

Volume Forty Five : 2014**Contents**

Reports of Meetings for 2013 plus outings and other points of interest		2
Pleistocene Remains from Pakefield and Covehithe, Suffolk	<i>Paul Durbidge</i>	20
A Tidal Surge and Recent Archaeological Discoveries at Corton, Suffolk	<i>Paul Durbidge</i>	20
The Lowestoft Museum 2013	<i>Ray Collins</i>	23
An Inventory of the Worldly Goods and Assets of Roger Hill	<i>David Butcher</i>	25
The Lowestoft Scene 2013	<i>Keith Davies</i>	33

REPORTS OF MEETINGS FOR 2013 plus outings and other points of interest

24 January 2013 **“A closer look at the treasures of Sutton Hoo”** *Terry Weatherley*

Terry began by saying that in his estimation, Basil Brown's finding and excavation of the boat burial at Sutton Hoo, in Suffolk, deserves to rank alongside Howard Carter's discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt. Terry had sourced a number of illustrations and produced a neat video to remind members of the story behind the discovery and introduce the main characters.

Mrs Edith Pretty was born at Elland, Yorkshire in 1883, the youngest daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Dempster, widely travelled industrialists who gained their wealth from manufacturing equipment for the gas industry. In 1926 Edith married Major Frank Pretty from Ipswich, whose family manufactured clothing. He had served in WW1 and afterwards continued in the Suffolk Regiment as well as in the family business. After marrying, they bought Sutton Hoo House with its surrounding land and the mysterious mounds thereon. In 1930, at the age of forty-seven, Edith gave birth to a son, Robert. The marriage was happy, but sadly ended in 1934 by the early death of her husband.

In 1938 Mrs Pretty approached Ipswich museum in an attempt to get the mounds investigated. They recommended Basil Brown who had experience in digging sandy heathland. An interesting, self-taught freelance archaeologist, he toured the estate, set on a bluff overlooking the river Deben, at Mrs Pretty's invitation and they discussed her ideas. Rapid action was needed as another world war was imminent, and work began on the largest mound in summer 1939. Terry had researched a good selection of photographs, including one taken on the first day of the excavation, showing Mrs Pretty with the gardener, the gamekeeper and a labourer who with Basil Brown made up the initial investigation team. It was poor weather, raining hard and very muddy but they pressed on with the dig. During the afternoon a type of metal bolt was found and shown to the expert who remembered seeing something similar, but where? Stopping the dig, Basil cycled off to the Aldeburgh museum and, with some effort, gained access to their store, where he eventually found a similar item labelled 'Snape 1870'. He knew that a boat had been found at Snape in 1870, and with that in mind rapidly pedalled the 8 miles back to the mound site.

The dig then continued and immediately more of the bolts, or rivets, were uncovered at roughly six-inch intervals, their presence revealed by staining in the sandy soil. By careful brushing more and more appeared in regular rows, and our sleuth had the wit to realise they were fastenings for the timbers (by then completely rotted away) outlining a large boat, that when finally exposed was found to be 90ft in length and of Viking shape. Leaving the rivets in situ, the team proceeded with the careful excavation work and were visited by a number of interested people. Composer Benjamin Britten spent time there – however news of the find had reached the British Museum who, concerned that it was led by an amateur archaeologist, sent along their specialists. As soon as Basil found the burial chamber he was sidelined, being detailed to continue uncovering the ship but not to touch the chamber. At that stage tantalizing glimpses of grave goods could be seen. As some things were of gold and of silver, the village hall at Sutton became the venue for a treasure trove inquest. The inquest findings stated that as the treasure had not been buried with the intention of recovery, it must legally belong to the landowner, Mrs Pretty. With astonishing generosity she immediately scotched any other claims to ownership by giving the contents of the ship to the nation.

After the war the treasures were taken out of storage to be conserved by the British Museum under the charge of Rupert Bruce Mitford who recorded the proceedings in definitive volumes. The chief items are spectacular – they include a beautiful pair of gold cloisonné shoulder clasps, set with garnets and millefiori glass, that feature images of two boars; a decorative purse, similar in manufacture to the clasps, that contained thirty-seven gold coins (some from the late 500s), two gold blanks and two small gold bars with interlaced designs of animals. Nearby was a great gold buckle with images of an animal, birds and snakes. The iconic Sutton Hoo image is of course the helmet, of striking design, fitted with bronze panels, some featuring scenes of dancing warriors. This was found in a collapsed state and was reconstructed after prolonged and painstaking work. The remains of two large drinking horns believed to be from the now extinct aurochs are now restored, and also those of a great shield, originally of lime-wood, covered front and back in leather and with gilded decoration including birds, and a dragon. Other restored items are a whetstone sceptre made for a high king, a couple of golden spoons, and a wooden harp (rebuilt from its outlines). Over 1200 years, the acid soil had destroyed all traces of a body and organic material but the grave's occupant was probably King Raedwald of East Anglia. Modern excavations at Sutton Hoo have revealed sand people. This is where the outline of a body is shown by slight colouration differences in the ground, a technique unknown in Basil Brown's day.

14 February 2013 “Medieval Legacy in the East Anglian Landscape”**Derek Leake**

Derek and his wife gave this well-produced presentation, with recorded commentary accompanied by very extensive slides. They explained the importance of Norfolk and Suffolk having perhaps the greatest density of churches in Europe. This was due in some measure to trading, but also the development of farming and settlement. The lack of natural stone limited the construction style and decoration of church building but nevertheless some outstanding examples remain, one being Salle, in Norfolk. Completed in perpendicular style by 1440, amongst its treasures this church contains the base of the rood, some marvellous pew ends and misericords, and ancient glass. This church was probably larger than average as there were four lords of the manor.

The weather and, unfortunately, the interference of man (with good and bad intent) through passing centuries has taken its toll on many churches resulting in re-building, and renewed glazing, not always for the better. Round towers are more common in East Anglia than many areas with 179 surviving in Norfolk alone. The reason for this shape has been attributed in part to the use of natural, uncut flint, thus avoiding corners in the construction but cost could also have been a factor. There are round windows surviving in some towers, where the builder had used a wicker basket to form the slightly tapering reveal, then filled in the surround with small stones and mortar, the latter still showing the pattern of the basket when viewed from the inside. Various occupation periods and building styles may be studied in many of the larger churches, and the cathedrals, and the slides displayed during the talk showed these to advantage – Comper produced designs for many interior features including rood screens and font covers. A number of East Anglian churches have hammer beam roofs, some decorated with superb carved angels. Hales, St Mary's, has a rare apsidal chancel and is considered the most perfect example of a Norman church. Other slides showed many special interior features, both monumental and decorative, including a number of wall paintings and the outstanding Wenham 'Doom' panel, the most complete example in England. St Nicholas in Great Yarmouth is the largest parish church in England and has now been completely restored, having been burnt out during an air raid.

Contrasting with the plethora of churches, there only a few castles in this area – Castle Rising, Norwich, Bungay, and Framlingham spring to mind, with Norwich being by far the largest and best preserved although the others still attract their share of visitors in season. At Castle Rising (12 acres) and Framlingham, extensive surrounding earthworks remain. These castles would most probably have been intended only to quell local uprisings, hence their limited number and locations.

Burgh Castle walls, and Caistor St Edmunds, are of Roman date so should be considered separately, but medieval walls may still be found in several other places in East Anglia. Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Norwich and Great Yarmouth are each fortunate to have remaining wall sections defining the extent of their original boundary. The wall at Yarmouth once incorporated 15 or 16 towers and 10 gates – these were gradually removed in history as threats of attack reduced and parts of the wall were used as support for housing. More recently, redevelopment of the town has uncovered remains that still show the very attractive chequer-pattern brickwork used in its construction. Modern planners are keen to preserve such features so that future generations can appreciate the skills of the medieval craftsmen, using local materials.

28 February 2013**“How well do you know Lowestoft?”****Ron Ashman**

Ron devoted part 2 of his talk mostly to Pakefield and its surroundings. In the 1980s the Society had two series of postcards given to them to sell in the Museum shop. Some of them advertised Pakefield Hall Holiday Camp (*On the edge of the ocean*). Opened in 1929 by H Barrett, the camp is known today as Pontins. Visitors in the 1930s stayed either under canvas, or in a traditional wooden chalet with a veranda. The latter was standard accommodation until the late 1960s at many seaside resorts. Some postcards were black and white, others hand-tinted colour, showing the beach, and layout of the camp, plus the slender range of entertainment on offer. There were putting greens, croquet lawns, swings, and possibly tennis courts, with little else but organised competitions – however, at that time many visitors were simply content with the beach, TV was still to come and car ownership limited to better-off families.

In 1934 the camp could accommodate 300 persons in chalets and 150 under canvas – one photo of a tent shows a deckchair and washstand with white enamelled bowl. Toilet facilities were elsewhere and meals originally taken in a marquee. Things improved rapidly, and by 1935 an advertisement states '150-acre grounds (with all sports catered for) a resident dance band, dining and dance halls and there was also a lounge – all for a booking fee of 2 guineas'. A Victorian lighthouse had been left on the campsite as a curiosity. During the Second World War, when the camp was taken over by the military, it became a look out for the Royal Observer Corps, and a gun battery was sited on nearby cliffs. In the 1950s the lighthouse was converted for a photographer's darkroom and one half-century later it has again been renovated and now serves as a look out for the Coastwatch volunteers.

A leisurely walk north of the camp is Pakefield Village. In the 1800s this walk would have taken visitors along the cliff past a few houses with sea views owned by the wealthier traders and leading characters of the area. A reminder of that time is Mill Villa, on the main road, behind which until 1888 stood a post-mill – last in a series stretching back to 1514. Ron's 1886 map showed the mill and surrounding buildings, but of most interest was the wide area of land to the seaward side of their location. The church was some way from the beach and Pakefield Street, once the boundary between Kirkley and Pakefield continued to the north way beyond the Jolly Sailors pub. All housing to the south side was in the parish of Pakefield, plus the green and cliffs, below which the beach still had sufficient space to allow two lifeboat stations, a surf boat (to the north, closed 1922) and the main lifeboat further south, closed in 1895. Near to the current 'Causeway' leading to the church was the Cunningham School, to be superseded by what is now Pakefield Primary. A few of those early buildings remain, including the Trowel & Hammer, the Friends Meeting House and the five cottages near to the cliff-top car park. However the Cliff Hotel and the Ship Inn, both near the Jolly Sailors have gone, as have the ancient, run-down cottages 'flea and bug row' that stood where Pakefield Street met the cliff, plus a small terrace named Beachstone Place, that stood end on to the road next to the Friends Meeting House. Many of these properties were lost through cliff erosion and collapse over the 20th century, but others were dismantled to allow the materials to be recycled elsewhere. As a guide, the *Lowestoft Journal* reported in 1873 that 85 acres of cliff had been lost in the previous fifty years.

The second series of postcards advertised the Grand Hotel, based at the northern tip of Pakefield. It now forms part of the CEFAS complex. Built in 1893 by John Whaley, the Grand Hotel incorporated Holm View, a mansion with established gardens between Pakefield Road and the cliffs. Four other houses near the sea included the Rectory, but were subsequently demolished or lost to coastal erosion. The Grand had rooms for 140 guests, and steps down to the promenade and beach. In 1931 a large hall given the name 'Palais de Danse' was added which also hosted boxing and wrestling. The hotel flourished and was advertised in the Lowestoft Guide for its fine position and amenities, including the beneficial effects of the sea breezes, and a note assuring visitors the sea was never cold! The Services commandeered the hotel during the Second World War and it served partly as a Battery Observation Post for defence guns at the adjacent Kensington Gardens – related buildings for which survive today. Following the war, the then outdated hotel was sold to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The 'Palais' survived the hotel and became 'Watling's Lowestoft Palais' and for some ten years was very popular as a music and dance venue, with a roller-skating rink. Then interest waned and it was sold to and absorbed into the MAFF (now CEFAS) premises.

Ron continued his journey north and showed photos of the massive Empire Hotel built on Kirkley seafront in 1900. Although hailed as the most lavish accommodation of its time it was not a success as a hotel, and in 1921 was taken over by the LCC Metropolitan Asylum Board as a hospital for TB patients, and renamed St Lukes. It continued until 1939 when the Royal Navy moved in, converting it into a training base for stokers and engineers. The hospital did not return after the war and new tenants could not be found, so it was demolished and replaced by St Mary's School.

Not far away on the opposite side of Kirkley Cliff is the house where Lowestoft's famous composer and musician, Edward Benjamin Britten lived. The house is dedicated to his memory and this year sees the centenary of his birth.

Ron picked the Tuttle family for his final topic. They came to Lowestoft in 1843 and set up as grocery and provision merchants in the High Street, but during a steady build-up over 20 years were able to open a further three branches north of the bridge. No. 4 Commercial Road was where the family then numbering nine persons lived, along with four shop assistants, in 1891. A few years earlier, Messrs Tuttle & Son had purchased a valuable piece of land that fronted nearby London Road from the proprietors of the Grove Estate, upon which they erected what was probably the largest drapery shop in the town. This developed into a landmark store during the next sixty years, having many other departments and a tearoom, and also offering some residential and office premises to sub-tenants. There was a large roof-mounted sign on the store reading BON MARCHÉ. Some smaller sub-let units along the frontage housed Savage & Son, butchers, United Automobile Services (a bus company, that was to expand, and later to develop and open the Eastern Coach Works), Bairds Shoe Shop, and Maypole Dairy Co. Ltd, plus several others over the years. In 1960 the family sold the business to Debenhams Stores, who in turn sold to Brahms in 1972. The main store closed in 1981 and has been only part occupied since, although the northern half is currently being refurbished.

14 March 2013**“Practical Field work”*****Paul Durbidge***

Paul delivered another great presentation in his calm and well-considered style. Backing up his information with appropriate slides, plus a selection of finds from earlier field walks and excavations, he described a range of related topics covering practical outdoor archaeology. Members were briefly shown the artefacts and specimens, and invited to examine and handle them following the talk. Years ago Paul became one of the earliest members of the Society, having got the bug after finding some shards of pottery that were classified by Norwich museum as ancient. The new enthusiast quickly found himself in the role of secretary. Some of the younger members wished to try outdoor archaeology so with no one experienced enough to lead an excavation, they were recommended to try field walking. Having already obtained the permission of a local farmer, Paul was introduced to a flint collector from Kessingland who, along with an experienced Norfolk gentleman, joined the initial group to demonstrate how to conduct a search. So began a life-long and consuming interest in the subject. He explained methods of identifying likely farmland sites, and the techniques, stressing the importance of keeping to a straight line and not looking too far ahead – also vital, although time-consuming is the discipline of writing up or photographing and recording anything discovered. This is because once an object is removed from the ground the archaeological evidence is destroyed forever.

Looking at the situation today there have been sweeping changes. New technology has introduced geophysical survey equipment, and the metal detector, and these inventions have brought mixed reactions from archaeologists. The surveyor may now look beneath the ground for signs of dense material such as compacted soil, stone or brick walls and outlines of buildings, all without breaking the surface. The detectorist can identify even very small pieces of a range of metals under the surface, though almost universally these are excavated immediately.

Great discoveries have been made revealing many wonderful treasures that have been identified, researched and conserved for the benefit of the nation, the finders being rewarded through a payment scheme based on the status of the objects relating to their historical importance and rarity, treasure trove rules, etc. On the downside, a sinister cult of theft of objects by trespassing detectorists has developed, usually hunting secretly at night, whereby they hope to add to their own collections, or sell their finds for whatever they can realise to either collectors or dealers. In the latter case the inestimable value of recording any historical or geographical information that adds to the provenance of those objects is lost. Fortunately the number of enthusiasts acting responsibly and reporting their finds is growing, but still leaves room for improvement. Another negative is the modern practice of farmers using mechanical drills that are capable of sowing the seed directly beneath undisturbed stubble. This means any objects or artefacts that field walkers might normally have spotted after annual ploughing remain covered.

There have been significant excavations in our area within fairly recent times. One was at Carlton Colville, in 1999, when the Suffolk Archaeological Unit examined the Persimmon Homes development site near the junction of the Beccles Road and Chapel Road – followed by a well-documented, mixed Romano-British and Saxon site, further across the village at Bloodmoor Hill, near Gisleham, investigated by Cambridge Archaeological Unit, where Paul was able to take part in, and photograph, some of the excavations.

22 west-east aligned graves were found in the Saxon settlement zone but Paul said very little bone remained due to the acid nature of the sandy ground. A few grave goods including pins, brooches and a pair of shears came out, but the best item was a very rare silver phallic figurine with some gilding, found in a spoil heap after the main dig. The priceless figurine is now housed in the British Museum. Two types of Saxon building were found – post-hole, and SFBs of mixed size – pottery, seeds and animal remains were also recovered. Results of both digs were published.

In the past, Society members have also examined and recorded four moated sites in Gisleham and Carlton Colville and some of these appeared in the slide presentation. Paul explained that several theories existed about their original use, but most likely they served as local defences, or as temporary compounds for cattle. There is evidence that they were still used into the 19th century – one remains near Carlton Street, but the 64ft diameter ‘Mardle’ was levelled and developed for housing. The larger of the two in Gisleham was unusual in being double-moated and measuring 527 x 474ft. The dry moat was 20ft wide and the wet, inner moat 30ft – a house had been built between them.

Paul has also done much work in studying the erosion of cliffs and beach between Lowestoft and Covehithe over a prolonged period (50 years for Covehithe). This has involved measuring and reporting the loss of land, examining the remains of buildings, human artefacts, and naturally occurring geological strata. Almost 400ft of cliff has been lost at Covehithe in the last 20 years. Neolithic or Bronze-Age arrowheads have been found at Pakefield and at one time six medieval rubbish pits were exposed in a cliff fall. Some of these contained pottery of the period and some Roman ware. A separate Pakefield survey in 2003, involving Paul and two friends, led to the discovery of worked flint flakes in exposed *Unio* riverbed strata below the cliff. Adjacent bones of a species of ancient vole showed the estimated date of human occupation as 700,000 years ago – far earlier than expected,

causing the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain (AHOB) project team to get involved, taking away samples from Pakefield for further study. They verified the date of these, and as a result the flints recovered are now exhibited in the British Museum.



1999 Bloodmoor Hill site with numbers of sunken featured buildings, mixed with graves, Roman ditches and ancient trackways.

Finally members heard about ‘rescue archaeology’ where items are literally plucked out of sites threatened by the action of weather, or subsidence, or cases where building work may have uncovered remains unexpectedly. A case in point was when Paul was employed on the construction of the multi-storey flats in Lowestoft, in the Crown Street area, and he observed many potsherds in the foundation level. These he guessed came from the Lowestoft porcelain factory and comprised a mixture of broken moulds, wasters and props from the kiln, and some broken glazed wares. He collected many thousands of these pieces and they are now in storage at Broad House Museum, Oulton Broad, having added much to the store of knowledge on the patterns produced by this factory. Members are reminded that sections and exhibits relating to several of the topics mentioned in Paul’s talk are displayed at our museum.

Two of Paul’s talks have been covered in more detail in our earlier Newsletters and appear on the website: For Pakefield finds see Newsletter Vol 38 (April 2010) and for Covehithe finds Newsletter Vol 39 (March 2011).

11 April 2013

“Morton Peto, Lowestoft and beyond”

Ivan Bunn

During Ivan’s recent visit, members heard a wider description of Peto’s achievements than the usual title ‘*Father of modern Lowestoft*’. Born in 1809, at Sutton, Surrey, Samuel Morton Peto (he preferred to be called Morton) was the son of William, a tenant farmer, and aged 6 went to the village school at Cobham where his grandparents lived. A year or so later he became a day boy at Marlow, his grandfather having died and his parents moved near to Great Marlow. When 12 he attended a strict, independent boarding school at Brixton Hill to be prepared for a business career. In 1823 he was apprenticed to his uncle Henry Peto, a successful builder, and went to live with him at Little Britain EC1. Henry gave his nephew few favours and Morton endured a rigorous 3-year training in the joinery, plus evening classes in drawing and the theory of construction; then a year at bricklaying, followed by three years of practical work in London on erection of buildings. Thomas Grissell, another nephew of Henry, had been apprenticed some time before Morton and when Henry died in 1830, aged just 56, these cousins inherited his wealth and his substantial business. The widow and relations contested the will on the grounds of ‘undue influence’ as only the cousins and their solicitor had been with Henry when the will was recast a few days before his death. The widow was left very little, but the contested case was lost in the courts and the nephews immediately set about building up their business as partners. The arrangement was further strengthened when Peto married Grissell’s sister in 1831. They moved into a house in Albany Terrace, Lambeth near the workshops and builders yard, and stayed there happily for eleven years until Mary died in 1842, having three daughters and two sons – the second son died just before his mother. Peto remarried after some twelve months to Sarah Kelsall (a Baptist) and they moved out to Hertfordshire, but kept a town house at Russell Square in Bloomsbury. They went on to raise a large family.

There was a building boom in London at that time, and the partners' early projects included St John's Church, Paddington; rebuilding Hungerford Market (they retained the Hungerford name for this replacement) but it was not a trading success and was later demolished to make way for a new bridge and Charing Cross railway station; they also built a model prison at Clerkenwell in 1833. Two years later, a relationship with Brunel, who was planning the Great Western Railway, secured them the £39,487 contract for the Hanwell (Wharncliffe) viaduct over the River Brent near Ealing, but this brought problems – a dispute with the resident engineer over the quality of bricks causing them to lose money – however they did further work for Brunel on the GWR. In this decade Peto and Grissell also built the Reform Club; the Oxford and Cambridge Clubhouse; the Lyceum Theatre and St James' Theatre (the latter in 13 weeks). In 1838 a Nelson Memorial Committee was set up to raise subscriptions for a monument to Nelson in London. The involved final stages took many years to complete, but Grissell and Peto won the critical contract for excavating the site in Trafalgar Square and they constructed the column in 1843 – the Nelson statue was sculpted by Bailey, the column designed by Railton, and the lions by Landseer. Other projects at this time were for Paddington and Reading Stations (under Joseph Cubitt) and the Woolwich Graving Dock, plus Stephenson's stations at Curzon Street and at Birmingham, then in 1840, working on his on 3-mile, cable-powered London & Blackwall railway.

The two cousins seemed to have boundless energy and undertook many building projects through the 1840s, plus getting involved with philanthropic schemes that benefitted religious bodies and orphaned children among others. Work also included the stabling at Windsor Castle, and the south entrance to the British Museum, although that was released due to the increasing workload on the new Houses of Parliament. The latter covered important stages in the construction, beginning with the range of buildings fronting the river. They then completed a rival firm's unfinished contract for the foundation and river wall, and the quality of their work on this won them a second contract for the foundations of the Central Hall, the Royal Staircase and the remainder of the south flank. Grissell and Peto were by now principal contractors and showed great organisational ability, winning a third contract for St Stephen's Hall and Victoria Tower. They skilfully managed a very large workforce and employed the latest techniques and equipment, earning a great deal of money in the process. However Peto's very productive employment system must have put considerable pressure on their employees, as there was a strike by stonemasons in 1843. Also in the mid 1840s they built Pentonville Prison and worked on the glasshouses at Kew (Peto employed the new techniques using wrought iron construction, and an underfloor heating system, when he constructed his Winter Garden at Somerleyton).

Since 1841, Morton Peto had owned a residence at Bracondale south east of Norwich to be near the new railway development linking Norwich and Yarmouth. Hearing that the Godolphin Estate was to put Somerleyton Hall on the market, he attended the public auction in 1844 and secured the Estate for £86,000, giving him a perfect new base for developing the East Anglian railway network and also the town of Lowestoft. The Lowestoft Improvement Act was passed in 1854 and, never one to let the grass grow under his feet, Peto immediately began planning a series of works to develop the town, using his own ideas and capital, while continuing his projects elsewhere. By now Peto's business ventures appeared to be affecting his links with Grissell – difficulties had arisen and some of their contract opportunities had been missed. Peto was developing railway undertakings that Grissell considered to be high risk and so they decided to sever the partnership. Grissell would keep the profitable building contracts, taking over the London premises with workshops, sawmills and the associated labour force – Peto diversified to three heavy railway contracts in 1845, thus keeping busy and gaining more experience before their quite amicable dissolution in March 1846. In addition to Somerleyton with its many adjoining lands and manorial lordships, he had purchased the rough ground south of Lowestoft at Kirkley (known as the Lamplands) for housing development and for St John's church. Incredibly he was also managing the development of Lowestoft as a port and linking it to the main rail network.

Around this time he was introduced to Prince Albert and was involved with the planning for the Crystal Palace and its rail links to the north. In 1851 Peto became commissioner for sewers in London, an important public service that he took seriously, and the experience gained building those helped him in later projects including that at Lowestoft. Lowestoft improved as a port during the 1850s and Peto set up exports and imports by sea with the Continent. The railway mania spread to the Continent and Peto joined Betts and Brassey at various locations overseas, arranging bridges, tunnels and rolling stock as and when needed, including in Norway; in Denmark; and on the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada (to supply which he built the 'Canada Works' at Birkenhead). They later supplied equipment to India and Austria. The transport problems at the Crimean War called for a rail link from Balaclava to the front line at Sevastopol. Peto did the job and was later rewarded with a baronetcy. The 1860s saw a downturn in the sea trade through Lowestoft, and Peto's company virtually bankrupt. Somerleyton Hall and Estate was sold to the Crossley carpet family, easing Peto's immediate money problems, but in 1866 the London bank of Overend & Gurney, where Peto kept his wealth invested, crashed (*Black Friday*). Grissell's fears proved true, with Peto exposed financially through shares and bad debts. He then lived overseas for a time, and also lectured in America, but despite some trial projects, failed to recover in business terms. With declining health he died at Blackhurst, Tunbridge Wells in 1889.

25 April 2013

“Traditional East Anglian Fishing and Sea Songs”

Ian Prettyman

Ian, who sang and from time-to-time accompanied himself on melodeon and guitar, explained that many of these songs existed before the use of any instrumental accompaniment. Their subject matter was broadly confined to happenings; situations; persons; farming and fishing. The lead singer would begin informally at a gathering, typically a pub, and many of these songs encouraged audience vocal participation. The words and tune could be passed on from father to son, or through a family group, occasionally rendered in harmony. Increasingly, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the singer or an accompanist played a mouth organ, melodeon, concertina or guitar, with some tunes suitable for performing Morris, or Step dancing. Specialist collectors like Cecil Sharpe travelled the country noting down the words and tunes, thus saving them for the nation.

The first song was ‘*All Jolly Fellows who follow the Plough*’ that would have been performed by the head horseman of the farm, and this was followed by the quicker tempo ‘*Joe the Carrier Lad*’. Ian continued to intersperse songs and stories to produce a thoroughly entertaining evening that contained some humorous and timely warnings for all ages in the audience. He carefully explained the differences in traditional and today’s more commercial folk songs.

9 May 2013

“Catering the Royal Way”

Patrick Thompson

Due to a misunderstanding of the title for this talk, members expected to hear about royal menus, but on the night it became clear that Patrick had been manager of the Royal Household and not a royal chef. Born in Lowestoft, where there was a substantial family presence, he was educated first at Pakefield, then at Alderman Woodrow School but later he moved away for extra tuition in catering. This training led to him securing employment within the famous J. Lyons catering company and, after promotions, to his having overall responsibility for their three major branches in London, a post covering some 26,000 staff engaged in preparing and delivering several million meals each week.

While Patrick was still a relatively young manager, Mr Salmon of J. Lyons advised him he was required to attend a meeting, for which he was taken from Leicester Square by car, via the Mall to Buckingham Palace. He must have made a good impression for he soon received an official letter of appointment as the Deputy Master of the Queen’s Household, apparently having been head-hunted. His managerial skills would now have to cope with staff of a much senior rank, from many departments at the Palace, including footmen, flagmen, chefs, etc. all of whom were in turn controlling various layers of servants.

Patrick continued by explaining the levels of hierarchy in Royal Households, beginning with much earlier centuries when the power of the Ruler was absolute. He gave some amusing, and embarrassing, examples of his inexperience in coping with these layers of protocol during his settling in period at Buckingham Palace. It is surprising how rules regarding the correct method of approaching and addressing the monarch have been retained across many centuries. All members of the royal family abide by these strict codes of dress and behaviour when on official duties, but are becoming more relaxed and open in their relationship with the public as time passes.

At one time there were fourteen royal palaces at various locations along the River Thames between Greenwich and Hampton Court. Henry VIII had 18 departments under his control, mostly supplying everyday necessities like food, heat, comfort and entertainment for his family and courtiers. Meals could be served up to five times per day, with catering staff able to supply anything from a snack to a banquet with hardly any warning. Despite the large number of staff, the Royal family achieved quiet areas by using ‘the board of green cloth’ – an area where doors and walls were covered in green baize and padded to make them sound proof.

Early rulers like Henry VIII, and Elizabeth I, lived a life of plenty. Their servants in general worked for the pleasure of the royal family, often without a regular wage, while the royal person would be given (or simply appropriate) any object to which they took a fancy. This system, noted by Samuel Pepys, led to a period where servants were tempted to steal clothes and linen from the royal chambers to make up for unpaid wages. The habits of more recent kings and queens are much improved although some rich gifts may still be found in the earlier royal collections.

Buckingham Palace was built for George IV on the site of Buckingham House but remained largely unused until Queen Victoria’s accession in 1837. It was enlarged from the original 80 rooms to over 600, and stands in a 42-acre site in London’s West End. In the 18th and 19th centuries the upkeep of the Royal Estate cost the public millions of pounds annually, so a Civil List was introduced, funding the royal household and family (down to grandchild level). It covers the salaries of the household staff, travel, entertaining, and public engagements at home and abroad.

In recent years the amounts have varied, and Queen Elizabeth II has arranged that a percentage of Civil List monies should be repaid to the country. Even at 87, our Queen still manages to complete from four, up to sixteen hours work per day, listening, mentoring and advising in many areas. She seems to have enormous reserves of

energy and is rapidly approaching the signal event of being the longest-ever reigning monarch. Her aim is to ensure the royal household is managed so as to avoid all waste in its day-to-day running. To help in this the number of staff serving the Queen has been reduced to just 210 persons.

14 May 2013 Evening visit to Broad House Museum, Everitt's Park

There were fewer members than expected at this event but those who went enjoyed the discussions, questions and explanations that arose during the tour of the building; and also being able to visit the stores and office areas not normally on view. First, Mike Chester talked in depth on the history of the Lowestoft Porcelain Collection, also answering questions in detail, on patterns and artists, from some fortunate members who have obtained their own Lowestoft Porcelain specimens. Paul Durbidge then explained how many of the archaeological specimens from East Anglia were collected by members, or donated to the museum over the past years. With fewer people attending, he could bring out some very small specimens from his outstanding Pakefield discoveries for examination under a lens. Ray Collins described the set up and workings of the museum, showing how displays had been enhanced this season, and he kindly organised the coffee interval. As this is the centenary year of Benjamin Britten, the museum has, with the help of the Britten/Pears group, put in a special exhibit giving some of his history and local connections. It includes a Pye 'Black Box' hi-fi record player, loaned to him by the local manufacturers. Members attending gave well-deserved thanks and applause to the Museum guides.

27 June 2013 Evening visit to St Bartholomew's Church at Corton *led by Michael Soanes*

Surprisingly, the church looks to be situated some way north of Corton, but this is due to erosion in earlier centuries having removed a substantial northern, cliff-edge section of the village. Earlier maps clearly show buildings up to a point level with the church. The Colman influence of the later 1800s saw a number of substantial brick and tile cottages, built to a high standard, for employees in and around the village. Most of these remain in occupation today. Further infill building occurred after WW2, and also a new estate on land that was once used for allotments, but the continuing erosion prevents development near the cliffs and most cliff-top residences are classed as 'at risk' today.

Michael is the history recorder for Corton and has a wealth of knowledge on the village and the church. Meeting us outside the church he began the evening with a short history, saying that it was probably quite small in Norman times, and in the late 1100s had links with Leiston Abbey. Floor tiles have been found dating from the mid-1300s. The tower was constructed between 1440 and 1480 and its single bell is dated 1506. In 1645, incumbent James Utting was unfairly ejected and replaced by a Parliamentary substitute for a few years, but effectively there was no incumbent from about 1650 until regular clergyman Abraham Showell came in 1745. During that period of neglect, essential services (burials etc.) were conducted by visiting clergy. The decayed nave roof fell in somewhere between 1680 and 1690, but there was no will, nor means to repair it. Faithful worshippers then held services in the chancel, while certain other parishioners treated the ruined nave as a quarry for building stone. In the 1970s, Manor Farm, on the cliff, was demolished to allow the building of Corton Beach holiday camp, and local archaeologists including Michael Soanes, Paul Durbidge and David Butcher were on hand to reclaim a quantity of carved masonry that had been taken from the church by an early lay rector, and used in the farm foundations. The best of the rescued material now forms a montage inside the modern meeting room (narthex) constructed during the 1980s within the ruined walls of the nave. Recognisable in the montage are small, carved figures of St John the Baptist and St Bartholomew, plus large panels probably from a decorative font plinth. Some early stonework remains in the chancel tracery, and some Norman masonry, and parts of 15th-century windows on the south side of the nave. Rams heads (in distressed condition) remain, low down at the entrance with scratch dials nearby. The main church is reached via the narthex, through a low doorway, revealing a few pews facing the font and the chancel arch. Five original carved pew ends are preserved at the foot of the north wall, and the rood loft stairway remains in good condition in the wall opposite, although the rood is no more. The typical East Anglian late 14th/early 15th-century font features carved shields with angels and lions, fortunately preserved when plastered over in the 17th-century. The Altar of Our Lady is a modern replacement of a long-lost medieval one, and nearby is a screen of fairly late date to hide the feet of worshippers in the chancel. The inside roof dates from an 1870 refurbishment. The majority of the glass in the church is plain but there are a few small, ancient decorative panels in some parts of the tracery. Our guide revealed there are plans to enhance some of the chancel glazing when opportunity allows. The east window, of mid to late 15th-century date replaces a smaller 14th-century original. An elegant, decorative stone surround to the Piscina and Sedilia has been reconstructed, to the original design, incorporating some original sections found at Manor Farm. The Reredos, now flanked by the village war memorials, is also very fine and was built in the 1500s from a bequest. Benefactors

to St Bartholomew's include the Briggs family, with burials in the church, and who also feature at Salle, Norfolk. The prominent local Fowler family having connections in the local clergy, were strong supporters in the 19th-century.

One gem, substantially complete in a north-side chancel window reveal, is the only surviving original gable cross in Suffolk. Beautifully sculpted, with the crucifixion on the (original) east side and the Virgin and Child on the reverse (west) side, it was taken down from the chancel roof in 1891 for preservation. Also around that date, sufficient funds were granted to renovate the chancel, but this had to be at the expense of the nave. The tower remains solid, but is in need of some refurbishment and pointing – its open window spaces above the bell chamber give free access to the four winds while allowing fine sea and coastal views to those lucky enough to have climbed to that level.

Those who had pre-booked went on after the church visit to enjoy a meal at the Wherry Hotel in Oulton Broad, a new venue for us, booked by Jenny and voted a real success. Thank you Jenny for arranging all the details.

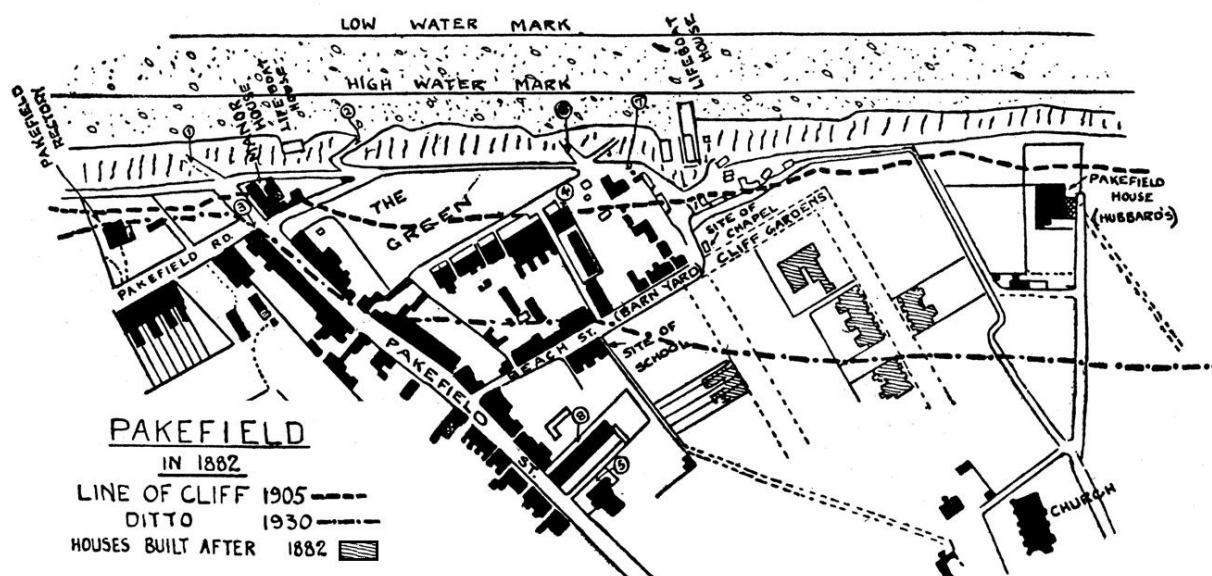
12 September 2013

“Memories of Pakefield”

John Holmes

John gave his usual relaxed presentation of this subject in which he is so well versed. Always coming up with new information, excellent and varied photographs and maps, he brings our members great entertainment. In this slide show he covered the period from 1842 through to the 1950s, starting with some maps that showed the coastline of Pakefield prior to the particularly heavy erosion of the cliffs between 1903 and 1927. The conjoined church of All Saints & St Margaret's was separated from the cliff-edge by a field, and John had a picture to illustrate the amount of land lost because the cliffs had been undermined. Two lifeboat stations marked on the beach did sterling service, particularly in winter, the boats having oars and sail, and crews prepared to turn out in all weathers if there were souls and salvage at stake. The railway brought more visitors and new hotels went up. In next-door Kirkley once stood the huge, Empire Hotel, built where the junior school now stands by Kensington Gardens. The major one in Pakefield was the Grand, now part of CEFAS. Not far from the Jolly Sailors, and opposite the now lost, Ship pub, was the Cliff Hotel, to the east of Pakefield Street. The Cliff Hotel was lost to erosion between the wars, along with the Manor House and most of The Green. Happily the Trowel & Hammer, said to be the oldest pub in the area was far enough from the cliff to have remained safe. Many of the very old, dilapidated houses were pulled down to re-use the materials, rather than let them fall into the sea. The problem was resolved by the construction of the sea wall extension after WW2, since when the beach has greatly increased in width.

John described a host of Pakefield characters from his own childhood, many captured in photos. Mr Potts, owner of two cinemas, rode a motorcycle combination – there was a flourishing quoits club and two football teams – Walter Page took visitors to sea in summer, using his rowboat with adverts on the side, and he was also a talented amateur artist. Foulger's blacksmiths shop stood for many years in Pakefield Street, opposite the Causeway leading to the church, and there was a garage at the end, at the junction with the A12. The Corporation trams and buses used to turn at this point for a short break and cup of tea at Gladys Foreman's shop before starting their return trip to north Lowestoft. The Tramways pub is a reminder of that time. In the 1800s many customers called personally at village shops, but those further off had their goods delivered by horse and cart. From the early 1900s trade bikes made local deliveries and motor vans began to appear. Pakefield's best-known shops were probably the Glendower Bakery, Dew's Store and Lang's the chemist, but sadly John's slides, and memories, were far too numerous for us to mention them all individually in this report.



26 September 2013**“Duplex Tanks Drive at Fritton Lake”****Stuart Burgess**

Stuart, former Manager of Fritton Lake Country Park, has spent the last few years delving into the history of the Duplex Drive Tanks, and delivered an extremely interesting talk. Whilst locals will be familiar with Somerleyton Hall and its gardens and maze, few may be aware of the important part it played in World War Two. In particular, Fritton Lake had a special role, developing amphibious tanks that would see their debut at the Normandy Beaches on D Day. These, as Stuart explained, were conventional tanks fitted with collapsible screens enabling them to be buoyant, and to swim ashore, driven by propellers at the rear. Special experts trained the drivers at Fritton, who, with those machines, gave confidence and close-fire support to the first wave of troops landing on the beaches.

Hungarian designer, Nicholas Straussler, invented the collapsible canvas screen and metal framework. This was quite capable of keeping a 30-tonne tank afloat when needed, and was supported by inflatable tubes. When in the water, the tanks looked similar to innocent canvas boats, with only about three feet of the screen showing above the surface. The propellers could be swivelled to steer the swimming tank, and were disconnected when it came ashore. The optional track or propeller propulsion methods gave rise to the name Duplex Drive (DD for short).

Between the spring of 1943 and summer of 1945, over 2000 men from a number of British, Canadian and American regiments/battalions came to Fritton Lake to be trained in the operation of these hybrid machines. This involved a two-week intensive course using 17-tonne Valentine DD tanks, where troops learned maintenance, servicing and repairs, navigation techniques and emergency escape routines. The ‘school’ was known as Fritton Bridging Camp, in an attempt to disguise its true use, as Water Assault Wing A – the first training camp for DD tanks in the country.

Part 1 of the training involved escaping safely from a submerged tank. Wearing Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus (DSEA) the trainee crew took their positions inside a Valentine tank at the bottom of a concrete-lined pool. The pool was then flooded from an elevated water tower and, once the tank was fully submerged, the crew made their escape through the hatches. In trials, the bulky DSEA kit gave problems, and so was superseded by the smaller Amphibious Tank Escape Apparatus (ATEA). Prior to its first immersion, the tank had to be waterproofed. The men used a tar-like pitch to paint the hull and the tank was driven into a wading pool to test for leaks. If all was well they inflated the screen, then used a ramp built of bailey-bridge components to drive the tank into the lake for swimming trials.

The Valentine tank served for training until spring 1944 when the larger, 30-tonne American Sherman superseded it, and it was the latter that were employed on D Day. Five French beaches were each allotted 2 tank regiments. A total of 128 machines was launched during the early hours of D Day, 6 June 1944 – and of these, 78 made it successfully to the beach. The American units, launched 6km off shore, suffered heavy losses with 28 out of 32 being sunk. Despite the mixed results, these tanks proved themselves invaluable and were used in later military operations, including Operations Plunder, and Dragoon.

Recent surveys found remains of at least 30 buildings in the woods surrounding the lake at Fritton, and lots of detail, now declassified, on the construction and use of these tanks. Display boards at Fritton Lake now chart their history.

Since leaving Somerleyton, Stuart has been working with Norfolk Museums Services at the Great Yarmouth Time and Tide Museum, and has been able to continue his research and interest in Fritton Lake. He is preparing for D Day celebrations next year, and plans to publish a book shortly on these amazing tanks and their very brave crews.

August 2013**Medieval boat found buried alongside the River Chet**

The following information was extracted from the Beccles & Bungay Journal:

Environmental Agency workers discovered a boat in the peaty soil while working on the River Chet floodbank near Loddon, in summer 2013. A digger driver spotted the timbers and work was suspended while archaeologists were called. On investigation, they declared the boat to be between 400 and 600 years old. “This is an extremely rare and important find, said Heather Wallis, an archaeologist working there, “no boats of this date have previously been found in Norfolk so this is a unique opportunity to record and recover a vessel of this date and type.” The team worked for three weeks, finding it was a small boat about six metres in length that would probably have had a sail. It was skilfully assembled and because of its light frames and thin planking probably carried local produce such as butter, eggs, chickens and vegetables, to market. Wooden pegs, iron nails and copper alloy nails, as well as animal hair, plus tar for waterproofing, were used in its construction. The boat will be preserved by freeze-drying and, after detailed study and research at York or Peterborough, may eventually be placed on display in a Norfolk museum.

10 October 2013

“Benjamin Britten and his time at Lowestoft”

Chris Milton

Chris Milton is the Learning Officer at the Britten Pears Foundation and set up the exhibit about Britten's centenary on display in the Lowestoft Museum. The talk started with Chris playing four short extracts of Britten's music to show the diverse variety of compositions that he produced during his lifetime. He was a central figure of 20th century British classical music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. He also took a great interest in writing music for children and amateur performers, including works like Noye's Fludde, The Little Sweep, and Saint Nicholas, all hugely enjoyable to listen to, and included in a year-long event by fifty musical and arts groups under the Familiar Fields banner.

Conductor and pianist Benjamin Britten (full name Edward Benjamin Britten) was born on 22 November 1913 (on St Cecilia's Day, the patron saint of music) at 21 Kirkley Cliff Road, Lowestoft and christened at St John's church. His father, Robert Britten, was a dentist originally from Berkshire, who moved first to Ipswich, then Lowestoft. Chris said Robert Britten had his first practice in the town in Midland Road, but it was actually in Marine Parade, before moving to Kirkley Cliff. Benjamin was the youngest of four children, Barbara, Bobby (Robert), Beth (Elizabeth) & Ben. It was said that Robert had overstretched himself in moving to 21 Kirkley Cliff, but they still employed a cook, a nanny and a maid so they were not that badly off. Apparently the present owners of the house, now a hotel, still occasionally receive toothpaste samples. Benjamin's mother Edith (nee Hockey) was a talented amateur musician and was secretary of the Lowestoft Musical Society. She also helped in the canteen for the herring girls and encouraged her children to assist her there and generally to help others.

At the age of 5 Benjamin had his first music lessons from his mother. He then entered Southolme school run by the Astle family at 52 Kirkley Cliff Road, and began regular music lessons with the principal Miss Ethel Astle ARCM. When he was 7 these included the pianoforte. Three years later, as a day pupil at South Lodge Preparatory School, he began viola lessons with Audrey Alston of Norwich. At this school he became head boy and was active at sports, being captain of cricket. During his schooldays, Benjamin composed many pieces of music (140 in 1925 alone). In 1926 Benjamin passed the Associated Board Grade VIII (Final) pianoforte examinations with honours, under Miss Ethel Astle's tutelage. However, as his interest in sport increased his compositions declined. His father did not allow a gramophone in the house so Benjamin would visit the local Morlings shop to listen to his favourite music.

His mother took him to hear Frank Bridge the composer/violist/conductor at the Norfolk and Norwich Triennial Festival in 1926. The following year he was introduced to Bridge who took him on as a pupil, where he began composition studies. In 1928 Benjamin moved to Gresham's School in Holt. Apparently he was not very happy there and did not get on with his music teacher. He even faked illness to avoid sports.

In 1930 he attended the Royal College of Music in London. Benjamin lived with his sister Beth in London, but he did not like it there and often came back to Lowestoft as he loved being near the sea. On his business cards he put Lowestoft as his address up until his father died in 1934, and at which time his mother moved to Frinton.

Britten's friend W.H. Auden influenced him with his left-wing ideals. They wrote many pieces of music together and in 1935 Auden got him a job writing music for the GPO film unit (a position he held until 1939). Together they worked on the documentary film 'Night Mail'. Chris showed a sequence from the latter. In 1937 there were two events that had a major effect on Benjamin's life. His mother died, and later in the year he met Peter Pears, who became his close friend. In April 1939 Britten and Pears sailed to Canada and then moved to New York. They had decided to leave England due to their pacifist beliefs in an increasingly war-like Europe. Although he was quite successful in the USA, Britten became homesick and in 1942 he returned home with Pears. When back in Britain, Britten and Pears both applied for recognition as conscientious objectors. Britten was initially allowed only non-combatant service in the military, but on appeal he gained unconditional exemption.

After the death of his mother in 1937 he had used money she bequeathed him to buy the Old Mill in Snape, which became his country home. He spent much of his time there in 1944 working on the opera Peter Grimes. Britten outgrew the mill, so in 1947 moved to a house on the seafront in Aldeburgh. Later he was to move to the Red House, which formed his final home with life-long companion Peter Pears, as it was much quieter to work there. 1948 saw the start of the Aldeburgh Festival, which was initially held in the church and local halls.

One of Britten's best-known works is the War Requiem that he wrote in 1962 for the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral (the old cathedral having been destroyed during a wartime air raid). Britten's vision of a concert hall in Snape for the Festival was achieved in 1967, when HM the Queen came to open the converted maltings building that formed the initial stage in the development of the Snape venue. During the course of his life, Britten travelled to many countries in Europe and the Far East. He was influenced by many different music styles, in particular by the Russian composer Shostakovich, and musician Rostropovich, and his music performed by world-renowned musicians, including the Halle and BBC Symphony orchestras.

In 1951 Britten was made a Freeman of Lowestoft and in 1976 he was granted a life peerage, when he became Baron Britten of Aldeburgh. He was the first musician to be granted a life peerage. Britten had heart surgery in 1973 and died on 4 December 1976. He is remembered not only for his music, but also through the Britten Pears

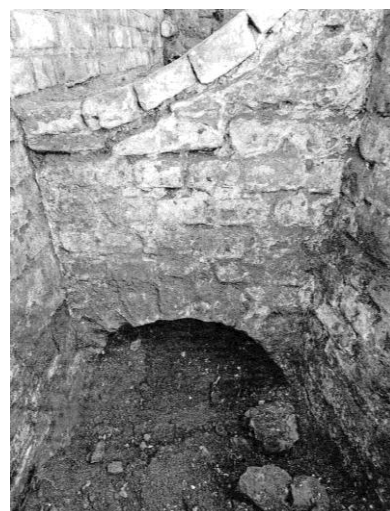
Foundation (a charitable trust based at The Red House, Aldeburgh) and in a memorial window in Aldeburgh church. He also featured among nine 'Great Britons' in a new set of Royal Mail postage stamps in April 2013.

This year a new building has been constructed to house the Britten archives. Britten was a compulsive hoarder throughout his life and did not throw away any of his working papers – a great help for those recording his history. Part of The Red House has been put back as it was in 1965, and the studio where Britten worked has been recreated.

Postscript by the Ed.

The anniversary year was celebrated locally, nationally and worldwide with events, these becoming more noticeable as his birthday on the 22nd November came close. One special event for Lowestoft which many of us enjoyed was his birth place at 21 Kirkley Cliff Road being open to the public for his birth date and the weekend following. The house continued to be used by a dentist until a few years ago, it was then made into a bed and breakfast, the owners going to great lengths to keep it in its original style and to promote its connection with Benjamin Britten. Displays were set up by the Britten Pears Foundation and it was interesting to see where he and his brother performed for their parents and to see his bedroom at the top of the house overlooking the North Sea.

October 2013 Further excavations at No. 1 High Street, by our members and friends



*From left: John Stannard, Ron Ashman, Paul Durbidge, Steve Lovewell and David Butcher – Right: some ancient brickwork
Photos copyright Archant*

In 2013 further limited excavations were carried out on the site of No. 1 High Street, Lowestoft site and the results of this work, and the subsequent drawings, will be published in next year's Annual Report, No. 46. The illustration on this year's cover shows an 18th-century barrel chute uncovered by Society members in late 2011.

24 October 2013

"A picture story of Margaret Catchpole"

Pip Wright

Pip revisited the Society with a well-illustrated, lively presentation on this feisty Suffolk woman, whose adventures startled her 18th-century friends. Richard Cobbold, of the Ipswich brewing family, for whose mother she worked, published her story in 1845. Margaret Catchpole, the central character, was born in 1773, probably in Hoo, Suffolk, but as a child lived at Seven Hills near Nacton. More recent study of the original manuscript has led historians to question its accuracy of detail concerning her life in Australia. Pip gave the current interpretation to our members.

On leaving school, instead of going into service, Margaret stayed at home as carer for invalid sister Susan, while her mother worked at a nearby farm helping Mrs Denton, the farmer's wife. When Margaret arrived at the farm one day to collect a bowl of soup promised for her sister, she heard cries that Mrs Denton had collapsed and was dead. On examination, Margaret said, "She is not dead!" and made the woman more comfortable. She then took a farm horse and rode post-haste to alert Dr Stebbing in Ipswich. The doctor left for the farm immediately, taking her in his gig, and finding the woman improved, praised Margaret, saying she should contact him again if ever she required help.

Later, Margaret went to a christening in place of her sister, and met Stephen Laud, a ferryman, and relative of the baby's parents. His son Will was also invited and quickly befriended Margaret. Sadly, although she knew this keen young sailor had been tempted into smuggling, she saw only the good in him despite the warnings from her

invalid sister. A local boat owner then offered Will Laud command of a ship with John Luff as mate, and after the voyage Margaret was sent such rich gifts she knew them to be smuggled. The Revenue later confronted Laud who was shot but escaped – Margaret then nursed him back to health, unseen, over so long a period that he was assumed dead.

Margaret was now working in service at Pond Hall close by the River Orwell. She got on well and was courted by a young man named John Barry, whose brother, by coincidence, was the Revenue man responsible for Will's earlier wound. When John pressed her to marry him she became confused and revealed that she was promised to Laud who was still alive. The rejected Barry, refusing to believe Laud was alive, decided to seek a new life abroad and got his father to lend him money for the venture. At that time the fugitive Will Laud was subject to a deception by John Luff, who suggested Laud kidnap and take Margaret abroad by force to be married. In reality Luff intended to kill her, thus removing any chance of her reforming Laud's character. At the point on the estuary selected for the kidnap there was a confrontation, when by chance Laud's rival Barry appeared. The latter was severely wounded in the ensuing melee, while Laud and Luff escaped by boat, leaving Margaret to explain everything. In Laud's absence she nursed Barry, who when recovered asked again for her hand without success. He then made firm plans to emigrate.

Margaret lost her Pond Hall job and she began working for her uncle Leader at Brandiston. Will Laud reappeared at that point but would not quit smuggling, so they argued, and he went away again. After problems with Leader's new wife, Margaret returned to Ipswich and sought advice about work from her old friend Dr Stebbing. He advised her that the Cobbold family, with some 14 children, were seeking a second nursery-maid. John Cobbold was proprietor of the Cliff Brewery on the banks of the River Orwell. Dr Stebbing would write a recommendation to Mrs Stebbing for Margaret, but warned the latter she must never encourage Laud to make contact while she was in service there.

The job suited Margaret and she enjoyed a period of uninterrupted happiness, respected by her mistress, and family, and a favourite with her fellow servants. Mrs Cobbold felt she had a responsibility for all her staff and finding that her new nursery maid did not know her letters, offered to teach her and was rewarded by her rapid progress. The children were Margaret's life and she took pleasure in caring for them, even saving them from danger on occasion. One special event was when young William Cobbold took a boat to go duck shooting one wintry afternoon. His father raised the alarm when he had not returned for tea and search parties went out, Margaret included. They all searched along the shore and found the boat but not the boy. Not giving up they continued far down the river and at last Margaret saw a man in the shade of some trees who she recognised as Will Laud, and asked him for assistance. Not long after she spotted something near the water's edge and Laud crawled across to find the frozen youth up to his neck in mud with no signs of life. He lifted him to safety and with the help of some staff carried him towards the house. With the help of Dr Stebbing the boy regained consciousness and was saved, so great praise was heaped on Margaret, and Will Laud. After the rescue Will told Margaret he had become a sailor and, having taken the King's shilling, would be absolved of his previous crimes should he stay to complete three years service in the Navy.

Shortly after, the Cobbolds moved to an Ipswich mansion, with Margaret's life improving daily due to having more responsibility in the kitchens. In 1794, the news came through that Will Laud had distinguished himself in a Naval victory over the French and would bring home a share of a splendid prize. On the same day, Margaret heard a shriek in the garden and discovered Young Henry Cobbold had fallen into a deep pond when running from his sisters. Margaret grasped an overhanging branch and, swinging down into the water, grabbed the child with her other hand, holding him up until they were rescued by the coachman and gardener. She was then at the summit of her reputation with the family, but still worried and fretted over the long awaited return of her lover Will Laud.

As time passed, sailors would call with messages purporting to be from Will. Eventually Mrs Cobbold found them a nuisance and stopped the visits. Later a servant told Margaret a sailor was asking for her but she replied "Tell him to be off!" The sailor heard her shout, threw a bag into the kitchen, and left immediately. Margaret quickly realised her mistake and ran into the darkened street. Thinking a sailor standing opposite was Will Laud she rushed over, only to discover it was the hated John Luff who asked her for the whereabouts of Laud, saying he wanted him dead or alive. She refused to answer so he dragged her away and contrived to throw her into a well, but luckily her screams were heard and she was saved. Mr Cobbold took charge of the bag (it was full of money) to keep it safe on her behalf.

She then asked her young brother to search locally for Laud, whom most local people assumed had gone back to smuggling. While searching, her brother Edward met up with a revenue man Edward Barry and heard that a trap had been laid to secure smugglers. The trap worked, and in the ensuing battle between revenue and smugglers Luff was shot and later died, but Laud was not present on that occasion. Margaret had by this time lost her place with the Cobbold family and returned to work for her uncle Leader, the difficulties with his wife having been resolved.

Much later, amid rumours that Will Laud was involved again with smuggling, Margaret received a number of false messages as to his whereabouts. Finally she received a more reliable note that he was in London, and decided to follow him there. She needed to steal a horse for the journey from her previous employer Mr Cobbold, and would dress as a hostler to avoid being recognised. The journey, with only one stop, took over 8 hours, leaving her and the horse exhausted. Mr Cobbold issued reward posters for the arrest of a “Boy thief”. One of these reached London, so Margaret was caught trying to sell the horse and returned to prison in Ipswich. Horse stealing then carried a hanging sentence, but the Judge remitted it to Transportation for seven years in Margaret’s case.

Three years later Margaret was still in Ipswich prison, a popular and well-liked inmate, carrying out many useful tasks without fuss. At some stage she discovered Will Laud in an adjoining yard for debtors – they met and made up a joint plan of escape, for which she secretly made herself a sailor suit. The attempt was successful and they headed towards Woodbridge on foot. This time Mr Ripshaw the gaoler had offered a reward of fifty pounds for her capture. The fleeing couple were seen, and after a fierce chase were challenged on the foreshore, Will Laud being killed in an exchange of gunfire with Edward Barry, and poor Margaret returned to prison. The sentence delivered at her second trial also required a hanging but once again, this time due to her excellent answers in conversation with the Judge, the given sentence was altered to Transportation, but this time for life. The system allowed no delay and Margaret was soon on her way to Botany Bay. Over the years a number of letters passed between Margaret, who ended up living in Hawkesbury, near Sydney, and her previous friends and employers. It seems she had worked hard and prospered in Australia, and sent occasional gifts to those at home. When she died aged 57, in 1819, she was a well-respected member of her community, even having streets named after her.

14 November 2013 “Mutford Half Hundred – A Domesday Evaluation”

David Butcher

The Domesday Survey gives an insight into Mutford Half-hundred, in terms of agronomic structure and land-use. It also provides some sense of social organisation, enabling us to see what bound tenants to a lord, while allowing others more freedom. Some of the information collected reveals aspects of the landscape still detectable – over 900 years later. Even heavily urbanised communities are able to cultivate a sense of how much has changed over the centuries. This book is a companion for *The Island of Lothingland: a Domesday and Hundred Roll Handbook*, published last year. The style of tabulation used, also explanatory notes, place-name etymology, related local topography, and overview of manorial structure is common to both volumes, but with no readily available Hundred Roll material to draw upon, David has used a selection of medieval references to describe activities of the Mutford half-hundred’s inhabitants during the three centuries following Domesday. With Mutford being less than half the area of Lothingland, and having half the number of settlements, he could carry out different analytical exercises largely relating to land-use, and was able to research the local manorial structure in greater detail and to investigate more closely the activities of the residents. Peter Warner, in *The Origins of Suffolk*, p. 156, remarked that the two entities should really be regarded as one – but Lake Lothing and Oulton Broad create a major topographical division, and have resulted in Lothingland’s area (38.5 square miles) being more than twice that of Mutford’s (16.6).

Formal unification of the two half-hundreds did not take place until 1763, and was brought about as a means of maintaining the poor people they contained. In one sense, a unity had existed much earlier, because both half-hundreds shared a sheriff’s court, held in April/May and again in October, at Mutford Bridge, close to the site of the present-day public house, *The Commodore*. Mutford is an ancient name derived from two Old English words: *mōt*, meaning “meeting”, and *ford*, meaning “shallow place in water”. Two volumes of the court’s activities survive for the years 1590-4 and 1594-1612 and show that it was largely concerned with the election of officers, and cases of misdemeanour, also to take stock of the *tithing-groups*, and to collect various *customary* payments due to the Crown from tenants. In general, the English *hundred* consisted of one hundred *hides* of arable land (the 120-acre *hide*, was in Norman times termed a *carucate*). Lothingland Half-hundred had about fifty-two hides, according to the Domesday Survey, and Mutford about twenty-seven – which leaves both areas, when added together, somewhat short of the average.

Who was the Anglo-Saxon family-head or tribal-leader who settled in this area? Perhaps the description of a stentorian voice, in his name, was applied to the area. Lothing is comprised of two elements: an Old English word *hluda* and a diminutive of similar origins, *ing* – meaning “descendants of”. Thus, we have “the descendants of Hluda”. Lake Lothing perpetuates him still in what later became the parish of Lowestoft (*Hloðver’s toft*). It would seem that the land to its south, stretching as far as the River Hundred, was also associated with the eponymous leader, but not truly considered as part of his domain as it abutted the Wangford and Blything hundreds.

The purpose of the great inquest of 1086, of which the Mutford data forms one tiny part, is still debated. Was it simply a tax return, enabling William I to know the serviceable value of the *warland* under his own jurisdiction, and also additional land held by his minions? Or was it a survey of the economic state of the country, assessing the differences between the England of Edward the Confessor and the country, as it was, twenty years after the

Conquest? Did it have a political purpose? Was it a means of assessing regional ability to support the quartering and provisioning of troops, if required? Or was it, in its sheer scope and scale, an audit of the state of the nation.

Perhaps the main difficulty, both in producing this publication and for anyone reading it, is the manner of the layout. Fortunately, the so-called *Little Domesday* volume for Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex never had its information summarised and reduced, in the way that the main volume (covering the rest of England) did, but the sheer amount of detail poses problems of collation and presentation. David has, therefore, chosen to abandon the conventional method of historical narrative and adopt what may be termed a “tabular approach”, with textual page-numbers placed in square brackets at the heads of the tables, with use of accompanying, bullet-pointed, explanatory notes and with source-references given in text – not listed in a series of end-notes.

A good deal of the material in Chapters 1, 2 and 3 derives from an article entitled *The Half-hundred of Mutford: a Domesday Investigation*, which was published in *Suffolk Review*, New Series 58 (Spring 2012). Revision of the data has since been carried out, with necessary corrections made, and a great deal of supplementary material added. The result is a work intended not only to create an analysis of a defined area of north-east Suffolk at a particular point in its development, but to provide a collection of material for anyone wishing to carry out his or her own research into the eight surviving communities which are to be found there. Statistics are mainly given in digit-form, in the notes accompanying the tables in Chapter One (as well as in other parts of the text), in order to achieve clarity and impact, and use is made of italic and bold fonts to represent specialist terminology and key-words in text. By employing such presentational techniques, it is hoped that the commentary will be easier to read and yield its information more readily. The three appendices and the glossary are meant to provide back-up to the preceding chapters.

28 November 2013

“Corton Village in Victorian Times”

Don Friston

This talk by Don gave the story of his ancestors’ migration eastwards from Wingfield, in Suffolk. Some records there of the family, then named Freestone, date from the 1500s but it was the late 1700s before they had a strong base in the ‘Saints’ near Bungay, mainly working as farm labourers. Don’s great great grandfather Samuel was born at South Elmham St Cross in 1810. He married a Benacre girl in 1832 and they appear in the Hopton 1841 census with six children, listed under the name Friston, probably due to the enumerator’s error, as Samuel and his eldest son were spelt Samuale, and Emma (youngest daughter) as Emmer. The family name in East Suffolk switched between Freestone and Friston for a number of years. In 1861 the Hopton census showed them living in Warren Lane (the cottages are extant) without Samuel junior. He was married and at Mill Lane, Corton, with his wife Mary (nee Took) and young family. In 1866 disaster came, as Samuel junior was lost at sea when the fishing boat *Linnet* sank in a storm with no trace ever found of vessel or crew. A punched and embossed funeral card exists from his Corton memorial service. With no main breadwinner, George, his eldest son (and Don’s grandfather) was sent to work, aged nine, as a horse-boy. He walked to a Blundeston farm seven days per week for 1s. 6d. plus his Sunday dinner.

The people of Corton, a quiet seaside village in the 1860s, worked mainly at farming and fishing, in season. There was a small school, two farms and a corn mill in the centre of the village, where most of the cottages were to be found – the main street ran parallel to the cliff with the parish church at the northern extremity. In 1869 dramatic changes were to take place. This was due to the purchase of a house at the south end, on the cliff-top, by wealthy Jeremiah Colman, the youngest partner in the large Norwich Mill producing the famous Colmans Mustard. He and his wife Caroline loved the quiet seaside around Lowestoft and had a minimum taste for city life. They saw their new house with its wide, uninterrupted sea views as the perfect home, and moved in with their children during autumn 1869. Immediately they made plans to invest heavily in the house and the village. Within four years they tripled the size of the house, renaming it *The Clyffe*, and bought more land to its north and south soon to be planted with rare trees and shrubs. Mrs Colman hated formal flower-beds and geometric borders. They also built a Chapel in the Street near to their house and a series of new, brick and tile houses to accommodate some of their employees. To protect their investment, they funded a sea wall and defences for the village and their own property, parts of which remain today. Don’s family had saved photos and printed items that he used to illustrate the above developments.

During the building frenzy in Corton, George Friston continued as a farm horseman, being a strong young adult, but he then suffered a serious accident. When driving a wagonload of corn to Lowestoft Railway Station, the horses ran away while descending Pleasurewood Hill – he was knocked down and an iron-tyred wagon wheel crushed his arm. George slowly recovered at Lowestoft hospital but never regained full use of the arm. Able to do only light work he found a new job as one of the gardeners at *The Clyffe*, working for the Colmans. While in hospital he had fallen for his nurse, Mary Fowler, and determined she was to become his wife. They married in 1887 and lived in Mill Lane near to or with his widowed mother, soon starting their own family. In September 1894 Mary produced a boy she named Henry, who was to be Don’s father. Early in 1895, the family were moved to the recently built Hawthorn Lodge, opposite the Colman’s entrance gate, and about that time George was

promoted to head gardener. George and Mary's tenancy agreement was protected (by J. Colman) for the rest of their natural life.

In March 1895, the newly formed Parish Council discussed the school, as its offices (toilets) had been condemned, and the sixty-year-old building was too small for the number of children then in Corton. Chairman Jeremiah Colman had plenty of ideas – he offered to buy the current school for £500 and to give a suitable piece of his property within the village for building a replacement. The Vicar, part of whose job was to appoint the school teaching staff, offered to manage a fund-raising scheme, starting it immediately with his personal donation of £50. The April issue of the parish magazine showed the first list of subscribers, and details of the campaign appeared monthly until the school opened in February 1896. The Colman ladies commissioned a handwritten list of the donations, and the original is still in the village records. Sadly, Mrs Caroline Colman died halfway through the construction of the school. Don showed photographs of the original school, and the new school in build, together with a number of contemporary images of his family including their school class. Don's father Henry left Corton school in 1908, aged 13, working in the gardens at *The Clyffe* for a few years before joining the Royal Navy exactly 100 years ago, and serving in the Gallipoli Campaign during WWI.

The Colmans brought many benefits to Corton by acquiring surrounding farms and employing local labour during their thirty-year sojourn. Their financial investment was very generous, and besides supporting the school and Free Methodist chapel, including the choir for the latter, they generally encouraged temperance, and a strong religious and moral lifestyle for residents. Numerous visitors came to visit them at *The Clyffe*, amongst who were Prime Minister Gladstone, Sir James Paget, and several leading Ministers of Religion – some of the visitors contributed to the new school fund. The family helped the Volunteer Life-saving Rocket Crew and provided a Village Room, and Café with a bowling green. They gave Christmas gifts to their employees and Mrs Colman organised lying-in kits for expectant mothers. This period of growth and good fortune in the village was to be cut short, as two years after the death of Mrs Colman, their son Alan died of consumption in Egypt, having been sent there in the hope that the heat would help his condition. Jeremiah Colman died the following year aged just 68. Sadly the remaining Colman family based in Norwich did not have the same attachment to Corton – *The Clyffe* was demolished and the materials sold for reuse elsewhere, and later the estate was gradually run down, being mostly sold off in 1921. The Friston family still has a presence in Suffolk, but not in Corton, though Hawthorn Lodge remains in fine condition.

“Escape to England” - Some interesting details discovered recently

An interesting story reprinted from the Newsletter

Ron Ashman

During World War II it is estimated that about 1,900 young Dutchmen fled the Netherlands to escape the Nazi occupiers. These young men left for their own safety or to help the allied forces to fight the Nazis. They were called *Engelandvaarders* (England goers) regardless of whether they actually came to this country. Most attempted the journey through occupied Belgium, France and Spain, whilst a few attempted the direct crossing of the North Sea, to land on the East Coast of England.

One such escape was attempted by five Dutch students, Philip Winckel, John Osten, Henk Baxmeier, Hein Fuchter and Edzard Moddemijer.

The young men purchased, in November 1943, a seven-metre launch named *Marko*. Then they bought a 60hp Chevrolet truck engine to replace the boat's original 17hp engine. The Chevy engine had been built in 1929 and was known as 'the cast-iron wonder' because of its renowned reliability. During the fitting, several modifications were required, including an underwater exhaust outlet to suppress the noise. Together with the building of the driveline and propeller, this was all carried out clandestinely. To get the money to pay for the boat, engine and fuel, the escapees had to sell personal belongings and borrow from family and friends. Philip Winckel sold his motorcycle and borrowed some money from his landlady.

One problem they had was acquiring the 375 litres of fuel required for the journey.

They left the Netherlands on 23 February 1944, the coldest day of that winter. The following day they were picked up by RAF Air Sea Rescue high-speed launch 185, skippered by F/L Sidney Spencer Bates MBE. Having been taken aboard the rescue launch the young men were given tea, rum, fresh bananas and fitted with navy jackets. Before setting off back to their base the sailors sank the *Marko* using the 20mm Oerliken guns on the ASR launch. At the time of the rescue the launch had on board an American, Captain A.J. Hardy, of the USAAF, who filmed the event. This unique six-and-a-half-

minute film can be seen on You Tube.

The RAF launch then returned to its base of operations in Lowestoft harbour. The five Dutchmen had been at sea for 24 hours since leaving the Dutch coast. It was the only successful escape during 1944, prior to D-Day. Skipper Bates had conducted routine search and rescue operations to find American or British aircrews that had ditched their aircraft in "the drink," but the only matter of interest that day was these five Dutchmen. According to the logs of RAF Coastal Command, these Dutchmen were brought on shore at Lowestoft, detained briefly at the harbour and thereafter spent the night at the old Lowestoft Police Station in Regent Road. The security forces (MI5) took no risk with these five men as the Country was readying for D-Day, and previously foreigners who were picked up on the North Sea had turned out to be German spies. From Lowestoft they were transported under guard by train to London for four weeks of screening at the Royal Victoria Patriotic School at Wandsworth, also known as the "London Reception Centre". Following clearance by MI5, Major Oreste Pinto interrogated them for three days on behalf of the Dutch government.

Fuchter, Baxmeier and Moddemeijer joined the RAF, Winckel joined Special Forces and Osten joined the Princess Irene Brigade and took part in the Normandy landings.

Not all escapes from Holland were as successful. On an earlier occasion 32 young men attempted the trip in sea kayaks. They launched from near Katwijk, but unfortunately only eight survived the 56-hour journey, eventually landing on English soil at Sizewell. Of these just two made it safely through to the end of the war.

Extracts from the "New memoirs of her mother" by Margaret Buchholz

A book review reprinted from the Newsletter

Ron Ashman

'Just before the Easter holidays she travelled north to Lowestoft, on the track of the skipper of a fishing smack who'd had five fights with submarines in one day.'

..... Lowestoft is a fishing town on the North Sea, and I didn't expect anything wonderful in the way of a hotel. I asked the taxi driver to take me to the best one there ... It was off on the edge of town, overlooking the sea, and principally a summer resort hotel. I was expecting a tourist crowd over Easter, but the hotel was not expecting it to the extent of putting any heat in the place. My room was as cold as Labrador, but I didn't tarry there long. I snatched some dinner in the very nice dining room and took off to look up the man I had come to see.

Skipper Wharton was a typical North Sea fisherman, a little roly-poly man with a thatch of grey hair, and the pinkest cheeks you ever saw; he looked exactly like an apple dumpling. He had a shrew of a wife and I wished for a nice dose of chloroform to give her before the evening was over. Nothing her husband said was right and she continued to interrupt his story and correct him until I could have bound and gagged her. I will say for her, that she walked me down the dark street to the station, where I could pick up a taxi to take me back to the hotel. My room seemed colder than before and the only redeeming feature was the jug of hot water I found in my bed. Six jugs would have been more to the point, but I curled around it so it would touch as much of my anatomy as possible, and then dropped off into a frozen stupor.

The next morning the sun was shining brilliantly, and a bracing wind came off the sea, out where you could see the white sails of the fishing boats, and the surf was lashing up on the beach. Just the sight of it gave me an enormous appetite, and I ate an enormous breakfast, then settled down in the lounge in front of a blazing open fire to sort over the notes I had got the evening before. It was delightful, overlooking the sea, and all done in bright green and yellow chintz. In the middle of the morning I had a telephone call from a friend of Skipper Wharton's, one Capt. Atkinson, who asked if I would like to go down to the harbour and go on board one of the fishing schooners. Would I? I dashed off at once to meet him at his office, just at the edge of the docks, and as we sat there talking he spotted walking along the sea wall another of the skippers who had had fights with submarines during the war. He called in this fellow, who was at first embarrassed at being introduced to a strange lady from across the Atlantic. He was so shy I thought he would tear his cap to pieces, he was twisting it so much.

After a while, however, he saw I wouldn't bite, and then he was in his element, telling me stories about his wartime adventures. I could have listened to him all day, but I didn't want to miss going on one of the ships.

This, by the way, was much to the horror of Mrs. Wharton, as she said no decent girl ever showed her face about those docks. But as my reputation in Lowestoft couldn't affect me anywhere else, I didn't let her scare me. The whole fleet was in the harbour and we walked along the pier until we found one close enough so that I could leap over to its deck, with Mr. Atkins standing ready to fish me out of the slimy water if I missed my jump.

This sailing smack was about sixty feet long, with part of the hold built to contain ice and the fish they catch, and the forward part is the cabin, where the crew of six or eight men lives like the proverbial sardines. The cook was getting dinner and putting in his supplies for the trip. He told me he had "nine cookin's of beef on board and he guessed that would be enough for dumplings." Skipper Wharton told me that every time during the war they had beef dumplings for dinner they met a submarine. Perhaps the Germans smelled the dumplings.

I walked along the sea wall back to the hotel where I ate everything on the menu for lunch. After lunch it began to rain – it does that every day about this time in England – and I took a taxi to the town library where a timid little librarian showed me the wartime relics. Then back to the hotel for tea in front of that gorgeous open fire ... I went back that evening to get the rest of Skipper Wharton's story and the next morning caught the first train back to London. It was crowded to the roof with people going away for the Easter holiday, which is much more important there than it is with us. At one time, in a compartment that is comfortably full with six people, there were eleven of us, including three obstreperous children. All the mothers were dressed in obviously new Easter hats and cheap finery, and the children cried and ate sticky cookies, so the new finery got spotted and the children cried some more and I was glad when we reached London....

I asked Margaret if she knew the name of the hotel her mother had stayed in. She replied; 'Sorry – that she didn't say – but there couldn't have been too many that fitted this description at that time, right?'

I assumed she thought Lowestoft was a one-horse town and did not reply that the town had several hotels at that time. However, as she walked along the sea wall back to the hotel, I thought it could have been one of many that were situated along the seafront, including the Grand, Kirkley and the Empire hotels.

Ron Ashman (Chairman)

Obituary: Lilian Fisher, late Chairman of the Society

Lilian Fisher did much for the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society, in various roles, and for the Lowestoft Museum. She was a nice lady who was well thought of and respected by Society members.

Having joined the Society in the late 1970s her first committee post came in 1980, as programme secretary, a role she held for ten years. In 1990 she took on the role of Vice Chairman, then in 1993 became Chairman, a position she held until her retirement in 2011. During that time she supported other Society activities including outings to historical sites, field walking and taking displays to various history events, and for several years also organised our Christmas Social. In addition, she served as a member of the Trustees.

As well as being Society Chairman Lilian helped in running the Museum, acting as a regular steward and organising their attendance rota for many years. She also arranged pre-season and end of season get-togethers for the stewards and museum volunteers, where everyone had an opportunity to meet and have a say in the way their duties were organised, plus find out about future plans and events.

Over the years Lilian researched and wrote two booklets, 'Pakefield Past & Present' and 'A Brief History of Lowestoft'. She also produced articles for the Society's Annual Report. These included 'Researching My Road – Stradbroke Road', which traced the history of the old buildings near her home; 'The Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages – Before and After 1837'; 'What Happened to Pakefield' and '16th Century Strangers in Norwich'.

Pleistocene Remains from Pakefield and Covehithe, Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

Antler from Giant Deer

During the early part of 2013 a man walking along the beach at low water mark opposite the DEFRA Laboratories picked up the remains of a large deer antler that had probably come from the cliff deposits situated to the south of Pakefield Lighthouse.

The remains measuring nearly four feet across was in reasonable condition apart from some rolling and abrasion to the points and by reason of a number of small barnacles on the remains it would appear to have been in the sea for some time.

The antler was from giant deer *M. VERTICORNIS* and a number of previous specimens have been found in situ at Pakefield, the last in 2002, when part of the antler was recovered during investigations by the Natural History Museum relating to the very early stone tools found at the location two months earlier. The deer of the extinct genus *MEGALOCEROS* were mostly large animals that favoured meadows or open woodland with most species averaging around six feet at the withers. *M. VERTICORNIS* was an early to mid PLEISTOCENE species closely related to *M. OBSCURUS* and was found throughout southern Europe and is probably an ancestor of the Mediterranean species.

Wild Auroch

During the later part of 2012 a cannon bone from a Wild Auroch was retrieved from the cliff line at Covehithe, Suffolk and later the specimen, which was in good condition, was given to the Lowestoft Museum. This is not the first time remains of Auroch have been found in the area with a previous discovery being made in marshland adjacent to the Hundred River at Rushmere, Suffolk in 1981. At the time Anglian Water were carrying out work near the river when part of a skull and attached horn cores were uncovered when a trench was being pulled out. Again the remains were later given to the Lowestoft Museum by the landowner Mr John Oldrin. Domestic cattle are descendants from the Wild Auroch *BOS PRIMIGENUS* and bones are common in PLEISTOCENE deposits in Europe, Asia and North Africa. The bulls were very large, standing up to six feet at the shoulder and had very large horns. They lived mostly in wooded country and domestic cattle of auroch origins were introduced into Western Europe by Neolithic farmers spreading out from the Danube basin. Bones of auroch have also been found in the Cambridge area in peat deposits and dated to the early Bronze Age as a direct result of pollen analysis. Aurochs survived for some time in parts of Europe with the last known specimen killed in Poland in 1627.

A Tidal Surge and Recent Archaeological Discoveries at Corton, Suffolk

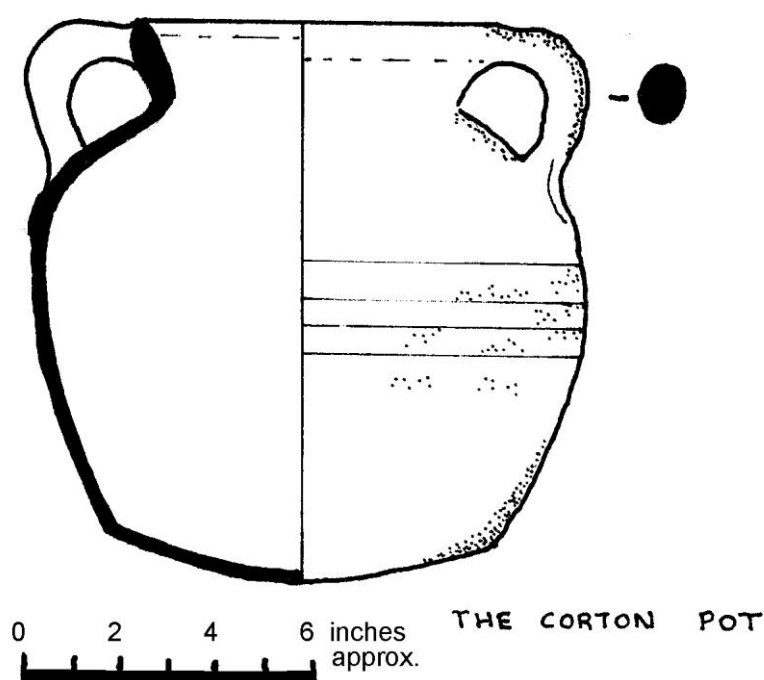
Paul Durbidge

Medieval Pot and a Tidal Surge

Corton has a long and eventful past with air photography showing linear field systems of unknown date on several of its fields while a crumbling cliff line continues to surrender more evidence of what was once a thriving community. The Saxon name for Corton was *KARETUNA*, a name that is Anglo Scandinavian in origin and before 1066 we learn there was a manor of some 240 acres under Airic under Gyrths patronage. But by 1086 this had all changed and the title holder was Duke William. Its church has Norman connections and is dedicated to St. Bartholomew and in the late 1100s there was a link with Leiston Abbey. During the 1970s Manor Farm Corton was situated on the cliff and was demolished to allow the building of the Corton Beach Holiday Camp and a quantity of carved masonry that had been previously taken from the church by an early lay rector was found to have been used in the fabric of the foundations. The best of the rescued material now forms a montage inside the modern meeting room constructed during the 1980s within the ruined walls of the nave and this contains some Norman masonry. The Anglo Scandinavian link with Corton is further indicated by the discovery of a small portable whetstone made from schist which was found by a local man a few years ago. It was decorated with what appears to be a bird's head and had been grooved which

provided a way of tying a thong around it to attach to a belt and was dated by types excavated at Coppergate, York in 2000. Several years ago the continual process of erosion of the cliff line exposed flint and brick wellshafts along both glazed and coarseware pottery which had been discharged over the cliff from the fields above. This is a process that still continues after heavy sea action occurs, usually during the winter months. The long established wooden and steel revetments have over the years given some protection to the cliffs that now stand some thirty feet behind them. But now after years of wear and neglect the defences are well abraded and bear little resemblance to their original form with the steel groynes worn down to such an extent they look like sharpened daggers. During the month of January 2013 the public footpath along the top of the cliffs was sealed off after several falls cut through it and destroyed safety barriers. A collapse of part of the wooden and steel revetments allowed the sea to directly impact against the base of the cliff resulting in a fall of more than twenty feet. With one caravan directly above this resulted in the moving back of several others leaving some still close to the edge but not in any immediate danger. Over 7000 tonnes of Norwegian granite was shipped into Lowestoft from quarries in Norway with sizable amounts of earth also being used to defend the gap. After more storms in March it was estimated around eight feet of sand had consolidated the beach by natural means although the engineers were cautious saying everything depended on the remaining defences holding the line. The work carried out at the Hopton Holiday Village was only intended as emergency works and not a long term solution and probably more work this winter will be carried out with weather conditions determining on what scale.

The reason for the considerable increase in destruction along the stretch at Hopton and Corton is unclear but the Holiday Village has publicly blamed Great Yarmouth outer harbour for causing the situation that is affecting the beach and cliff and is actively pursuing the Harbour owners to fund a seven million pound defence fund. However the port authority insists that the erosion is occurring naturally, a view that is certainly not widely shared by local people.



Further to the south there are also frequent falls and Adrian Charlton has constantly searched this area over many years and continues to do so putting much time and effort into the recovery of archaeological material, often in adverse weather conditions. During the latter part of 2012 up to May 2013 he was again at the location when he saw what appeared to be the remains of pottery sticking out of the cliff face approximately twenty inches down from ploughland.

Clambering up the fallen cliff he could see that it was indeed pottery, some pieces glazed and two handles. The remains were amongst a mixture of sand and ash but reasonably loose. Bearing in mind he was standing on previous cliff falls he found he could just about reach the sherds but had to be careful as there was the chance to slip which could send him downwards to the beach some twenty feet below. After some considerable time he was able to prise out the sherds which included rim, base and two handles before carefully making his way downwards to beach level while still clutching his precious cargo. The total number of sherds recovered over a couple of visits was over sixty and with

the exception of one; all were from the same vessel. These were later placed in a container of clean water and after several hours they were carefully cleaned of the sand and earth and allowed to dry out. Examination of the sherds showed they were part of a large two handled cooking pot of Medieval date with a pronounced rim profile suggesting the vessel may have had either a pottery or wooden lid. The thickness of the wall appeared quite thin for such a large vessel and were orange internally. Externally the fabric was a distinctive reddish brown with a rich light green glaze applied to the waist and partially on the handles. Rilling had been applied around the middle and the two rod handles had been applied opposite each other coming off the top of the rim and terminating near the waist with strong thumb marks. The base had a slumped profile with no pinching applied to stop the pot rocking during use. It was noticeable that in the wall of the vessel there were a number of quite large flints and they were also present in several of the base sherds. Given the cleanness of the interior and the lack of staining it would appear the pot had not had much use and it is likely when along with its contents it was placed on the fire one or more of the flints expanded. This would have led to the destruction of the vessel and with soot present both internally and externally and bubbling of liquid on three of the base sherds this would support the theory. The vessel has now been reconstructed and some idea of its overall size is indicated by the following dimensions:-

Diameter of rim	7¾ inches	
Diameter of waist	11 inches	
Diameter of base	8¾ inches	
Height of vessel	10¾ inches	Paul Durbidge October 2013

Postscript – Severe Coastal Surge

Since writing this paper several gales during the middle of October saw a tidal surge wash over the revetments causing considerable damage to the base of the cliffs. A stock pile of 2000 tonnes of rock armour has been used to try and halt the damage which has occurred on each side of the area repaired earlier this year. The eight week project to protect over 200 meters of cliff is estimated to cost some £900000 and will increase to around £3 million after additional winter work is completed.

In the meantime a further 7000 tonnes of granite is being shipped in from Norway for emergency defences which were not budgeted for but are now essential.

Rolled Pottery from Corton Beach

I was recently shown a large plastic bag containing a mass of coarseware pottery that had been gathered from the area of the beach at Corton over the last year or so. The majority has been severely abraded after falling from ploughland above onto a stony beach with the actions of the waves then wearing down the material, often beyond recognition.

In going through the bag it was possible to identify a percentage of the material and below are summarised the results, all are Medieval in date unless otherwise stated:-

- 145 plain rolled body sherds in variations of grey and orange fabrics
- 16 rolled body sherds with traces of light green glaze
- 18 very abraded rim forms from cooking pot and dish, these are mostly in dark grey material.

Base Remains Sixteen base remains were examined with two light grey in colour and quite thick at the base and in spite of the abrasions these were Romano British in date. A rolled light grey body sherd can also be attributed to the same period. The part remains of four other base forms were from cooking pots and were in a gritty dark grey material while another with a flat profile in grey buff has a splash of dark green glaze on the underside and is from a large jug. The remaining forms have grey internal surfaces and are pale orange externally with pinch nipping present on four. The remains of an abraded base from a frilly based stoneware jug is a Low Countries import and would date from the seventh century.

Handles The remains of six broken handles were in the collection and included part of a well made corded handle in a hard dark grey material with traces of light green glaze. An upper part of an unglazed narrow strap handle was in pale orange material while a section of a much wider one has a central groove down the centre with partially glazed areas of dark green. The upper part of a wide strap handle was attached to the neck of a jug in a soft orange fabric and again there are traces of light

green glaze. Two broken remains of small strap handles were also in a rich green glaze and came from jugs.

Rims Of the rim forms, one is from a jug with the upper scar from a strap handle just beneath the rim and two are from large shallow dish forms with splashes of light green glaze on the interior surfaces. Twelve rim forms are from various cooking pots and small bowls with fabrics varying from light to dark grey. One unrolled rim in a soft red fabric has a wide flared rim very similar to the reconstructed vessel and this has a splash of a rich orange brown glaze on part of the shoulder and rim.

Decoration Applied strip is visible on two sherds, on one it has been applied horizontally on a gritty dark brown body sherd while on another three strips have been applied. These strips are three quarters of an inch apart and run parallel to each other at an angle on the pot. The fabric is a very gritty buff colour and the internal surfaces show a very pitted surface, probably the result of limescale on the fabric.

Spouts One complete large bung-hole was amongst the body sherds and was fashioned from a gritty grey buff fabric. Another spout was in the form of a short straight spout one and half inches in diameter projecting one and quarter inches out from the face of the pot. Applied two inches up from the flat base the fabric was in a hard reddish colour with spots of rich green glaze both on the projecting spout and body. The flat base was also glazed while internally the broken remains showed a rough and pitted surface containing a number of small grits.

Paul Durbidge November 2013

A Perforated Stone Axehead from Corton

A few days ago I was shown the broken remains of a small perforated stone axehead or axe hammer which had originally come from a field surface at Corton during the later part of last year. The remains were small, only 2½ inches long by 1⅞ wide with part of an hour glass perforation measuring just under 1 inch diameter. The implement had been broken comparatively recently, possibly by farm machinery and the broken section showed a hard close grained brownish colour while the weathered surfaces were more greenish. Objects of stone in the vicinity are not common and the remains probably originated from one of a number of axe factories in the country either in the raw state or completed but it is unclear as to which one. Perforated axe hammers, mace heads and even battle axes were probably known to the Peterborough people and were certainly known and made during the Bronze Age. In the early types perforations are often narrower in the middle than at the mouth on either side. In this case it would appear the perforation was formed by rotating a stick or bone within a cavity on each face or by pecking at the surface from both sides with some form of hard point. Later types have a straight through perforation and here a small cylindrical borer of bone or metal may have been employed. In 1969 the broken remains of a small circular perforated mace head made from Sarson stone was found with associated flint industry on a field at Gisleham, Suffolk. Some years later a good example of a large perforated stone axe hammer was recovered near Benacre Broad, Suffolk and I understand broken remains of a second was found within a short distance of the first but was discarded by the finder. The complete Benacre specimen is on display in Lowestoft Museum along with a complete circular mace head made from Sarson stone and found on a field at Lound, Suffolk in 1963.

Paul Durbidge November 2013

The Lowestoft Museum 2013

Ray Collins

We have had a very good season with many visitors saying how much they enjoyed their visit. The visitor numbers this year showed a slight increase, the total was 9284 (+ 5.6%), with 221 days being open (8 days more than last year). Donations were about the same but the Shop sales were up by 26%.

Accreditation Remedial Work

After gaining full accreditation last year by the Arts Council, we had three areas requiring improvement served on us. The first of these, to renew our Loan agreement with WDC was quickly remedied, however the other two require much more work. Our Documentation backlog, of which the

Cataloguing is the major part, we have until January 2015 to complete. We have at the end of the year now completed 78.6% which leaves 1150 items still to be done. The work involves finding the object, updating the computer record and then giving it a location so we know where it is. In doing this many un-catalogued items were found, these have been sorted into groups and when we finish we can decide what to do with these, either dispose of, use for other purposes, ie. School work, or we may decide to Catalogue them. The final item, marking of items with their Accession Number is progressing alongside the other work but we have until January 2017 to complete this.

Building

The team continue to improve the inside of the building and we are now at the point where nothing urgently needing to be done can be identified. Early in the year WDC started looking for proposals for the future of the Flat which we decided was no use to us in its present form. We said we like to see it pulled down and an extension for the museum built in its place. We are still waiting for a reply. In early December we came close to the museum being flooded by a severe tidal storm surge. This was in some places worst than the 1953 floods but we escaped in this area as the wind dropped just before high tide, we did nevertheless have the grassed areas of the park flooded and the water came to about the roadway. The park was closed for a week while the water was pumped out but little damage was caused to the park (see Lowestoft Scene 2013 for more information on the damage to the town).

Displays

To celebrate the centenary of Benjamin Britten's birth a display was set up in the Foyer with the help of the Red House, Aldeburgh. The Britten year has been well received, some visitors saying they did not know his connection with the town and with events nationally and worldwide there is now talk of having annual events to recognize his contribution to music.

Visitor Initiatives

A Small Finds Day event was held in August where members of the public were invited to bring along small archaeological finds for examination by experts from SCC Archaeology Services. There were also items to handle on the day from their collection. Over 130 visited the museum for the day but it was felt that such an event needed to be advertised earlier next time.

Suffolk Museum of the Year Competition

We entered for the first time the competition organised jointly by East Anglian Daily Times and the Association of Suffolk Museums. We had free publicity for the museum both in the EADT and on Radio Suffolk but we were unsuccessful in being shortlisted, this depended solely on the number of votes received for which we were unlikely to get without pestering the public.

BBC Filming for Major Programme in the Museum

On Wednesday 4th September David Dimbleby and film crew arrived by boat from Yarmouth; they were making a programme titled 'Britain and the Sea'. Two of the staff from Norwich Castle Museum were also present, they had brought a couple of special Lowestoft Porcelain items depicting a bathing machine and the lighthouse. Filming was done in the Johnstone Room and the programmed was screen in 18th November on BBC1.

The Coming Year

We have had a Lottery grant approved to provide cases etc. to display the artefacts found on the Bloodmoor site and are presently in store at SCC Archaeology Services. This will be a two year loan and hopefully followed by other loans from Suffolk and maybe the British Museum. For the anniversary of the start of WW1 we are planning a small display in the WW2 case showing connections with the town at that time.

An Inventory of the Worldly Goods and Assets of Roger Hill*David Butcher*

Roger Hill was a Lowestoft merchant of the second half of the sixteenth century, whose burial was recorded in the parish registers on 13 September 1588. He had made his will (Norfolk Record Office, 296 Homes) on 20 August and the inventory of his possessions (NRO INV 4/45) was taken on 16 September. He lived in what is now 30 High Street – a house whose plain, nineteenth-century brick exterior gives no hint of the sumptuous timber-framing to be found within and whose basic plan can still be ascertained from the document transcribed below. The details serve to give some idea of the life-style and domestic arrangements of a person at the top of the social and economic order, in a provincial town, during the late Tudor period. The structure and layout of the original document have been retained (apart from the introduction, which is damaged and incomplete and has therefore been omitted), but all spelling has been given in modern form.

In the hall

One long table with a frame, one long form & another short form	10s
One old counter with a little form	3s 4d
A little square table	1s 8d
One cupboard	20s
4 old cushions	1s 4d
6 newer cushions	30s
3 carpets	20s
The stained cloths about the hall	5s
3 chairs and a stool with a back	2s
The benches about the hall	2s 6d
A new little tick for a featherbed	13s 4d
4 glasses	1s 6d
One pair of andirons, one iron to set before a latch-pan, a pair of tongs, a fire-pan, a pair of hakes & a pair of bellows	10s
A basin, a small ewer & a little pewter bottle	2s 8d
A pewter wine-pot with a spout	2s 6d
A nest of heckles	5s
2 flower pots of pewter	8d
A laten branch with a candlestick	2s 6d
One musket, a mould with a head-piece, flasket, touch-box, sword & dagger	30s
A caliver with a head-piece, a sword & dagger	15s
An almain rivet & one coat of plate	10s
One sheaf of arrows with a steel cap	2s
A partisan & 2 halberds	10s
One book of homilies	12d
One sword more	5s
One pistol	6s 8d

In the parlour

One joined table with a frame and 6 joined stools thereto belonging	40s
One posted bed, seeled with the curtains, a featherbed, a flock bed, 2 transoms, 2 pillows, one blanket & a covering of tapestry	£6
One trendle bedstead, a featherbed, a transom, 2 coverlets & an ell pillow	38s 4d
2 curtains for the windows	6s 8d
A back[ed] chair, joined	6s 8d
A little square joined table	3s 4d
One old Dansk chest	2s
A looking glass	6d
One still of lead	3s 4d
Joined seelings of oak, with a bench on the same under the east window	40s
A pair of andirons	20d
One featherbed with a bolster & 2 pairs of sheets	40s
One lectern coffer	3s 4d

A glass bottle	8d
In the parlour chamber	
One posted bedstead with a tester, 2 little featherbeds, 2 bolsters, 2 blankets & one coverlet	53s 4d
A trendle bedstead	2s 6d
One Dansk chest	4s
10 pairs of coarse sheets in the said chest	40s
2 pieces of new cloth containing 10 yards	20s
One other pair of sheets	6s 8d
One old sheet	5s
4 worn towels	23d
One pillowbere	2s
One smock	2s 6d
2 pieces of sheets	8d
2 towels	8d
One shirt	2s 8d
One coffer	2s 6d
2 pillows	5s
One covering of Irish rug	7s
2 old red mantles	8d
2 great bottles of glass & one small	18d
1 old press	12d
In the chamber over the kitchen	
In meslin, 3 coombs	18s
2 cheeses and a half	6s
7 couple of North Sea fish	5s
Gunpowder [fire-risk!]	50s
An old churn	12d
In old iron	2s
A pair of langles, a lock & a key	12d
A bushel, a strike and a shovel	2s 6d
In the chamber over the hall	
One posted bedstead to the east, with an old tester of painted cloth, one featherbed, a flock bed, a stray sack, 2 bolsters, a covering, a blanket & a pair of sheets	36s 8d
One other bedstead, with a tester of old silk, one featherbed, a straw bed, 2 bolsters, one blanket, 2 coverlets & one pair of sheets	30s
One old table, with a pair of trestles	6d
One old square table with a frame	2s
One spinning wheel	6d
12 yards of coarse white blanket	6s 8d
An old bolster of flock	2d
8 yards of linen cloth	5s
3 pairs of fine sheets	23s
A pair of coarse sheets	3s 4d
2 fustian waistcoats, 3 pillowberes & 2 shirts	13s
4 tablecloths & 18 table napkins	16s 8d
1 kerchief & 2 missins	2s
In the shop chamber	
A shop chest	10s
15 ells of French drug in 2 pieces	5s
A posted bedstead with a wainscot tester, 2 featherbeds, one blanket, two bolsters, a mat, one pair of sheets, one pillow with the bere, one coverlet of pullen work & 3 irons for curtains	£5 5s
A trunk chest	6s 8d

One coffer given to Faith Hill	3s 4d
In the same, 2 pairs of fine sheets	50s
More there, 2 pairs of fine sheets	30s
5 other pairs of sheets in the said chest	50s
One odd sheet more there	5s
One other pair of sheets there	5s
One whole fringed white valance for a bed there	3s 4d
2 diaper board cloths & half a dozen of napkins of diaper	30s
2 fine tablecloths	9s
2 towels	3s
6 napkins	3s
5 pillowberes	10s
5 smocks	15s
2 yards of flannel	4s
(All this in the said coffer)	
2 scarves of blue durance	6s 8d
One Dansk coffer	6s 8d
In the same coffer, one pair of fine sheets	40s
3 white curtains there	12s
6 fine pillowberes	20s
4 rails	10s
5 missins & 3 quarter-cloths	3s 8d
(This pertaining to the said coffer)	
4 painted cloths about the chamber	10s
One chair & one pair of andirons	6s 8d
One limbeck	8s
One joined stool	8d
(Women's apparel)	
One fine gown for a woman	50s
A red scammel petticoat	22s
One round worsted kirtle	13s 4d
A hood of cloth for a woman and a thrummed silk hat	3s 4d
[Inserted] One joined form & a buffet stool	18d
(His apparel)	
A gown of cloth furred with otter	15s
One doublet of rash	12s
One new canvas doublet	10s
2 frieze coats	6s 8d
One Spanish leather jerkin with 8 silver buttons	16s
One cloth jerkin	4s
One old black coat	2s 6d
3 pairs of breeches	13s 4d
A pair of knit stockings & one pair of cloth stockings	6s
One cloak with silver clasps	20s
A hat & a cap	6s 8d
One pair of boots, 2 pairs of shoes & one pair of pantofles	5s
In the buttery	
43 pieces of pewter weighing 87 lbs	43s 6d
22 pieces of old pewter containing 29 lbs	14s 6d
4 pewter pots	2s 8d
More, one cupboard	3s 4d
7 laten candlesticks	5s
One laten basin, a ewer & a laten sieve	5s
A chafing-dish of laten, with a foot	2s 6d
2 other, old, little chafing-dishes	2s

A pewter posnet, a basin & an old pewter pot	12d
A cupboard cloth	6d
9 Dansk trenchers	3d
12 white trenchers	4d
A laver of latén	3s 4d
A chopping-board, a beer-stage & a broad traying-platter	12d
A brazen mortar and a pestle	3s
2 old board-cloths	2s
One pewter dish	12d
A dresser & 2 shelves	12d
An old pair of latén scales & a glass bottle	12d
Old iron	6d
A net-rock	4d
An earthen pot, a wooden pot & a keg	12d
A runlet	6d

In the kitchen

A brass pot belonging to the limbeck	6s 8d
A great brass pot	13s 4d
One great copper kettle	12s
A flat copper kettle	8s
A lesser copper kettle	6s 8d
One great kettle of brass	10s
8 brass pots	15s
2 small brass pots	6s 8d
A little brass posnet	[value obscured]
A brass pan with 2 ears [handles]	[5s?]
A water-chafer of brass	[3s 4d?]
8 skillet pans	[4s?]
3 latén skimmers	16s
3 brass kettles	[value obscured]
3 latch-pans	5s
3 old frying-pans	8d
5 spits	5s
One roast-iron, 3 pairs of pot-hooks & a little andiron for the spit	2s 4d
One little tub-chair	2d
An old pitchfork and a chopping-knife	4d

In the backhouse

A moulding-board, a minging-trough, 2 old tubs & an old tray	3s 4d
A pair of scales with an iron beam	5s
6 lead weights weighing 32 lb	2s 6d
One weight of stone	6d
A pair of mustard querns	12d
A peck & a vinegar-bottle	6d
2 pewter candlesticks, one pewter half-pint & another of a qr. of a pint	2s 6d
An old pewter chamber-pot	6d
A peel of iron	4d

In the backhouse chamber

5 coombs of malt	25s
5 sacks	4s
A cart-saddle, a pair of traces & a pair of thill-bells	18d
A bolting-tub, a brine-tub, a keeler and a fan	6d

In the salt-house

3 old hogsheds, 3 old barrels, 2 keelers and half a hundred paving-tiles	7s
--	----

In the brewhouse

A copper, one mash-vat, one gyle-vat, 1 cooler & the sweet wort vat	£10
6 [?] barrels	6s
4 half-barrels, a hogshead, 2 old barrels, 2 other old hogsheads, 6 keelers with a tunning-kettle, a pair of can-hooks, a fire-fork, 2 beer-stages & a tunner	13s 4d
A pump belonging to the ship	6s 8d

In the flag-house

A thousand flags	3s 4d
------------------	-------

In the barn

In barley, being in sheaves, there by estimation: 7 coombs	20s
--	-----

In the stable

2 racks	8d
Half a load of hay	3s 4d
A gelding bridle and a saddle	40s
One cow	30s
A chaldron & a half of coal	20s
A saw	2s
One long ladder & 2 shorter	4s
Half a hundred furzes	16d

In the fish-houses above the cliff

6 thousand speets	£4
-------------------	----

In the yard at home

8 & a half thousand billets	£7
5 loads of wood	25s
3 quarters of a ship called <i>The Gift of God</i> , with her tackle and all other furniture to her belonging	£66 6s 8d
3 ferry-boats	£10
3 oars	3s
2 strops, a rope & a pulley pertaining to the well	5s

In the house called "The Chapel"

4 weys of salt	£12
----------------	-----

In the houses beneath the cliff

5 dozen swills	30s
2 herring barrels	20d
Certain spars & a piece of fir-deal plank	5s
3,400 billets	£3
2 great vats to roar herrings in, 2 washing vats & 1 riving board	33s 4d
3 pairs of chains	3s 4d
3 props	2s
4,000 herring speets	[No value given]

In plate

One mazer lipped with silver which was given to Faith Hill	6s 8d
More, 12 silver spoons which was [sic] given to her, price	£3
One other pot of stone, lipped & footed with silver, given to her	15s
One silver salt gilded, with a cover, which was given to Edmond Hill	50s
One gold ring which was given to the said Edmond	20s
One stone pot lipped with silver given to Agnes Wilkinson	8s
One silver salt with a cover, parcel-gilt, given to the said Agnes	£3
One stone pot lipped with silver given to Mary Hill	10s
One broad silver piece given to the said Mary	50s
One guinea of gold more, given to her	13s 4d
One silver goblet, being parcel-gilt, given to Elizabeth Bryttaine [Britten]	50s
One gold ring lacking a stone, ungiven	5s
One tooth-pick of silver with a crow foot chain, ungiven, price	4s

One great silver salt gilded, with a cover, and one silver goblet, parcel-gilt, laid in pawn for	£8
5 silver spoons, laid in pawn for	20s
In ready money	£268 16s 8d

In debts good and bad

One obligation of Thomas Blithe of Lound & John Blithe of Blundeston of 20 marks [£13 6s 8d]
for the payment of 30 coombs of barley
An obligation of Richard Selling of Reydon of £40 for the De [debt?] of 30,000 billets
One obligation of Miles Winson of Blundeston & John Blith[e] of sixteen pounds for the payment
of eight pounds
One obligation of William Marcon & Matthew Ward of Yarmouth of £20 for the payment of £14
6s 0d
One obligation of James Bungay of Beccles & Thomas Hill of Shadingfield of 100 marks [£66 13s
4d] for the payment of £54
One obligation of Godfrey Kirspe [Crisp] of Weston & John Wolnell [Woolnough] of the same
town of £20 for the payment of £10 13s 4d
One obligation of the said Godfrey Kirspe & John Wolnell of £20 for the payment of £10
Due from Mr. Walles 10s upon an account
Due from William Crowe & William [unreadable] of Yarmouth for their obligation of their debt
[sum unreadable]

Wyllm Frenche

Rychard bery

John Starff

Stephen Phillipp

- The signatories above were the men who had carried out the valuation of Roger Hill's possessions. William French was a merchant (who owned *The Crown* inn), Richard Berry a yeoman, Stephen Phillips an ordained clergyman and master of Annot's Free Grammar School, and John Staff a brewer. Phillips was also the person who wrote the inventory. The trades and occupations of the four men provided the necessary range of experience and skills to enable accurate appraisal of Hill's estate and creation of the inventory – a document that was intended to accompany his will and assist with its honest and correct execution.
- Hill's last will and testament had been written by Edmond Walle and was proved in the Norwich Diocese consistory court. It is possible that Walle was the same person as the Mr. Walles referred to above in the inventory's penultimate entry. Wills at this time were usually made when the testator was in a state of serious ill health – a fact borne out by the interval of just over three weeks between the document being drawn up and Hill's burial in St. Margaret's churchyard.
- When compiling an inventory, the assessors usually began their work in the downstairs rooms, before going upstairs. It was then customary to go out into the yard and inspect any outbuildings that existed. Roger Hill's house was a typical lobby-entry dwelling of the period, with three principal downstairs rooms (hall, parlour and kitchen-buttery) and three bedrooms above (hall chamber, parlour chamber and kitchen chamber). There was a two-storey backhouse annex somewhere to the rear and mention is also made of a shop chamber – but not the shop itself. The latter was probably a workshop of some kind, with a tenant occupying it. On the cliff-face terraces to the rear of the dwelling (especially the uppermost level itself) was a range of buildings that serviced Hill's mixed and varying business interests.
- The procedure revealed in the document here was appraisal of the objects in the hall and parlour, then ascent to four chambers (or bedrooms), followed by descent to the buttery and kitchen – the former almost certainly part of the latter, but partitioned off from it. After this came inspection of the various specialist outbuildings and storage-areas. One thing that will strike the reader regarding the house itself is the mixed use of many of the rooms, with varying combinations of sitting, sleeping, eating and storage – a feature that was typical at the time across a wide spectrum of society.
- The vessel, *Gift of God*, could quite easily have been at sea somewhere when the inventory was compiled. Craft at this time were of dual use, converting from trading to fishing and back again. Categorising the vessel among the items found in the uppermost yard was simply done for convenience. The same is true of the three ferry-boats, which would have been kept down on the

beach, above high-water level.

- The debts listed at the end of the document are the sums of money owed by the deceased to people with whom he did business (specifically, for malting-barley and for the coppiced oak or ash pieces used in curing red herrings) and the amounts owed to him by various acquaintances (five of these being long-term loans, with both the principal and accumulated sum stated).
- As can be seen from the detailed account of Roger Hill's earthly possessions, probate inventories are an invaluable source for promoting understanding of a person's economic activities and resulting life-style.
- The amount of weaponry listed in Roger Hill's hall – as well as the gunpowder present in the kitchen chamber – probably reflects both his involvement in maritime activity and the country's state of readiness for invasion by Spain. It may also mirror the behaviour of members of the gentry and nobility, who customarily displayed arms in the halls of their houses. In the Muster Roll, taken for the Island of Lothingland in January 1584 (E. Powell, *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, vol. xix, p. 65), Hill is shown as having a caliver (see below), an almain rivet (see below), a bow and a sheaf of arrows. Three of the assessors are listed as well. William French had a corselet (a metal "shell" that protected the torso), a coat of plate (body-armour with individual metal plates sewn inside a leather or fabric jacket), a bow and a sheaf of arrows; Richard Berry had a corselet and caliver; and John Staff had a morion (steel helmet, with brim and optional crest) and a pike. Stephen Phillips is not listed.

Glossary

Almain rivet: light body-armour, originally made in Germany, consisting of overlapping metal plates given movement by slots and rivets. The first word is a corruption of the French *allemande*.

Andirons: a pair of horizontal, footed iron bars (each with one upright member), used to support burning logs on a hearth.

Beer-stage: a stout wooden frame used for supporting beer barrels, when full.

Billets: coppiced oak or ash pieces (the latter being most favoured), used for smoking red herrings.

Blanket: undyed, loosely-woven woollen cloth.

Board-cloth: a covering for a table used at meal-times.

Bolting-tub: a wooden container used for sieving flour.

Branch: a horizontal metal arm fitted to an interior wall of a house.

Brazen: made of brass.

Buffet stool: a foot-stool.

Bushel: a basket of eight gallons, dry-measure, capacity.

Buttery: a service-room in a medieval house, which stored the drink (wine and ale, largely). It was originally situated next to the pantry (which stored bread and dry food), but increasingly became associated with the kitchen.

Caliver: a light type of arquebus, fired without the use of a rest.

Carpet: thick woollen fabric used to cover tables – not floors.

Cart-saddle: a thick leather pad, placed on a horse's back as part of the harness securing it to cart or plough.

Chafing-dish: a brass vessel made to hold burning material, in order to heat anything placed above it.

Chaldron: a variable quantity of coal, reckoned at about 36 bushels and weighing c. 1½-2 tons.

Coffer: a lockable chest for the safe-keeping of valuables.

Coomb: a dry measure for grain and other seed, equal to 4 bushels; a comb of barley weighed out at 16 stones.

Counter: a table used for the counting-out of money.

Dansk chest: a softwood chest, made of spruce or pine and of Scandinavian origins (*Dansk* meaning "Danish").

Dansk trenchers: wooden platters made of spruce or pine.

Diaper: a linen fabric, with a patterned surface consisting of opposing diagonal lines and decorative inter-spaces.

Doublet: a close-fitting upper body garment for men, with or without sleeves.

Drug: a hard-wearing fabric made of wool mixed with linen or silk.

Durance: a tough, long-lasting cloth.

- Ell*: a length of 45 inches – sometimes known as the “cloth-yard” because of its use in measuring out woollen stuffs.
- Fan*: an instrument for winnowing grain (either a shallow basket or a light wooden shovel).
- Ferry-boat*: a light craft propelled by oars and used for carrying goods to and from the shore.
- Fire-pan*: a metal tray, which (depending on size) either held the fire in a hearth or could be used for carrying burning material from room to room.
- Flasket*: a powder-flask used for loading firearms.
- Flock*: coarse pieces of waste wool, used for stuffing cushions and mattresses.
- Frieze*: a coarse woollen cloth, napped on one side.
- Fustian*: a coarse, twilled cloth made from cotton and flax. It took its name from *Fostat*, a district of Cairo, where it was produced – and it was often used to make servants’ working-clothes.
- Gyle-vat*: a large wooden fermenting vessel, used in the production of beer.
- Hake*: a serrated horizontal iron bar, set into the wall of a fire-place and used to suspend cooking-pots above the blaze.
- Halberd*: a pole-weapon, with long handle, combining axe and spear at the killing-end (still carried ceremonially by the Vatican’s Swiss guards).
- Heckle*: a wooden, brush-like tool, with metal teeth, which was used for dressing hemp fibre prior to its being spun into linen yarn.
- Homilies*: sermons.
- Joined table, stools*: furniture whose components had been secured by mortise-and-tenon *joints* rather than by iron nails.
- Keeler*: a shallow vessel for cooling down warm liquids.
- Kettle*: a metal pot for heating water or cooking with – not the spouted utensil of today.
- Kirtle*: a woman’s skirt or outer petticoat.
- Langles*: fetters used for hobbling horses.
- Latch-pan*: a shallow metal container, used to catch the grease dripping from meat as it was roasted.
- Laten*: a metal alloy formed from brass and tin.
- Lectern*: a reading-stand, especially one associated with Scripture.
- Limbeck*: a still, mainly used in households to produce rose-water and other scented agents to sweeten the internal aroma. The word is a variation of *alembic*.
- Mark*: a sum of money worth 13s 4d – not a coin.
- Mash-vat*: a large wooden vessel, used in brewing beer, in which the crushed malt is mixed with boiling water.
- Mazer*: a shallow wooden cup or drinking-bowl, often made of maple-wood.
- Meslin*: mixed grain – usually wheat and rye, or barley and rye. The word also applied to the meal or flour made from such combinations.
- Minging-trough*: a wooden vessel in which dough was kneaded, prior to being baked into bread.
- Missins*: soft, white, woven mats worn on the lap as protection, when sitting down. The word is a variant of *messen*, meaning a lap-dog.
- Mould*: a steel helmet.
- Moulding-board*: a square or rectangular wooden board, on which dough was shaped into loaves.
- Net-rock*: a distaff used for spinning hemp fibre into twine (which was then used to make fishing-nets).
- North Sea fish*: dried, salted cod (or ling).
- Painted cloths*: Wall-hangings similar to *stained cloths*, but with scenes depicted.
- Pantofles*: slippers or over-shoes.
- Parcel gilt*: a term applied to silver vessels that had a gilded inner surface.
- Partisan*: a pole weapon, with long handle, headed by a broad spear with projecting spurs at the base (still carried ceremonially by the Yeomen of the Guard).
- Peck*: a basket of two gallons, dry-measure, capacity (a quarter the size of a *bushel*).
- Peel*: a long-handled, shovel-like tool used for putting loaves into an oven and for removing them.
- Pillowbere*: pillowcase.
- Posnet*: a small metal pot for boiling water, having a handle and three feet.
- Press*: a linen-press.
- Pullen work*: raised embroidery.

- Quarter-cloths*: possibly, quarter-size woollen broadcloths (the full length varying from 24-30 yards, with a width of 1¼).
- Quern*: a hand-mill, in which the upper stone rotates above the fixed lower one.
- Rail*: a woman's neckerchief.
- Rash*: a fine textile made of silk or worsted, or of a mixture of the two.
- Riving-board*: a wooden surface on which fish were split.
- Roar*: to salt herrings.
- Rug*: coarse woollen material not unlike *frieze*.
- Runlet*: a cask or barrel of varying capacity.
- Scammel*: thin material (probably linen, of some kind).
- Seeled*: enclosed.
- Seelings of oak*: oak panels, used to cover walls. A valuable, movable item of interior décor and sometimes found forming bequests in wills.
- Skillet*: a metal cooking-pot, with long handle and three or four feet.
- Speets*: slender wooden rods, onto which herrings were threaded through mouth and gill and hung in the smokehouse for curing into "reds".
- Stained cloths*: panels of linen or canvas, which had been dyed for use as wall-hangings (much cheaper than tapestry!).
- Still*: a closed vessel, or retort, for producing essences used in the house – not alcoholic liquors.
- Strike*: a piece of wood, used to level off the uppermost surface of grain placed in a bushel measure.
- Swill*: a double-handled basket, used for rinsing fish that had been salted.
- Tablecloth*: a covering sometimes intended for display rather than utility (see *board-cloth*).
- Tester*: the canopy or "roof" of a posted bedstead.
- Thill-bells*: bells that were fixed to the shaft(s) of a cart.
- Thrummed*: a term used to describe material with the thread-ends left untrimmed, so as to produce a shaggy effect.
- Tick*: a mattress-cover, often made of coarse linen.
- Touch-box*: a box containing the gunpowder used for priming firearms.
- Traces*: the ropes, chains or leather straps which attached the horse-collar to the equipment being pulled.
- Transom*: the back-board of a posted bedstead.
- Trencher*: a wooden platter used at table.
- Trendle bed*: a small movable bed on castors (often used by children and servants), which could be pushed under a posted bed.
- Tunner*: a large container or vat used to temporarily store beer after fermentation, before it was drawn off into smaller casks for transportation or use.
- Tunning-kettle*: a metal vessel used to fill barrels with fermented beer, prior to use.
- Wainscot*: oak panelling.
- Water-chafer*: A metal utensil used for heating water.
- Wey*: a quantity of salt measuring 40 bushels (a ton by weight, when dry).
- White trencher*: a wooden platter made (usually) of sycamore.
- Wort*: unfermented beer, before yeast or hops had been added to it.

The Lowestoft Scene 2013

Keith Davies

30 March Colville House

On Monday April 1st the responsibility for Colville House in School Road will pass to a to a charity made up of community minded people who will keep the venue running to benefit young people in the area. The Suffolk County Council having withdrawn funding for the venue 2 years ago.

The Colville House Management Company has pledged to secure the future for the youth club which caters for up to 60 young people on Monday and Friday evenings, and will continue to host local groups and organisations. These include the University of the Third Age, East Point Academy,

Lowestoft Live Arts and the Lowestoft Visually Impaired Activities Group.

The management company will need to find £40,000 a year to run Colville House, but the county council have given £20,000 to fund the House over the next 3 years, the rest of the money to be raised through rents and grants. The chairman of the company is Brian Hunter.

2 April Pakefield High School

The newest high school in Lowestoft, was formed after the reorganisation of schools in the Lowestoft area which saw the middle schools axed as part of a move from a three tier to a two tier system. It opened its doors in September 2011, and in March had its first inspection from the watchdog Ofsted. Over two days four key areas were examined – achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils, and leadership and management. The school was rated good in all four areas, aspiring to reach the highest standards.

4 April School Work Clubs

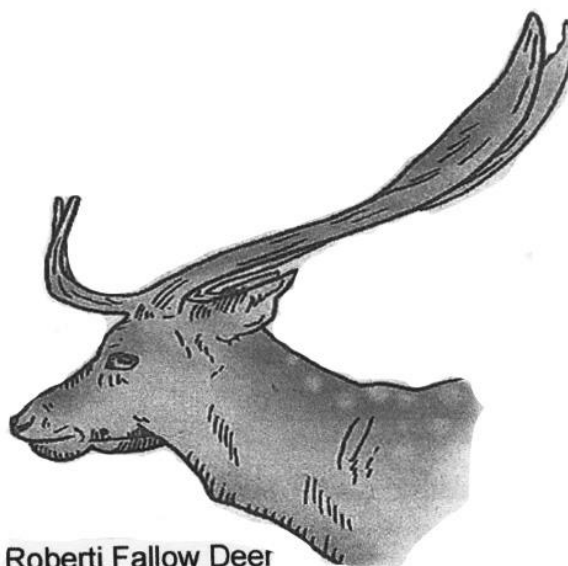
Work clubs are an optional activity to support 14-16 year olds who have stated their intention to go into work at 16 who have no clear intention of their progression plans, or whose teachers believe are at high risk of becoming unemployed. Suffolk County Council have funded The Tomorrow's People Charity to run an in school work club program in Lowestoft. To help pupils make a successful transition to apprenticeships, employment with training, or further education.

10 May Deer Discovery

Researchers have discovered a new species of prehistoric deer which was living in Pakefield 700,000 years ago. Following discoveries made at Pakefield in 2005 that indicated the presence of a species of human there at this time. The researchers from the Natural History Museum in London were using the collection at Norwich Castle Museum to investigate the ancestry of the modern fallow deer, when they made the discovery. The new species has been given the name *Damo roberti*, or Robert's fallow deer. In honour of the original discoverers of the fossil remains, Robert Mutch from Oulton Broad, and Felix Robert the 19th century French naturalist. The remains consist of a portion of the skull with substantial parts of both antlers attached, as well as a jaw bone and shoulder blade.



Modern Fallow Deer



Roberti Fallow Deer

Unlike the closely related fallow deer *Dama dama*, which have large, many pointed antlers, the Roberts fallow deer are relatively straight and unforked. It is this unique antler shape that helped to determine Robert's fallow deer as a new species.

3 July Carlton Court Hospital

Plans to reduce the number of beds at the hospital from 12 to 7, and close 12 assessment beds for the frail and elderly, by the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, were questioned by members of the Great Yarmouth and Waveney joint health scrutiny committee.

Mr. Hopkins the acting C.E.O. of the Trust said the Mental Health Trust was introducing new dementia intensive support teams to treat patients in their homes, which would reduce the demand for inpatient beds, "We will not physically close the beds until we prove that it can work"

22 August Pakefield High School Expansion

Work to construct a new main entrance, classrooms, offices, and a purpose built canteen, and dining area, got under way, as part of a £4 million expansion project. A team from Wates Construction is now on site working to build the 2,160 sq. m two storey extension, commissioned by the Suffolk County Council. The work is due to be completed next summer.

Upon completion, it will provide accommodation for maths and English classrooms, a new IT suite and space for a proper entrance to the school. Flexible classroom spaces as well as new admin offices and staff rooms will create a central street which will run through the school. The extra space will allow the school from 560 students to 900.

The final phase of the expansion works is due to start with the demolition of the old building and the construction of a purpose built sports hall and more classrooms.

18 September Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, Shared Offices

A major plan to build shared council offices in Lowestoft to house 500 workers was given the green light, when the WDC's development control committee voted in favour of the construction of a £13.6m office overlooking Lake Lothing, on Riverside Road.

Now planning permission has been granted the project will workers from the District Council and the County Council relocate from 10 offices across the town which are not fit for purpose. to the new building from early 2015. It is said taxpayers will save £3m over 10 years in maintenance costs and will boost the regeneration of the Kirkley waterfront area.

18 September Walmer Road Recreation Ground

Also passed, plans for a £700,000 scheme to provide new floodlit all-weather pitches at the Walmer Road recreation ground. The proposals were submitted by the Kirkley and Pakefield Community Sport and Social club. The Football Association Club has offered to pay £650,000 towards the cost of the new facilities, which will allow hundreds of children to train during the winter.

5 December Tidal Surge

A combination of high tides and a severe northerly gale resulted in the most severe floods to hit Lowestoft for 60 years. The surge was said to be a 1 in 200 years event, and led to 100 people being evacuated to rest centres. One of the worst places affected was St. Johns Road, where 20 people had to be rescued by firemen as flood waters poured down the street. Other premises evacuated were the Access Community Trust hostel, the Stradbooke Court care home, and the Levington Court sheltered housing complex. In Marine Parade basements were flooded.

Businesses near the bascule bridge were badly affected. In Riverside Lings car show room was closed, and 80 cars written off. London Road South was hit with the East Coast Cinema being put out of action. In Station Square the railway line was flooded, and services to Norwich halted. Wetherspoons ground floor and cellars were flooded, losing thousands of pounds worth of stock. In Bevan Street the shops also suffered heavy stock losses and damage. Finally in Oulton Broad *The Lady of the Lake* was so badly damaged that is unlikely to open before Xmas.