needed for co-option to the committee to take over from Peter. It would be helpful if the volunteer could be co-opted prior to the 2011 AGM to allow overlap to hand over the accounts. Anyone interested should contact any committee member.

**Sheila Merriman**

# AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2010

2009	Income	2010	2009	Expenditure	2010
849	Subscriptions	835	93	Subscriptions	117
5	Donations	54	30	Donations	
1594	Publications	704	1583	Publications	71
893	Social	734	961	Social	758
	Journal	35	257	Journal	346
48	Visitors	69	215	Speakers	195
1341	Course	1024	800	Course	830
			183	Officers' Expenses	293
				Presentation	99
				Website	145
			28	Membership card	149
			60	Rent Cttee Mtgs	95
			250	Hire Fr'ship Hall	140
12	Bank interest	1		Bank charges	4
Visits					
414	Wingfield	16	445	Wingfield	
	King's Lynn		50	King's Lynn	
97	Barningham		275		
	Carrow House	249		Carrow House	237
	Churches	740		Churches	749
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£5253		£4461	£5230		£4228
Balances					
31/8/09			31/8/10		
3589	Comm A/C	3600	3600	Comm A/C	3832
1070	Business A/C	1082	1082	Business A/C	1083
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
£9912		£9143	£9912		£9143

A Grassroots grant of £340 was received from Norfolk Community Foundation towards 'Window on Aylsham'. £274.59 was spent on the event in 2009, the remainder was used for 'Aylsham Then and Now' in 2010.

## LIST OF MEMBERS – NOVEMBER 2010

Below is the list of current paid-up members. After this issue of the Journal, the circulation of future issues will be based on this. IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THIS LIST YOU COULD MISS OUT ON FUTURE ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL. You will receive them by paying a subscription to the Aylsham Local History Society and sending it to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Gillian Fletcher, 7 The Maltings, Millgate, Aylsham NR11 6HX (individuals £9; couples £15). Apologies to any members who might have recently renewed their subscription and still missed inclusion on the list.

Baker, Mr DW	Greengrass, Mr B	Polhill, Dr & Mrs R
Barber, Mrs P	Grellier, Ms D	Powell, Mr & Mrs I
Barwick, Mrs G	Haddow, Ms E	Preis, Mrs W
Bayes, Mrs R	Hall, Mrs R	Pritchard, Mr & Mrs E
Bedlow, Ms A	Harrison, Mrs R	Rowe, Mrs M
Bennett, Mr T	Hewett, Mr & Mrs R	Rust, Mr & Mrs B
Benstead, Mrs J	Hicks, Mr R	Sadler, Mr G
Bewley, Ms M	Holman, Mrs P	Scott, Mr T
Bird, Mrs M	Humphreys, Mrs C	Shaw, Mr & Mrs A
Brasnett, Mr & Mrs D	Jackman, Ms S	Shepherd, Mrs A
Burton, Mr A	Jay, Ms S	Sheringham, Mrs J
Case, Dr D E	Johnstone, Mr G	Simpson, Mr & Mrs A
Casimir, Mr & Mrs S	Keable, Mrs M	Slaughter, Mr I
Collins, Mrs R	Lloyd, Mrs T	Smith, Mr & Mrs R
Corbin, Mrs H	Lowe, Mr B	Spencer, Mr & Mrs
Cox, Mrs F	Lyons, Mr D	Stevens, Miss S
Crowe, Ms C	Macartney, Ms J	Steward, Mrs L
Davy, Mr & Mrs R	McChesney, Mrs J	Thomas, Ms C
Douet, Dr A	McManus, Mr & Mrs	Ulph, Mr C
Ducker, Mr G	I	Vaughan-Lewis, Mr
Duncan, Mrs B	Merriman, Mrs S	& Mrs W
Dyball, Miss A J	Mills, Mr L	Wade, Mr C
Ellis, Ms J	Mitchell, Mrs M	Walpole, Lord & Lady
Elsey, Mr & Mrs B	Mollard, Mr & Mrs T	Wintle, Mrs S
Fearn, Mrs P	Morgan, Dr V	Wix, Mr & Mrs M
Fletcher, Mrs G	Newell, Mrs J	Worsencroft, Mr D
Gale, Mr G	Nobbs, Mr G	Wright, Mr J.
Garrett, Mr & Mrs A	Pannell, Mr J	
Gawith, Mr & Mrs C	Peabody, Ms J	
Gee, Mrs P	Pink, Mr P	

## NOTICES

### **Severe Weather Procedure**

In case of adverse weather, members are asked to telephone a committee member after 11 am on the day of the lecture or course to see whether the lecture will proceed.

### **WEA AYLSHAM BRANCH**

#### **Venice and its Buildings by Margaret Forrester**

The course is for ten sessions from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the Friends' Meeting House, Pegg's Yard, Aylsham, Wednesdays 2–3.30 pm.

Fee for 10 week course: £44

#### **The City of Berlin: Past and Present by Barbara Marshall**

Day School Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011, 10 am –4 pm – £12 + £6 for lunch. Booking essential.

Contact: Ms Ann Dyball 01263 732637 or [ajdyball@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ajdyball@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Spring Social Event**

The Spring Social Event is scheduled for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at the Northrepps Country Cottage Hotel.

Please see insert with this issue. Jim Pannell would appreciate an indication of numbers by 31 January 2011.