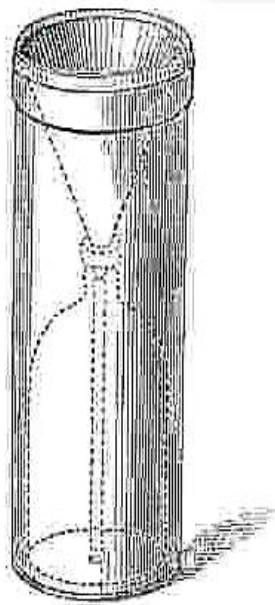
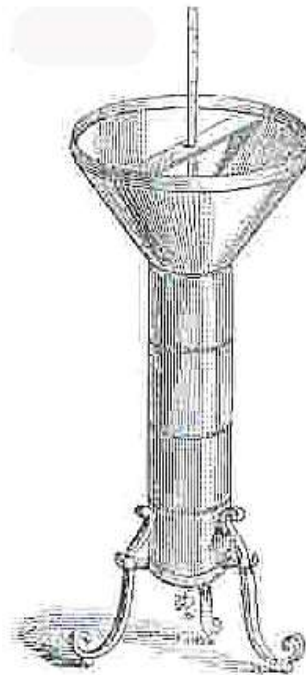
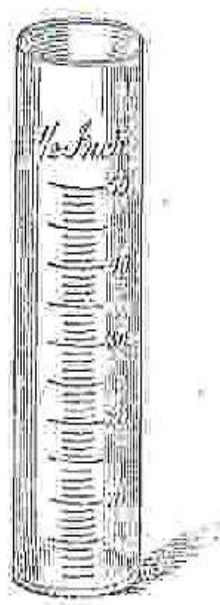


AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Casella's Rain gauge.



Rain-gauge.

Volume 8 No 2

April 2008

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Cover Illustration: Victorian raingauges from *The Gardener's Assistant* (1888).



AYLSHAM LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

JOURNAL & NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

No. 2

A critical eye may notice we seem to have lost an Editor – in reality we have agreed that I shall set the Journal, with help from my wife Diana, and Lloyd Mills will provide the support on the Committee and from the Archives, as well as keeping an eye on the internet. But we do urgently need a new Minutes Secretary for the Committee (see insert).

We are most grateful to Ben Rust for the leading article, making available the rainfall records he, his father and Thomas Woods Purdy senior have made over the years back to 1885. In the next issue we plan to take note of the 70th Anniversary of the *The Masque of Anne Boleyn* at Blickling Hall in August 1938. Molly Long has already made a contribution and we should be grateful if other people who participated as children then would like to add their memories. Even little details are interesting – we didn't know that Parmeters was used to make up the costumes, no doubt under the strict eye of Miss Gilbert. Some of the recollections have already been recorded for the archives at Blickling Hall. Aylsham High School is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and we hope to make some record of that too.

We are also pleased to have been able to offer John Pumphrey the means to publish the 50 articles he wrote for the Parish Magazine between 2002 and 2007 in a book to be called *About Aylsham* as in the original series. The copy has now gone to Catton Print, who have successfully published most of our previous books.

The details for our Spring Social Event on 24 April and the Summer Outings are listed on the back cover and on loose inserts. We hope for a good turnout and fine weather.

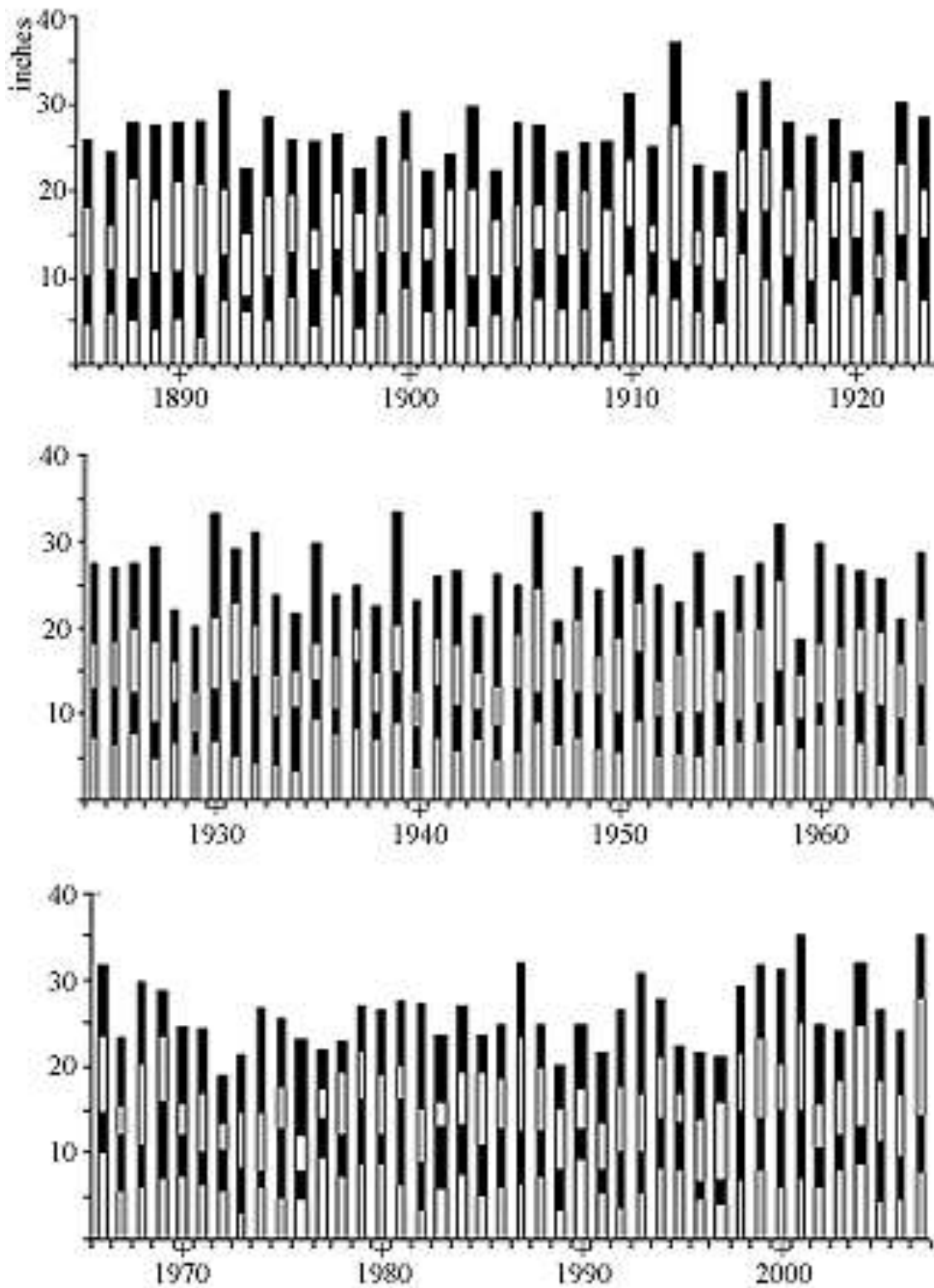


Fig.1. Seasonal rainfall 1886–2007. To show full seasons the December figure for the previous year is brought forward to start Winter period, December–February, at the base of the column, then Spring, Summer and Autumn.

AYLSHAM RAINFALL

Ben Rust

At the end of my last report in April 2002 I stated that we had experienced 28 days with little rainfall and maybe 2002 might end up a drier than average year (we had already had 4 years of above average rainfall). This was not to be. The dry spell continued for a further 7 days, but the last 5 days of April were wet. Rainfall continued about average during the summer and then nearly 12 inches fell during October–December to bring the year above average.

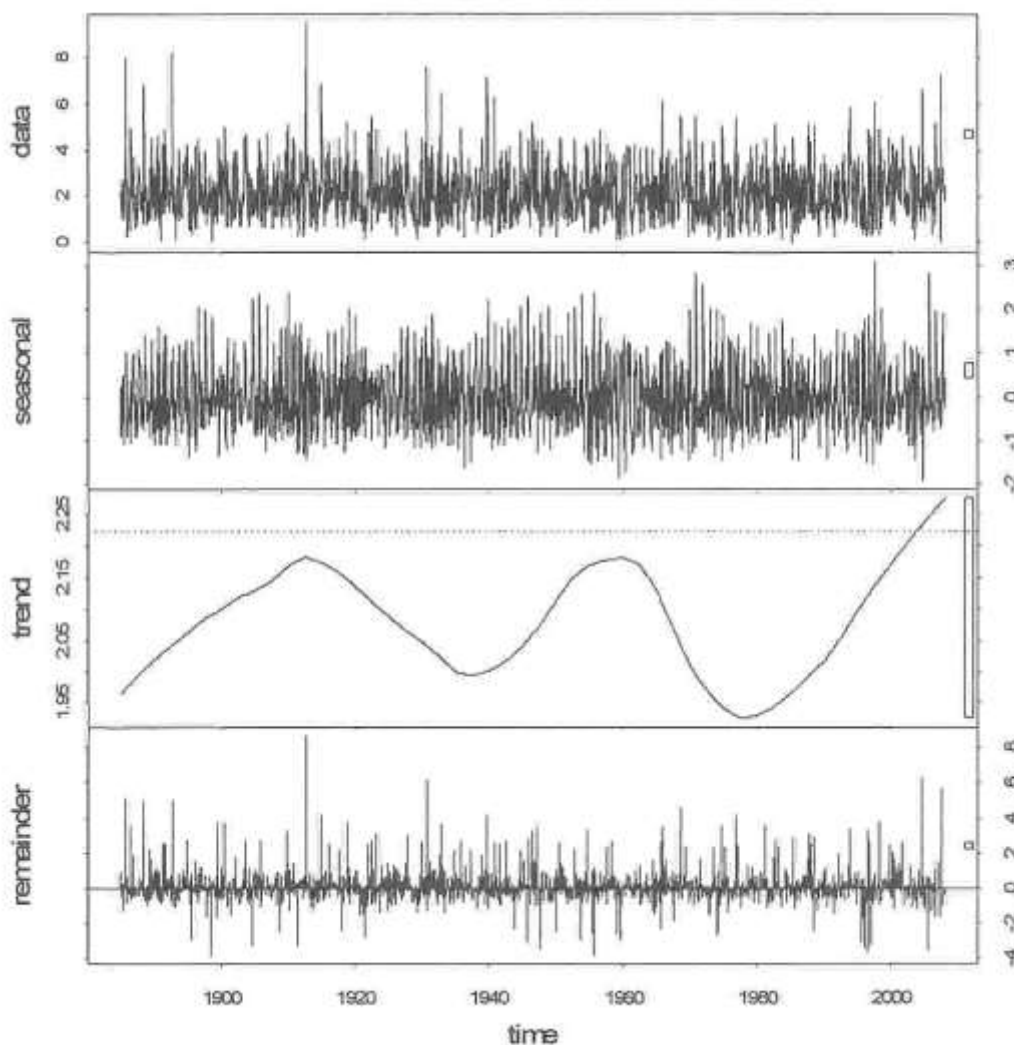


Fig. 2. Trends in average rainfall 1885–2007, shown with decomposition of seasonal averages, exceptional events put as “remainder” (the box at right in each plot is at the same scale). Shows peaks around 1910, 1960 and now, with troughs c. 1940 and 1980.

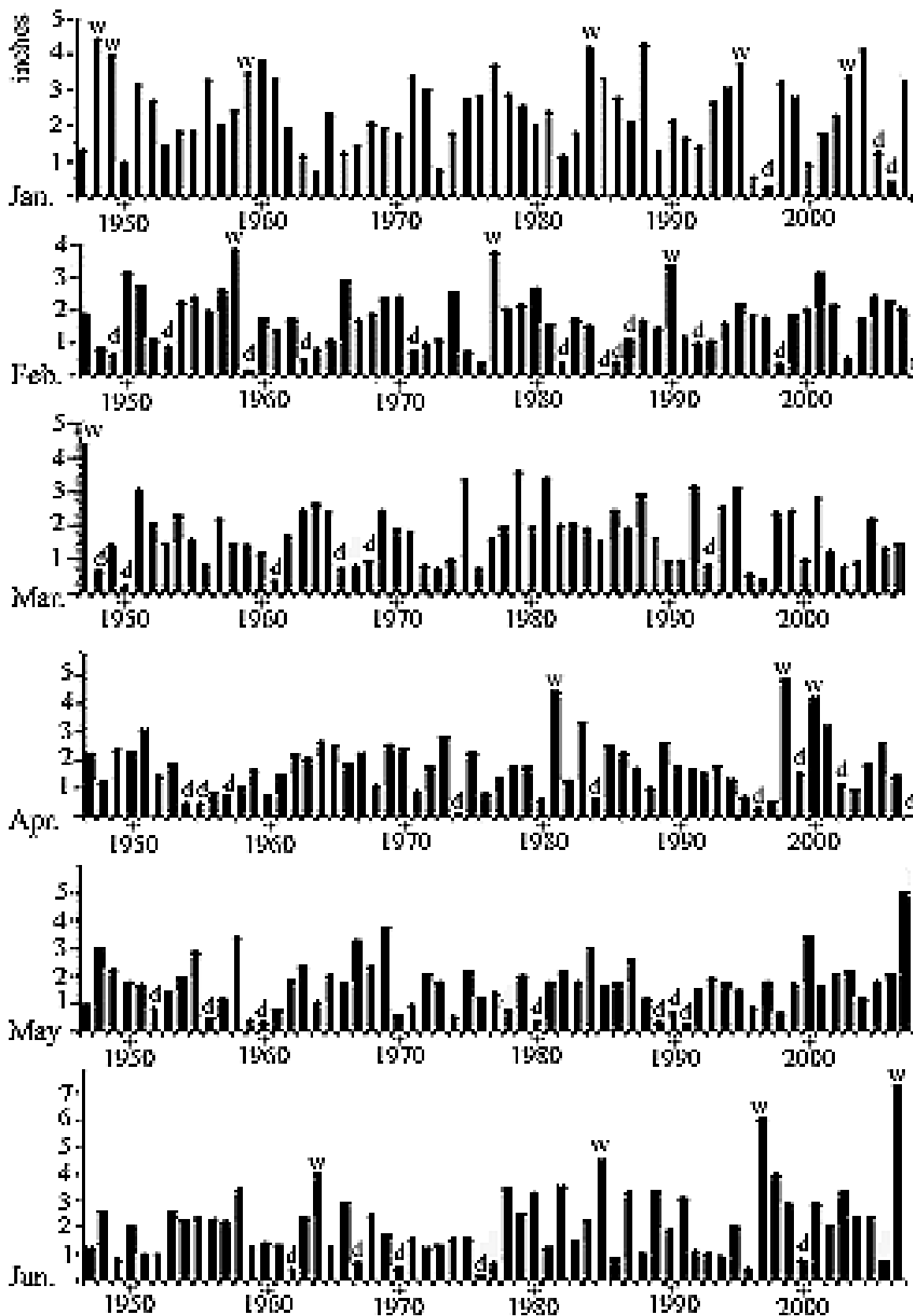
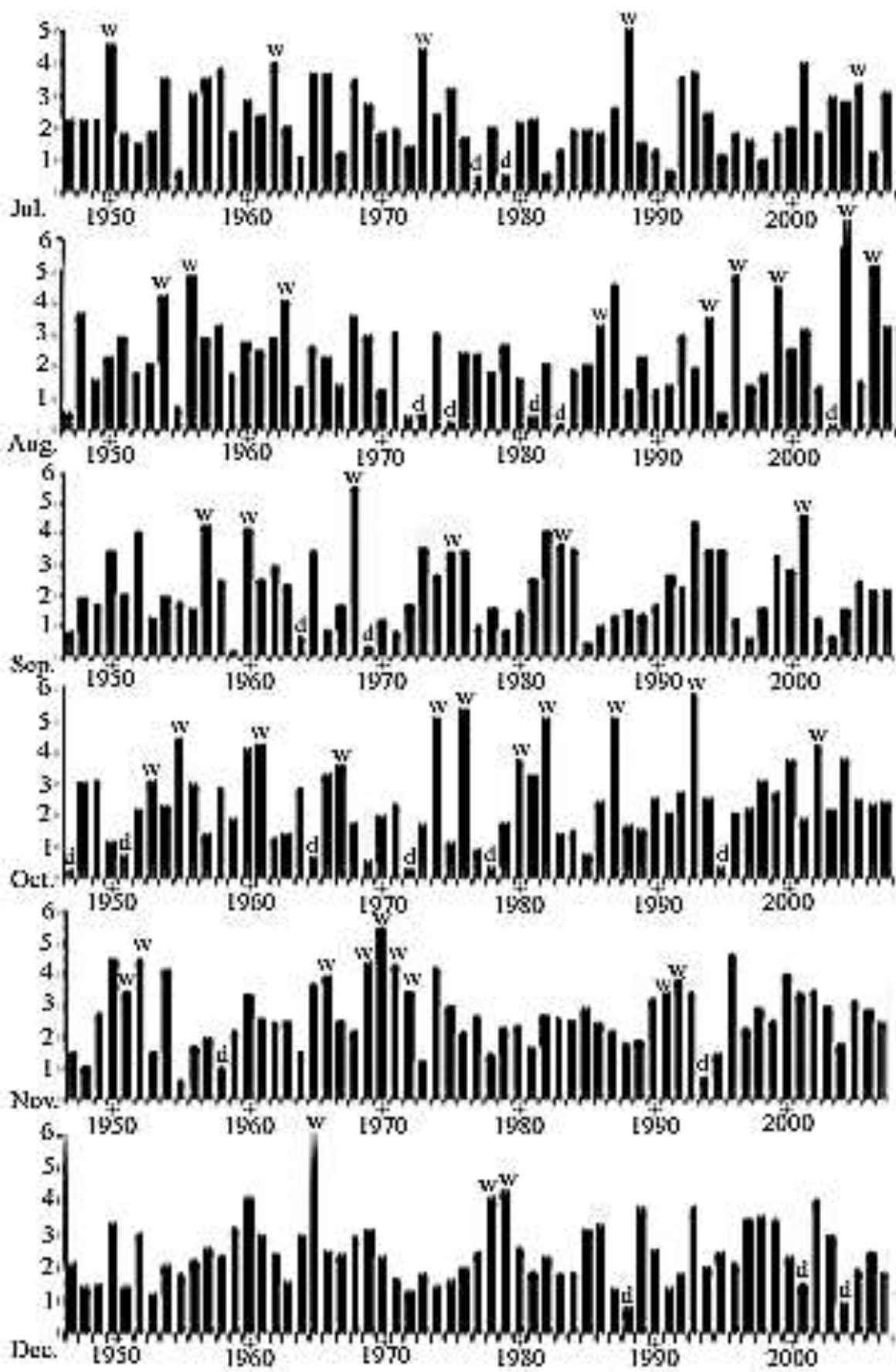


Fig. 3–4. Monthly rainfall, 1947–2007, showing wettest ("w") and driest ("d") month in each year. January–June has 41 driest months and 17 wettest; July–December has 20 driest and 44 wettest.



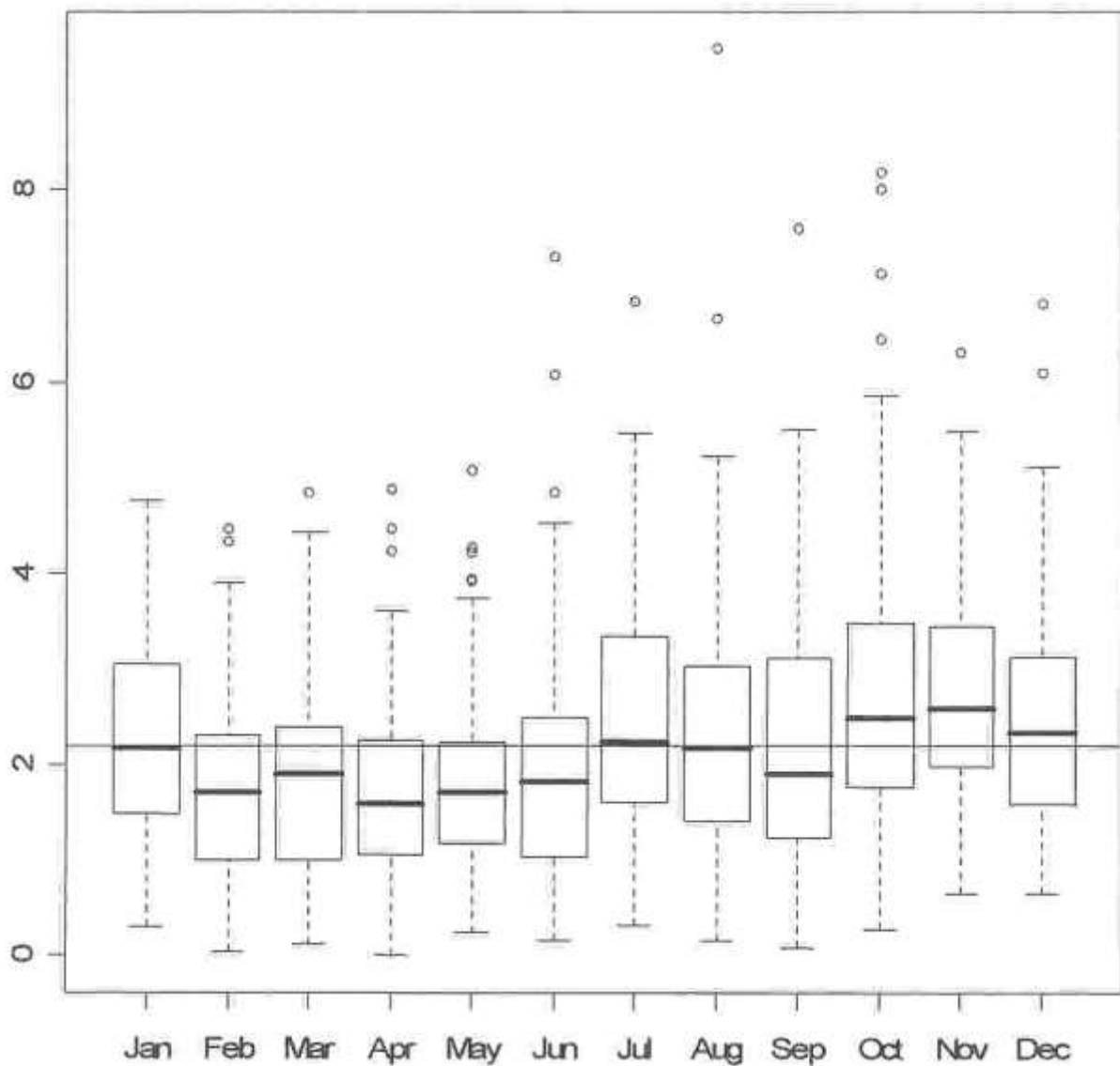


Fig. 5. Monthly boxplots of Aylsham rainfall for the period 1885–2007. Boxes are the quartiles with mean as a solid black line, the vertical dotted lines are 95% confidence and the open circles outliers. Typically the dry season is from February to June, and the wet season July to January (with a little dry blip in September).

Generally the period 2002–2007 has been much wetter than average; just two years 2002 and 2006 being a little below average. During this time there have been periods of heavy rainfall:

October 2002	4.21 inches	May 2004	6.65 inches
August 2006	5.22 inches	June 2007	7.30 inches

2007 has been an exceptional year. Total rainfall was 34.5 inches; the highest since 1912. June 2007 with 7.3 inches was only rivalled in the last

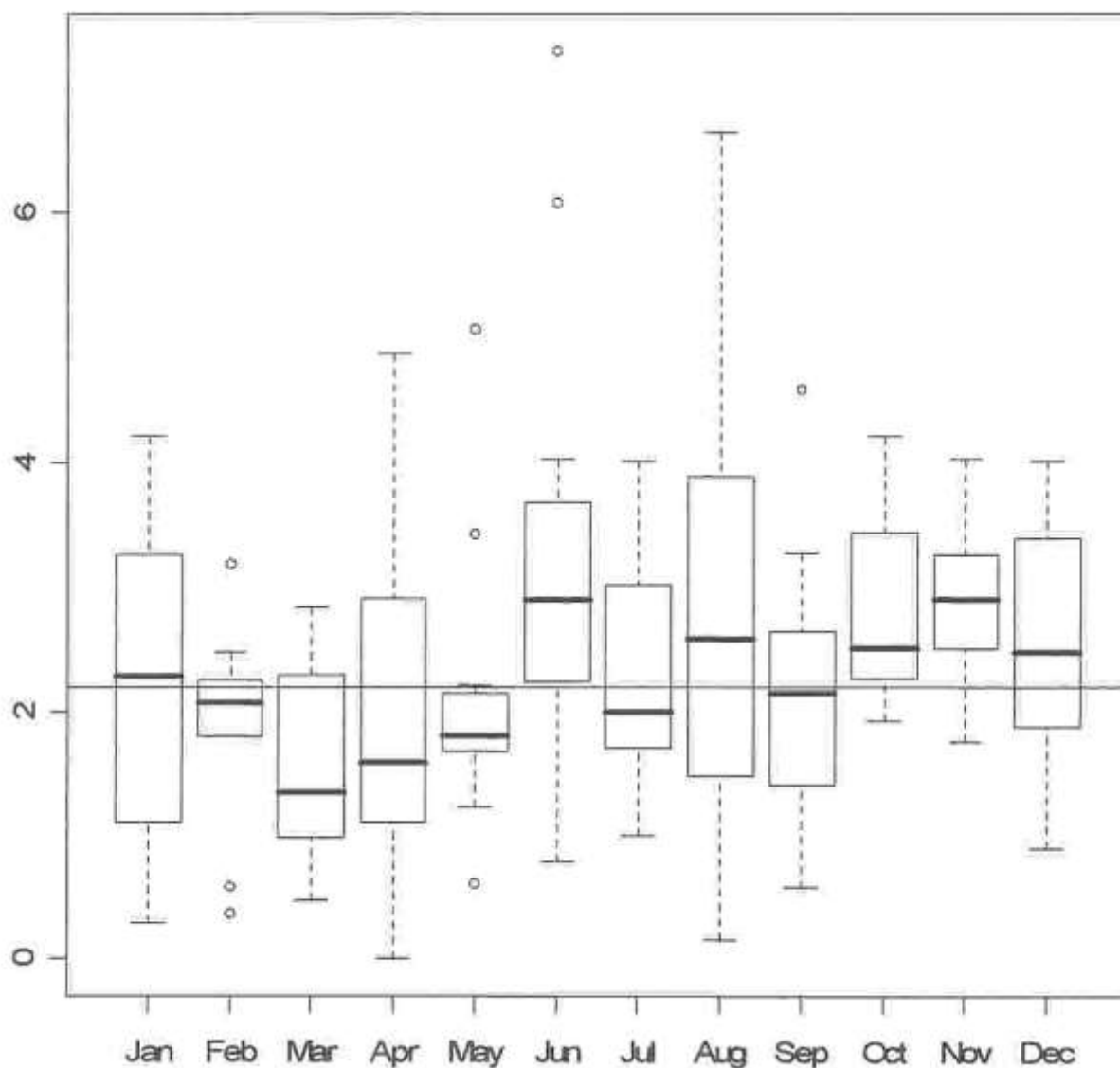


Fig. 6. Monthly boxplots of Aylsham rainfall for the period 1997–2007, typical of wet eras with wetter wet season and a shorter (February–May) and sometimes wetter dry season.

century by September 1930 with 7.6 inches and August 1912 with 9.48 inches. And yet April was the first month recorded with NIL rainfall. Only 6.86 inches fell in the first 4 months, then 27.64 inches fell in the subsequent 8 months. The summer months, May–September, were all well above average. No serious flooding occurred locally, but the Midlands and the West Country were not so fortunate.

In looking at the annual rainfall charts from 1885 (fig. 1) it is very noticeable that the last 10 years show a marked increase in rainfall. Only 2 years (2003 and 2006) are below the average of 26 inches.

The 10 year average 1998–2007 is 29.28 ins, whereas the 10 year average 1988–1997 is 24.46 ins. However if one looks further back the 10 year average for 1920–1929 is 23.05 ins, whereas the 10 year average 1910–1919 is 28.42 ins. So on the law of averages we should be looking forward to a dry spell over the next 10 years, unless Global Warming intervenes. These trends are shown in fig. 2.

Looking at the driest/wettest month chart (figs 3–4) it is very noticeable that the majority of driest months occur in the first half of the year; the wettest months in the second half of the year. Boxplots in figs 5–6 show changes in the wetter era. This is also shown by the monthly averages:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1889–1999	2.34	1.74	1.86	1.72	1.82	1.87	
1998–2007	2.36	1.89	1.68	2.21	2.19	2.94	

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1889–1999	2.44	2.34	2.18	2.68	2.74	2.47	26.2
1998–2007	2.40	3.03	2.26	2.89	2.95	2.48	29.28

Acknowledgements

This article is based on rainfall records I have maintained for the Meteorological Office since 1966 and my father's records from 1920. Mr Thomas Woods Purdy provided me with his father's records from 1885. A copy has been deposited in the Aylsham Archives.

I am grateful to Dr Don Kirkup, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for providing figures 2, 5 and 6 to illustrate trends with computer graphics.

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- Rust, B. (1986). Aylsham rainfall. Aylsham Local History Society Journal 1: 118–120.
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ROLL OF HONOUR 1914–1918 (Part 1)

Lloyd Mills

Last year the journal published an article by Betty Gee in which she printed the details of those men who gave their lives during the Second World War and are listed on the War Memorial in the churchyard of St. Michael and All Angels Church ('Roll of Honour', ALHS Journal, Vol 7, No 14, pp 388 – 391). In this article we try to continue Betty's work by printing the first part of a list of those who died in the First World War.

According to a typed list held in the Town Council Archives and dated December 1915 there were 167 men from the Parish of Aylsham serving in the armed forces. Many more men enlisted after 1915 and it seems clear that the vast majority of able bodied men within the Parish of Aylsham did go to war. The population of the parish was approximately 2400 so the death of 65 young men must have had a profound effect on the town. In a later edition of the journal we hope to look at other ways the town commemorated these men.

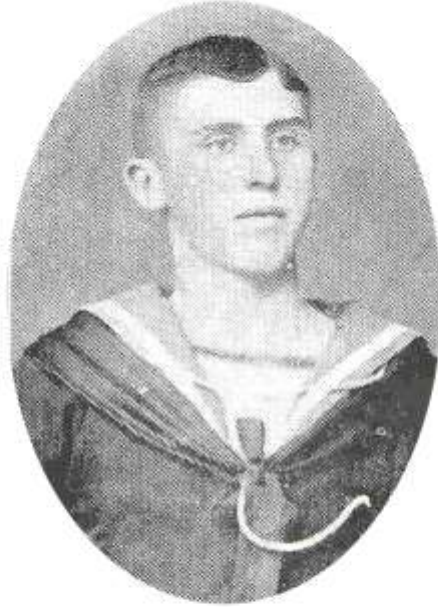
BAKER Percy Willie Private 41356. 10th Bn., Essex Regiment. Killed in action 31 July 1917. Born and lived Aylsham. Awarded the Military medal (MM). Buried: LA BRIQUE MILITARY CEMETERY No.2, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ref. II. A. 2.

BALLS Horace Private 2245. "D Coy. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died 12 August 1915 in Gallipoli. Age 20. Son of Edward C. Balls, of Hungate St., Aylsham, Norfolk. Commemorated: HELLES MEMORIAL, Turkey. Panel 42 to 44.

BARBER Leonard Henry Private 241848. 12th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment. Killed in action on 11 April 1918. Born Reepham. Lived Aylsham. Buried: PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 4.



Private Frederick James Barrett



Leading Seaman William Dyball



Sergeant John Lee Goulder



Corporal Ernest Bertie Green

BARRETT Frederick James Private 8118. 1st Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 5 May 1915. Age 25. Born Aylsham. Husband of Mrs. L. Barrett, of Unicorn Yard, Hungate St., Aylsham, Norfolk. Commemorated: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 4.

BODDY Robert [BODY on CD & CWGC.] Private 19685. 8th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died of wounds 11 August 1917. Born Aylsham. Commemorated: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 4.

BOND Frank Thomas [F.E. Bond on Memorial] Private 3/8122. 7th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died of wounds 9 November 1915. Born Aylsham. Buried: BETHUNE TOWN CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. IV. F. 87.

BRAWN Henry Harold Serjeant 7570 1st Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 14 September 1914. Age 23. Born Aylsham. Son of Rebecca Brawn, of Oakfield Rd., Aylsham, Norfolk, and Sgt Maj. Henry Brawn. Commemorated: LA FERTE-SOUS-JOUARRE MEMORIAL, Seine-et-Marne, France.

CHAMBERLAIN Walter Cecil Private 2520. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died in Gallipoli on 12 August 1915. Age 18. Son of Walter Chamberlain, of Fox Loke, Aylsham, Norfolk. Commemorated: HELLES MEMORIAL, Turkey. Panel 42 to 44.

COOKE Noel Hannant Private 46643. 36th Field Amb, Royal Army Medical Corps. Killed in action on 1 October 1915. Age 22. Born Marsham. Son of Ward Hannant Cooke and Lucy Maria Cooke, of Hungate St., Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: VERMELLES BRITISH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. I. H. 34.

COPEMAN Ernest Hugh Second Lieutenant. 6th Bn., Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) attd. 37th Bn. Machine Gun Corps (Inf). Killed in action near Loos in France on 18 March 1916. Born 18 August 1888. Son of Thomas & Mariana Copeman. Commemorated: LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 95 to 97.



Corporal Eric Horner



Private Noel Hannant Cooke



Private Frank
Thomas Bond

Private Henry
Charles Dyball

COPEMAN Herbert Guy Hele Second Lieutenant 6th Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. Killed in action at Guillemont on 3 September 1916. Age 25. Son of Thomas and Mariana A. Copeman. Buried: GUILLEMONT ROAD CEMETERY, GUILLEMONT, Somme, France. Ref. Sp. Mem. 7.

CORKE W Private 18394. 2nd Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died in Mesopotamia on 4 September 1916. Age 36. Born Instead, Norfolk. Buried: AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq. Ref. IX. H. 32.

DOUGHTY George William Private 40186. 4th Bn., Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action on 30 October 1917. Lived Oulton. Commemorated: TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 48 to 50 and 162A.

DUCKER C C Private 16949. "A Coy. 7th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action on 13 October 1915. Age 24. Commemorated: LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 30 and 31.

DUCKER Jack No further information available.

DUCKER (E) James Private 40204. 9th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 18 October 1916. Born Aylsham. Buried: BANCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. VII. B. 9.

DUCKER Thomas Edmund Private 40205. 9th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action on 18 October 1916. Age 29. Husband of Ellen Ducker, of Fox Loke, Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: BANCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. VII. B. 10.

DYBALL Henry C Private 3/10016. 1st Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 18 June 1915. Born Aylsham. Commemorated: PERTH CEMETERY (CHINA WALL), Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Sp. Mem. A. 4.

DYBALL Edward Gunner RMA/12824. Royal Marine Artillery. Died 7 November 1918. Age 24. Son of Charles and Evelyn Dyball, of Cawston Rd., Aylsham. Buried: AYLHAM CEMETERY, Norfolk, United Kingdom. Ref. H. 72.

DYBALL William Leading Seaman 208734. Royal Navy. Died 15 October 1914. Age 30. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dyball, of Cawston Rd., Aylsham; husband of Annie Rosetta Dyball, of Millgate St., Aylsham, Norfolk. Commemorated: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, Kent, United Kingdom. Panel 1.

FIELD William George Private 240213. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died 2 November 1917. Born and enlisted Aylsham. Commemorated: JERUSALEM MEMORIAL, Israel. Panels 12 to 15.

FISHER Sydney Serjeant 26131. 39th Bn., Machine Gun Corps (Inf). Killed in action 25 March 1918. Born Buxton. Lived Aylsham. Enlisted Norwich. Commemorated: POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Panel 90 to 93.

FROSTICK Francis Henry Able Seaman R/543. Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Died 24 April 1917. Age 26. Son of James and Emily Frostick, of Hungate St., Aylsham, Norfolk. Commemorated: ARRAS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 1

GIBBONS H J (*Possibly Private 17455. 7th Bn., East Surrey Regiment. Died 30 August 1916. Buried: VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MILITARY CEMETERY, VIA. F. 21*)

GILES William Private 51361. 2nd Bn., Manchester Regiment. Killed in action 19 April 1918. Age 27. Born Skeyton. Lived Aylsham. Son of William and Annie Giles, of Woodgate Cottages, Aylsham, Norfolk. Buried: QUESNOY FARM MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Ref. C. 7.

GOULDER Clare Horsley Corporal 13146. 8th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Died 31 October 1916. Born Aylsham. Buried: AYLSHAM CEMETERY, Norfolk, United Kingdom. Ref. B. 77.

GOULDER John Lee Serjeant 2179. 1st/5th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 21 August 1915. Born and enlisted Aylsham. Commemorated: HELLES MEMORIAL, Turkey. Panel 42 to 44.

GOULDER Robert Christopher Lance Corporal 13188. 8th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 1 July 1916. Born Aylsham. Commemorated: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 1 C and 1 D.

GREENE Ernest Bertie 1/5th Bn Norfolk Regiment. Died (of wounds received at the Dardanelles) at Alexandria, Egypt 13 August 1915. Of Erpingham.

HALL Arthur Robert Sapper 230925. 130th Field Coy., Royal Engineers. Died 18 October 1918. Born and lived Aylsham. Buried: ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime, France. Ref. S. II. J 9.

HORNE Arthur James Private 27389. 6th Bn., Somerset Light Infantry. Killed in action on 3 November 1917. Born Aylsham. Commemorated: TYNE COT MEMORIAL , Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 41 to 42 and 163A.

HORNER Eric Lance Corporal 11376. 6th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment. Killed in action 21 August 1915. Born Aylsham.. Commemorated: HELLES MEMORIAL, Turkey. Panel 55 to 58.

References

The website www.roll-of-honour.com aims to list all war memorials in the UK and we are grateful for their permission to use information included here.

www.cwgc.org is the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC was founded to pay tribute to the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth forces who have given their lives in two world wars. It is responsible for the upkeep of war graves and cemeteries around the world. On its website you can find details of most servicemen and women and where they are buried or commemorated.

At www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/militaryhistory/medals you can search for, and view, copies of the index cards and medal rolls for individual soldiers and sailors in the First World War

ROLL OF HONOUR – SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 – 1945

Betty Gee

Following the article in Volume 7 No 14 of August 2007, I was informed by Geoffrey Ducker, a Society member for many years, that British Legion members had also done research on the family details of those who died in the Last War and that these had been handed to the Aylsham Archivist, Lloyd Mills. I am pleased to give below the details which were not on the previous sheet.

Sidney George AMIES The word “probably” should be removed as he is confirmed as being in the Royal Artillery.

William George BARKER* Lance Corporal 5th Bn Royal Norfolk Regiment. No known grave; died 21 Sept 1944. Aged 25. Remembered on Singapore Memorial.

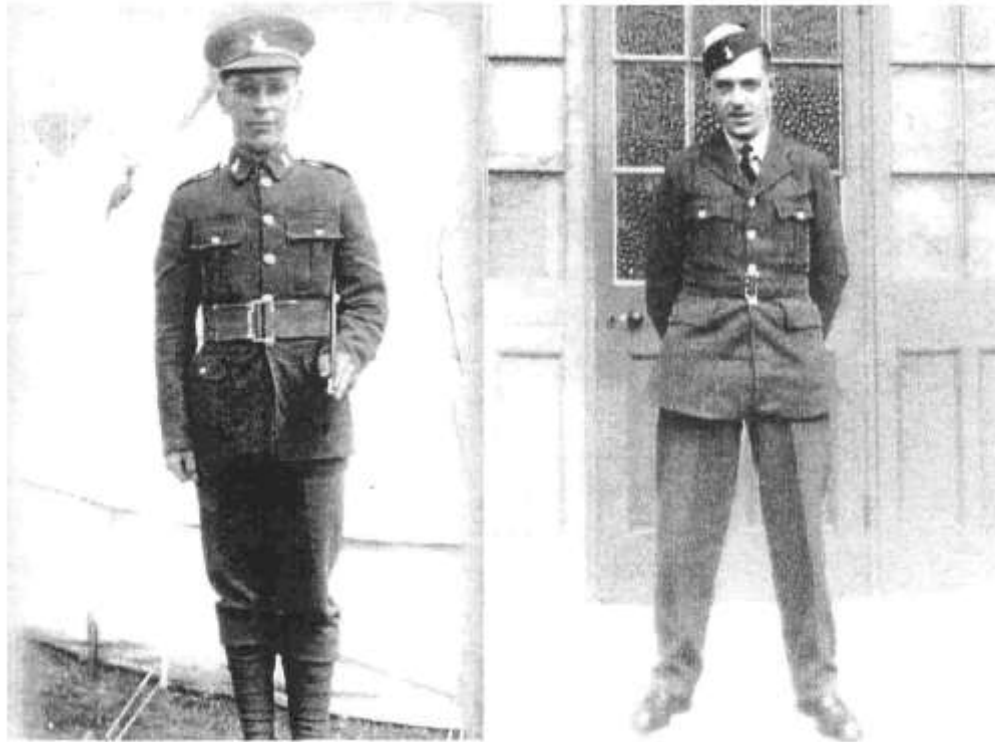
Alan Denis BOND, Sergeant, RAF Volunteer Reserve. Although he lived in Aylsham, he owned and worked in his Gentlemen’s Outfitters Shops in North Walsham and Swaffham.

John CHAMBERLAIN Lance-Corporal 2nd Bn Royal Norfolk Regiment. Died 15 May 1940 aged 25. Buried Chercq Churchyard, Hainaut, Belgium.

Colin Davy DYE, Lance Sergeant. 5th Bn Royal Norfolk Regiment. Died 16 June 1943 in Japanese Prisoner of war camp. Aged 29. Buried in Thailand.

Albert John (Jack) MURTON Leading Aircraftman. Pilot under Training. Killed in training accident aged 21 on 21 August 1941. The impressive funeral was at St Michael’s Church and burial took place in Aylsham cemetery.

* On the Internet information this entry was given as William Arthur BARKER Sergeant RAF Volunteer Reserve. Buried in Holland in 1943.



Lance Corporal John Chamberlain Leading Aircraftman Albert John Murton

Chetwin Hamre POPPLEWELL Flying Officer Royal Canadian Air Force. Age unknown. Died 29 Sept 1943. Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Nordrhein-Wesfalen.

James Charles PRATT Sergeant 142 Squadron RAF Volunteer Reserve. Died August 1943, aged 19 years. No known grave. Remembered on Malta memorial.

Wesley Newell WARD Flight Sergeant 905163 RAF Volunteer Reserve. Died 6 May 1942, aged 21. No known grave. Remembered on Runnymede Memorial, Surrey.

Alfred Fountain WILLIAMSON Guardsman. 3rd Bn Coldstream Guards. Died 23 July 1944, aged 26.

George Henry WILLIAMSON Sergeant 5th RMAA Royal Marines. Died 13 October 1944, aged 38. Buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium.

SOCIETY NEWS

SIR CHARLES POTTS OF MANNINGTON HALL – a talk by Clive Wilkins-Jones

In November, Clive Wilkins-Jones, Archive Specialist from Norfolk County Library gave a most interesting talk on Sir Charles Potts, one-time owner of Mannington Hall and in particular about his personal library.

The adjoining estates of Wolterton and Mannington are both owned by Lord Walpole, but Mannington tends to be rather overshadowed by Wolterton and its more impressive house, so it was rather a treat to hear about Mannington and one of its earlier owners.

The Potts family connection with the Mannington estate began in the sixteenth century and lasted until 1737, when the last of the line sold up to Horatio Walpole, Robert Walpole's brother.

At the same time it was decided to dispose of the family library, accumulated over several generations. The Norwich bookseller, William Chase, was chosen to sell the collection. Chase produced a printed sale catalogue, a copy of which survives in Norfolk Record Office. The catalogue lists a total of 405 titles, not a large library if you compare it with that of Sir Thomas Browne.

About a third of the books are religious, then came history and then literature, but there were also medical books and books on surveying, accountancy, building, horsemanship and cookery.

Because the books did not have ownership marks the present whereabouts of any surviving copies is unknown – with the exception of Andre Tacquet's *Opera mathematica*, a book that Sir Algernon Potts donated to Norwich City Library in 1707.

It seems likely that many of these volumes still survive, and belong to new owners probably not far away from their former home, but it is unlikely they could be identified as former volumes from the Pott's library if they ever came to light.

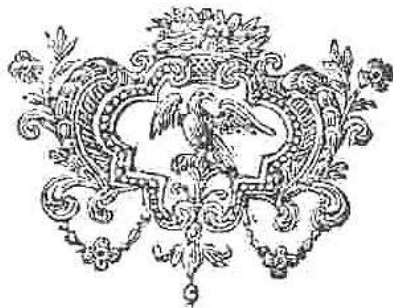
It was a very interesting talk, and I understand that we may hear more about Mannington from Clive in the near future, and we heard also that a new history of the Potts's family is in preparation and should be on sale within the next twelve months. So we have these to look forward to.

Tom Mollard

A
CATALOGUE
OF A
Valuable COLLECTION
OF
BOOKS,
In most FACULTIES;

Most of which were bought out of the Study of
the late Sir *Charles Potts*, Bart. at *Mannington-
Hall*, near *Aylsham*.

To be Sold CHEAP, by W. CHASE, Bookseller,
in the *Cockey-Lane*, *Norwich*; with above 1000
other Books, in *English*, *Latin*, *French*, and
Greek, which I have not Room to insert in the
Catalogue, are laid in Order for Gentlemen to
look of, and will be sold very Cheap. The
Sale begins on Tuesday August the 9th, and
continue all the Assize-Week.



Norwich: Printed by *William Chase*, 1737.

Preamble to William Chase's sale catalogue of Sir Charles Potts's Library, courtesy of the Norfolk Record Office.

MANNINGTON FAMILIES – BEFORE THE WALPOLES

Laurel Walpole, Maggie and William Vaughan-Lewis



Mannington Hall from R.H. Mason's *Norfolk Photographically Illustrated* (1865), courtesy of the Norfolk Heritage Centre.

At Dr Clive Wilkin-Jones's excellent talk on Sir Charles Potts and his library it was evident that many Society members were not aware of the families that owned and lived in Mannington Hall before its purchase in 1737 by Horatio Walpole. To go some way to remedy this and as a trailer for the book that Maggie and William Vaughan-Lewis are expecting to publish in 2008 on Mannington and these earlier families, we have written these brief notes. Of course much more detail on this historic place and its fascinating families will follow in the book.

The main part of the present Mannington Hall was built in the 1460s by William Lumner (the modern spelling we have adopted of a name with many variants), in whose family the manor had already been for two generations. Whilst other lines of the family evolved in Sharrington and London, the main line was based at Mannington Hall and its estate in Mannington, Itteringham, Saxthorpe and Little Barningham. After

William's death in 1481 and his wife Margaret's in 1505, the manor passed to their son William and in due course to his son Edmund. Dying in 1558 Edmund left a life interest in Mannington to his widow Katherine, before it would be inherited by their son Edmund. Katherine had two daughters by her fourth husband John Dodge from Kent. The younger of the two married John Potts, a London lawyer, in 1584. At the same time the young Edmund Lumner was deep in debt and offered to sell Mannington to the husbands of both his half-sisters. John Potts took up the offer and paid an undisclosed but very large sum to purchase the estate and take full occupation of it when his mother-in-law died. In fact she outlasted him by about a year; but by the end of the century the heir to the estate was the eight year old John Potts.

He was to become a dutiful member of the gentry in Norfolk and in time the well known puritan MP – Sir John Potts. He was knighted and made a Baronet in 1641. By his first wife, Barbara Godsalve, he had three daughters, one of whom was to marry James Scambler whose family held the old Wolterton House and its lands until it was sold to Horatio Walpole in 1717. Barbara died quite young and Sir John eventually married Ursula, the widow of Sir Clement Spelman of London and Narborough and the daughter of Sir John Willoughby of Derbyshire. They had three sons and one daughter.

The eldest son became Sir John Potts the second at his father's death in 1673, but only survived him by four years. His son Sir Roger Potts held Mannington to his death in 1711, but lived in Great Ellingham Hall, which he inherited through his wife – Mary Davy. Of their children all born in Great Ellingham, several died young; Sir Roger was succeeded by his son Sir Algernon. Algernon died childless and his brother Sir Charles succeeded him in 1717. Sir Charles also died childless in 1732 and his widow Dame Mary died in 1737; they are buried at Mannington where their tombs can be seen in the ruined chapel. Swiftly after Lady Potts's death her niece, Catherine Turner and Sir Charles's nephew, Isaac Long (son of his sister Susan Long) sold the estate to Horatio Walpole, who by that time had built the splendid new Wolterton Hall and was seeking to buy neighbouring lands.

Maggie and William's book is progressing well and they hope to publish by the end of 2008 or early 2009. They will let members know when more details are known.



**THE BROADLAND PHOTOGRAPHERS –a slide show given
by Peter and Rosemary Salt**



“Gathering waterlilies” by Dr P H Emerson, 1885.

Nobody with an interest in Norfolk’s past would have wanted to miss this slide show given on 24 January. We were taken on a tour of Victorian/Edwardian Broadland as seen through the eyes of some very dedicated early photographers. The journey with Mr. and Mrs. Salt took in Norwich and Yarmouth, many of the Broads villages, and as far north as Coltishall and North Walsham. Most of Broadland seems to have been covered. Some of the scenes, such as Pulls Ferry, were easily recognizable but with others the changes that have taken place over the past hundred years made recognition difficult. There were, I estimate, somewhere in the region of two hundred slides all told. An informative and sometimes amusing commentary read by Mrs Salt added to the pleasure.

Most of the pictures dated from a time when making a photograph was not the simple task it has since become. These were taken before the introduction of photographic film and would have been recorded on glass plate negatives. Some, I suspect, were taken before factory-made plates

were available so the photographer would have had to coat his glass plate with chemicals only minutes before they were needed and then develop them equally quickly before they dried. Successful photography required not only a good eye for a picture but an intimate knowledge of both optics and chemistry, and considering the weight of the equipment, considerable stamina.

The photographer most closely associated with the Broads is P H Emerson – and for good reason. His work stands out for both quality and content. Anyone wishing to know what life was like in the Norfolk countryside in the eighteen eighties and eighteen nineties could do worse than study Dr. Emerson's pictures. I am glad to report that Mr and Mrs Salt didn't neglect him. There was a very generous sprinkling of Emerson photographs. We were told that, although a qualified medical doctor, he never practiced his profession. We were also told that he was a curmudgeonly man. Could these two facts be linked, Mrs Salt wondered. It does raise the question that if he was such an unfriendly man how did he persuade so many people to pose in front of his camera. One must assume that he was either able to turn on the charm when needed or was generous with his money. His talent as a photographer is recognized internationally and some of his pictures are included in important collections both in this country and overseas. His best-known picture, 'Gathering Waterlilies', taken in 1885, is part of the collection in George Eastman House, Rochester, U.S.A. It is reproduced on the page opposite.

It must be said that not all the pictures shown were of top quality. A small number were so dark and gloomy that it was difficult to decipher them, which was a pity. Some people may argue that it would have been preferable to leave out the indifferent slides so as to have more time to study the better ones.

One picture I was sorry not to have had longer to examine was that of a scene of Norwich riverside adjacent to Kings Street. It was exactly how I imagine a Dickensian slum to have been. It was easy to imagine Fagin and his brood carrying out their nefarious activities in its cramped, unhygienic alleyways.

Derek Lyons



NELSON IN NORFOLK – a talk by Charles Lewis



Nelson monument in Norwich, probably October 1905 for the centenary commemoration of his death at Trafalgar (photo. from Tom Bishop gift to the Aylsham Archives).

In October Charles Lewis gave us an eloquent and entertaining talk on one of his favourite subjects, the life of Nelson from a Norfolk perspective. He has studied Norfolk seafarers for many years, curating the Maritime Museum at Yarmouth and establishing the Norfolk Nelson Museum, which the Society visited in July 2005. That year Charles Lewis published his book *I am myself a Norfolk Man – Nelson, the Norfolk Hero*, clearly written and finely illustrated.

In brief Horatio (Horace to the family) Nelson came from a professional family of fairly comfortable means, mainly in the church and navy, with some connections on his mother's side to the aristocracy in the Walpole and Townsend families. Born in 1758, the sixth of eleven children, three of whom died in infancy, he grew up in the parsonage at Burnham Thorpe. At nine he went to Norwich School with his elder brother, but that was soon curtailed by the death of his mother and he completed his education at Paston School in North Walsham.

In 1771 his maternal uncle, Maurice Suckling, was recalled to the navy and Nelson, now 13, offered his services. He served as a midshipman on voyages to the West Indies, Arctic and East Indies, and was back in the West Indies for another three years as a lieutenant. He was invalided home in 1781 for a short period before being appointed Captain of the frigate *Albermarle* destined for the Mediterranean. It was then that he was

able to recruit men, including friends and family, and to establish the loyalty that earned the remark that he always reckoned Norfolk men as good as two others. In 1784 he had a new frigate *Boreas* to serve in the Caribbean. Here he met the young widow Frances (Fanny) Nisbet and married in March 1787. He returned to England with her and spent the next five years on half-pay, mostly at the rectory at Burnham, which Fanny found rather difficult, developing the glebe lands, partaking in country pursuits and a social round – including the Aylsham Assembly Rooms in November 1792. He was much involved with family affairs and was able to help a little with money and influence.

Imminent war with France in 1793 gave him his great chance to captain the *Agamemnon* and consolidate his reputation to choose and lead men. His fame was built successively on the four great victories in the Napoleonic Wars at the Battle of St Vincent (1797), the Nile (1798), Copenhagen (1801) and Trafalgar (1805), achieved through taking calculated risks and relying on the trust established between officers and men. He was knighted after St Vincent, promoted to Rear Admiral and after the Nile he was created a Baron. On returning to Yarmouth his response to an adoring crowd included the remark that he was a Norfolk man and gloried in being so.

He had long dreamed of retiring to Norfolk and did buy a house for Fanny in Suffolk near Ipswich (he had considered one in Aylsham), but entangled with the Hamiltons after the Nile, his separation from Fanny, and the divided loyalties of his family precluded this. He spent the little time he had ashore with Emma and as far as seemly with their daughter Horatia, born in January 1801. That Spring saw the battle of Copenhagen and command of the Channel squadron. In September he bought Merton Place in Surrey, chosen by Emma, and in 1802 there was a temporary peace with France that gave him a year to develop his new place and reconcile his father, who died that year, and, with the help of Emma, gradually re-establish good relations with most of the family.

In May 1803 he was recalled as Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean fleet and had no more than short precious periods of leave at home, including a month in August-September 1805, just before Trafalgar. On *Victory* alone, there were at Trafalgar, beside Nelson, no less than 26 Norfolk men. Nelson still retained his Norfolk accent and mannerisms. His supposedly last utterance ‘No do you anchor Hardy’ was not a question, but in Norfolk dialect a command.

Reference

Lewis, C. (2005). ‘I am myself a Norfolk Man – Nelson, the Norfolk Hero. 160 pp. Poppyland Publishing, Cromer.

Roger Polhill

NOTICES

SPRING SOCIAL

Thursday 24 April – Elderton Lodge Hotel 7.30 pm, preceded by a talk by Elma Thackston at the Gunton Hall chapel. Coach leaves Aylsham Market Place at 6 pm, returns 11 pm.

Contact: Geoff Gale 01263 734252

SUMMER VISITS 2008

Thursday 19 June: Kings Lynn – all day.

Lecture in the morning; Guided Walk in the afternoon. Tutor: Dr Paul Richards who has much experience on Lynn and the Hanseatic League.

Wednesday 23 July: Braintree – all day.

Visit in the morning to Braintree District Museum and in the afternoon to Warner Textile Archive. Guided tour of both venues and coffee £7.50. Total cost about £20. (You will need to get your own lunch.)

Thursday 18 September: afternoon visit to Barningham Hall, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Thomas Courtauld. Hall and grounds with lake, Garibaldi Cottage and church. £9.00 including coach.

Contact: Ann Dyball 01263 732637

COURSES IN AYLSHAM – AUTUMN 2008

Norwich, the Story of a Fine City: tutor – Charles Lewis
History of Norwich with the focus on evidence surviving in the buildings and cityscape.

10 × 1½ hours at 2 pm, beginning Wednesday 17 September.

WEA. Italy on Film: tutor – Jo Statham

How Italian Society, history, culture, regionality and issues of identity have been represented in Italian cinema. We shall watch and discuss extracts from a film each week, using titles from 1945 to 1987.

8 × 2 hours at 2 pm, beginning Tuesday 23 September.

Everyone welcome

Contact: Ann Dyball 01263 732637