

President's address

Dear all,

This is my third introductory address for the LA & LHS Annual Report; an opportunity for me to write a piece for a focussed audience, and a privilege I take very seriously. Reviewing my previous two years' resumes, and with an ever-increasing appreciation for the characteristic application and dedication of all members, volunteers, and supporters of the Lowestoft Museum and Lowestoft Historical Society, I am beginning to trace an admirably consistent pattern of behaviour and steadfast attitude.

Taking the helm as President when Covid was challenging all of us to the limit, I might have been excused for thinking that everyone was digging deep during times of trouble, but that a degree of complacency might justifiably set in once the riggers were past. However, what is both interesting and gratifying to see is that nothing could be further from the truth, and that 2022 has marked yet another ground-breaking year in terms of achievement and progress.

Were I publishing this page in my guise as writer for magazines and newspapers, I would likely entitle my article "Dogged Determination Wins the Day". As spokesperson for the communion of hard-working and dedicated, but modest and self-effacing, members of the extended LA & LHS family, I would wax lyrical about the successes which the LA & LHS should be proud to shout about and share with the local community and far-flung followers.

I would list the fact that progress is being made with securing the lease extension at the Museum and that several projects have begun to be ticked off the schedule of works to improve the fabric of the Museum and the facilities the Museum offers to visitors, including building and electrical work in the Turner Room. I would highlight the integration of the LA & LHS from within the town, including involvement of students from Lowestoft College who helped restore the landmark cannon carriage, and Smiths timber merchants, who donated wood for the project. I would spotlight the support of the Ferini Gallery for raising money for the Museum through their annual postcard auction in August, and the successful outcome of lots of hard work with the securing of grant money towards blinds, a display case and seating.

Having referenced last year the way Banksy's artwork "installed" by the artist in Nicholas Everitt Park was embraced, bringing the LA & LHS to the cutting edge of modern-day heritage, literally over-night, I would now make special mention of another collaboration within the town, which illustrates that the Museum is very much moving with the times. Lowestoft Studio Ceramics created a 3D model of an important new acquisition at the Museum, printed in the window of their High Street premises, which was then put on display along side the original piece for visitors to admire and appreciate. What a great way to fascinate older generations, but also a creative way to engage with younger generations and demonstrate the pertinence of heritage through the ages, and the relevance of the here-and-now for the future!

I would indicate visitors to the Museum are voting with their feet and that numbers have been encouraging this year. On a similar theme, the programme of Historical

Society meetings has been full and fascinating and there seems to have been a greater appetite for meeting together in fellowship, which is very encouraging for those presenting talks, displays and exhibitions. A special trail called “From flint tools to fishfingers” was created at the Museum as part of the Heritage Open Days Festival, demonstrating how inventive humans have been in the region over the last 800,000 years: and despite national mourning following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, the level of attendance indicated appreciation.

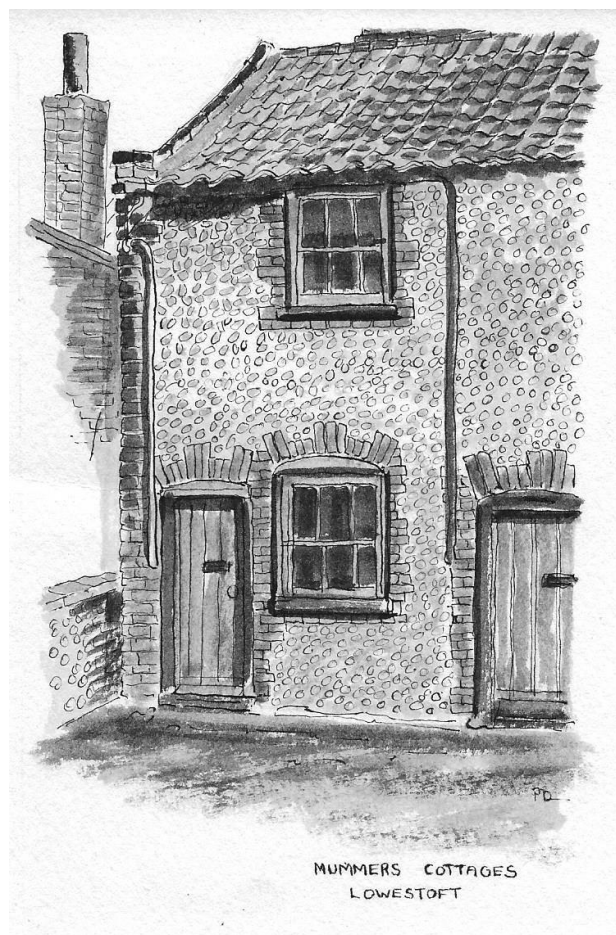
And so, to the climax of my imaginary article, the motivation for the 3D model and the inspiration for my suggested title. The Trustees of the Museum are justifiably proud and excited to have acquired a unique pair of 18th Century Lowestoft porcelain pug dogs, to take centre stage of the whole collection of artefacts housed in the Museum building. Made at the town’s famous but relatively short-lived porcelain factory (1757 – 1802) in c. 1770, these little figures are rare as singles, but to find, and then acquire, what is believed to be the only true pair anywhere in the world, is phenomenal. These tiny figures would have been quite a feat to fire in a kiln without exploding, and I doubt many were produced. However, I wonder what the reaction of the humble modeller working in Lowestoft 250 years ago would make of the fact that their handcrafted artistry is so highly prized today, and that having survived the intervening generations, they have found their way “home”. They perfectly illustrate my oft-repeated belief that we are all contributing to a living heritage, laying it down for future generations to inherit. Meanwhile, the ability to purchase them was founded on hard work, research, critical dialogue, applied determination, and steady nerve, and then dependent on funding support from the V&A Museum, the Beecroft Benevolent Museum Association, and the local Gwen Baker Trust. So, not only is the LA & LHS collaborating brilliantly locally, it is also forging valuable links further afield and with significant other parties. This success really puts us firmly in the national heritage psyche and boldly on the national heritage map!

I hope my foreword may have whetted your appetite and I commend this year’s Annual Report, which has so much to share and celebrate on the pages which follow.

Meanwhile, whilst formally registering pleasure in the fact that the Society Newsletter has been revived this year, and whilst thanking Ron & Irene Ashman for instigating this, may I invite and encourage all of you, on their behalf, to submit pertinent articles, stories, and features of interest for possible inclusion in future editions. It is always a worthy read, but it can only be maintained by the contribution of suitable content.

Elizabeth Talbot

Contents	Page
Presidents Address	1
Contents	3
Chair report	4
Membership list	5
Obituary – Bob Blizzard	5
Society accounts	6
Museum report	7
Museum accounts	8
Report of meetings	9
Childhood (Part 3) Prisoners of war and farm butter	
Paul Durbidge	33
Cliff features at Pakefield - Paul Durbidge	38
“All Because of the Herring” - David Butcher	41
The Lowestoft 1960’s Music Scene - Richard Mundy	52
A Seaside Excursion - edited by David Butcher	54
The Lowestoft Scene - Jenny and David Hatton	61



All line drawings are by courtesy of Paul Durbidge

Chair report

Welcome to this year's annual report. Another great read ahead awaits you!

This has been our first full year back after the covid pandemic. We have managed to put on a full schedule of talks this year, inviting 13 speakers to entertain us. All the evenings have been very well attended with members and visitors too. I believe many 'write ups' of the talks are included within this report, so I won't bore you with a run down here, but would add that there has been an impressive and diverse range of subjects.

I am aware that many groups have struggled to re-boot their groups following the pandemic, so I am very pleased that people are supporting our society and our numbers continue to be strong. We must be doing something right.

In April this year David Butcher and I released our book 'Lowestoft Cameos - The LA&LHS Advent Series of 2021'. This was based on our Facebook advent series. It has been very nice indeed to see a book with our Societies name on sitting on the shelf in Waterstones with all the other local history books. Certainly, this helps promote the society. At the time of writing, we have committed to another advent series for December 2022. This time we have plans to send out a daily email to all our members, for people who do not use social media.

In July, society member, Jan Kirby and I attended The Yarmouth History Fare, running a stall with displays from our Society, The Lowestoft Museum, Jan's Family History Society, and I also took some of my Yarmouth and Lowestoft Postcards along. It was an event that was well worth attending as we were busy all day long promoting the Society and the Museum but also promoting Lowestoft as a great place to come and visit.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for the work they have put in making this year so successful and to all members and visitors for coming out and showing their support. I continue to be proud of what we have been able to achieve together.

I do wonder if people read my report or just go to 'interesting stuff'. So thought I would test this by ending with a joke. Never argue with an archaeologist. They always dig up the past. [Groan!]

Richard Mundy – Chair

Membership list

Honorary members

Mr A Charlton

Mr P Durbidge

Members

Mrs I Ashman

Mr R Ashman

Ms T Bell

Mrs J Berrey

Mr D Chivers

Ms D Coad

Mr R Collins

Mr B Cook

Mr R Dearlove

Mrs M Duerden

Mr R Duerden

Ms P Ewels

Ms R Fallon

Mr A Fox

Mr D Hatton

Mrs J Hatton

Ms J Henwood

Ms D Howlett

Mr K Jorgensen

Mrs J Kirby

Ms P Kirby

Mr J Knowles

Mrs M Knowles

Miss S Layzell

Mrs H Layzell

Mr P Layzell

Ms J Long

Mr S Lovewell

Mr D Mathew

Mr R Mundy

Mrs I O'Toole

Mrs T Penman

Mr D Pyecroft

Mrs S Pyecroft

Mr P Rasbery

Mr J Read

Mr P Rump

Ms P Smith

Mr C Stone

Mr J Stone

Ms M Symonds

Mrs H Townsend

Ms T Unitt

Mrs J Waller

Mr G Webber

Mrs S Webber

Obituary – Bob Blizzard

Tributes have poured in for Bob Blizzard, who served as Waveney's MP between 1997 and 2010 and worked tirelessly in the interests of his constituents. Prior to his time in Westminster, Mr Blizzard served as leader of Waveney District Council for six years.

His 13-year reign over the Westminster seat included notable successes, including getting the Tom Crisp Way relief road open to alleviate one of the major traffic bottlenecks in Lowestoft, and obtaining funding for the Orbis Energy Centre. He fought for a third crossing to be built over Lake Lothing, including commissioning a feasibility report to be carried out for a bridge connecting Waveney Drive and Peto Way. The Gull Wing bridge is currently under construction and is set to open in 2023.

In parliament, he was made assistant treasury whip in 2007, before being promoted to Lord Commissioner to the Treasury after a cabinet reshuffle the following year. He voted against the Iraq war, and, as a result, resigned from his position as Parliamentary Private Secretary.

His voluntary positions over the years included being a member of the board of governors of Lowestoft College, a board member of the Sentinel Leisure Trust, honorary president of Lowestoft and District Mencap and a patron of Lowestoft Town Football Club.

LOWESTOFT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Regd. Charitable Trust No. 268011

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021 -2022

INCOME		
<u>2020/2021</u>		<u>2021/2022</u>
0.00	Membership Fees	135.00
0.00	Visitors	257.00
25.00	Annual Reports	106.00
30.00	Fund Raising	0.00
0.00	Sundry	44.00
1.58	Deposit Account Interest	0.28
na	Xmas Social College Meal March 2022	240.00
56.58		782.28
	Cash and Bank Balances at 1/4/21	
	Cash in hand	131.81
	HSBC Current Account	1423.16
	HSBC Deposit Account	2941.12
		4496.09
		5278.37
EXPENDITURE		
<u>2020/2021</u>		<u>2021/2022</u>
0.00	Lecturers Fees	305.00
0.00	Charitable Donations	133.00
30.00	Room Hire	336.00
98.08	Postage, Printing and Stationery	23.76
40.80	Annual Report costs	65.52
0.00	HSBC Bank Charges	20.40
25.00	Suffolk Local History Council	25.00
na	Xmas Social. . . . College Meal March 2022	240.00
193.88		1148.68
	Cash and Bank Balances at 31/3/22	
	Cash in hand	145.12
	HSBC Current Account	0.00
	HSBC Deposit Account	0.00
	NatWest Account	3984.57
		4129.69
		5278.37

The assets of the Society, as written down for the current year, are as follows :

Laptop £240, Digital Projector £200.

R.A.Collins, Hon. Treasurer.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society for the year ended 31 March 2022 and agreed the entries to the supporting documentation.

The financial statements have been reviewed solely for the confidential use of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society and may not be relied upon for any other purposes whatsoever.

I neither owe nor accept any duty to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by their reliance on these figures.

Auditor
Date

Signed by the Chairman at the Annual General Meeting, 26th May 2022.

Museum report

The 2022 season began in April, with a loan exhibition from The British Museum of Bronze Age axe heads and other related items, discovered in 1926 in the garden of Somerleyton Rectory and never before displayed in public. Also on display for the first time are a pair of extremely rare Lowestoft Porcelain standing Pug Dogs, made c.1770 and purchased entirely with grants given by the Victoria and Albert Museum, The Beecroft Foundation and the Gwen Baker Trust.

This year the Museum commemorated 50 years since its foundation, initially at the Prairie in the Town Centre until its transfer to Nicholas Everitt Park 37 years ago. Items and documents from the collection relating to the coronation in 1953 for the 70th Jubilee Celebrations were also on display in the newly decorated Turner Room.

The Museum re-opened on April 9th 2022 at the start of the Easter holidays and attracted a goodly number of visitors - 545 altogether in the first week including 196 children. Visits tailed off after the holidays and were lower than the last comparable period in 2019. But during the summer with new displays, the Turner Room and anniversary celebrations, a really good season ensued. Paul Durbidge was chosen to carry the Jubilee Torch while being drawn into Nicholas Everitt Park on a rickshaw after which invited guests shared a 'birthday' cake and drinks in honour of the 'golden anniversary'.

On August 17th, 106 postcards created by local artists were auctioned at the Victoria Hotel, a yearly event organised by the Ferini Gallery with proceeds going to a local charity. This year Lowestoft Museum was chosen and benefitted from c.£2,000 - a valuable sum to help with internal decoration.

The fine weather in July and August brought many visitors to Nicholas Everitt Park and the Oulton Broad, even when the beach might have been more attractive! At times, the Museum was a cool refuge from the heat outside.

Also on display in the new Turner Room were a collection of historic photographs produced and set up by Bert Colyer, (one of our valuable volunteers) for the Heritage Open Days in September, as part of which there was also a 3D printed model of a porcelain pug made by Tim Cross at his High Street studio. The Museum was open for the whole 10 days of the festival and manned by steward volunteers for all the additional hours. Those who visited were most impressed by the historic photographs and in the middle of October, the room was used for the first time to accommodate a group from U3A studying social history. As well as examining these photographs, the visitors were able to handle and discuss items from three areas of the Museum collection. The Turner Room has been designed so that it can be closed to public visits on such occasions but this particular visit was arranged for a morning when the Museum is not usually open. There have been several other group visits, including from the Ashley School in North Lowestoft, Cubs and The Bungay Society.

Lowestoft Museum closed on Monday 31st October after a very positive season enhanced by the Jubilee 70 display, the 50th anniversary of the museum, the Somerleyton bronze hoard and the historic photographs, all of which have helped to produce a near record total attendance of 9892, (9937 in 2018 is the highest), including 2,210 children (22% of the total), after two years of restricted opening.

The end of season volunteers get-together in early November was held in the new room upstairs and provided a much more comfortable space for a social gathering than has been previously possible.

Financial figures are also pleasing. Lowestoft Museum continues to believe that free entry encourages families to visit and the totals for donations and the shop are greater than previous years, including those before the pandemic.

LOWESTOFT MUSEUM ACCOUNTS

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds(£) 2022	Restricted Funds(£) 2022	Total(£) 2022	Total(£) 2021
Donations	2185.09		2185.09	2142.10
Turner Room grants	2000.00		2000.00	
Grant for SumUp machine				135.00
Grants for porcelain pugs		18288.00	18288.00	
National Savings interest	1.75		1.75	
Shop sales	2452.77		2452.77	2137.00
MEND match funding		4000.00	4000.00	
Totals	6639.61	22288.00	28297.88	4434.10
EXPENDITURE				
Display, maintenance & TR	12974.88		12974.88	
Subs, AfSM	82.00		82.00	219.54
Insurance	1300.20		1300.20	1400.20
Website	149.00		149.00	
Porcelain valuation	60.00		60.00	
MODES users	87.60		87.60	154.80
Sundries (new CCTV)	598.99		598.99	
Fire check & PAT tests	208.74		208.74	114.37
Shop purchases	569.28		569.28	
Totals	15581.69		15581.69	2056.33
BALANCE SHEET				
Assets				
Cash in hand	71.72		71.72	
Current account	8344.52		8344.52	13468.62
Business Reserve account		6000.00		
National Savings account	14811.65		14811.65	14604.87
Current liabilities	1090.00			
Net current liabilities	17189.51	6000.00	23189.51	28107.03
Balance as at 1 April 2021	22107.03	6000.00	28107.03	30005.42
Movement of funds	4917.52		4917.52	1898.39
Total funds as at 31 March 2022	17189.51	6000.00	23189.51	28107.03

Restricted fund represents £4000 match funding and £2000 for Turner Room

Report of meetings

Ice, Fish, Carts and Coaches 27 January 2022 Tony Thurston

The subject of the presentation was an intriguing one which drew a large audience to the first

Society talk of the New Year. It was to be about Lowestoft, but what a range of topics is



suggested by the title. It could have been called “Tony Thurston, Who Do You Think You Are?” depicting the family history of four generations of Thurstons who had made successful livings for over 150 years by developing skills and services needed by the growing town of Lowestoft.

This photograph depicts several generations of the Thurston family when ice making for the fishing industry was their primary concern.

As competition from other ice making companies became more pressing and their usual method of cutting sections from the frozen Broad less sustainable, members of the family diversified into providing transport for the new tourist industry, using their skills and knowledge of carts previously used to carry ice from frozen lake to ship dock.



A luxurious ‘charabanc’ used by the family firm to take tourist on trips around the district

S. YARR					REMARKS
DAYE	Pass	Miles	L. S. D.		
JULY 1 st	25	40	3. 17. 6		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 3 rd	25	70	3. 17. 6		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 4 th	15	100	3. 7. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 5 th	22	24	1. 12. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 6 th	25	29	1. 17. 6		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 8 th	23	250	10. 7. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 10 th	25	60	3. 3. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 11 th	20	160	6. 0. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 12 th	20	160	4. 5. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 14 th	25	56	2. 12. 6		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 15 th	25	40	2. 18. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 16 th	4	143	1. 14. 6		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 17 th	4	45	1. 14. 6		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 18 th	5	43	14. 0		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
" 19 th	30	15	14. 6		STANFORD HALLS, COUGHAM HALL.
314. 1185. 51. 19. 0					
Pass. Miles					CRICK. FORTHAM.

This is a record of journeys made during one season.



Once more as competition from private transport and foreign holidays made this genteel form of tourism less viable, members of the family took advantage of the latest developments in Lowestoft, to work in engineering trades connected with the then flourishing North Sea oil and gas fields exploitation. The final illustration shows an aerial view of the Hamilton Dock where Tony Thurston worked when platforms and rigs were being built on a regular basis before being floated out to the fields off-shore.

Welcome to the Workhouse 24 February 2022 Jill and Richard Mann

It may not be unfair to assume that of the large audience receiving this very detailed and historic account of the relief offered to homeless poor, few would not have had an image of Oliver Twist and his experience in such an institution in the early part of the 19th century. So it was enlightening to learn from the speaker that the idea, a very Christian one in inspiration, (Richard quoted Proverbs, Ch. 14 and John Ch. 13), began with the monasteries. Several early medieval examples were given, of

Aethelbert in 597, providing "for the needs of poor and sick", and which all kinds of religious houses provided.

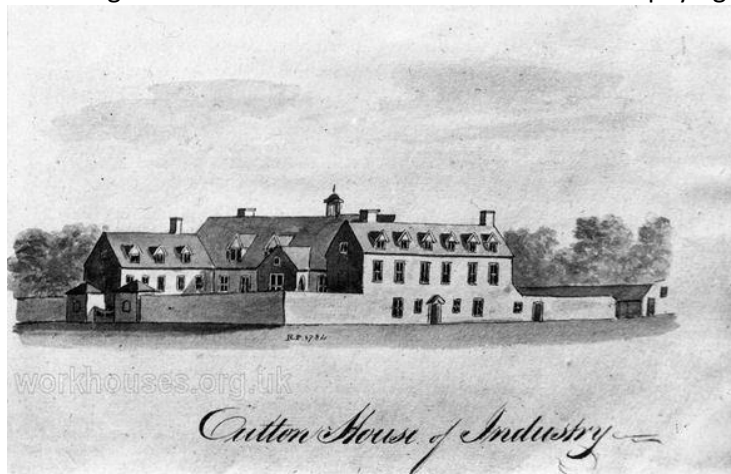
The dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII in the 1540's created a problem which it took hundreds of years to address and even then barely got right. The "helpless poor" continued to be regarded throughout this time with approaches ranging from deserving of charity to a drag on the community budgets. Even so there were many inspiring examples of buildings set up for those needing assistance.



One early building may be seen next to the castle in Framlingham. It was built by the current owner of the castle Sir Robert Hitcham in 1684 and provided work combing, spinning and weaving wool to parish poor but was non-residential.

Not far away in Mutford half hundred a larger building was constructed in 1765 for 300 inmates following another local Act of Parliament in 1763. The poor were employed in "spinning wool and hemp for coaching the paupers, and in braiding herring and mackerel nets.

Almost every reign or change of Government or local re-organisation produced a new response according to local conditions and the attitude of those paying for the institution.

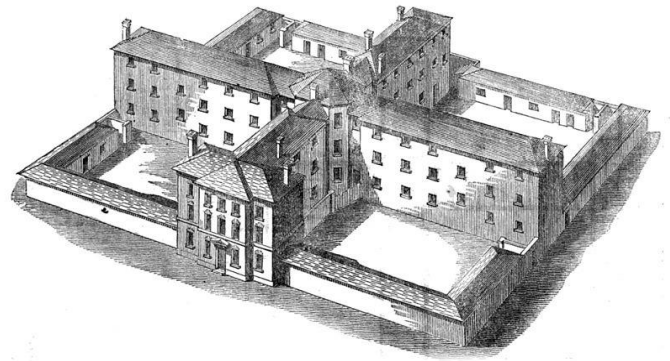
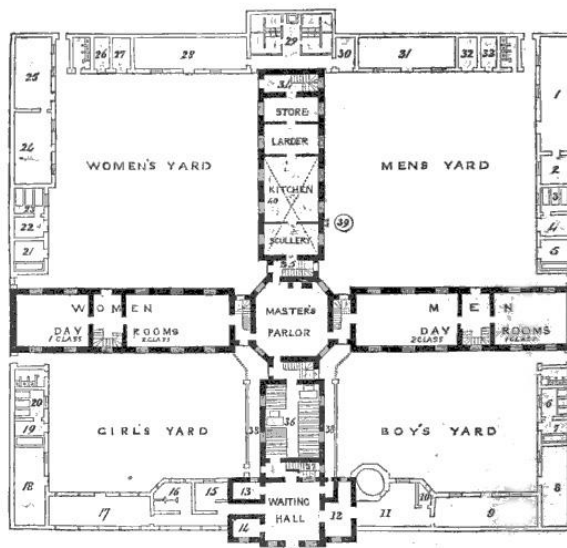


A rich parish such as Newbury in 17th century might attract poor from another parish and there was a constant battle to provide for the "deserving", while deterring vagrants, vagabonds and the idle poor.

Throughout the 19th century as well as reforms to suffrage, there were a succession of "Poor Laws" to attempt to deal with a growing and more mobile population resulting from increasing industrialisation. Different parts of the country interpreted and put into practice these laws in

different ways.

Some very elaborate designs for workhouses were produced and some were constructed of which only a few remain.



Cruciform design by Samuel Kempthorne (18089-1873) aiming to provide spaces for groups to exercise separately from others. Samuel emigrated to New Zealand in 1834, and examples of this design are not known to have been built, but it reveals that after the Poor Law reform of 1834, attempts were made to provide healthy accommodation as well as the work spaces for employment.

There is an interesting display in Beccles Museum relating to the workhouse at Shipmeadow, above the road to Bungay which describes the problems encountered by casual and vagrant visitors.

“Stranger on the Shore” 10 March 2022 Bob Collis

This presentation by one of Lowestoft’s most diligent historians of aviation, at first sight seemed to be a simple search for the person who was commemorated by the plain grave stone in Lowestoft Cemetery.



A few facts were known and documented. On May 11th 1943, a German plane was approaching Lowestoft to drop parachute mines under the cover of darkness. East Suffolk Police recorded that a plane was shot down by a Beaufighter, but none of those was in action at that time. Trevor Westgate, writing in the Lowestoft Journal, reported the evidence of a searchlight battery who had “exposed the beam” and seen the German plane bank sharply and disappear into the sea. On May 30th a body was washed ashore at Gunton but there was no identifying disk. Subsequently, it was learnt that Eberhard did not like to carry his identity disc, so the body was buried in Lowestoft

cemetery simply as “A German Soldier”



German identity disc of the type found on the second airman to be washed ashore, in the event of which one half would be sent back to the authorities in Germany, and the other kept with the body

Dornier 217 E4 of the type involved
in the sortie May 43



Having identified the Observer Wilhelm Stocker by his disc as an airman on the plane which had crashed into the sea 300 yards off Ness Point, it might have been simple to conclude that the other body was that of Leutnant Eberhard Pleiss, flying his first mission as an inexperienced 20 year old. Flying was in the family. His father had been a pilot along with the celebrated "red Baron" von Richthoven in World War I.



The Pleiss family with Eberhard displaying his recently awarded wings, sisters Erica and Gisela, who were to play an important part in solving the mystery of the "Stranger on the Shore" and parents; his father wearing WW I medals.

However, it seems that once the body and stone erected, little would persuade the authorities to change their minds. The request to re-bury all German military personnel who had died in UK during both wars at a national cemetery on Cannock Chase, was also turned down by Lowestoft.

The publication of "THE BLITZ: Then and Now" in 1990, with a contribution by Bob Collis, aiming to fill in the gaps relating to East Anglia, was drawn to the attention of Erica, Eberhard's sister now living in Australia. The family had never had complete resolution of his loss and his mother maintained that he was just missing. Further contacts with Erica, Frau Stocker, other aircrew and documents relating to the sortie, began to reveal the missing information. In May 1993, 50 years after the fatal crash, Erica and Gisela visited Lowestoft and placed memorials on the grave.

Armed with the new information, it was with the determination of Bob and others in LAS, that the anonymous inscription was eventually changed to the one now in the cemetery, recording Eberhard's name, date of birth and his death barely 20 years later. Since then, other visits by Germans related to all those interred in Lowestoft, have taken place. In 2018 the paper hand placed on Eberhard's grave reads:-

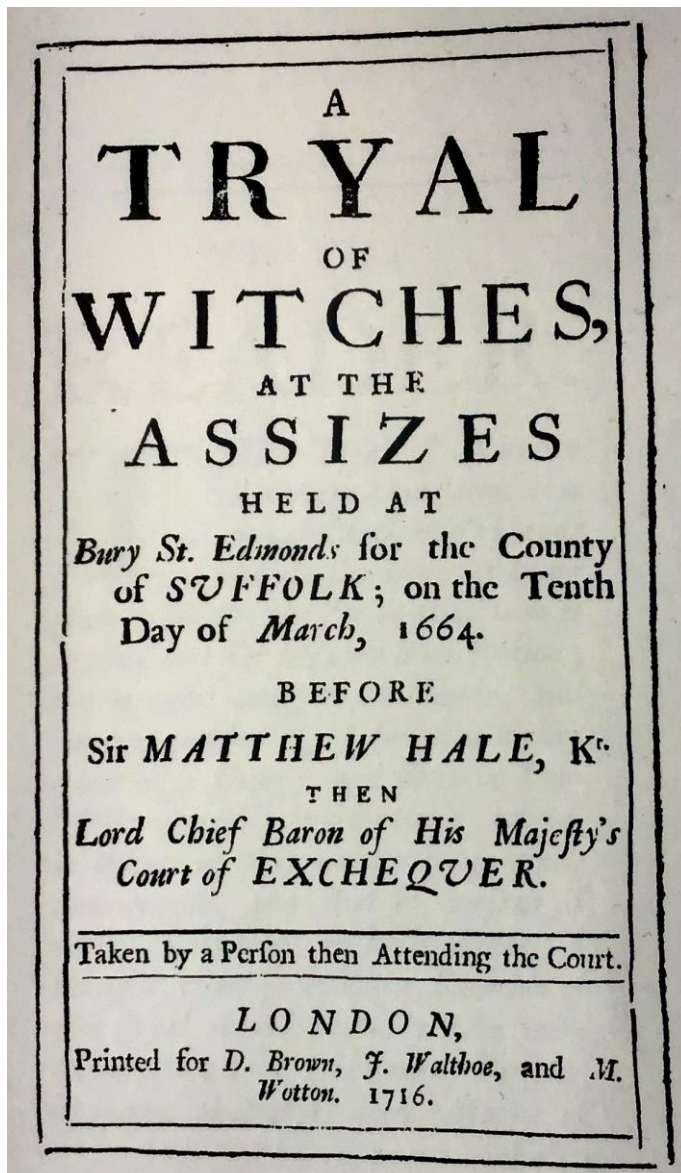
ERICA
EBERARD
GISELA
REUNITED
2018



Eberhard Pleiss,
born April 17th 1923, died
May 11th 1943



Trial of Witches 24 March 2022 Ivan Bunn



This is the frontispiece of a 1716 edition of a pamphlet first published in 1672 recording the 1662 trial of two Lowestoft women at Bury St Edmunds.

Having previously presented a talk to the Society on the treatment of 'witches' in this period, (November 9 2017 Aspects of Witchcraft in East Anglia - see Annual report for 2017) Ivan stated clearly that he wished to depict exactly what took place on the day of the trial, who were there in the court and how a verdict was reached. It was a very detailed presentation with diagrams of the building and the layout of the court and even the route taken by the procession of dignitaries to it on previous days when the Assizes were coming into session - an important occasion in Spring and Autumn at major centres across England.

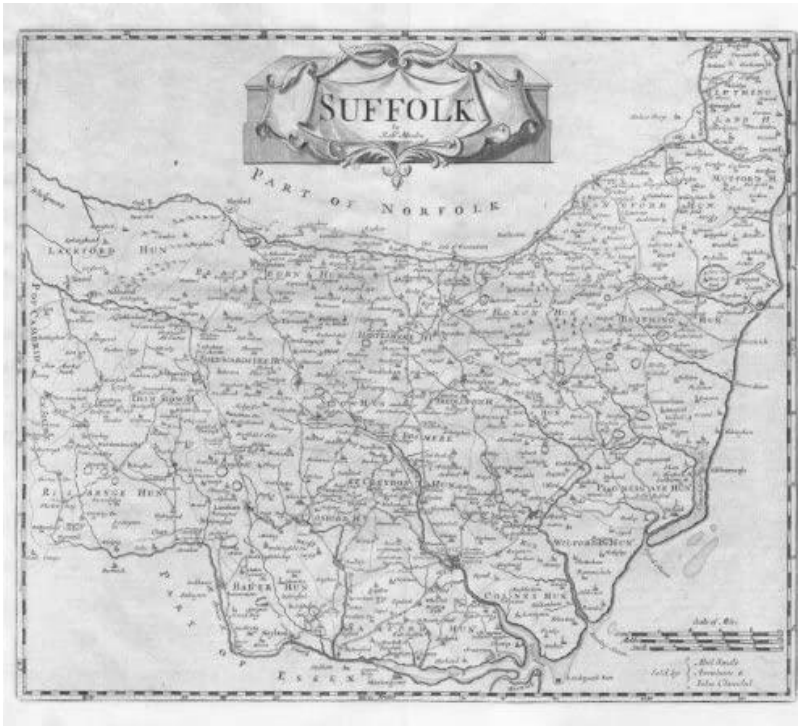
Fascinating as it was, the talk was also extremely sobering since the trial resulted in the execution of the accused, Amy Denny and Rose Cullender in spite of the main

lawyers feeling unhappy that the evidence was "unreliable, much unsatisfied and mainly imagination". Such was the belief of the times that following the "Acte against Conjuracion Witchcraft" of 1604, there were a succession of witch hunting episodes notably in Suffolk and Norfolk.

It would be impossible to reproduce the succession of names and all the persons in court apart from Sir Matthew Hale, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench and the two women which Ivan had so meticulously accumulated in his research and it is to be hoped that a full document of the Trial can be published for the benefit of those not only who attended the talk and those who only heard about it, but also as a salutary warning of the dangers inherent in hearsay and superstitious gossip.

Suffolk's Lost Heritage 28 April 2022 Stephen Poulter

The inclusion of 'Lost' in the title of this talk immediately raises a difficulty to show something, once well-known and familiar to many, but now no longer visible. Having been a lecturer of distinction for some time, Stephen Poulter was well able to surmount this dilemma which he did by firstly listing in chronological order, celebrated writers who had recorded visits to the chosen sites in previous ages.



William Camden (1551 -1623) was an antiquarian who visited Suffolk during his tour of East Anglia and described the landscape, geography, antiquities and history (chorography) of the area, first published as 'Brittannia' in 1587.

The first editions were in Latin, then in 1607 with county maps and 1610 in English.

The next writer to visit Suffolk and record his impressions, in "A Tour of the Whole Island of Great Britain, 1724 - 1727, was Daniel Defoe (1660 - 1731). He was particularly

interested in the economy of the country at that time before changes are about to be made as a result of the Industrial Revolution.

Thomas Kitson Cromwell, 1792 - 1870, wrote 'Excursions through Suffolk', one of a series which included Essex and Norfolk, in 1818-1819. He is also described as an antiquarian though he was a church minister, Church of England initially, then Non-Conformist in Newington and Canterbury.

Leading on into the 20th century was a lawyer and journalist who made his tours by car and describes many incidents and accidents in this new means of transport. James Edward Vincent, 1857 - 1909, wrote 'Through East Anglia in a Motor Car' in 1907 when there were few services to help with fuel and breakdowns, the latter receiving as much attention as the places visited.

Arthur Mee, 1875 - 1943 is a writer who is more familiar to the society members and visitors who attended this talk for his 'Children's Encyclopedia' featured in many school libraries

after the War. Arthur Mee's Suffolk was one of the 'King's England Guides' which were published in 1943 and involved contributors travelling half a million miles to obtain material.

Having briefly described his sources, Stephen Poulter begin his catalogue of places where some notable feature recorded by them in past centuries, are no longer visible, starting with **Boulge** , a hamlet 3 miles north of Woodbridge , west of the A12.



Boulge Hall, in 1905, demolished in 1955 is famous as the home of Edward Fitzgerald, translator of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, owned by Mrs Short, "The Queen of Hell", noted for her sharp temper and living to be 84 and thereby preventing the new owners from taking possession until her death much later than expected. Boulge church

is a magnificent edifice for so small a settlement.

Brettenham, between Stowmarket and Sudbury, came next, the present Village Hall has replaced an earlier timber framed hall which had different uses over the years. Several listed buildings still exist in the area including another fine church.



Brome was visited by Cromwell in 1818 where a Hall which had been in the Cornwallis family for generations and described its interior rooms and the gardens with topiary. The original hall was redesigned in 1865 but by 1958 was derelict.

Bungay was visited by Camden and described how Hugh Bigod fortified a castle there and used it as a defence against Henry II. He had supported both sides in the dispute between Stephen and Matilda, changing as the situation altered. Initially assisting Henry II, he revolted over the King's attempts to control the unruly barons.



Bungay castle c. 1770.

Bures lies on the River Stour next to the border with Essex and is most well known as the place that Edmund aged 14 was crowned King of East Anglia in 855. When he was captured by Danes and executed in 869 he became revered as a saint and preceded Saint George as patron saint of England.



St Stephen's Chapel, the oldest building in Bures, was built on the site of Edmund's coronation. It has been much altered and added to over the years but recently rededicated as a chapel containing De Vere monuments and celebrating an annual service.

Bury St. Edmund grew to great prominence after the remains of Edmund were re-interred there by King Canute in c1020 after which the Benedictine Monastery expanded greatly on the wealth of pilgrims to the site, now unknown after the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII in 1539.



A view of the Abbey grounds with the re-built 14th century tower in the background.

Clare, visited and described by Camden, Defoe and Cromwell, also has a castle on a prominent mound, romantically ruined like that at Bungay.



For the Lowestoft audience listening to this talk, **Covehithe** and **Dunwich** were much more familiar where the lost or derelict buildings have resulted from more natural causes of coastal erosion than the vicissitudes of dynastic conflicts. The former's great church sadly reduced to a meek remnant leaning

against the huge tower and the sad message of the two churchwardens who "put it out" in 1642.

The story of **Dunwich** is much more widely known and rightly so as a former 'capital' of East Anglia and a great trading port, declining from its 290 burgesses in Domesday times to a "most depressing scene, a bleak hamlet of 20 house" when visited by Vincent.



Eight churches were lost and the last of the medieval ones perches precariously near the new coastline the last of four shown on a map, the furthest east 1300, then 1450, 1587 and the present.

This report is only a fraction of the presentation given by Stephen Poulter but it may whet the appetite to visit and perhaps record the places in Suffolk which have lost buildings to time and tide.

The Elizabethan House 8 September 2022 Stuart Burgess

One of, if not the most attractive buildings on the quayside in Great Yarmouth, is that known as The Elizabethan House. To those who have visited this fascinating building or just strolled past on the river side during a fish festival or other event, it appears to be one construction built for an eminent local to a single design, somewhat like other notable



homes in East Anglia

West facade of the Elizabethan House

On closer inspection, the presence of two grand entrances and an arch way suggest that something else has been happening and it was this process of development and change which Stuart revealed in his presentation, the result of detailed and dedicated research over the years. Indeed there was so much information and so many illustrations that this report cannot pretend to do it justice but will, it is hoped, encourage many of this Society and others, to visit and view with new eyes.

Just as Lowestoft is noted for its Scores, so Yarmouth has its Rows, narrow passages originally constructed to link the fish and other goods bearing vessels beached on the sea shore, to the river harbour from where distribution to Norwich and other places could be effected. One of the early illustrations showed these Rows running parallel from East to



This diagram shows clearly the three main stages, Medieval, Elizabethan and Georgian.

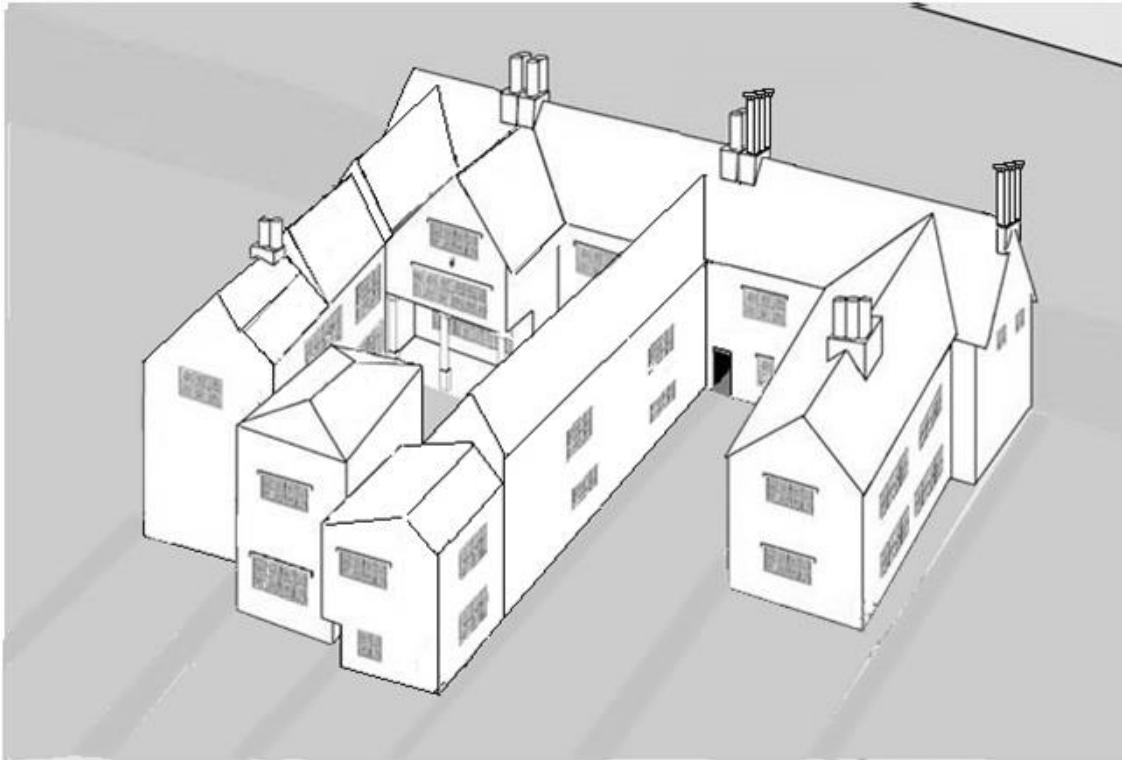
West across what had been a sandy spit diverting the river mouth further South and just like in Lowestoft, the merchants who grew wealthy on the trading, built their houses where the movement of goods and materials could be supervised and exploited.

The first dwellings were also narrow to maintain the Rows as route ways but in time and with increasing wealth and the need for storage, composite buildings were erected with the alignment of the Rows incorporated into the structure.

The King's Charter of 1208 gave an enormous boost to this process, including "SOC & SAC, TOLL & TEAM, DEN & STROND, OUTFANGENTHIEF" which uses Anglo-Saxon and Norman French terms meaning to allow 'the said borough should be a free borough for ever and should have soc and sac, toll and team and infangtheof and outfangtheof' Soc and sac denotes jurisdiction, outfangen their the ability to prosecute criminals but the key freedom is denoted by the word toll which enabled the bailiffs of the borough to charge for trade in the market and thereby become a wealthy town.

The present building was originally six separate ones and Stuart's remaining exposition revealed the names of the different families, headed by a prominent citizen, Nicholas Fenn in 1559, Henry Stanton, bailiff, Thomas Cooper c.1570 - 78 succeeded by his son Benjamin, all of whom added to and altered the earliest structures, the evidence of which, identified by careful detective work, involves earlier fireplaces, doorways and windows. Often it is a

rear view, not always visible to the public, which can reveal the complex story which Stuart



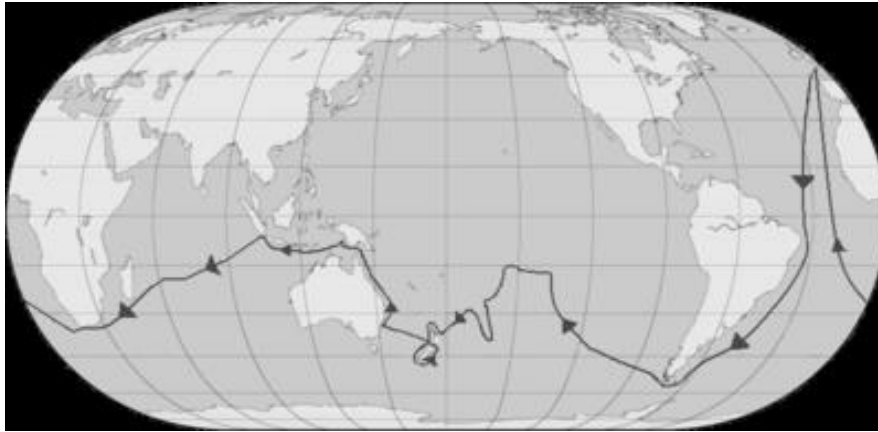
told so well.

Over the following centuries, various families were owners of the house and added their own distinctive decorations to the buildings. The Carters from c.1635, Joseph Neech in 1722, and numerous others, Mason, Tolver; Will Taylor 1771 - 1805, reorganised the house, especially the mansard roof. The Palmer family from 1809, John Danby Palmer then Charles John Palmer bought out the other two joint owners. There were shops and possibly a barber in some of the rooms; plans for an hotel and by the 1940's when the Rows were considered to be slums, the intention to knock the buildings down. Fortunately the National Trust stepped in to rescue this interesting property and restore it to the historic position it occupies today.

The Voyages of Captain James Cook 22 September 2022 Sue Pearce

Sue's talk gave a fascinating insight into the three Pacific voyages of Captain James Cook between 1768 and 1779. She illustrated her talk with displays of maps, pictures, documents and artefacts which were available for closer inspection after the presentation.

In order to concentrate on the voyages themselves, the information about Cook's early life was brief but also revealed his great determination to succeed at sea in spite of being born into a humble agricultural family at Morton and then Great Ayton in North Yorkshire.

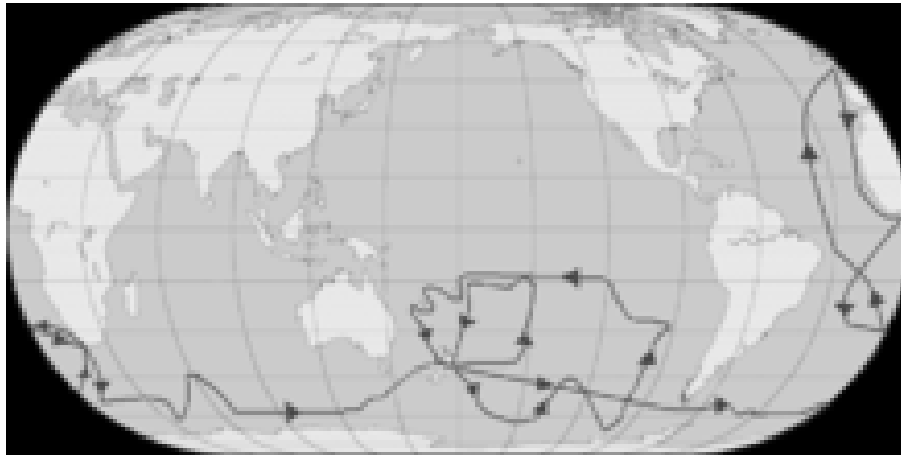


Map of the world showing the first of the three voyages which was in HMS Endeavour, a converted collier, flat bottomed, slow but sturdy, accompanied by Joseph Banks, an astronomer and a team of botanists who took over the captain's accommodation and a great deal of storage space for the large number of specimens (30,000) collected during the 3 years. The purpose of the journey, sponsored by the Royal Society and King George, was to observe a transit of Venus across the sun's disk, the measurement of which would provide more accurate data for use in navigation. Once completed Cook was able to open 'secret orders', the Admiralty's main reason for provisioning the voyage, which was to seek 'Terra Australis Incognita' an almost mythical land mass in the southern hemisphere considered necessary to balance the great continent of Eurasia in the north.

On this stage of the voyage, Cook visited Tahiti to obtain fresh supplies and circumnavigated New Zealand and as on previous occasions, made accurate maps of the coastlines discovered, some of which are remarkably accurate even today. From New Zealand, Endeavour sailed to the East coast of what is now Australia, a 'Southern' continent but not the one the Admiralty hoped for. It was on this part of the voyage that Botany Bay was examined, called 'Stingray Harbour' at first, and afterwards recommended as a penal colony site. Many new plants were discovered but little fresh water. Tides and winds took them further North along the East coast and it was there that Endeavour ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef and had to be beached and repaired.

Cook lost no crew during this part of the first voyage (partly owing to the provision of sauerkraut which he tricked the crew into eating, a sample of which was provided for the audience at this talk by Sue and partner), but in Batavia (now Jakarta) many died of dysentery, enforcing a slow passage to Cape Town where fresh sailors could be recruited. They returned to port on July 12th 1771, almost three years after setting out.

Joseph Banks was feted for his large collection of newly discovered plants whereas Cook received little public acclaim.

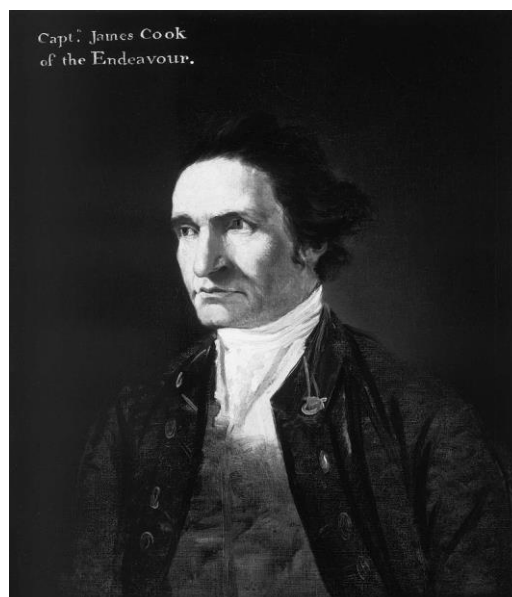


Map of the second voyage.

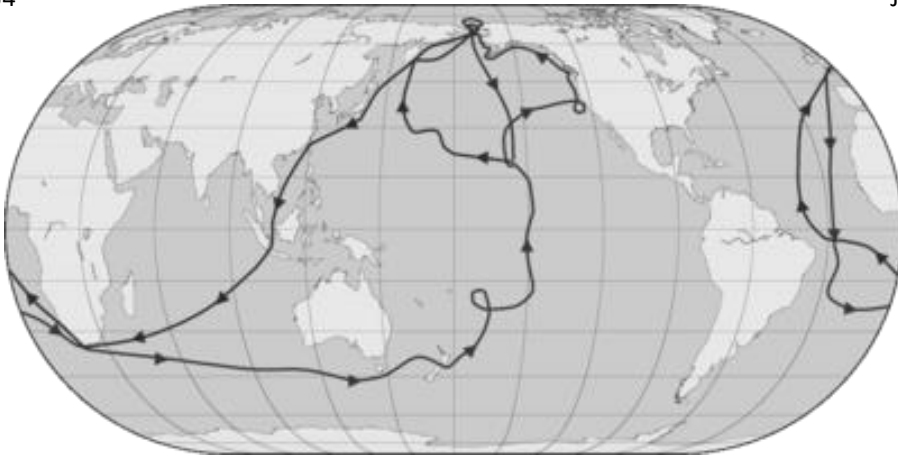
The Admiralty still wished to discover the great southern continent, Terra Australis, but there was disagreement about the command and when Joseph Banks proposed being on the voyage, Cook put his foot down and refused the idea. Joseph Banks went to Iceland instead.

They set off almost exactly a year after ending the first voyage on July 13th 1772 and it can be seen from the map that *Resolution* and *Adventure*, also refitted colliers like *Endeavour*, spent a great proportion of the second voyage sailing far to the south, actually crossing the Antarctic Circle three times and visiting many Pacific islands, among them Tahiti again where they were less welcome. The second voyage also took three years, returning home on July 30th 1775.

major aid on this voyage was the Larcum Kendall K1 chronometer (based on the Harrison H4), which enabled Cook to calculate longitude much more accurately. Data kept during the voyages was invaluable for science and the Admiralty and this time he was recognised by being made captain and a member of the Royal Society.

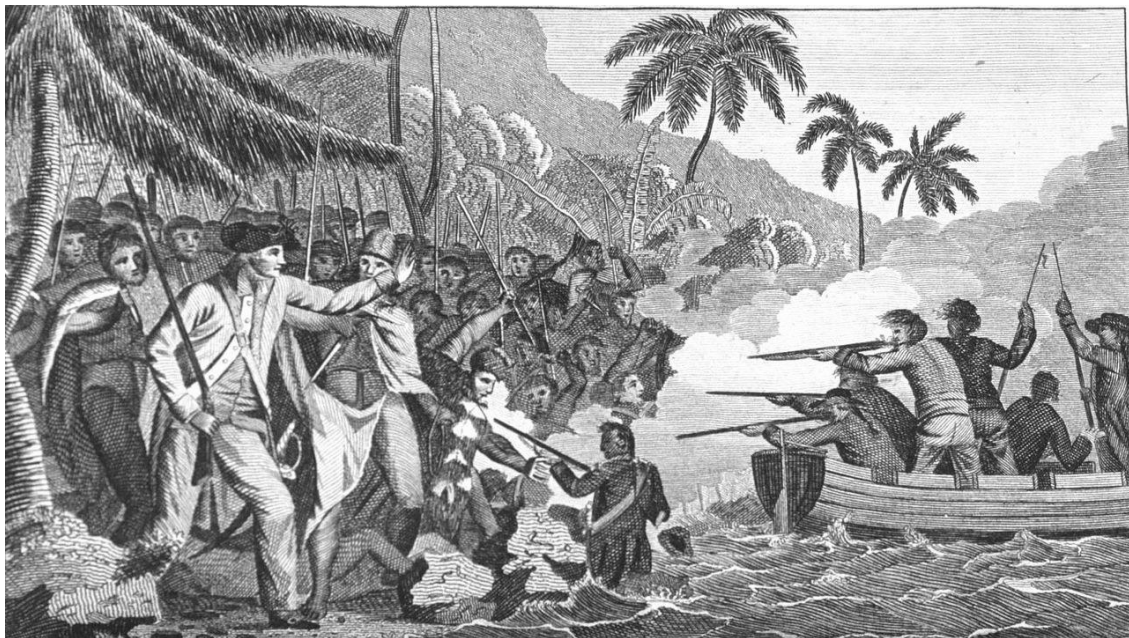


Portrait of James Cook by William Hodges who accompanied the second voyage.



Captain Cook's third and final voyage started almost a year to the day after the second on July 12th 1776 and re-visited some of the previous locations but its purpose was once again governed this time by the Admiralty's wish to discover the "North-West Passage", that route across the Canadian Arctic which would link the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans without the need to round Cape Horn. With him on *Resolution* and *Discovery* were George Vancouver and Matthew Flinders, navigators and surveyors whose names have been given to now well-known parts of the newly discovered lands, (and also William Bligh who became famous after the "Bounty" event). After sailing through the Aleutian Islands and penetrating the Bering Sea to reach the Arctic Ocean, they were forced back by pack ice.

Returning once again to Hawaii where James had received an almost divine welcome on his first visit, he became entangled in a conflict on February 14th 1779, which led to his death, the details of which would require a report almost as long as this to relate.



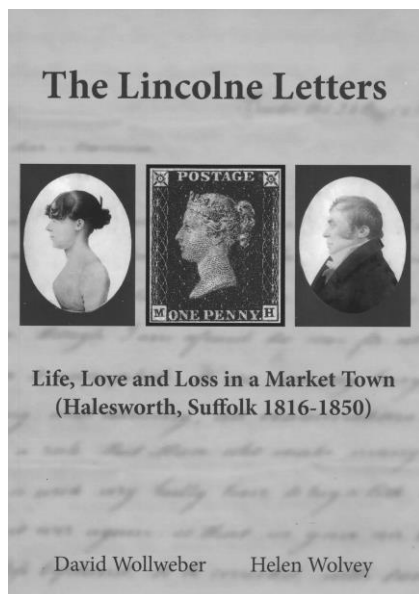
The remaining crew did not return directly to England but investigated more of the North Pacific between Asia and North America, not finding the Russians in those lands particularly welcome. From there the two ships sailed as directly as possible reaching home on October 3rd 1780, but not before a gale had driven them North to Stromness in Orkney.



A remarkable post script relates to Captain Cook's wife Elizabeth (nee Batts) whom he married in 1762, but spent only four years out of the 17 at home from sea. They had six children but none survived to have any of their own, yet Elizabeth lived for another 56 years as widow on a naval pension, dying at the age of 93 in Clapham, London.

Elizabeth Batts Cook, painted by William Henderson in 1830

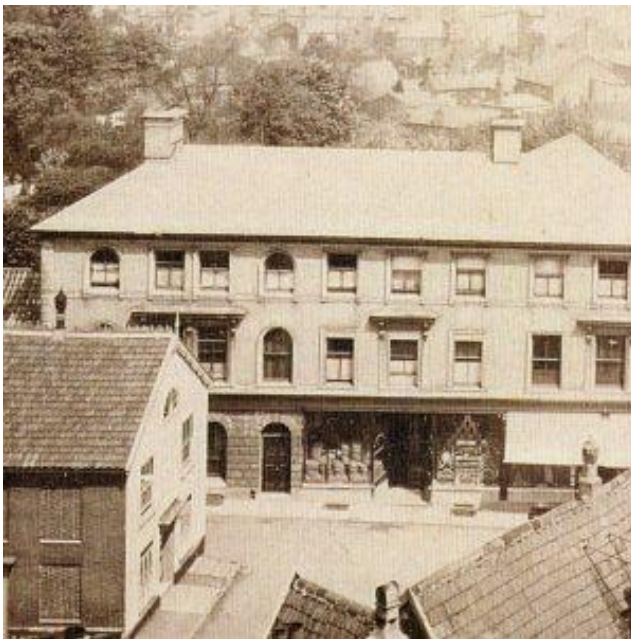
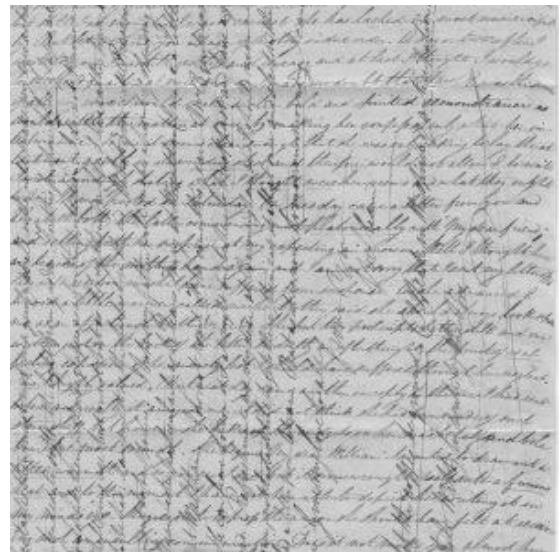
The Lincolne Letters 13 October 2022 David Wollweber



David began his presentation by explaining how over 200 letters written by the Lincolne family, resident in Halesworth from 1816, survived, but only just, when the WWI ammunition box in which the letters had been stored was about to be thrown out in 2015 by an elderly descendent of William Lincolne (1789 - 1847). Helen Wolvey, a great, great grand-daughter, rescued the box and being interested in family history began to transcribe the letters. They were introduced to members of Halesworth Museum and subsequently two local biographies based on the letters were published which were used by David together with other material to create the book titled above.

An example of letter 'cross written' to save on expensive paper which Helen took great pains to transcribe as well as those written in beautiful copperplate by Mary Napier Lincolne.

There are 30 sections in this volume, commencing with 'Meet the Lincolnes', 'Moving to Halesworth' and 'The Shop'. Later 'The 1832 Reform Bill', 'Queen Victoria's Coronation' and 'Matchmaking'. Finally, 'Christmas and the Lincolnes', 'The Death of Mr. Lincolne' and 'Lucilla's Childhood Memories'. In the 36 minutes that the talk lasted, only a few sections were covered but images of the letters and the family members involved were introduced and where possible depicted in graphic images, some of which will be used in this slender report. For those who missed the presentation or who would like to know more, the volume is highly recommended and available from David in Halesworth.



An early photograph of the shop building in Halesworth where the Lincoln family ran a thriving grocery and drapery business. View taken from the church tower.

The family had relatives (Napiers and Isaacs) who lived in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, Bocking and Witham in Essex to whom many letters are sent and from whom replies were received. William Junior wrote many of them to his parents and siblings, especially to Mary whose handwriting is notably fine. Her early death from TB in 1837 aged 19, is one of the saddest sections in the book. Many of the early letters were from her to William who was employed away from home firstly in Witham and later in Manchester.



The formidable Mrs. Mary Lincolne; an early photograph taken in the 1840's.

Halesworth and its inhabitants may be of little significance in the national story but these letters, which have been saved for posterity, are a valuable reference to all the advances and developments which are a major feature of 19th Century Britain. Events which affected the Lincolne family in Suffolk were important to the growing middle class and the prosperity of the nation.

Travellers' Tales 27 October 2022 Sarah Doig

Sarah was due to give this talk but was prevented firstly by the pandemic and on the latter occasion she was replaced at the last minute by Stephen Poulter's presentation of Suffolk's Lost Heritage, using the evidence of notable visitors to the county over the centuries. Three of these travellers featured in her talk but she concentrated on different aspects of life and activity in the county.



The earliest writer to be presented, as with the Lost Suffolk talk, was William Camden (1551 - 1623) whose *Brittania*, published in 1586 and originally in Latin, was a forerunner of all such academic surveys of Great Britain and Ireland. Camden noted the landscape, soils and farming of Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex with cereals and cheese featuring favourably in the former. Cheese is not a farm product normally associated with Suffolk but there is a new one growing in popularity 'Barod Bigod' from Fen Farm near Bungay. He also visited country houses and commented on the inhabitants, sometimes critically. Helmingham Hall is one which was described complimentarily.

Most of these travellers were men and the subsequent volumes featured the concerns of this educated and usually well supported stratum in society. The second traveller in this talk, Celia Fiennes (1662 - 1741) daughter of a colonel in Cromwell's New Model Army, is a notable exception. It is not surprising that we do not have a portrait of her. Sarah Doig used a contemporary study of a lady side saddle on her horse to give an idea of Celia's journey. Written in the late 1600's, this account was not originally meant for publication.

Her emphasis is more domestic noting the crafts and employment most common in places such as Norwich and Bury St Edmund and she comments on the construction and state of the roads throughout the memoir, which her journeys would no doubt have made a pressing concern. She also visited stately homes and Cambridge colleges, some in the process of construction, such as Holkham and Trinity.



A monument to Celia Fiennes at Whitchurch, Salop.



Daniel Defoe (1660 -1731)

Defoe's epic journey in 1722 divided the whole of Great Britain into manageable 'circuits or journeys' of which the East Anglian one started from London by boat and continued through Essex to Colchester Castle anti-clockwise through to Ipswich, where he noted the large number of turkeys being led to London from Norfolk and Suffolk. He was impressed by Ipswich as perhaps the greatest of towns and the "fair and beautiful" inhabitants and churches showing French and Dutch influence, but not much by Woodbridge which "has nothing remarkable in it". High Suffolk is "famous for the best butter, and perhaps the worst cheese in England". From Ipswich he travelled inland to Bury and on to Norwich where he noted that 120,000 workers were employed in textile trades which peaked in 1720 but suffered from the import of printed calico

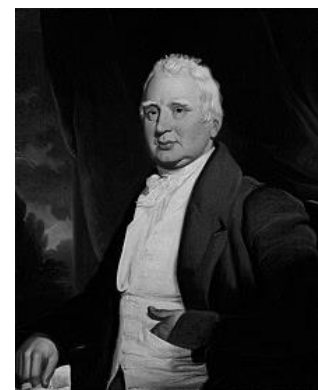
and a war with Spain, which restricted exports to Europe. On the next leg of this circuit to Cambridge, Defoe commented on a huge fair at Stourbridge, mentioning in particular the many crafts and trades, still remembered by Oyster and Garlic Rows.

Francois de la Rochefoucauld was only 18 in 1784 when he travelled to East Anglia with his brother and later published an account of his visit, called originally "Melanges sur L'Angleterre", translated later as "A Frenchman's Year in Suffolk". They stayed in Bury St. Edmunds and made shorter trips in the locality. His comments are very often made in comparison with his experiences at home in France as an aristocrat; the cost of carriage or horse transport, the flourishing agriculture and the fixed hours of the farm worker. Balls and young people do not receive the same approbation, especially regarding the lack of formal manners, humming, whistling and feet up from young dandies are mentioned. More details are given about Lowestoft. "This is a small town on the coast, tall shore line, fisher town with 24 vessels each with 14 men. Porcelain manufactured here by 90 to 100 workers, fired by coal for 28 hours and left 3 days to cool, cheap".



Francois de la Rochefoucauld 1765 - 1848

William Cobbett 1763 - 1835 was a political journalist famous for his critical writings published in 'Rural Rides' based on many journeys, those through Essex to Suffolk and Norfolk made mainly in December 1821. He is not afraid to make scathing comments about landscape, occupations and inhabitants but also gives praise where he thinks it due. The section on East Anglia is well worth reading.





Arthur Mee (1875 - 1943) was also featured in the previous talk about journeys in Suffolk and East Anglia. His introduction published in 1941 but probably visited in 1930's, is very generous.

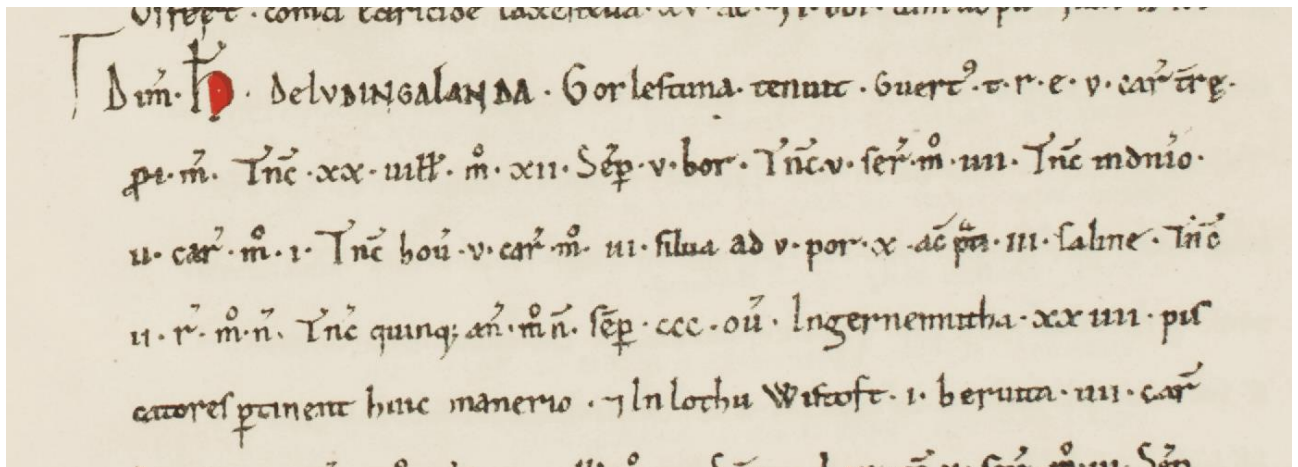
"If the traveller feels in Suffolk that it is a country a little apart, not meeting many other travellers there, he has the consolation that it is a country little spoiled - and with a people of whom it may also be said, for they are a naturally friendly folk, full of helpfulness, good neighbourliness and courtesy"

He focusses more closely on individual buildings, likes and dislikes. One section presented by Sarah Doig concerned the Peacock ("paycock") House in Cobisham which was compared to Pevsner's view. Ugly in Essex, probably "Oakley" in Norman times, also featured. He visited Ely which at that time had fewer than 100 inhabitants. The last place to be included in this talk was Great Yarmouth with its '5 mile front' and all the attractions a visitor could desire.

Lothingland & Mutford Half Hundreds – Domesday and After 24 November 2022

David Butcher

David began his very detailed presentation with an illustration, shown below, from the



Little Domesday Book which covered Suffolk in the 1086 Survey.

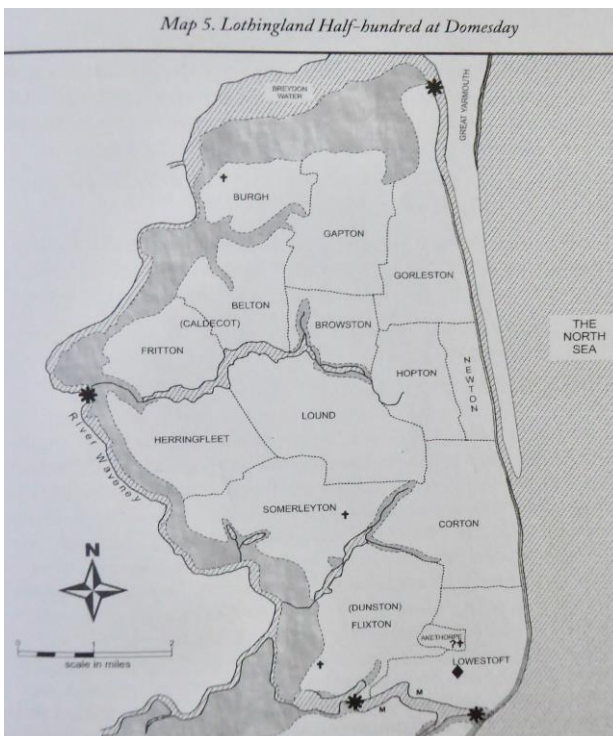
This detailed historic document was written in Latin with standard abbreviations which can be seen in the Lothingland (LUDINGALANDA) extract above. 'Gorlestuna. tenuit. Guert.' = 'Gorlestone was held by Gyrth Godwineson, at the time of King Edward.

5 . carucates, the Norman equivalent of the older hide measurement.

Lower down, on line 5, can be seen 'In Lothu Wistoft', one of the versions of Lowestoft which were present in the Middle Ages. Information about the different ranks of inhabitants (villeins, bordars, slaves), amounts of plough land heath and woodland, oxen

and pigs for each community. Tnc. is the abbreviation of 'tunc', Latin for 'then' which refers to conditions in 1066 and what has changed in 20 years up to the Survey.

On the first map which David projected, can be seen the 17 communities recorded in 1086, the names of most of which still exist. 5, Akethorp, Browston, Caldect, Dunston and Gapton disappeared in the following century. There are only 4 churches marked which is unusually low for Suffolk which has one of the highest densities of churches, 448+ existing from Anglian times. Lothingland has the lowest in all of Suffolk. He also referred to the practice of women being able to direct the foundation of ecclesiastical buildings in their own right before the Norman Conquest. It would be hundreds of years before women regained the rights they



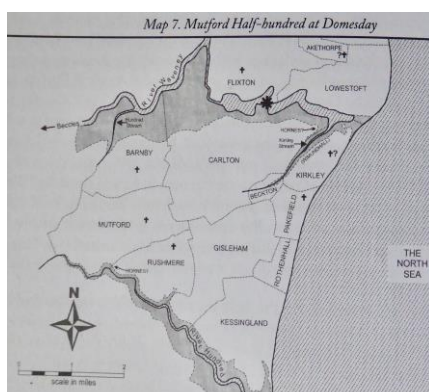
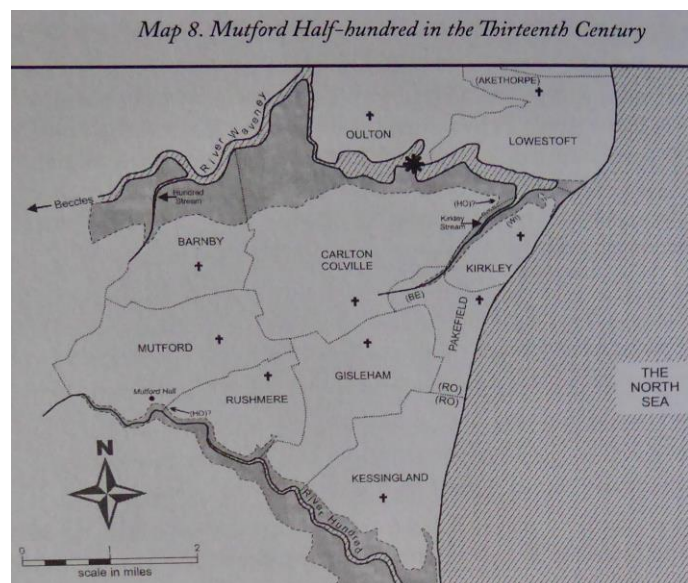
possessed then. The origin of place names are also interesting, Flixton may be derived from

Felix, well known 7th century Felix of Dunwich, the first Bishop of East Anglia. Very little remains of the original settlement.



Considerable changes had taken place by the 13th century. Some named communities have disappeared while new ones such as Gunton have been created mainly from north Lowestoft. The boundaries are changeable and do not coincide always with modern parishes.

Mutford half-hundred was then described more swiftly as much of the information is similar to that of Lothingland. There were 12 villages in Domesday times five of which were churched, (Barnby, Mutford 2, Pakefield and Rushmere + Kirkley judging by the name. Four Beckton, Hornes, Rothenhall and Wimundhall disappeared as settlements in their own right, subsumed into adjacent communities. Beckton into Pakefield, Hornes into Carlton or Rushmere, Rothenhall into Pakefield and Kessingland, and Wimundhall into Kirkley.



All 8 communities were churched by late 12th early 13th century. This is a brief summary of the detailed talk given by David Butcher who has given permission to include the maps contained in his book, *Norfolk and Suffolk Churches, The Domesday Record*.

CHILDHOOD Part 3 – PRISONERS OF WAR AND FARM BUTTER – Paul Durbidge

Like many parts of East Anglia, Haddiscoe had its own small connection with the Second World War. My own memory was being woken up in the middle of the night in the middle of an air raid and being carried down our winding stairs and then getting under the large kitchen table. Obviously, everything was in total darkness. After a while, there was a knock on the back door and Mr Franklin from No 8 stood outside, wearing his ARP steel helmet and enquiring whether we were alright. He asked if we would like to come down to the shelter. Walking the short distance to the shelter along a cinder path, I remember hearing the sound of planes and looking up into a near-black sky, saw bright beams of light stretching upwards from searchlights based near Somerleyton. The shelter was a very solid affair, cut into the lower part of the high-level embankment, roughly at the end of Mrs Benn's front garden. Like the platelayer's huts, it was built of vertical sleepers for the sides, sleepers for the roof with three additional sleepers forming seating. The smell of the pickled timbers was very pungent in the darkness. Apart from the murmur of voices, it was only when a candle or small torch was used could I pick out a shadowy face that I recognised. When the door was partially opened, occasional distant gunfire could be heard as ack-ack guns tried to bring down the aircraft. One large battery was located at Lound, but there were others in the area. One man who came into the shelter said he was told that the aircraft were trying to hit the railway bridges at both Haddiscoe and Somerleyton, but I don't know if this was true. Apparently, the Home Guard had a sentry on duty on the far side of the bridge spanning the river, but what he was expecting, no-one would say. Somebody said that a couple of bombs had gone into the river near the bridge which did explode and there were a couple more that exploded on marshland near father's bee hives.

The next day, we saw on the marshland the enormous craters, exposing grey-black clay with water trickling into them. I don't think anyone had seen anything like them before, along with the sheer volume of upcast spread across the surface of the marsh. Another bomb ended up creating a large pond near Somerleyton swing bridge, whilst a sixth exploded on marshland near Haddiscoe dam. In my distant memory, I feel sure that after, or even before the raid on Haddiscoe, the aircraft followed the course of the river to Somerleyton and caused more damage. In going to school shortly after the raid, a school friend, Ted Wilson who lived in the brickfields, said his father's poultry sheds and chickens had been shot up by cannon fire during the attack on the bridge. Although I never saw the damage caused, it was in the back of my mind – even to the point of did it actually happen? However, about three years ago I was browsing amongst some books in a shop at Snape when I saw a book about wartime in Norfolk and Suffolk. In turning to the index at the back, there was an actual account of the raid at Somerleyton, so it was not just a boy's story after all.

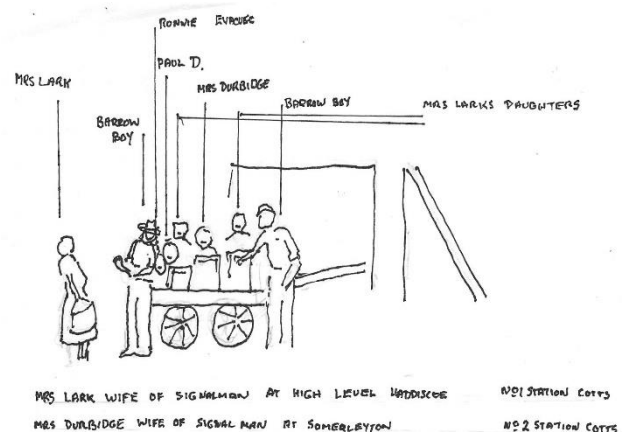
One of the projects the schoolchildren carried out during the war years was the collection of acorns to help feed the pigs. Children were grouped under various colours – red, green, blue, yellow – and the idea was to gather as many fallen acorns as you could for your particular colour. After a time, all the bags of acorns were tipped into four very large sacks and obviously the heaviest sack was the winner. I do remember that we collected a vast amount and just about filled the sacks. We were awarded something for this, but I don't recall what it was.



On another occasion, the local policeman came to the school to warn us about the danger of butterfly bombs that had apparently been dropped by enemy aircraft. He did not have one to show us, but explained what they looked like with large black and white drawings on a blackboard. They were anti-personnel devices designed to cause injury, but not fatal. We were told to be very careful and not to pick up anything that looked unusual. We were also warned to stay away from the woodland in the vicinity of the Herringfleet hills for some reason; perhaps they knew of something but were not prepared to tell us.

Mrs Lark, who lived beside us at No 1 on the station, had some relatives who lived in the East End of London and during the war, she had a young evacuee boy staying with her for a while. Towards the end of the war, two of her male relatives came down to see her and it was the first time I had heard the cockney jargon. They always seemed to be very cheerful and appeared to laugh a lot; I enjoyed being with them on occasions.

Near the bridge over the railway lines, was a four-wheeled railway table which, when required to carry heavy gear, was pushed over the wooden sleepers onto the railway lines. It would then be loaded up with various tools and pushed along the line to where the work was being carried out by railway workers. When not in use, it was padlocked through the wheels with a heavy chain to a steel post so no-one could interfere with it. One day, two Londoners appeared in flat hats and neck scarves, together with waistcoats and wide leather belts. They began to dress up the table with various boxes containing cabbages, potatoes, fruit, etc and in their cockney accent began to act like barrow boys. A number of people on the station, and some getting off a train, all entered into the spirit of things. In an old photograph album, there is a small black and white photograph of the two



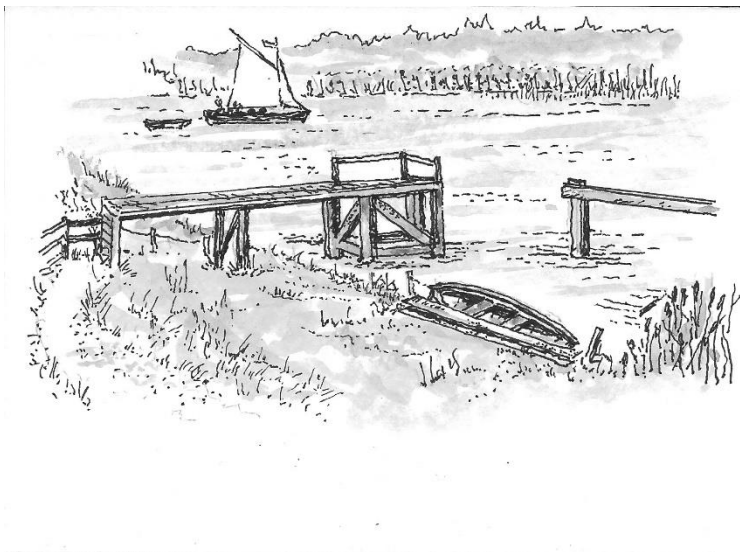
barrow boys. The evacuee boy, Mrs Lark and I were all standing there holding various shopping bags along with mother and several of the local people – and there was much laughter.

Towards the end of the war, the Germans returned to Haddiscoe, but this time as POWs. Their work involved putting up a line of telegraph poles across the marshes in the direction of Aldeby. One lunch time, father said that they were here under guard and that the local people were not allowed to speak to them. When mother asked what they were like, he said that they were wearing greatcoats that almost touched the ground and that they appeared very young. I did not get close to them because of the armed guards and possibly because I was not unduly interested at the time.

When the prisoners were not working, they spent much time on father's land near his allotment. Close to this was some rough ground dotted with elder bushes and lots of rabbit holes. Father said that on one occasion, he had seen them baking a hedgehog in clay. I did not like the thought of this very much as it seemed so cruel at the time. Some of the prisoners made various wooden objects using penknives and hot pokers and for a couple of eggs, they would make simple toys and exchange them when the guards were not looking. Easily the most popular of the wooden toys was a small, rectangular piece of flat wood shaped like a ping-pong bat with a square hole in the middle. Three hens with pivoting necks were fixed around the hole. Each hen had a piece of string fixed to its head. This string passed through the hole in the middle and was fixed to a wooden block under the board. When the block was pulled then released, it appeared that the chickens were pecking. Apparently, the exchange rate for this toy was six eggs. The prisoners had somehow got hold of some red paint for the combs which really set the whole thing off.

Clothes pegs were also made from willow with small strips of tin pinned round them to stop them splitting in half. The metal came from empty fruit tins and the completed pegs were presented as six on a small piece of willow. They were of various sizes and were very practical.

In between trains whilst on duty in the signal box, father made a couple of rag mats for the house and these were made from various discarded clothes. The material was cut into narrow strips roughly two inches long and, using a purpose-made pointed tool, these were threaded into a square of hessian. Sometimes a pattern was formed; if not it was plain or just multicoloured. They were usually quite heavy but hard wearing and, like the pegs, they were very practical. They held quite a bit of dirt and, when beaten against the wall, the dust went everywhere!

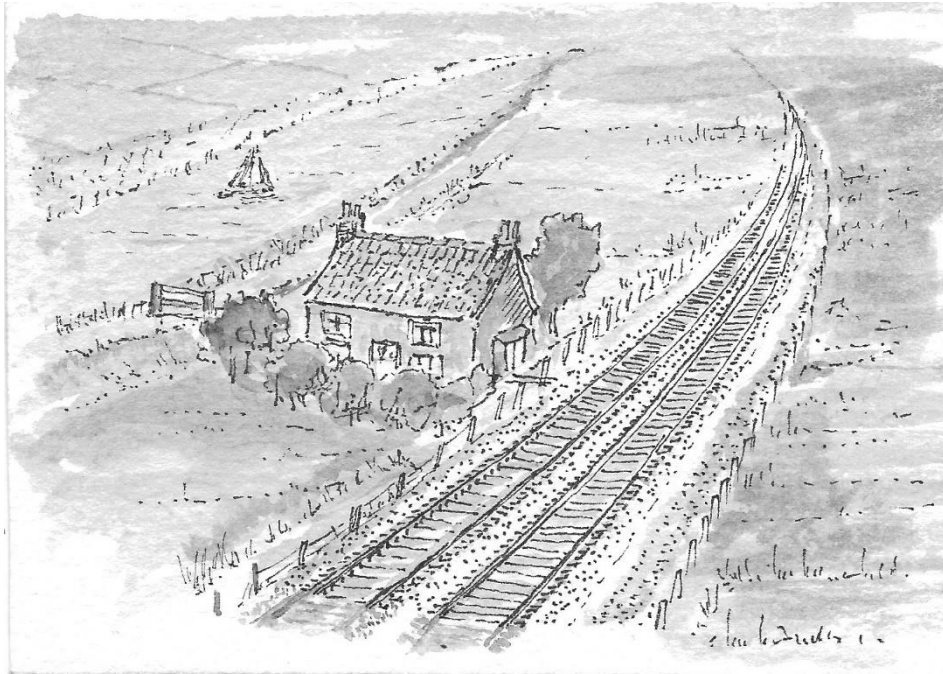


Our house at No 2 Railway Cottages was of reasonable size; consisting of three bedrooms and a boxroom upstairs. Downstairs there was a front room with an adjacent store room, a living room with a pantry and a short timber passageway in which was a coalhouse and a back door. The passage led to a washhouse with a shallow sink and an iron copper positioned in the opposite corner. Outside the back door was a six-foot water tank set on brick piers which collected all the rain water from the gutters. This water was filtered through a

stocking and used for the weekly bath, washing hair and washing clothes in the copper. Drinking water for the three houses was supplied by a heavily-lagged outside tap. After the fire had been lit under the copper and the water was hot enough, it would be scooped out with a long-handled metal bowl into a long, galvanised bath placed near the copper for warmth as well as practicality. The bath water would be used a couple of times or so before it was scooped out of the bath and dumped into the shallow, brown sink. When bathing was completed, the bath would be wiped dry and hung back in the coalhouse on a large iron nail ready for the next time. The outside toilet was a very basic affair to say the least! It had a boarded door with wedge-shaped kites cut out of the top. The actual toilet was formed of a wide, whitewood box seat with a detachable front held in place by a couple of metal turn buttons. When removed, it gave access to a large, handled, container inside. When the need for emptying arose, a deep hole was dug in the adjacent allotment, usually on a Saturday

morning and the contents would be deposited, between 7.15 and 7.30pm after the train for Beccles had left the high-level station directly above. My contribution to this exercise was to shine the torch! The living room of the house also served as a kitchen. In this room was a pine dresser complete with brass cup hooks and a large whitewood table with black legs and a drawer at each end. This was frequently scrubbed which resulted in the grain and hard knots standing out making the surface very uneven. Heat came from a cast iron stove which contained an oven and, apart from a small paraffin oven in the washhouse, all the cooking was done here. I had a liking for toasted cheese and would put pieces in a shallow circular tin dish and place this on a small iron sill directly in front of the fire. Toast was also made in front of the fire, using a three-pronged toasting fork made of thick, twisted wire made by my father. When finished with, the fork was on a hook beside the fireplace ready for next time. On the wall beside window, was a large shelf which supported a radio that worked off accumulators [*glass batteries that were filled with acid and had to be charged*]. As the life of these ebbed away, you ended up putting your ear as close to the speaker as possible before the sound completely died away; usually when you were listening to something interesting.

When walking along the river bank from Haddiscoe towards Somerleyton, after about half a mile,



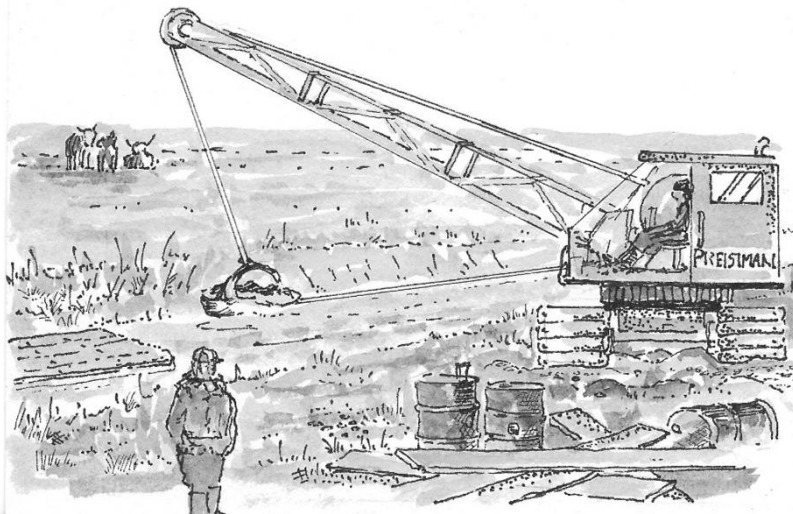
you would come to Jimmy Jordon's house which had been built between the river and the railway line to Lowestoft. Access to the house was gained by crossing a small dyke running parallel to the railway line, using a ligger or wooden plank. Jimmy was a marshman and very friendly with my parents. Each Thursday when I

came home from school, I would walk along the cinder path beside the railway line to his house to collect a pound of farm butter. This was a very secret affair and for some reason, no-one was supposed to know about it. The visit was always enjoyable because Jimmy and his wife had two beautiful macaws, one red and white and the other yellow and blue. They were kept in two very large bell-shaped cages near a window overlooking the river. And here I would stand and admire them and watch them break open almond nuts whilst Mrs Jordon was in the pantry preparing the butter. There was a distinctive smell of salt as she dressed the butter into shape before placing it on a sheet of grease-proof paper, where it was deftly wrapped and placed into my bag. At the time I did not like the salty taste and was subsequently told on a couple of occasions that I did not know what was good for me – and perhaps she may well have been right!

From time to time, many of the dykes that enclosed marshland were dredged out of mud and the sides re-cut where cattle had churned up the banks when feeding on the vegetation and drinking the water. This work was carried out by a dragline and occasionally it could be seen on various parts of the marshland. A pleasant, middle-aged man who always appeared to be smiling, operated the machine; and there was a much older man who cut back the sides of the dyke with a wide, steel

knife on a long handle. This man's name was Tom and he always wore a rather greasy flat cap. He had a very lined, red face with a continual drip under his nose. He habitually had an upside-down clay pipe in his mouth, although on a couple of occasions I did actually see him smoke it. Tom said very little apart from short conversations with the dragline operator, but for me it was the occasional wink, but little more.

To see the crane again after a long lapse was a great event and after I had walked across a number of marshes to where it was working, much of my time was spent just watching. But on some occasions, I was allowed to stand beside the operator in the cab as he dredged the dykes. I seem to remember that there were two tall levers to the right of his seat, adjacent to a large drum which had a steel hawser wound round it. The hawser then went up to a wheel at the top of the long jib, then down to where it was attached to a heavy, toothed bucket. When the machine was working, there



was a heady smell of diesel and hot oil. The bucket was raised vertically, up to six feet. It was then lined up to where Tom had cut the sides and lowered, end-on, through the cut vegetation. The heavy bucket would slowly cut through this and

then the operator would begin to pull the infilled bucket towards the cab before finally lifting the bucket upwards. At this stage, the machine would shudder and shake under the weight of both mud and water, with the latter pouring out of purpose-cut holes in the side of the bucket. The operator would then swing the load over the marsh before pushing one of the long levers, releasing the contents from several feet high to the marsh below. As the crane progressed down the freshly-cut dyke, it left a wide continuous pile of dark grey mud and vegetation, including roots and occasional reeds and amongst the mud were many small creatures including caddis larvae, snails, water boatmen and beetles to name a few. To enable Tom to cut the vegetation on both sides of the dyke, there was a six-foot section of heavy timbers bolted together, floating in the dyke. It is possible that this was also used to get the dragline from one marsh to another; it was certainly strong enough.

Epilogue

The memories of my childhood so kindly presented by David and Jenny Hatton in the last three Annual Reports are extracts from a much larger paper written in the years 2012-2014.

Sadly, it all came to an abrupt end when father was diagnosed with a serious illness in his late fifties and he died in Great Yarmouth hospital a year later. Whilst the local people were very kind and helpful, such was the situation that my older brother Peter was allowed home from the army for a short period. But it was not long before we had a polite letter of sympathy from the railway company which ended by saying we were living in a railway house which was required for railway personnel. Fortunately, with considerable help from a Lowestoft man, Mr Avery, we had nearly completed the purchase of a property in Oulton Broad. My final memory of Haddiscoe was sitting on the passenger seat of a removal van waiting outside the railway ticket office before finally leaving for our new home.

CLIFF FEATURE AT PAKEFIELD – Paul Durbidge

In early October 2021, I received a telephone call from Steve Walker who said that there was a pottery-producing-feature showing high up in the cliff face on land belonging to the local caravan company at Pakefield. Shortly afterwards, Steve brought round to my house a number of dark-earth covered sherds of pottery which he had recovered from the feature. When they were washed, they were clearly of Romano-British character. I was later told that the feature had previously been seen by a Kessingland man who had dug into the infill and took away an undisclosed amount of material.

A couple of days later, I visited the location and viewed the remains of the feature using field glasses whilst standing on the beach below. It appeared to measure about four feet across by 18 inches deep and showed a near-black colour in the sandy make-up of the cliff. Directly above there were the remains of a sizeable concrete slab that once supported a caravan and was now positioned right on the edge of the cliff. Erosion over the last few years North of the shooting butts, has resulted in severe cliff falls especially in the vicinity of the caravan park, resulting in several caravans being pulled back from the edge of the cliff leaving concrete pads, plastic service pipes and electric cables sticking out of the cliff face.

As well as pottery from the feature, two irregular shapes of dark grey clay were found; both showing signs of soot staining on one side. Also, both showed evidence of being smoothed by hand resulting in the sides being noticeably cambered in shape. Remains of where two pointed saplings had been inserted into the then wet clay are present and it is thought that these were used to support the clay whilst the feature was being constructed. The clay thickness in this case being approximately 3½ inches thick. With cracking present on several pottery sherds and distortion present on others indicating wasters, there is a possibility the clay may have been part of a small kiln. However, I would have expected more signs of burning which is lacking. There is also the possibility of an oven although in both cases there is a lack of clay and this was certainly not present on the slopes of the cliff at the time of discovery.

All traces of the feature and pottery finally dispersed in early December 2021 after more severe cliff falls brought down several tonnes of soft, sandy cliff. In early 2022, the holiday bungalow known as The Rosary was finally pulled down as the erosion accelerated, bringing the property much closer to the edge.

BODY SHERDS BROADLY CLASSIFIED

Number of sherds	Classification
28	Grey ware body sherds containing small quartz and white grits decorated with vertical trailed slip. External cracking on one sherd. Black body sherd externally with slip decoration. 11 soot-stained.
29	Plain body sherds grey buff externally with red fractures. One sherd black internally and externally.
13	Plain grey body sherds with occasional large flints. External cracking on one twisted body sherd in grey buff fabric, cavities where organic material has been burnt during firing.
27	Rim forms, some soot stained.

Part base in grey buff fabric 2¾ inches diameter.

Part base in gritty grey buff, 3 inches diameter, soot stained.

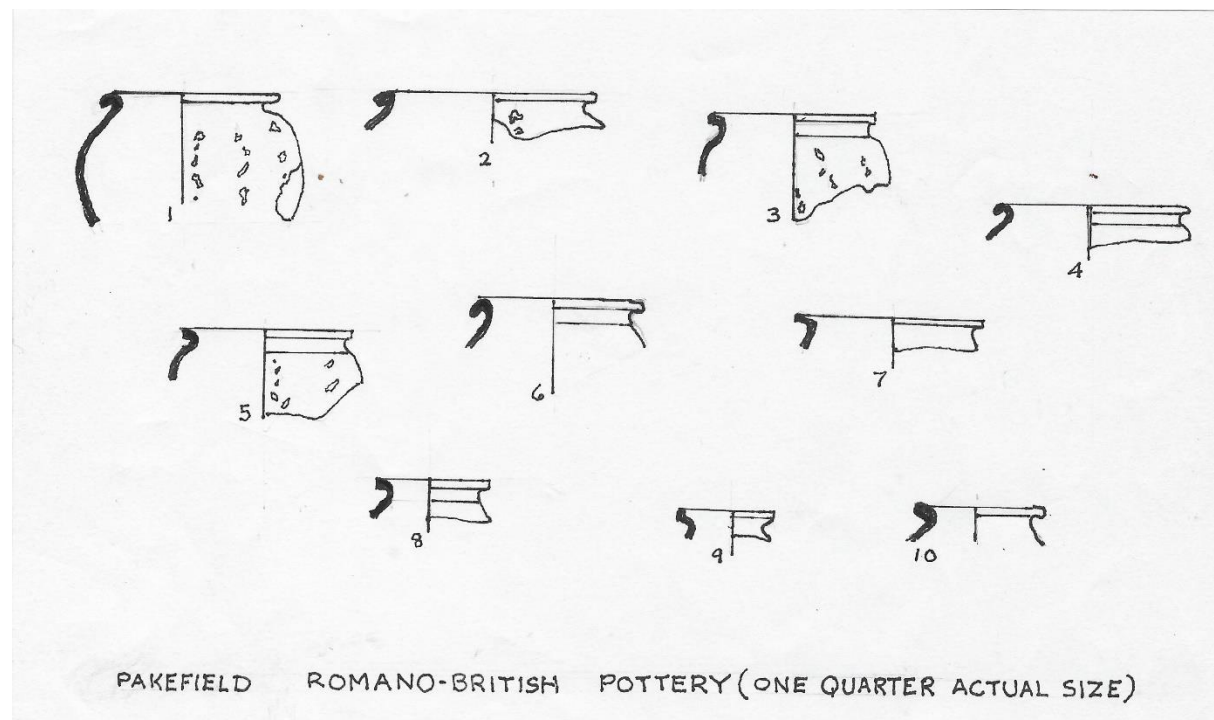
Part base in hard grey fabric with organic cavities, 2¾ inches diameter.

Base in fine grey ware, 2¾ inches diameter.

27 Rim forms, some soot stained.

RIM PROFILES

- 1 Jar with distorted everted rim. Smooth grey fabric decorated with irregular vertical lines of trailed slip. Remains of large scar at point of fracture.
- 2 Greyware jar with slightly distorted everted rim, decorated with vertical slip.
- 3 Jar with flattened top, brown buff smooth fabric, with small flint inclusions. Three vertical lines of trailed slip, 1 inch apart.
- 4 Plain jar with everted rim in smooth grey buff fabric with very small white grits.
- 5 Jar in grey fabric with flattened rim and high shoulder. Three vertical lines of applied slip.
- 6 Plain jar with everted rim in smooth grey buff fabric containing very small white grits.
- 7 Jar with overhanging, flattened top in grey fabric.
- 8 Small section overhanging, flattened, rim from a jar. Reddish brown at fracture. Both internal and external surfaces black.
- 9 Jar in hard, light grey fabric, with overhanging, squared, rim with flattened top.
- 10 Jar with everted rim in smooth grey buff fabric. Wipe marks on inside and top of jar. Traces of soot externally.



“All Because of the Herring” – David Butcher

The first part of this extended article (LA&LHS *Annual Report* 2022) dealt primarily with the commercial and civic contention between Great Yarmouth and its nearest neighbours on the Suffolk side of the River Yare: Gorleston and Little Yarmouth. It ended with a brief statement as to how those two communities had become less of a threat to the much larger town by about the middle of the 14th century (due, in part, to their proximity enabling Great Yarmouth to exert its size and influence on them) and how Lowestoft succeeded them as main rival where both maritime trade and local pride were concerned. Recovery from the social, economic and demographic dislocation caused by the Black Death would have taken decades to become fully established, but the immediate interim may also have provided opportunity for advancement as a gradual, but progressive, state of order developed from the initial period of chaos. A severely weakened Yarmouth wouldn't perhaps have been in the best condition to take note of a potential rival – also in a fragile state itself, but sufficiently well removed in terms of distance either to escape detection where infringement of legally established trading regulations were concerned or to at least take a chance on seeing what could be done in the matter and hoping to get away with it. Once Yarmouth had attempted to extend its sphere of maritime influence to take in the whole of the local inshore area known as *Kirkley Roads* (August 1372), there was no doubt as to which community it saw as the main threat to its own regional pre-eminence.

4 October 1355 – **order granted to the Yarmouth bailiffs**, prohibiting trade in herrings and other goods for sale in the town anywhere other than in the town itself. (CCR, *Edward III*, 10, 231.)

12 October 1355 – **order given to the Yarmouth bailiffs** that merchants with cargoes not for sale in the town be permitted to trade freely in *Kirkley Roads*. (CCR, *Edward III*, 10, 231-2.)

- *Kirkley Roads* was the generic term used of the anchorage located between the Lowestoft shoreline and the outlying sandbanks (*Lowestoft Roads* is also encountered, later on). It probably resulted from the fact that, before Lowestoft relocated to its clifftop-site (c. 1300-50), the smaller, adjoining township of *Kirkley* was the most easterly settlement on that part of the local coast.

17 April - 16 May 1357 – Parliament held at Westminster passed extensive legislation to regulate the herring trade. (PRME, SR I 356.)

- The so-called **Statute of Herrings gave Yarmouth control of the autumn fishing-season within 7 *leuca* (*leuks/leagues*) of its quayside** – the *leuca*'s length was left undefined (perhaps intentionally).

14 November 1357 – commission of *oyer and terminer* granted to William de Sharesull and William de Catesby to ensure that the Yarmouth herring-trade was conducted fairly and freely, without interference from the *hostelers*, between the hours of sunrise and sunset, and without any *forestalling* or *regrating* taking place. (CPR, *Edward III*, 10, 654-5.)

- *Forestalling* was the purchase of goods before the official opening-time of a market; *regrating* was the selling-on, at a profit, of goods purchased. Both practices were forbidden and punishable by fines.
- The *hostelers* would have been Yarmouth merchants acting as hosts and sponsors (at a price) of visiting fishermen from the near-continent (mainly the Netherlands) and other parts of England.

20 August 1360 – **regulations for Yarmouth Herring Fair re-stated**: fish not bound for sale in the town could be traded at sea, as could small catches of 1½ lasts or less [12,000 fish to the last]. (CCR, *Edward III*, 11, 129.)

28 February 1361 – order made to the Sheriff of Norfolk that ships from Little Yarmouth and Gorleston were to pay any customs due to the Crown in Great Yarmouth, but be allowed to load and unload cargoes at their own quays – public proclamation of these ordinances to be made in Yarmouth, Little Yarmouth and Gorleston. (CCR, Edward III, 11, 246-7.)

22 August 1372 – **re-grant of the Yarmouth charter** confirmed the *7-leuk* extent of privilege, with the town's citizens claiming that it was to be measured from the Haven's mouth, not from the Town Quay – also, Kirkley Roads were annexed to the port and made part of it, "for the aid and relief of the said town" and for the sum of 100s. added to the annual farm [£55]. (CoCR, 5, 224-5 & Gillingwater, 121-5.)

28 April 1376 – **Yarmouth's privileges rescinded** (see immediately below). (Gillingwater, 127-8.)

28 April - 10 July 1376 (the "Good Parliament") – as a result of complaints received from the commons of England, and in response to a petition from Lowestoft, **the Yarmouth charter of 22 August 1372 annexing Kirkley Roads was repealed and revoked**, the town's other privileges being retained. (PRME, C65/30, 49 & App. 3, & Gillingwater, 127-8.)

- The "Good Parliament" was so called because it saw the Commons' first use of impeachment as a means of removing corrupt members of the Royal Council and the introduction of the office of Speaker to represent its views in the national assembly.

23 June 1376 & 7 July 1376 – **Yarmouth charter of 22 August 1372**, ordering that no herrings or other merchandise were to be loaded or unloaded within *7 leagues* of the town, except at the town itself or in Kirkley Roads, **was revoked** as being injurious both to King and people. (CCR, Edward III, 14, 432 & 434.)

- These two pronouncements are confirmations of the Parliamentary decision immediately above. The *league* (or *leuca*) was a flexible unit of distance-measurement, which could be one, two or three miles, depending on local conditions and context.

18 August 1377 – commission of *oyer and terminer* granted to Robert Daston, Roger Beauchamp, William de Skypwyth, Robert Crull and John Holt re Yarmouth complaint that, in last parliament of Edward III's reign [28 April - 10 July 1376], herring trade restrictions had been relaxed, thereby causing hardship to the town and making it unable to pay its farm and other taxes and to support the Navy with a supply of ships – former liberties needed to be restored. (CPR, Richard II, 1, 50 & Gillingwater, 128.)

12 April 1378 – **re-statement of Yarmouth herring rights**: to remain in force until next parliament. (CPR, Richard II, 1, 188.)

1 May 1378 – **riot in Lowestoft** at a public statement there of aforesaid Yarmouth privileges, given by the Under-sheriff of Norfolk. (Swinden, 623-4 & Gillingwater, 129.)

13 September 1378 – enquiry into the disorder authorised and carried out at Little Yarmouth – result not known. (Swinden, 626-7 & Gillingwater, 129.)

- No reference to either of these events is to be found in CCR, CPR or PRME.

8 October 1378 – inquisition held in Yarmouth, following petition from its burgesses re the poor state of the local economy and harbour works – decline had set in, following revocation of its privileges – these needed to be restored and Kirkley Roads kept under its control. (CIM, 4, 54-5 & Gillingwater, 128-9.)

9 October 1378 – inquisition continued the following day in Lowestoft – Yarmouth burgesses again pleaded their case for controlling Kirkley Roads, stating that their town had been “much more heavily burdened” than Lowestoft – on the other hand, Lowestoft was not enclosed [i.e. walled] and was therefore unable to resist enemies, and it had been damaged by the annexation of Kirkley Roads. (*CIM*, 4, 55 & *Gillingwater*, 128-9.)

20 October - 16 November 1378 – reference to complaints re the high price of herrings at Yarmouth, previously made, and to inquiry into the matter agreed at the previous parliament – **decision made to confirm the town’s ancient privileges**, so that everyone might trade freely in herrings during the period of the autumn Fair. (*PRME*, C65/33, 80.)

25 November 1378 – **Yarmouth privileges re-granted** (see 12 April above). (*CoCR*, 5, 254-6 & *Gillingwater*, 129.)

5 November - 6 December 1380 – reference made in Parliament to re-granting of Yarmouth privileges [especially the matter of Kirkley Roads] and to its detrimental effect on other parties – **request made that the Yarmouth charter be rescinded** – decision taken that the said privileges be scrutinised and, if found wanting, to have a new commission of enquiry set up – this to report back to the Council, which would then decide on the best course of action – Yarmouth bailiffs and people to be ordered to act in such a way as to give no cause for complaint. (*PRME* C65/36, 39 & *Gillingwater*, 129-30.)

28 April 1381 – commission of *oyer and terminer* granted to William de Ufford (Earl of Suffolk), Hugh de Segrave (Steward of the Household), Michael de la Pole, John de Cavendish, Robert de Tresilian, Roger de Fulthorp, Robert de Swylyngton, John Argentem, William de Wyngefeld and John de Holkham to investigate complaints made by the commons of Norfolk and Suffolk that Yarmouth bailiffs would not allow them, at any time of year, to buy or sell victuals and merchandise in Kirkley Roads. (*CPR*, *Richard II*, 1, 633.)

28 April 1381 – Sheriffs of Norfolk and Suffolk charged with summoning a jury for an enquiry to be held into certain matters concerning Yarmouth and Lowestoft and as to the former’s privileges. (*CIM*, 4, 92.)

- Some very high-profile men named in the first of these two notes. Robert Tresilian became Lord Chief Justice after the Peasants’ Revolt and was given the task of punishing ringleaders.

6 June 1381 – manor of Lowestoft [Lothingland not mentioned] granted to Thomas de Holand, the King’s brother [Earl of Kent]. (*CPR*, *Richard II*, 2, 14.)

- **June 1381 – severe disruption and upheaval in the South-east and East Anglia caused by the Peasants’ Revolt.**

23 & 26 September 1381 – inquisitions held at Lowestoft and Norwich re Yarmouth privileges being “prejudicial and hurtful” to the commonalty of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and all other counties – findings to be presented to Parliament in November. (*Gillingwater*, 130-2.)

3 November - 13 December 1381 & 24 January - 25 February 1382 – the Commons requested, and the King agreed, **that the 1372 Yarmouth charter be rescinded**, including the 100s. increment added to the town’s annual farm – earlier, pre-1372 privileges to remain in operation. (*PRME*, C65/37, XVII 89 & *Gillingwater*, 131-2.)

3 February 1382 – Yarmouth bailiffs ordered to appear (on pain of £1,000 fine) at Westminster on 10 February 1382 to show why the town's charter should not be rescinded. (*CCR, Richard II*, 2, 38.)

25 February 1382 – **Yarmouth's 7-league trading privileges revoked**, at the request of Parliament [ref. previous two entries to this one and its predecessor]. (*CPR, Richard II*, 2, 105.)

28 February 1382 – inquisition held at Lowestoft re Yarmouth's privileges in Kirkley Roads – **first granted** by Edward III [1372], **then revoked** [1376], and **since confirmed** by present king [1378] – said privileges stated to be prejudicial to the commonalty of Norfolk and Suffolk, and to all other counties, in the matter of free trading – **and confirmation of them was therefore now to be made null and void.** (*CIM*, 4, 105.)

22 June 1382 - 21 June 1383 – during the sixth year of his reign, Richard II visited Yarmouth in order to see things at first hand and form an opinion of the town's case. (*Gillingwater*, 132.)

15 September 1384 – enquiry ordered into a **Lowestoft riot** re the public announcement within the town of Yarmouth's privileges. (*CPR, Richard II*, 2, 503.)

20 February 1385 – **Yarmouth's privileges re-granted** because withdrawal of the same had caused the town to "become desolate and insufficient to defend itself against the king's enemies". (*CPR, Richard II*, 2, 540-1 & *Gillingwater*, 132-3.)

8 December 1385 – **Yarmouth's charter rescinded** and the 1381 decision [1382?] confirmed. (*CPR, Richard II*, 3, 73 & *Gillingwater*, 133.)

1 October - 28 November 1386 – **Yarmouth's privileges upheld**, in Parliament held at Westminster, providing that all people (including aliens) could trade freely in herrings in town and port, and convey the fish at will during the period of the autumn Fair without hindrance or disturbance. (*PRME*, 65/45, 23 & *Gillingwater*, 133.)

- Aliens was the term used of visitors from the European mainland (especially Holland and Zeeland).

28 November 1386 – **Yarmouth's charter re-granted** [remaining technically in force until 1597]. (*CoCR*, 5, 305-6 & *NRO*, Y/C2/4.)

24 November 1399 – **confirmation of Yarmouth's charter reinstatement**, immediately above. (*CoCR*, 5, 386, & *BL, MS Charters*, Norf. a.5, no. 596-7.)

8 February 1401 – agreement between Yarmouth bailiffs and men of Lowestoft that the latter could freely buy and sell herrings and other victuals (except Irish goods) from, and to, any merchants except those "fishers of Holland and Zeeland" *hosted* in Yarmouth – this, relating to traffic in *Kirkley Roads*, with 6s. 8d. payable on every last of fresh herrings sold – such sales to be carried out during daylight hours, not at night. (*CPR, Henry IV*, 1, 428.)

- The hours of darkness could, of course, have concealed all kinds of illegal activity.

29 September 1401 – Yarmouth's bailiffs granted the right, by letters patent, to publicly proclaim the town's privileges in *Kirkley Roads* at Lowestoft – **ensuing riot there** – Council order made for parties involved to appear at Westminster. (*CSL, Henry IV & Henry V*, 31.)

20 May 1414 – **confirmation of Yarmouth's privileges** – letters patent of Henry IV. (NRO, Y/C2/5.)

15 July 1417 – **royal grant to Yarmouth to build a bridge across the River Yare**, at the point where the ferry-crossing was in operation. (CPR, Henry V, 2, 117-18 & *Manship*, 51.)

- This grant was to “the bailiffs and commonalty of the town”, but with an ironic sting in the tail – some ten years before, the bailiffs (for their personal profit) had decreed that foot passage using the ferry would continue to be free, but that conveyance of goods across the river would carry a charge – presumably, complaints from traders on the Suffolk side of the Yare (and perhaps from within the town itself) resulted in Crown authorisation for a bridge of stone or wood to be constructed, sufficiently wide for the passage of horsemen and pedestrians and without *pontage* [a bridge-toll] being levied.
- *Manship* further advises that the first bridge was made of timber, with eight supporting arches.
- *Swinden*, 930, records the year of construction as 1427.

0.0.1426 – reduction, from four to two, in the number of bailiffs elected annually. (*Swinden*, 929-30.)

- **Little or nothing in the way of further dispute between Yarmouth and Lowestoft is to be found recorded, in the surviving documentation used, until the second half of the 16th century.**
- **July 1549, Kett's Rebellion – Yarmouth's Sixth Haven works destroyed by insurgents.**

14 February 1554 – **confirmation of Yarmouth privileges**, by letters patent, of Mary Tudor. (NRO, Y/C2/8.)

24 February 1579 – reference made to the Yarmouth case v. Gorleston and “other towns” in Lotheringland, as to the legal requirement to unload ships in its harbour being the exclusive right of Yarmouth itself. (CSPD, Edward VI, Mary & Elizabeth, 1, 619.)

- Probably the case noted in *Ecclestone*, 98-9, where Gorleston, Gunton and Lowestoft (and Aldeburgh, too) petitioned the Council that fishermen be allowed to land catches at Gorleston and Lowestoft.

7 August 1595 – complaint against Yarmouth to Privy Council, from ketch-men of Colchester, Manningtree, Ipswich, Orford, Aldeburgh, Dunwich and Southwold, that no autumn trading in herrings was allowed within 7 miles of that town, to their disadvantage and ruin. (*Gillingwater*, 136-7.)

? August 1595 – complaint made by Lowestoft's citizens, at about the same time, that the Yarmouth bailiffs argued that the 7 leuks/miles was to be measured from the harbour-mouth, not the Town Quay – Privy Council ordered that three judges (Sir John Fortescue, Mr. Justice Clench and Mr. Justice Gawdy) should adjudicate in the matter – said judges ruled that the distance be measured from the quay, not the harbour-mouth – decision immediately contested by Yarmouth. (*Gillingwater*, 137-41.)

- Harbour-mouth measurement would have placed Lowestoft just within Yarmouth's area of control.

28 November 1595 & 30 April 1596 – certificates issued by the three adjudicators recommending a) that measurement of the 7 miles from a point in Yarmouth should be determined by the Lords of the Privy Council and b) stating that there was no need (in spite of Yarmouth's dissatisfaction) to alter the first document. (APC, 25, 402-4.)

16 May 1596 – Privy Council ordered measurement of the 7 miles from Yarmouth Quay and for its termination to be marked on the shoreline – Sir Arthur Heveningham, Sir Henry Woodhouse and Henry Gawdy Esq. to represent Yarmouth – Sir Robert Jermyn, Sir John Higham and Anthony Wingfield Esq. to act for Lowestoft – a majority opinion of four adjudicators as to location of the limit was to be

sufficient – Yarmouth protest followed immediately and a second commission was ordered.

(*Gillingwater*, 142-5.)

16 May 1596 – John Felton and Thomas Damett of Yarmouth, and William Wilde and Thomas Ward of Lowestoft, appeared before the Privy Council at Greenwich re the measurement of the *7 miles* – the starting-point to be “Yarmouth key” [*sic*], not the Haven mouth – the six men named in the previous note again referred to as adjudicators – exact location and extent of *Kirkley Roads* was to be defined.

(*APC*, 25, 400-2.)

28 July 1596 – letter sent to the six commissioners (see previous entry but one), requiring the *7 miles* to be measured from both Yarmouth quay and haven mouth and that each extent be recorded – no marks to be set up until the Privy Council had reached a decision.

(*APC*, 26, 66-7.)

4 August 1596 – all six commissioners, together with the Yarmouth bailiffs and principal citizens, assembled at Lowestoft to open an enquiry into the process of measuring the *7 miles* – commission dissolved because of Yarmouth’s objections – Lowestoft’s three commissioners contacted the three supervising judges to argue the town’s case and received a favourable response from the Privy Council.

(*Gillingwater*, 147-9.)

9 August 1596 – letter sent to the commissioners, replying to their letter re the difficulties of getting an agreement between Yarmouth and Lowestoft – matter to be suspended until after 1596 herring season.

(*APC*, 26, 98-9.)

15 August 1596 – decision made that both Yarmouth and Lowestoft were able to defer their case until mid-November, so as to appear before the Privy Council “without hinderance to their fishing”. [The local herring season, or Free Fair, lasted from 29 September to 11 November.]

(*APC*, 26, 115.)

10 November 1596 – Yarmouth bailiffs claimed that, in August 1595, the Royal Council had confirmed its trading privileges of 200-year duration against Lowestoft’s opposition – request made that Sir Robert Cecil [Secretary of State] confirm these same privileges and prevent Yarmouth from being “drawn into further expenses and trouble...upon such frivolous questions as they of Lowestoft now devise”. Plea signed by John Coldam and Henry Ebbottes.

(*CCPHH*, 1596, 6, ref. 46.44.)

0.0.1597 (post-29 April) – act of Parliament passed, ordering that the *7-mile* distance (at eight furlongs to the mile) be measured from Yarmouth’s Crane Key [*sic*] and a marker-post put in place on the shoreline – this, to be carried out before 24 August (feast of St. Bartholomew). (*Gillingwater*, 149-51.)

• Act cited in full, without dating, but has not been found in the sources used for this study.

0.0.1597 – “Humble suit” of Yarmouth town presented for “the continuance of our ancient liberties against the molestation of Lowestoft”.

(*CCPHH*, 1597, 7, ref. 141.182)

11 January – 9 February 1598 – continuance of the 1597 Parliament, following Christmas adjournment – failed Lowestoft attempt to contest Yarmouth herring-fishing rights – Yarmouth case put by [Sir] Henry Hubbert [Hobart] and John Felton.

(*HPO*, 1597 & *NRO* Y/C36/7/5.)

• Hobart and Felton were the borough’s MPs.

22 July 1608 – **new Yarmouth charter of incorporation granted**, by letters patent of James I, modifying its form of civic government, giving it Admiralty jurisdiction between Winterton [Norfolk] and Easton Ness [Suffolk], and confirming other privileges.

(*NRO*, Y/C2/12.)

26 February 1610 – Lowestoft bill, contesting this, read in House of Commons. (HPO, 1604-1629.)
26 February 1610 – Fourteen days given for Yarmouth charters to be submitted to House of Commons. (JHC, 1, 400.)

13 March 1610 – re the matter of free trading in herrings, Mr. Dammett [Thomas Damet, YH bailiff and M.P.] opposed the Lowestoft bill and Mr. Alford [Edward Alford, Colchester junior burgess and M.P.] supported it. (JHC, 1, 410.)
? March 1610 – second reading of said bill failed, after opposition from Yarmouth. Thomas Damet described Lowestoft as “a town of small importance”, whose people were poor “by their idleness”. (HPO, 1604-1629.)

16 March 1610 – counsel for both sides referred to. (JHC, 1, 412.)
26 March 1610 – matter of the herring dispute to be “sit upon” on Friday [30th]. (JHC, 1, 414-5.)
22 June 1610 – Lowestoft herring matter scheduled for Monday [25th]. (JHC, 1, 442-3.)
• No further information has been found regarding either of these given days.

0.0.1621 – further, possible (unsuccessful) LT bill referred to. (HPO, 1604-1629 & NRO, Y/C20/1.)

- **In 1659, with Lowestoft weakened by economic troubles, the destructive effect of the serious 1645 Fire and the loss of leading mariners to Naval service, a plea was made by its townsmen regarding a further revival of the old disputes – Yarmouth claiming once again that Kirkley Roads were not adjacent to its harbour-mouth, but opposite Kirkley township itself, which therefore gave it control of the herring-trade up to that point.** (Gillingwater, 151-2.)
- **This was during last year of the Interregnum, Charles II landing at Dover on 25 May 1660. Was Yarmouth (given its anti-Royalist political leanings) perhaps having a “last fling” under Parliamentary rule, before the Monarchy was restored?**
- **A further factor in Lowestoft’s fragile condition was the demographic decline caused by the cumulative effect of plague outbreaks in 1585, 1588, 1603 and 1635 (the third of these being the most serious, by far), which probably reduced the town’s population from c. 1500 towards the end of the sixteenth century to around 1100-1200, or so, by the middle of the seventeenth.**

1659-63 – protracted resurrection of the Lowestoft-Yarmouth dispute(s). (Gillingwater, 151-244.)

Autumn 1660 – Yarmouth had disrupted Lowestoft’s local herring season and sent a vessel, with twenty-five armed men on board (swords, half-pikes, muskets and a “great store of stones”), to ride at anchor offshore and disrupt the local, legitimate herring-trade. (Gillingwater, 153-5.)

14 January 1661 – back-up petitioning on Lowestoft’s behalf from Pakefield and Kirkley, and from Brighton, Rye, Hastings, Dover and Ramsgate, as well as “the rest of the Western Fishery”. (Gillingwater, 157-8.)

- Vessels from the coast of Kent and Sussex were always, traditionally, referred to as being from the “Western Fishery”.

25 January 1661 – Lowestoft petition to Privy Council, arguing its case. (Gillingwater, 157-61.)

24 May 1661 – petition of Lowestoft citizens presented to House of Lords, claiming molestation of its fishing-trade by the people of Yarmouth – order given that the case of both sides be heard on 7 June. (JHL, 11, 265.)

20 June 1661 – case between the two towns heard, at the bar of the House of Lords – order given that both sides’ witnesses be sworn and examined on 27 June. (JHL, 11, 286.)

27 June 1661 – evidence heard from the witnesses of both towns – House of Lords members to hear judges’ opinions before any decision was made – the latter requested to be expeditious in the matter. (JHL, 11, 290.)

22 July 1661 – order given that vessels from the Northern and Western fisheries be allowed to catch herrings, off Yarmouth, under the same conditions as they had for the previous three years – Lowestoft and Yarmouth also to carry on fishing, without any violations of the law, their respective cases being under consideration by Their Lordships. (JHL, 11, 317.)

22 February 1662 – draft report of the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas re the Yarmouth and Lowestoft fisheries placed before the House of Lords – he and the other judges found that the measurement of the 7 miles was still not finally resolved, even after all the previous rulings – matter ordered to be decided on 26 February. (JHL, 11, 391-2.)

26 February 1662 – House of Lords order given for a new 7-mile measurement to be carried out, before 24 June, from Yarmouth’s Crane Key [sic] and a new post set up on the shoreline. (JHL, 11, 394 & *Gillingwater*, 193-4.)

27 May 1662 [Sunday] – this date arranged for the said measurement to be carried out – Under-sheriff of Norfolk, Roger North, questioned House of Lords authority in the matter and refused to co-operate with his Suffolk counterpart – dined at midday with the Yarmouth bailiffs! – Under-sheriff of Suffolk engaged two honest and reliable surveyors and began the exercise at 4 p.m., starting at the base of the crane on Crane Quay – finished half an hour before sunset [c. 8 p.m.], at eighteen poles [ninety-nine yards] short of the earlier measurement [1597?] – width of the Yarmouth harbour-mouth not included in the calculations – surveyor’s chain measured, after use, at exactly twenty-two yards length – distance approved by Roger Williams, Sheriff of Suffolk (visiting Yarmouth, that evening), and confirmed in a letter to London the following day. (JHL, 11, 511 & *Gillingwater*, 196-201.)

20 June 1662 – a new oak post (fashioned out of a tree, brought from Sotterley Hall estate) put in place on the shoreline, to mark Yarmouth’s limit of authority. (*Gillingwater*, 236.)

- Details recorded in accounts kept by James Wilde of expenses incurred by Lowestoft in the suit against Yarmouth – said accounts occupying *Gillingwater*, 221-39.

- Location: to the north of Tramp’s Alley (formerly Lopham Score or Locum Hole, at Gunton-Corton) – a much later marker, made of pitch-pine and placed further to the south (in line with the score itself) was still in place during the later years of the 19th century and known as “Corton Pole” – used by the local rocket-line crew to test its breeches-buoy marine rescue equipment – an OS map of 1906 shows a “Rocket Staff” on the top of the low-profile cliff itself (probably placed there to give greater height for the gear to work more effectively).

13 April 1663 – Lowestoft petition presented once again, plus an attached narrative of proceedings between it and the citizens of Yarmouth. (JHL, 11, 511.)

13 April 1663 – Roger North to be summoned before House of Lords as “a delinquent”. (JHL, 11, 512 & *Gillingwater*, 203.)

15 April 1663 – further measurement of the 7 miles ordered by House of Lords. (*Gillingwater*, 203-4.)

- Nothing found recorded in *JHL*, 11, for 15 April.

30 April 1663 – Roger North appeared before the House of Lords and, “upon his Knees”, made an unreserved apology for his behaviour. (*JHL*, 11, 515 & *Gillingwater*, 206-7.)

10 June 1663 – final, formal measurement of the 7-miles limit of YH jurisdiction carried out and the resulting certification presented to the House of Lords, 19 June 1663. (*Gillingwater*, 208.)

- Nothing found recorded in *JHL*, vol. 11, for 10 June.

c. 29 September 1663 – Yarmouth vessels entered Lowestoft South Roads and seized a Dutch *yagger* (loaded with red herrings) and a French fishing-boat – took a barrel of fish from the former, worth 14s (as the duty due to Yarmouth), and fish-kettles from the latter worth 13s 4d – Admiralty Court convened at Lowestoft during 1664 and Yarmouth found to be at fault – the town warned as to its future conduct. (*Gillingwater*, 211-16.)

- *Yag(g)er*, or *ventjagers*, were small, fast-sailing Dutch vessels which conveyed herrings, caught by that country’s *busses* and processed on board, from the North Sea fishing-grounds to the home-ports.

24 April 1665 – letter from James Wilde to Samuel Pepys [clerk/secretary to the Navy Board], informing him that Capt. William Hill of the *Coventry* had arrived off Lowestoft with a convoy of thirty small vessels from Lynn, wanting a supply of wood and candles – had sent to shore for them, but would not allow his men to go near anyone – had had the goods left on the seashore and then sent to fetch them – had been ordered to act like this, though his men were in good health – currently lying wind-bound, but would sail for a lee road when he was able – requested that his ship to be victualled.

(*Admiralty Paper, CSPD, Charles II*, 4, 326.)

28 April 1665 – Capt. William Hill, to Samuel Pepys – went ashore at Lowestoft to buy wood and candles – ascribed the strange report of plague amongst his crew to Sir Thomas Meadows of Yarmouth, who “may be an honest man to the King, but no wise man in his actions” – ship’s company were, and have been all voyage, very well – the ship was very foul, being four months off the ground, and all provisions expended – desired to bring up a small prize captured, supposed to be Dutch – to be submitted to the Admiralty Court. (*Admiralty Paper, CSPD, Charles II*, 4, 335.)

- Plague had broken out in London during the Spring. Was Meadows spreading a false rumour in order to inconvenience both the visiting convoy and the town of Lowestoft? Or was he trying to prevent the spread of disease during Yarmouth’s own 1664-5 epidemic? JPs sealed off the town, in May; C.J Palmer’s voluminous notes in *Manship* cite 2,500 deaths (224).
- Meadows was Yarmouth bailiff in 1662, 1671 and 1682, and mayor in 1684.
- The *Coventry* was a 28-gun ship, captured from Spain in 1658 as the *San Miguel* – later taken by the French, in 1666 – first Royal Navy ship to be named *Coventry*.

14 January 1676 – letter signed by James Wilde, Samuel Pacey and Thomas Mighells, approving the accounts kept by Wilde for monies spent in opposing Great Yarmouth, 1660-3, and thanking all those people who had supported the town in its struggle. (*Gillingwater*, 244.)

31 January 1679 – **Lowestoft granted formal port status** [as member to Yarmouth, the head-port], with right of importation of gruff goods [coarse merchandise] and exportation of butter, cheese and fish. (*CTB*, 5, ii, 1218.)

13 May 1679 – Lowestoft requested the right to export and import coal and grain, in addition to those privileges already granted. Decision of 24.5.1679 sanctioned exportation only of grain and importation

only of coal. Entry of all merchandise to be made at Yarmouth and Lowestoft was to pay the daily allowance of any customs officer sent over from the head-port. (CTB, 5, ii, 1266 & 6, 65.)

- Before many years had run their course, Lowestoft had its own resident customs officers and Trinity House pilots were an established presence also.

12 May 1684 – Lowestoft inhabitants requested the Attorney General that the term *7 leagues*, in the new Yarmouth charter, be changed to *7 miles*. (CSPD, Charles II, 27, 13-14.)

25 May 1684 – approval given by Charles II that *leucas* be replaced by *milliaria* [miles]. (CSPD, Charles II, 27, 32.)

22 July 1684 – **new Yarmouth charter** granted by Charles II and annulled 0.0.1688 by James II. (NRO, Y/C2/14 & Swinden, 767.)

0.0.1729 – last attempt by Yarmouth to assert its ancient privileges over Lowestoft by planning to arrest vessels from the Suffolk town involved in buying herrings from “northern and west-country fishers” – fighting-fund organised by Lowestoft and retaliatory legal action threatened – Yarmouth backed off. (Gillingwater, 216-20.)

- **While these long-running disputes with its neighbours were perhaps the most troublesome of Great Yarmouth’s commercial difficulties, it should not be forgotten that the town had other problems to face during the late medieval period particularly. First, there was the matter of the silting-up of its haven-mouth, with a number of attempts made to engineer new entrances (seven, in all). Next, came conflict with the Cinque Port Bailiffs concerning their right of jurisdiction in the conduct of the annual Free Fair in Herring (29 September to 11 November). And, finally, there was the aggravation caused by the London Fishmongers Company, whose members constantly sought to bypass Yarmouth’s approved regulations concerning the purchase of herrings during the period of the autumn season – this, in order to acquire supplies of fish directly, at sea, from the men who caught them, thereby saving both time and money in the process.**
- **Given the fact that Great Yarmouth’s overall conflict with its neighbours stretched out to something between four and five hundred years’ duration, it must surely be one of the longest and best-documented examples of local civic and commercial rivalry, during the Late Medieval and Early Modern periods, to be found in the whole of England.**

Reference key: APC – *Acts of the Privy Council*.

BL – Bodleian Library.

CIM – *Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous*.

CCPHH – *Calendar of Cecil Papers in Hatfield House*.

CCR – *Calendar of Close Rolls*.

CoCR – *Calendar of Charter Rolls*.

CPR – *Calendar of Patent Rolls*.

CSL – *Calendar of Signet Letters*.

CSPD – *Calendar of State Papers Domestic*.

CTB – *Calendar of Treasury Books*.

Ecclestone [A.W., ed.] – *Henry Manship’s Great Yarmouth* (1971).

Gillingwater [E.] – *A History of the Ancient Town of Lowestoft* (1790).

HPO – *History of Parliament Online*.

JHC – *Journal of the House of Commons*.

JHL – *Journals of the House of Lords*.

Manship [H.] – *The History of Great Yarmouth* (1619) – ed. C.J. Palmer, 1854.
NRO – Norfolk Record Office.

PRME – *The Parliamentary Rolls of Medieval England*.

Swinden [H.], *The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Burgh of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk* (1772).

- All the documentation referred to in the key (except for Bodleian Library, *Ecclestone*, *Gillingwater* and Norfolk Record Office) is available on the Internet from various digitised volumes of published Printed Primary Sources and the *PRME* specialist-site. Both of the Great Yarmouth histories (those of *Manship* and *Swinden*) are also able to be accessed online.
- Numbers following many of the different works cited refer to volumes and pages in those particular books. *CCPHH* and *PRME* have reference numbers only, while *HPO* is a composite of dedicated articles and data on various aspects of Parliamentary activity from the late fourteenth century up to the 1832 Reform Bill.



Mariners Score

The Lowestoft 1960's Music Scene – Part One (1960 – 1964)

Presented by Richard Mundy on 12th May 2022

Richard started by explaining that he had been planning this talk for some time. He had scanned through every Lowestoft Journal from the 1960's in chronological order, making notes on all the different well known musical acts that had played in the town, creating a solid database. He had also interviewed and collected memories from people who had been support acts to the famous groups or fans in the audience. Richard also explained his interest in the music of that era and how he had been a fan from a very young age.

The main focus of the talk were the two venues, The Royal Hotel and The South Pier. Richard recognized that music was happening all over the town at the time, at Sparrows Nest and Claremont Pier etc, but as Richard was concentrating on the famous acts that played here and the music of the day he focused his talk on those two venues.

That being said, the first venue he spoke about was 'The Theatre Royal'. A venue on London Road South, which is currently the East Coast Cinema. It had its grand opening on 8th February 1960 with Dukes and Ladies in attendance, including Lord and Lady Somerleyton. The entertainment that evening was Russ Conway who wrote a march called 'Theatre Royal' especially for the occasion. Russ was a popular pianist and composer, who had 20 piano instrumentals in the UK single charts between 1957 and 1963. The singer Frank Ifield also played at the venue on 3rd July 1960. On 2nd December 1960 the venue embraced the youth of the day by holding a 'Teenage Stars of the Hit Parade' evening. This including Terry Dene, Gary Mills and Michael Cox – all artists for the Decca label. However, The Theatre Royal was not a financial success and in September 1961 closed its doors and was later turned into a bingo hall. Its links with this talk ending then.

The Jazz scene of the early 1960's was well represented in the town. Richard supplied a long list of well-known jazz artists that played here. Highlighting Acker Bilk, the British clarinetists and vocalist, performance at The South Pier on 13th July 1960.

The rise of 'Beat Music' and catering for the "Teenager" became apparent as the decade moved forward. Both The Royal Hotel and The South Pier held teenage evenings which appeared to build in popularity – such as moving from mid-week to the weekend.

The big gig that appeared to really change everything occurred on 6th September 1963 when The Rolling Stones played here for the first time. Richard had interviewed 3 members of the support act from that night 'The Felines'. Drummer David Manthorpe, Bass Player Terry Balls and Guitarist Gerry Peterson. This gave a good insight to the evening and also many interesting Rock and Roll tales and was interesting to hear about the progression of a local band that was around at the time.

The Stones went on to play here on two more occasions, 23rd January 1964 at The South Pier and back at The Royal Hotel on 6th April 1964. For the second gig at The Royal, Richard managed to find a gig review in The Journal with interviews with members of the Stones. Also, for this gig, Richard captured and read out, the memories of a 14 year old girl, Val Hobbs, who got to hear the afternoon sound check, as her Mother worked at the venue at the time.

Moving on from The Stones, Richard highlighted other big gigs that occurred. This included Gerry and The Pacemakers (14th November 1963 at The Royal), The Hollies (28th January 1964) and Little

Richard (16th May 1964 at The Royal). These included reading sections from gig reviews from the Journal, people's memories and comparing where the artists were in their career at the time.

Richard ended the talk by looking into some tenuous links to The Beatles and Lowestoft. This included the fact that Pete Best (Beatles Drummer before Ringo Starr) played at The Royal on 25th April 1964 and Jimmy Nicol (Beatles Drummer for 2 weeks in 1964 when Ringo was unwell) played The Royal on 18th December 1964.

To compliment his presentation Richard did interject music from some of the artists showcased, this went down very well and got people tapping their feet and swaying their heads – although no one actually got up and danced.

Part Two of this talk, covering the period 1965 to 1969, will be coming in 2023.



Lowestoft Bridge

A Seaside Excursion (1797)

Introduction

An account of this trip, taken by two young men, from Saffron Walden to Lowestoft and back, took place between Saturday 26 August and Sunday 3 September. It is written on two pieces of rag-paper 7½ inches by 6³/₈ in size (190mm X 162), folded to form eight pages, and with a half-piece serving as the first two – the outer one of which is the title-page itself. Originally hand-stitched down the middle of the fold (and with this either failing or being removed, at some point), the document was later secured by a single staple in the middle. The handwriting is small and slender, with some of the letters (particularly towards the end of longer words) quite badly formed. There is no punctuation or paragraphing used, just periodic horizontal stokes of the pen placed at the bottom of the line to serve as breaks or pauses (represented below as mid-line dashes) – sometimes placed in the middle of what would be a sentence. And the miles covered during each stage of the outward and homeward journeys are written above the particular place where each night was spent. Occasional use of abbreviations is made and there are some spelling variants of today's norms in evidence.

This most interesting document was kindly donated to the Lowestoft Archaeological & Local History Society by Charles Scott-Fox of Willand Old Village, Cullompton, Devon. It was written by his grandmother's great-grandfather, Robert Paul (who was about eighteen years old at the time), and it presents a fascinating picture of the times. The journey there and back appears to have been made by carriage, either belonging to the young men or hired by them, and there was also an extra horse present to provide riding opportunity. The outward leg of the journey, as far as Lowestoft, contains a great amount of detail regarding the names of places along the way from Bury St. Edmunds onwards – but, there are no such references (apart from Attleborough) on the return home via Great Yarmouth, Norwich, Thetford and Bury.

The transcription below tries to follow the layout of the document as closely as possible, but without being able to represent it fully in its original form. No attempt has been made to change anything, including the variant spelling, but square brackets have been used in-text to clarify matters (where needed) and end-notes serve to add relevant information to things which require further information or explanation. Blank spacing-lines, where present, indicate the end of pages in the narrative (there are eight pages in all, plus the title-page) and readers will have to provide their own innate sense of punctuation to create sentence structure. It would not have been appropriate to have made any attempt to punctuate this piece of work because it would have compromised its integrity.

There are certain ambiguities in the text which cannot be fully resolved, with the first relating to Robert Paul himself and to his companion – the latter simply referred to as “Bro JP” (with “& Selfe”, following) in the first paragraph and as “Bro” in the final one. The implication has to be (in the absence of any other information) that the two men were brothers and that “Bro JP” does not refer to two separate individuals. Perhaps the fact of the travellers occupying a “two bedded room” in the *Crown Inn* at Lowestoft confirms two people only – while leaving their relationship to each other aside. Then there is the matter of two different dates given

at the beginning of the piece: “Aug^t 26. 1797” providing the heading, followed by “Sett of from S Walden on the Saturday evening Aug 29”. The Saturday in question was indeed the 26th August, whereas the 29th was the following Tuesday. Surely, a “slip of the pen” is in evidence, here. Then there is the question as to how this particular “mini-memoir” was recorded and written down. Did its creator write it up at the end of each day? Or did he make notes of the daily occurrences and put pen to paper once he had returned to Saffron Walden. We shall never know, unfortunately, but must be grateful that such an interesting piece of personal experience has managed to survive down to the present day.

Route taken

The likely route taken, keeping to the main roads of the time and using modern identification, was probably as follows. Saffron Walden to Sawston (B184 & A1301) - Sawston to Cambridge (A1301) - Cambridge to Newmarket (A1303 & A1304) - Newmarket to Bury St. Edmunds (A1304 & B1506 - much of the latter now forming part of the A14) - Bury St. Edmunds to Bungay (A143) - Bungay to Beccles (former A143, minor road & B1062) - Beccles to Lowestoft (minor road & A146) - Lowestoft to Great Yarmouth (former A12, now A47) - Great Yarmouth to Norwich (A149, A1064 & A47 – there being no “Acle Straight” in existence in 1797) - Norwich to Thetford (A11) - Thetford to Bury St. Edmunds (A134) - [Brother’s visit: Bury to Glemsford and back (B1066)] - Bury to Newmarket (B1506 & A1304) - Newmarket to Cambridge (A1304 & A1303) - Cambridge to Sawston (A1301) - Sawston to Saffron Walden (A1301 & B184).

Itinerary

- Day 1 - Saturday 26 August - Saffron Walden to Cambridge, via Sawston - 7.15 p.m. [19:15] to 9.55 p.m. [21:55] - overnight stay, Cambridge.
- Day 2 - Sunday 27 August - Cambridge to Bury St. Edmunds, via Newmarket - 6.15 a.m. [06:15] to 10.15 a.m. [10:15] - overnight stay, Bury St. Edmunds.
- Day 3 - Monday 28 August - Bury St. Edmunds to Beccles, via Great Barton, Ixworth, Stanton, Wattisfield, Rickingham, Botesdale, Wortham, Palgrave, Stuston, Scole, Billingford, Thorpe Abbots, Brockdish, Needham, Harleston, Redenhall, Wortwell, Denton, Earsham, Bungay, Wainford, Mettingham, Shipmeadow and Barsham - 6.15 a.m. [06:15] to 3.50 p.m. [15:50] - overnight stay, Beccles (*White Lion* inn).
- Day 4 - Tuesday 29 August - Beccles to Lowestoft, via Worlingham, North Cove, Barnby, Carlton Colville and Mutford Bridge - 5.30 p.m. [17:30] to 6.55 p.m. [18:55] - overnight stay, Lowestoft (*The Crown* inn).
- Day 5 - Wednesday 30 August - Lowestoft to Great Yarmouth (no places in between mentioned) - 10 a.m. [10:00] to 12 noon [12:00] - overnight stay, Great Yarmouth (*The Wrestlers* inn).
- Day 6 - Thursday 31 August - Great Yarmouth to Norwich - no leaving time given (but it was during the evening) and no places in between mentioned - arrived in Norwich at 9.15 p.m. [21:15] - overnight stay at the *White Lion* inn.
- Day 7 - Friday 1 September - Norwich to Bury St. Edmunds, via Attleborough and Thetford - 10.30 a.m. [10:30] to 8.45 p.m. [20:45] - overnight stay, Bury St. Edmunds.
- Day 8 - Saturday 2 September - Bury St. Edmunds to Cambridge - 4 p.m. [16:00] to 9 p.m. [21:00] - brother’s visit to Glemsford during the day - overnight stay at Cambridge.
- Day 9 - Sunday 3 September - Cambridge to Saffron Walden - 8 a.m. [08:00] to 10 a.m. [10:00].

Text

A Tour to Lowestoft Performed by RP Aug^t 26. 1797

Set of From S Walden on the Saturday evening Aug 29. [sic]¹ ¼ past 7 oClock rode on Horse back far as Sawston and walk^d to Cam[bridge] arrived there about 5 before 10 oClock² – Sunday morning ¼ after 6 – Bro [Brother?] JP & Selfe sett of for Bury [St. Edmunds] – Breakfasted at Newmarket reach Bury ¼ after 10 oClock – 27 miles [from Cambridge] – heard Mr. Johns musings³ & afternoon drank tea with Mr Elton Thacker⁴ on Monday we went from Bury ¼ after 6 oClock – the first town was [Great] Barton – Ixworth –

stirrup leather broke

Stanton Wattisfield Rickinghall Bottesdale – a fine park & Beautiful Water [Redgrave Hall]⁵ – [Thomas] Holt Esq

Wortham Palgrave Hustion [sic - Stuston] Arrived at Scole Inn [White Hart] at 10 oClock – 23 miles [from Bury St. Edmunds] – had Coffee Bread & Butter & Cold Beef for Breakfast Sett of from thence ¼ after 11 o Clock

Billingford

Thorp [Thorpe Abbots], Broadish [Brockdish] Needham

Harl[e]ston a neat Town saw a sign Paul Upholder⁶ – a Chapel of ease very neat Redenhall a good Church 1616⁷ The Mother Church to Harlstone Watter__ Worl [Wortwell] and a Neat Red Brick Meeting house with burying Ground⁸ Saw some Fowles with with sticks Run thro their wings to prevent their going thro the Hedges⁹ – Denton D^r Sankys Seat Chanceler of Norwich¹⁰ – a very neat

Red Brick House with beautiful Garden upon the right Flixton Hall¹¹ – the seat of [Alexander] Adair Esq an old Mansion House Earsham – arrived at Bungay at 2 oClock saw the Castle situated upon a hill at the entrance of the town A town Irregularly built but good brick Houses – 2 Churches part one in ruins¹² – Wainsforth [Wainford]¹³ – Mettingham – Shipmeadow – a thatch^d Church with Brick and Stone Steeple – Barsham – arrived at Beccles at 10 min before 4 o'clock – 5½ miles [from Bungay] – came thro the back street the Houses built upon a hill a bank upwards of 20 feet high¹⁴ – Sett up at the White Lion Dinner Beefstakes [sic] Cold veal Cheese – NB Stakes Suppers – Accumling [Accomplishing] a comfortable Dinner¹⁵

A fine tower seperate from the Church most beautiful prospect from the Churchyard of the the Common villages adjacent – Neat Market House & Assembly room town irregularly built – some ruins one side of town¹⁶ – there are 30 Steps from the road [Puddingmoor] up into the Churchyard¹⁷ almost all the houses cover^d with Pantiles – set off ½ after 5 oClock – Wallingham [Worlingham]¹⁸ North Cove – thatched Church

Seat of Mr. Farr

Barnaby [Barnby] – Carlton [Colville] – crossed a most beautiful lake¹⁹

Mumford [Mutford Bridge] – arrived a[t] Lowestoft – 8 miles [from Beccles] – at 55 Min past 6 oClock Took a little refreshment & walked on the Beach the Sea was rather rough & the sight was truly grand – saw many ships laying at anchor – & the Light Houses were lighted while we were walking we walked

about the town²⁰ – pretty town – one good street [High Street] at each end a platform or Garrison with Large pieces of Cannon²¹ about 10 oClock the Ip[swich] mail came Inn had a good supper²² – we slept in a two bedded room – about 2 oClock in the morning we were disturbed by a man calling waiter – Boots – Maid – Ostler fr [for] my friend wants somebody to help him in getting off his pantaloons – I asked him what he wanted the answer he made as above – we saw on our rising in the Morning the Sea from our Chamber window – arose ¼ after 6 went to the Beach Bath^d in the Sea with the Machines 9^d p^r h^r²³ returned had a good breakfast saw the China manufactory bought some trifles²⁴

Sett of for Yarmouth about 10 oClock – arrived about 12 o Clock – sett up at the Wrestlers²⁵ walked thro the town to the Jette [Jetty]²⁶ there we saw a frigate of 40 guns and a vast many colliers etc wanted to go on board the frigate but the charge was to great 10/6 [10s 6d] for ½ hour²⁷ – Saw Mr & Mrs Gillson, Mr White & 2 sons Mr & Mrs Pursham Mrs Finch etc – went to the key [South Quay] saw about 200 or 300 vessels – returned to our Inn had a plain Dinner wine after – our expenses for Dinner here was 10/6 for Dinner [10s 6d] – a proud bum[p]tious man – we through [thought] we were imposed upon – after Dinner we went to see the Barracks and from there to see the French frigate the Proserpine 14 guns²⁸ – we saw the hole w[h]ere the ball entered which kill^d the Cap^t & First Lieut we also saw the prisoners about 270²⁹

bough[t] some rings of them³⁰ – before Dinner we went to Boultons Museum well worth seeing – Sett of for Norwich³¹ – about 3 miles before we reach^d Norwich – 22 – [miles from Yarmouth]³² – (it was dark) we had a very heavy rain a Storm of Thunder & lightning – was very dismal – arrived at the Lion [*White Lion*] about ¼ after Nine – went on gentlemen's walk³³ returned had a good supper & to bed we went arose about ½ after Six walked but it raining made it uncomfortable – call^d for a Mr. Carver – he breakfast[ed] with us a good one – after Break[fast] we went to the Cathedral Barracks Parissian Gardens & Castle
Left Norwich ½ past 10 Clock for Attelborow [Attleborough] – 16 – [miles from Norwich] – Din[e]d – and set off for

Thetford – 14 – [miles from Attleborough] – tea'd and from thense Bury [Bury St. Edmunds] – 12 – [miles from Thetford] – I reach Bury ¼ before Nine being on horse back – companion ½ after 10 Clock³⁴ Next morning Bro went to Glemsford³⁵ Aunt Hemsle took a ride in our chaise Cousin G Helse went to see aunt & Uncle Thacker³⁶ and we walked to their new New Brew house – return^d Din^d – at Aun^t Pauls – Left Bury at 4 oClock – 14 – [miles to Newmarket] – Drank tea at Newmarket – reached Camb[ridge] about 9 oClock – 27 – [miles from Bury St. Edmunds]³⁷ – Slept that Night – I sett of for Walden [Saffon Walden] on Horseback being to late for the coach about 8 oClock reach Walden about 10 oClock found all back & So endeth my story RP

End-notes

1. A slip of the pen, here. The 29th was a Tuesday, and the day of arrival in Lowestoft. A perpetual calendar was used to check all the dates in Robert Paul's account of his "tour".
2. The distance between Saffron Walden and Sawston is 7½ miles and that between Sawston and Cambridge 6 miles. The first leg of this journey would have taken about an hour on horseback, the second something approaching two on foot.

3. This might well refer to a sermon preached at a Sunday morning service, in church.
4. Drinking tea was very much a social occasion and accomplishment among the well-to-do, at this time. It is not to be confused with the “afternoon tea” of the Victorian period, which was started by the Duchess of Bedford during the 1840s.
5. Redgrave Hall was well known for its fine landscaped grounds, designed by Capability Brown during the 1760s for Rowland Holt III (older brother of Thomas).
6. An “upholsterer” was an upholsterer/furniture dealer.
7. The church of St. Mary Redenhall has 1616 displayed upon it, as repairs to it were carried out that year.
8. This was Wortwell Congregationalist Chapel. It is still in use, but with its brickwork long painted over and coloured off-white.
9. The chickens had probably had their wings treated in this way to stop them flying away. The usual way of doing this was (and is) to shorten the primary flight feathers by clipping them.
10. The Chancellor of a Church of England diocese is its chief legal officer. The man referred to here Mistakenly as Dr Sanky was the Rev Dr George Sandby, who was also the Rector of Denton *(1750 – 1807) and who lived at Denton Lodge – a fine house with extensive grounds, situated not far from the road along which Robert Paul and his brother were travelling. He died on 24 March 1807, at the age of 90.
11. Flixton Hall (before it burnt down in 1847) was one of the finest houses of its kind anywhere, having been built in 1615 and reputedly designed by Inigo Jones. Such attribution, however, is doubtful. Robert Paul was travelling on the Norfolk side of the River Waveney, at this point, not the Suffolk one – so, he can’t have seen Flixton Hall, unless he crossed the river at Homersfield to view it and then retraced his steps. Perhaps he heard tell of it along the way.
12. St. Mary’s Church, Bungay, is what is left of a medieval Benedictine Nunnery. Some ruins remain *in situ* close to the church building, which is no longer in regular use for worship.
13. This shows that the party left Bungay by going down Bridge Street and over the River Waveney into Norfolk on the former A143 (a minor road, now), crossing Ditchingham Dam and bearing right into Pirnhow Street, continuing along it and back over the Waveney into Suffolk. They then took the main road leading from Bungay to Beccles (B1062).
14. The back road referred to is Ballygate – the road into the town from Bungay, linking directly to the B1062.
15. The *White Lion* in Beccles is still standing as No. 19 Smallgate, next to the Public Hall, and is a three-storey Grade II listed building of 1774 – built in red brick and of five bays width. It has not been in use as an inn for many, many years, but its imposing presence adds greatly to its surrounds as part of the urban landscape.
16. The ruins referred to may have been those of the church of St. Mary Endgate, a building which was demolished during the late 16th century as part of making Beccles into one parish instead of two. These remains were located in the southern sector of the town and the name Ingate (which serves as one approach to Beccles when coming from Lowestoft, via Worlingham) is a variant of Endgate. The gate element derives from *gata*, an Old Norse word meaning “road” or “street”.
17. The steps referred to, from Puddingmoor up to the Churchyard, are known as “The Score”. This term has nothing to do with number, but is the same usage as the scores in Lowestoft – a steeply rising alleyway up the face of an incline.
18. The route taken out of Beccles was that of the minor road passing through Worlingham (which was once the A146 itself) and which joins the present A146 roundabout near Marsh Lane – this, serving as the eastern extremity of the Beccles bypass.
19. The lake referred to would have been Lake Lothing and the broad at Oulton, each stretch of water being on either side of Mutford Bridge.
20. The two lighthouses mentioned were the Lowlight (on the beach) and the Highlight (on the cliff-top). These had to be aligned, out at sea, by vessels wishing to negotiate the Stanford Channel

(separating the Holm and Newcome sandbanks) and reach safe anchorage inshore. The harbour wasn't built until 1827-30.

21. The reference here is to Lowestoft's two defensive gun emplacements. The North Battery stood on the cliff-top in what is now Belle Vue Park (part of the North Common, at the time), the South (main) one on Battery Green Road where the car park is now located.

22. Reference to the Ipswich Mail Coach shows that the inn referred to was *The Crown*. The two men were obviously lodged in a bedroom facing the High Street, if the sea could be seen from it.

23. Bathing machines modelled on those used at Margate or Deal (accounts vary) were introduced to Lowestoft in either 1768 or 1769. The nine-penny hourly charge (4p) was a substantial one, being about a quarter of a labourer's daily earnings.

24. The Porcelain Factory's "trifles" were (usually) small pieces of ware with "A Trifle from Lowestoft" painted on them: objects such as small mugs, tankards and inkwells. But larger pieces were also decorated in this fashion (e.g. teapots) and other places in Norfolk and Suffolk were sometimes named in the inscription, instead of Lowestoft itself. It was all part of a local novelty and tourist trade.

25. The *Wrestler's Inn*, on Church Plain, was perhaps Yarmouth's premier hostelry at this time. When Horatio Nelson visited the town on 6 November 1800 (to receive the freedom of the borough), some of the men in the crowd assembled to greet him unhitched the horses pulling his carriage and did the job themselves, dragging the equipage to *The Wrestlers*!

26. Yarmouth Jetty was an early, simple, wooden pier, which was a notable feature of the seafront. It long pre-dated the construction of piers during the Victorian period (having been constructed c. 1560) and was demolished in January 2012, being deemed too expensive to repair and make good. It was built to facilitate the landing of catches of fish, as the main quayside along the river at Yarmouth was largely devoted at the time to general maritime trade of various kinds.

27. The sum of 10s 6d (52p) was a "half-guinea", in the terms of that time – a substantial sum amounting to about a week's wages for many people.

28. Gt. Yarmouth was an important North Sea naval base during the French Revolutionary War (1793-1802) and the two following Napoleonic Wars (1802-15).

29. The number of guns referred to (14) does not really fit in with a frigate's armoury, which was about 38-40 guns on British craft (some of the larger French vessels carried up to 60). It fits with a sloop more readily, that type of vessel usually carrying about 14-16 guns. A frigate's crew was around 300 men, that of a sloop 60-80. The 270 French prisoners seen might therefore seem to suggest a frigate – if they were all from the same craft. Robert Paul's account seems to link the captives with the ship, but there may have been another explanation.

30. The French prisoners were obviously selling their valuables, to raise cash. When imprisoned in England, they often made novelties and models from wood and meat-bones to sell to people who would buy them. These have considerable antique value today. Following on from the previous end-note, Yarmouth did have a holding prison for foreign military or naval personnel at this time (largely, the latter), using converted fish-curing premises located at the southern end of town, not far from the main quayside and quite close to a road of today known as Nottingham Way. It is possible that this was a place for people (who were so inclined) to visit.

31. The route to Norwich would have been via what is now the A149 to Caister and the A1064 to Acle. There was no direct route across Halvergate Marshes at the time, the stretch of road used today (A47) being authorised by Act of Parliament in 1830 and the highway itself constructed during the following year.

32. The last six appended mileages have the number only. The word "miles" itself is missing.

33. The *White Lion* inn stood close to Gentleman's Walk, which is the road running alongside Norwich Market. White Lion Street itself, named after this former hostelry, has the W.H. Smith shop standing on one corner of the junction with Gentleman's Walk.

34. A journey made on horseback would have been quicker than one made by coach.

35. Glemsford (near Long Melford and Sudbury) later became a notable centre of the Suffolk silk industry. It still retains a working factory, though the industry of today is mainly based in Sudbury. From the account given, it appears that Robert Paul's brother went to Glemsford (ten miles to the south of Bury St. Edmunds) on his own, leaving the former to meet with relations who lived in Bury itself.

A picture of the original work

A fine tower separate from the church most
beautiful prospect from the churchyard of the
common villages adjacent
Near Market House & assembly room
town irregularly built - some ruins on
side of town - there are 20 steps from
the road up into the churchyard almost
all the houses covered with Pantiles -
left off 1/2 after 5 o'clock - Wallingford
North Cove - Market Church
Seat of Mr Farr
Barnaby - Carlton
crossed a most beautiful lake
Mumford - arrived at Lowestoft
at 55 Min. past 6 o'clock took a little
refreshment & walked on the Beach the
sea was rather rough & the sight was
truly grand - saw many ships lying at
anchor & the light houses were lights
while we were walking we walked

36. Relatives, most likely, of the man referred to on Day 2 (Mr. Elton Thacker).

37. The 14 miles recorded for Bury St. Edmunds to Newmarket is included in the overall distance of 27 miles between Bury and Cambridge.

David Butcher (transcriber and editor).

Lowestoft Scene - Jenny and David Hatton

January

Family tree researcher digs into history of 'forgotten' community

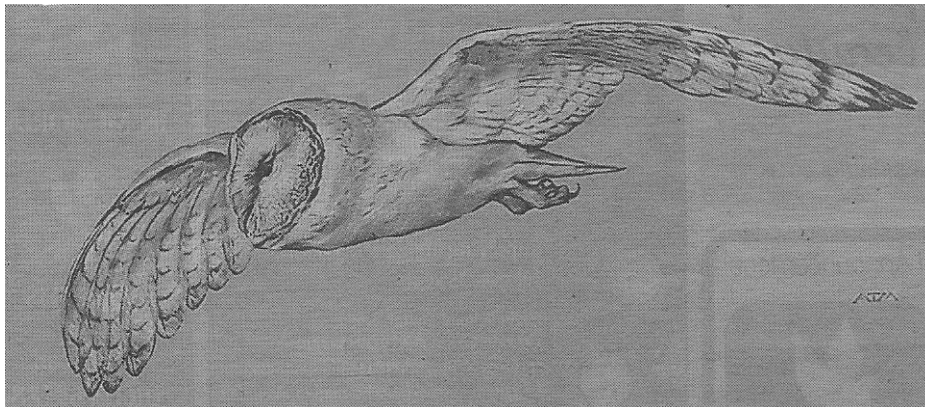
Lowestoft's almost forgotten fishing village - known as The Grit - included a self-sufficient community which was home to 2,500 people, 13 pubs, three schools, two churches, shops and cafés. Further memories of the long-vanished Beach Village in Lowestoft, which featured a community of fishermen, net-makers and families, have been recalled by Julia Perry, of Norwich-based family history researchers Purple Trees.

Play park to reopen

A popular children's play park which has been closed off since July 2021 is set to reopen. The Royal Green Play Park in Lowestoft closed when a 9-year-old girl fell off a rope bridge after it collapsed. Before reopening the area, the opportunity was taken to also carry out further refurbishment to other parts of the area's equipment.

Street artist to return to create seventh mural

The barn owl



A street artist is set to make a welcome return to continue a popular trail. It comes after the nationally renowned street artist ATM teamed up with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to create a beautiful bittern mural on Bittern Green. ATM was in Lowestoft last

month to paint the sixth in a series of spectacular murals as part of a graffiti art trail, Suffolk Wildlife Trust have confirmed that he will return to create another mural. The trail, which was commissioned by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, began in October 2018 with the aim of bringing wildlife into the town by showcasing marshland species that can be seen at the Carlton Marshes reserve. Murals include:

October 2018 - a marsh harrier on the side of Smiths Timber in Oulton Broad,
May 2019 - a giant barn owl on the side of Lowestoft Tandoori in the High Street,
June 2019 - a water vole, which has now been installed inside Carlton Marshes Visitor Centre,
August 2019 - a giant kingfisher on the wall of Angel Hair on Station Square,
October 2019 - a Norfolk Hawker dragonfly on a home in Rotterdam Road,
December 2021 - a bittern on a large side wall in Bittern Green.

'Minor demolition' and revamp of seafront pavilion

A scheme of work to transform the East Point Pavilion into a "unique destination" for Lowestoft seafront will begin after a contractor was appointed to undertake the refurbishment. It comes after a six-figure revamp of the pavilion had been unanimously approved in 2020 as East Suffolk Council's planning north committee gave the go-ahead for the pavilion to be re-designed internally, creating a

food hall with a mix of traders within a flexible, open space for community and cultural activity, art, music and comedy performances.

Region's hospital 'completely full'

The hospital serving our region was "completely full" - in a challenge worsened by record staff sickness levels. The Chief Executive of the James Paget University Hospital, said that the situation had changed radically in the last two and a half weeks, calling it the most challenging time the trust has seen. It was estimated that half the hospital was hit by COVID infections, which made the ordinary winter pressures, such as norovirus, even harder. On top of that, there were staff sickness levels which had never been seen before.

Festive residents 'flabbergasted'

Residents of an aptly-named Lowestoft street showed their community spirit to raise more than £2,000 for East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH). People living in Christmas Lane joined forces to adorn their houses with festive decorations and illuminations, with the end result attracting visitors from far and wide and raising more than £2,100.

Banksy mural sold 'for up to £2M'

A Banksy mural which was removed from the side of a Lowestoft building is believed to have been sold for up to £2M in the UK after auction talks with an auction house in California fell through.

Flood gate work begins

Work has started on the construction of a demountable flood gate as part of a major project to help Lowestoft from flooding. The flood gate is to be built on the South Pier in Lowestoft as part of wider flood defence scheme that will see the construction of glass floodwalls around the Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club and pier.

Vital service sees huge surge in demand

Since launching at the beginning of November 2021, the Thin Ice project - a winter community response in Lowestoft and surrounding area - has distributed more than 750 meals and almost 1,000 hot drinks. Having been extended to help those who are vulnerable and in need by offering a free meal and a hot drink, Sam's Café in Lowestoft has seen demands surge over the past two months.

'Some sense of normality' returns for schools after Christmas break

Headteachers across Lowestoft have said that some sense of vague normality has returned to schools following on from the Christmas break. Schools across the area have now reopened following the Christmas holidays, with students taking part in on-site testing before they started the term. The government also announced that face masks are mandatory in all secondary school settings.

Major scheme to relocate pipelines in Lowestoft

Work is underway as part of a major £4.7M scheme to move a sewer pipe that is at risk from eroding coastline. Anglian Water has started preparatory work ahead of laying three new sewer pipes as the existing pipes that run through Gunton Warren Nature Reserve are at risk from a rapidly eroding coastline. With the works in North Lowestoft having started, the popular North beach car park has been closed with construction expected to last 10-12 months.

Works continue to tackle bathing water pollution

A £3.8M scheme of work is continuing to help improve the environment by protecting the bathing waters. Work started in November 2021 on the improvements as part of a £3.8M investment by Anglian Water in Lowestoft over the next year. The investment will include improvements to the

surface water sewer network following investigations which have shown a number of misconnected drains from private pipes in the Station Square area.

Holocaust memorial service

Wreaths were laid as millions of people killed in genocides were poignantly remembered. Holocaust Memorial Day was marked in Lowestoft as people gathered at the town's railway station to pay respects to those who died during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Lowestoft to receive millions of pounds of investment

Lowestoft is to receive over £100M in investment as part of a series of projects across the region. Flood defences and business units for start-ups are among the projects that will receive funding from East Suffolk Council after plans were approved. The projects will be delivered over the next four years and are part of East Suffolk Council's £339M budget for projects that aim to benefit local communities and businesses.

Community garden is unveiled

Ambitious plans to transform a disused patch of land into a new community garden with culinary possibilities have taken a significant step forward. With a community tree planting day held on land at The Graylings, Carlton Colville, more than 40 people turned out for the latest phase of the works. It saw 16 heritage fruit trees planted to create a Heritage Orchard as part of the works, after structures had been planted in November 2021 to help make a living willow tunnel.

February

Art dealer's warning after mystery person 'steals' Banksy's chips

A Banksy art dealer has issued a warning to the public after a mystery person emailed him alleging that he had "somehow acquired" part of a Banksy artwork in Lowestoft. The seagull Banksy artwork appeared on the side of a privately-owned block of flats on Katwijk Way in August 2021 as part of Banksy's Great British Spraycation series. As part of the artwork, polystyrene chips were placed in the skip below the seagull to make it look like the seagull was swooping down to eat the chips

Boost for 'vital service'

Since launching in the summer of 2020, The PINK Orange service has supplied thousands of household meal kits to struggling families. Established by the Lowestoft-based charity Access Community Trust, PINK Orange delivers ingredients kits to households with children across the region. As well as providing essential food support, it encourages children and young people to cook in a simple way. Access said "Demand for PINK Orange continues to grow daily, with many vulnerable families now facing prolonged hardship as they struggle to make ends meet. PINK Orange has been running for almost two years now and has delivered to about 30,000 families since then.

Local Tories back Waveney MP over calls for PM to resign

Grassroots Conservatives across East Suffolk and Waveney have shown their support for MP Peter Aldous after he called for Boris Johnson to resign. Mr Aldous revealed he had written to the chairman of the 1922 Committee of Backbench Conservative MPs, advising him that he has no confidence in Mr Johnson as leader of the Conservative party. Grassroots conservative councillors across Waveney and East Suffolk have come out in support of Mr Aldous, describing him as a "principled" man, working for the best interests of his constituents.

Trains to run after flooding drama

Greater Anglia have confirmed that train services have resumed. It comes as high tides and winds caused part of the original embankment and the ballast to be washed away at Haddiscoe, on the Norwich to Lowestoft line. Speaking in the House of Commons, Waveney MP Peter Aldous highlighted recent flooding and said "Good services on that Wherry Line and the East Suffolk Line are vital if meaningful levelling up is to be delivered to the Waveney area. Can ministers confirm that the government are committed to improvements on these two lines and that their ambitions extend beyond that suggested by Network Rail?".

SEND school to double intake

Suffolk County Council's development and regulation committee unanimously approved proposals that will allow the Horizon School in Saturn Close, Lowestoft, to up its pupil numbers from 45 to 99 - 44 primary and 55 secondary. The site, formerly known as Harbour School, will feature a new block being constructed, reconfigured outdoor raised planting and greenhouse areas, a new car park and a multi-use games area. Internal changes in Warren House will also take place to provide teaching space. The proposals had attracted 30 objections, mostly from those living in nearby houses, with noise, additional traffic and the position of the new block being the main concerns. The committee said it was satisfied that the plans had been carefully considered.

Hospice launches consultation on plans

East Coast Hospice (ECH) wants to build the new 10-bed Margaret Chadd House on the Gorleston/Hopton border. It was announced that ECH has teamed up with Ipswich-based St Elizabeth Hospice to create what is called an 'achievable and sustainable palliative and end-of-life care service' for people across Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

Tonnes of waste put in wrong bins

Data from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs shows East Suffolk had to dispose of 4,812 tonnes of waste wrongly placed in recycling bins in 2020-21. The figure was an 86% increase from the previous 12 months, and the largest since records began in 2014-15. Recycling charity Wrap estimates it costs £93 per tonne to dispose of wrongly recycled waste. In East Suffolk, that would mean a cost of £447,516 to the taxpayer.

'Tsunami' of people facing debt

A 'tsunami' of people in Waveney are facing being in debt as the cost of living soars. That's according to the local branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau, who say they are "drowning in clients struggling to cope". It comes as the government announced last week that the energy price cap will rise by 54% from the beginning of April - approximately an extra £693 per year per household.

MPs warning over dental crisis

MPs in Norfolk and Waveney have been contacted more about the NHS dental crisis than any other issue over the last year, they told a Westminster Hall debate. Waveney MP was joined by colleagues from around East Anglia and across the country for the three-hour debate. He said 56% of patients new to practices in Waveney could not get an appointment, and, as at August 2021, the East of England had 174 fewer dentists than 12 months earlier.

Water bills set to rise

Families are facing higher water bills after Anglian Water successfully appealed a decision to limit the amount it could pay shareholders. Bills are to increase by more than 6% from April and households with five people or more will see their average bill rise by as much as 6.8%. It comes at a time when families are being warned to expect a huge rise in living costs this year, with energy bills and consumer prices rising, and other increases predicted.

A quarter of smoking households are in poverty

The data, published by the charity Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), shows that in the East of England 26% of households containing smokers live in poverty once spending on smoking is accounted for. In England as a whole the figure is 31%. According to the Stop Smoking team at OneLife Suffolk, on average most people who quit smoking save around £250 per month.

Popular mini-golf course removed

The Family Adventure miniature golf course in Lowestoft is no more after it was cleared as part of the continuing redevelopment of the East Point Pavilion. With £720,000 from the government's Towns Fund being used for its restoration, work to repurpose the building into an "exciting community and events space" will see it transformed into a new food hall featuring four vendors, a bar, DJs, live music and a small stage area.

Storm Eunice wreaks havoc

Homes across Waveney took a battering as Storm Eunice hit. A red weather warning for wind was declared for the Southern half of Suffolk, warning of "significant disruption and dangerous conditions" that present a danger to life, although Waveney remained in an amber warning area. Red Oak and Roman Hill Primary Schools were closed ahead of the storm's arrival in a bid to keep pupils, parents and staff safe, while Pakefield School closed at 1pm. All of Suffolk's libraries were also closed, while East Suffolk Council suspended all garden waste collections in a bid to catch up with the schedule. Suffolk Police responded to a number of incidents throughout the weekend, including closing Tower Road after heavy winds ripped off the top of the sign to Gateway Retail Park. Cars were also forced to avoid a protective barrier on Denmark Road which was scattered across the carriageway after being damaged. In Africa Alive, which had been closed to the public after damage to the big cat enclosure, the lions were moved to a different enclosure so keepers could repair the damage.

'Sadness' as diggers move in

Demolition has begun on the first of four cliff-edge properties in Arbor Lane that have been declared unsafe due to unprecedented rates of coastal erosion in Pakefield.

Suffolk County Council tries to balance budget

Suffolk County Council has approved a 3% rise in council tax from April. The authority voted by 47 votes to 11 to up its share of the council tax bill by 3% - a 1.99% on the main element and a further 1% on the adult social care precept. It means a Band B home - the most common in the county - will pay 62p per week more, or 80p for a Band D. Added to the already approved 4.2% increase with the police's portion of the tax, Band D homeowners are likely to see a total increase of around £50-£55 on this year's bill, depending on where they live.

March

'Tight Squeeze' as bridge section arrives

It was an historic occasion as the first major section of the new Gull Wing bridge made a welcome arrival in Lowestoft. Weighing 380 tonnes and 55m long, the first steel section of the bridge arrived via barge from Belgium. The Northern Approach Viaduct (NAV1) section - the section of the bridge for the northern approach crossing the railway line in Lowestoft - arrived following a 32-hour crossing from Ghent.

30 people on waiting list for urgent mental health care

The Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust said the data underlined the toll a recent surge in demand for services was having, against a backdrop of staff sickness bed shortages and ward closures.

In the past decade, the Trust has faced repeated calls from campaigners to end the controversial practice of out-of-area care and first vowed to put a stop to it eight years ago. But it has been unable to keep to its pledge, constantly finding that demands for beds at its sites in the region outstrips their availability.

Work under way to reconstruct historic wall

Specialist contractors have begun repairs to part of the historic boundary wall that runs through Crown Score in Lowestoft and "has been in a collapsed state for several years". A spokesperson for the Heritage Action Zone said "The existing construction of these historic walls has been analysed and the works will be completed using a mortar mix specifically designed to match the existing mortar for constituents, colour and texture. This restoration is being supported by funding from Historic England, East Suffolk Council, Lowestoft Town Council and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust".

Funding boost for charity

A charity supporting vulnerable families will continue to help those in Waveney after a National Lottery funding boost. Home-Start in Suffolk launched their Waveney project in 2017 after a number of enquiries from the area. Almost five years later, the charity has supported more than 350 families. In the last 12 months alone, referrals from Waveney have almost trebled as families tackle rising living costs, the removal of the Universal Credit uplift and the pandemic.

Banksy recreation tagged

Local artist Greater Than recreated the Banksy piece on London Road North in December 2021, showing a child building a sandcastle with a crow bar, after the original was removed. The protective screen covering the recreation, had "Team Robbo" sprayed on it in red paint, in stark contrast to the black and white original. The incident appears to refer to an apparent feud between Banksy and a London graffiti artist known as King Robbo.

MP hits out at 'bureaucratic' refugee policy

Peter Aldous said that the expanded Ukraine Family Scheme and the Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine has not gone far enough to help refugees fleeing the war-torn country. The Ukraine Family Scheme allows applicants to join family members or extend their stay in UK. The Local Sponsorship Scheme allows for Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes to have a safe route to safety in the UK, but has come under criticism over visa troubles. Mr Aldous said that these routes are too bureaucratic and are not yet working well or quickly enough.

Delight at cash joy for town's museum

Lowestoft Museum in Nicholas Everitt Park is set to benefit from part of a £48M government pot. The funding, of more than £243,000, comes from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Museum estate and Development Fund. It will enable urgent repairs and secure the future of the museum inside Broad House and its collections.

Councils deny hastening the closure of leisure provider

A charity which ran leisure facilities and has begun winding down has said the termination of council contracts "compounded" lockdown struggles. Sentinel Leisure Trust (SLT) has confirmed almost 100 members of staff have been made redundant by the move to close, and alleged decisions by East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC) to terminate contracts early, "compounded" the impact of lockdown enforced closures. ESC however, said that they do not believe SLT are due the amount they are seeking, and GYBC said that trust had "many months" to prepare for the end of the contract.

What sites are affected?

Pakefield Nirvana Health and Fitness Centre - fitness suite, swimming pool, group exercise rooms, sports massage, beauty therapy, scuba diving sessions and community education courses.
Adventure Island - an indoor soft play centre
Raw Soccer - but in the process of converting it into Raw Fitness

Oulton Broad Broadland Leisure Club - gym, pool and sauna.

Lowestoft a football training facility used by Lowestoft Town Football Club's Centre for Excellence and Waveney FC's Barnard Soccer centre featuring a 3G floodlit pitch, classroom and changing facilities.
Christmas Day swim

Plus sites in Bungay and Great Yarmouth.

New partnership to safeguard kittiwakes

With Lowestoft's kittiwake colony being one of the few urban colonies in the UK, a new collaborative cross-sector partnership has launched - the recently formed Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership (LKP)

New discount store opens

With a unit at the Gateway Retail Park in South Lowestoft having stood empty since it was opened in July 2019, a new store has opened. The unoccupied unit is set to be the base for a "brand new" Poundstretcher store.

Anger as trees planted for Jubilee destroyed within days

The mayor and heartbroken children have condemned the "mindless" action of vandals after a tree was destroyed in a popular park. Officials have hit out at those causing "intentional destruction" - just days after a tree was planted as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. With further damage being caused in parks across Lowestoft, police have been informed of the latest spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Saharan sand boosts firefighters charity

Firefighters found themselves extremely busy as a special charity event made a welcome return. After the continuing coronavirus pandemic had led to previous fundraisers being cancelled, firefighters from North Lowestoft and Lowestoft South fire stations dusted off their buckets of soapy water and sponges to boost a worthy cause. More than 120 cars turned up at North Lowestoft Fire Station as the returning popular charity car wash was hailed a success raised £1,263 for The Firefighters Charity.

COVID cases rise again

Coronavirus cases across East Suffolk have risen by more than 50% in a week. The latest figures for the seven days to March 18, show a total of 2,997 cases reported with a case rate of 1,197 per 100,100 people. Cases in the district are now the highest they have been since the first days of 2022.

New designs unveiled for JPH rebuild

New designs for a new-build James Paget University Hospital have been unveiled. The Gorleston hospital was built with an expected working life of 30 years, but it is still in use four decades later. The JPUH was built using reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) planks, which are said to be much weaker than traditional concrete and can deteriorate over time. Harm to patients caused by falling RAAC panels has been identified as an "extreme risk" at the current hospital, which was opened in 1982. In 2020, JPUH was selected to be one of 40 new hospitals to be built by 2030.

April

Flint axe is star find

A rare flint axe dating back more than 4,500 years proved to be the "star find" at special archaeological event. Items discovered across Suffolk were showcased at an event in Lowestoft Library. Other items included Roman coins, medieval silver hammered coins and a medieval harness pendant.

Unique postcards smash auction price

A unique photographic record highlighting historical connections to a tragic drowning has "come home" after selling for more than five times it was expected to fetch at auction. The tragic events of 1 June 1914 saw three Sea Scouts, their two Scout Masters and a naval instructor drown when their boat capsized on the River Waveney at Somerleyton. A set of postcards commemorating the event has been brought home by a Lowestoft scout group.

Shop Local scheme runs out of money

An online shopping scheme to support local firms has ceased in East Suffolk just months after launching. East Suffolk committed £60,000 from its share of the government's Welcome Back Fund last October on a six-month pilot with Click-It Local - an online brand which operates as a local alternative to large web retailers. The scheme allowed people to buy from local independent or High Street shops through one payment and get it delivered the same or next day. It is understood no warning was given of the closure, but the Council had concluded that the financial model was not sustainable.

Popular museum preparing to mark 50 years

A popular working transport museum, which is celebrating 50 years in business this year, has reopened for the 2022 season. East Anglia Transport Museum, located in Chapel Road, Carlton Colville, reopened, having only been able to run irregularly through 2021 due to COVID disruption. The museum is to return to its "regular opening pattern" until the end of the season in October.

Airbnb searches

Lowestoft has been revealed as one of the top destinations for a staycation in the UK at Easter. The town is in the top ten most searched locations, according to Airbnb. It is the only spot on the list in East Anglia and one of five in England.

Barnardo's shop to shut

A charity shop which has been in the heart of Lowestoft for over 30 years is set to close after it saw a decline in footfall. Barnardo's, on London Road North has been a hotspot for bargain hunting in Waveney for 36 years. High rent costs and a decline in High Street footfall since the end of lockdown have meant that the store is no longer financially viable for the charity.

Six-figure sum to tackle long-term empty homes

A six-figure sum had been committed to tackle the blight of more than 1,900 long-term empty houses, East Suffolk Council has announced. The Authority's cabinet agreed to hire an Empty Homes Officer who will oversee plans to bring the number of empty homes in private ownership in the district down from 280 to 170 over three years.

Grass and wildflowers grow again as green scheme returns

Cemeteries and open spaces around Waveney will once again become havens for wildlife this spring with the return of a controversial scheme. East Suffolk Council's "Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees" campaign will return for a third year, with grass and wildflowers left to grow in more than

100 spots around the district. These include churchyards and cemeteries as well as a number of open spaces.

Vandalism on the rise

A bike left in a popular park was vandalised whilst fencing around a play area was damaged as matting and grass were set on fire. It was the latest in a series of vandal attacks on parks across Lowestoft.

MP breaks silence over partygate fines

Waveney's MP has broken his silence over the recent partygate fines issued to both prime minister Boris Johnson and chancellor Rishi Sunak. Mr Aldous called on the prime minister to resign back in February following the publication of part of Sue Gray's report into the scandal. He confirmed his position has not changed since, adding that he will take stock of the situation before commenting any further.

Frustration over Lowestoft's lost Blue Flag status

Councillors have expressed their frustration at efforts to restore Blue Flag status on a Lowestoft beach. The town's South Beach lost its Blue Flag status in 2016, when water quality dropped from the required "Excellent" status to "Good". Despite claiming a number of Seaside Awards over the years, the Blue Flag status has not been restored. An East Suffolk Council spokesperson said "The standard required by Blue Flag beaches is a annual water quality rating of "Excellent" based on water quality monitoring results covering the previous four years. Lowestoft beach south of Claremont pier did not apply for a Blue Flag award, despite having received "Good" water quality reports based on samples from the previous four years".

Street trading rules relaxed near seafront to boost visitors

Street trading rules around Lowestoft seafront have been relaxed to allow more pop-up stalls and encourage more footfall, particularly at key events. East Suffolk's licensing committee unanimously agreed to 'undesignate' the street trading policy for the seafront between East Point Pavilion and Claremont Pier, Royal terrace, Royal Plain, Parade Road North and parts of Marine Parade and Royal Green car park. It comes as part of the revamp of East Point Pavilion, with plans for up to 46 events there driven by the organisers of the First Light Festival.

Councillors reject 60p taxi surcharge to tackle fuel crisis

Pleas for a 60p surcharge on Hackney Carriage cab journeys in East Suffolk to tackle rising fuel costs have been rejected by councillors despite warnings that Lowestoft was losing drivers. A pledge has been made for a consultation with the trade to establish how many drivers feel it is necessary, and introduce a lower 20p rate in the summer if needed.

New McDonald's drive-through bid

A scheme has been earmarked for a new McDonald's restaurant on vacant land in North Lowestoft, opposite the town's TESCO supermarket and close to the Travelodge Hotel. It comes after the restaurant chain lodge three Illuminated Advertisement Consent applications to East Suffolk Council earlier this month.

Council freezes Post-16 travel costs

Earlier this year, Suffolk County Council consulted on plans to hike the cost of post-16 school transport up by £90, whilst a £30 increase was proposed for transport for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) students. The Conservative administration agreed to freeze the prices at their 2021/22 levels for another year, in response to the cost-of-living crisis and consultation responses. It means costs will remain at £930 per year for mainstream transport and £750 for SEND pupils for the 2022/23 academic year.

May

Joy for boutique hotel

Having recently won the Small Hotel of the Year category at the East of England Tourism Awards, the Hog Hotel in Pakefield has been awarded 4 AA Stars and 2 AA Rosettes. Following an inspection by AA Hotel quality assessment scheme, the refurbished 16-bed boutique hotel on London Road Pakefield was officially accredited as a four-star silver property with the restaurant also achieving two rosette standard.

Britten Centre sold

National commercial property and investment firm Evolve Estates has acquired The Britten Centre as part of a plan to invest in local retail centres across the UK. The Britten Centre which has 19 retail units covering 52,435 sq ft, is home to high street chains including Iceland, WH Smith, Superdrug and Pandora. The acquisition, the price of which is undisclosed, is Evolve Estates' third retail purchase of 2022.

MP calls for investment in east coast railway lines

Waveney MP Peter Aldous led calls for upgrades to the Wherry and East Suffolk branch lines during a debate in the House of Commons. During the debate, Mr Aldous said "that if the right investment is secured, it can bring major benefits and job opportunities to communities all along the two lines in both East Suffolk and East Norfolk". According to the latest passenger numbers, Mr Aldous said that last month the numbers on both lines were up by 19% on the equivalent period in 2019.

Ukraine refugees welcomed to East Suffolk

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, towns and villages across the county have provided support, such as donations or offers of accommodation. Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council confirmed that 108 refugees have been welcomed into properties across the district.

Readers ignore health conditions after GP appointment waits

With surgeries across Waveney and Norfolk continuing to operate under immense pressure, the region now has just one GP for every 2,017 people due to a growing population and declining staff numbers. This has meant surgeries face an uphill battle to meet demand - and some patients are going unseen. In a snap survey carried out by The Journal, new data has this week revealed that 36% of respondents simply ignored their medical problems, due to not being able to see their GP.

June

Playgroup fundraiser launched

Trinity Methodist Playgroup based in High Street, Lowestoft, has launched a fundraising effort to bridge the gap in its finances after falling into hard times since sign-ups fell after the COVID pandemic. The playgroup manager said the pandemic meant Trinity missed out on two-year-olds joining the group – and the impact COVID has contributed to the business losing money. Prior to the pandemic the playgroup used to welcome 25 children a term, but now has just 16.

No extra support for households using heating oil

People who use heating oil across Suffolk will not receive extra support under the government's costs package – despite oil price rises outstripping other fuels. Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced a £21B range of measures to support people through the cost-of-living crisis. Among these measures was a £400 discount on electricity bills for every household. But no special support has been offered for homes not connected to the gas grid which are already contending with a larger price spike. In the

past two years, the price of heating oil has more than trebled while gas has slightly less than doubled in that time. Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that in May 2020 heating oil was 30p per litre. In April 2022 it was 96p per litre.

Special service honours paratrooper killed in Falklands war

A new memorial honouring a young soldier from Lowestoft who died on the last night of the Falklands War has been unveiled. Pte David Parr was just 19 when he was killed during the final push to reclaim Port Stanley from Argentine invaders on June 14, 1982. It later emerged that the soldier, from 2 PARA, was killed by so-called “friendly fire”.

Much-loved former lifeboat coxswain remembered

The RNLI flag flew at half-mast at Lowestoft Lifeboat station after Shane “Bert” Coleman died in hospital aged 65. He was involved in hundreds of lifesaving missions during an “illustrious” 30-year career that included a bravery award for one of many heroic rescues as three men were rescued from a sinking tug.

Fears for new hospital building delays amid “toxic” government

Fears have been raised over potential delays to the funding of a hospital re-build amid claims of disagreements between No 10, the Treasury and Department of Health. According to reports in the Sunday Times, a so-called “toxic-triangle” has developed between the three departments, which is causing delays to the government’s manifesto pledge of building 40 new hospitals. Included among that 40 is a new James Paget Hospital to replace the existing building. Reports of disagreements between government departments are no comfort at all to patients concerned about their long-term care and staff who are often working in challenging conditions.

Delight as First Light Festival returns

Undeterred by frequent showers and an overnight storm, the festival delighted crowds, who enjoyed an array of music, spoken word and art activities. Festival Director Genevieve Christie said “It’s brilliant to be back.

Waveney MP leading calls to scrap VAT on children’s toothbrushes

Peter Aldous, Conservative MP for Waveney, said the measure could have a significant impact on the welfare of young people in his constituency. He raised the issue in a House of Commons debate on problems with dental care provision. The Norfolk and Waveney area is one of the worst ‘dental deserts’ in England, with 38 dentists per 100,000 people, and experts have warned that this is having major health implications.

Joy as new Peter Pan statue unveiled

Overlooking Lowestoft seafront, Kensington Gardens is a popular recreational park that was opened in June 1922 as an extension to the esplanade. Earlier this month, the centenary was celebrated with numerous traditions recreated as 100 years since the gardens first opened. Complete with floral gardens, tennis courts, bowling greens, a boating lake, and a tearoom and café with indoor and outdoor seating, the park is owned and managed by Lowestoft Town Council. The new sculpture was funded by Lowestoft Town Council and Friends of Kensington Gardens, and includes a solar-panel powered water pump. The statue is not a Disney Peter Pan; it is loosely based on an Arthur Rackham illustration and looks more like a nymph.

Viewing platform in nature reserve destroyed by fire

Officials at Suffolk’s nature charity admitted that they were “devastated” after a blaze destroyed a viewing platform at Oulton Marshes. Oulton Marshes, together with Carlton Marshes, is a lowland

reserve in the Broads National Park, which has benefited from a transformation of about 1000 acres of wilderness after National Lottery Fund's investment of more than £4M.

July

'Amazing' Armed Forces Day attracts fine turnout

Fun for all the family took centre stage as the 16th Armed Forces Day was held on Royal Green. Although the blustery conditions led to the cancellations of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Fly Past and a landing from the RAF Parachute Display Team, there was plenty to entertain the large crowds – with an estimated 2,000 people attending at the start of the event. Displays, stalls, marching bands, special attractions and live music featured alongside poignant tributes to the fallen, as military heroes were saluted for serving their country.

House prices

According to data from HM Land Registry, Suffolk has seen an average 13.5% rise in the cost of property. In East Suffolk, average house prices are up 12.2%, from £266,932 to £299,590.

MP warns of college 'staffing crisis'

Speaking at Prime Minister's Question Time, Peter Aldous highlighted East Coast College's "increasing difficulty" to hire and keep staff in a number of key fields. He said "There are great opportunities to create exciting new jobs in low-carbon energy along the East Anglian coast and East Coast College is up for the challenge of providing local people with the necessary skills. However, they and other colleges are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and train teachers in such work as fabrication, engineering and construction. Will my right honourable friend ensure the Government come up with a cross-departmental strategy to address this staffing crisis in our further education colleges which could undermine the levelling-up agenda?".

Scout group's 85th anniversary

Past and present Cubs, Scouts and leaders of 14th Lowestoft Scout Group gathered as an open house event was held in the town. With former members invited to share their memories and tales from yester-year, a special event took place at The Den headquarters in Lowestoft High Street, to mark the anniversary. Philip Cocks had started the group with just eight boys on 7 April 1937, and it has been a mainstay of scouting in the town over the last 85 years.

New outdoor fitness a image of rea unveiled

In 2019, more than 200 people turned out to discuss improvements to facilities at the Witton Green play area in Lowestoft. Now, after an investment of around £120,000, new improved facilities have been officially opened as part of the Whitton Green Project. A town council spokesman said "Lowestoft Town Council are delighted that what started as a public consultation in 2019 on how the site could be used, now sees the launch of the completed concept with the retained caged sports arena, the children's play park and the outdoor fitness equipment".

Domestic abuse charity gets lifeline funding

Based at The Kirkley Centre in Lowestoft, Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum has supported thousands of survivors across the district over the last four decades. Earlier this year the forum was fighting for survival and at risk of closing its waiting list due to a shortfall in funding. Several organisations have offered financial help and the service has said it now has "enough funding to see it through until the end of the financial year".

Crowds rush to beach as heatwave hits coast

Monday saw temperatures on the coast hit around 34°C in a sweltering day on the sand. While the sea breeze kept the town cooler than more inland areas, the warm weather saw families race to spend the day on the beach. Rail users were warned to expect delays in the extreme heat. Schools around Waveney fared better than in other parts of East Anglia, with no closures or remote working reported.

Fire service declares major incident

Firefighters around Waveney were called to blazes around the county and beyond on the hottest day on record. A crew from Bungay were called over to Hamilton Road, Lowestoft with closer crews called to a barn fire at Henstead. Eight crews tackled the blaze, on Toad Row, with crews from Leiston, Wrentham, Southwold, North Lowestoft and two each from Beccles and Lowestoft South attending. A team from Lowestoft South had also been called to Wittering, near Peterborough. Eight crews were called to a field fire containing crop and stubble, with teams from Leiston, Wrentham, Halesworth, Bungay, Beccles, North Lowestoft, Stradbroke and Lowestoft South mobilised. Two crews were called from Lowestoft South to a building fire on Pinewood Avenue. 11 crews, including one from Woodbridge and Princes Street, Ipswich, had been called to Coast Road, Corton.

‘Bold’ new £2.6M beach huts unveiled

A £2.6M scheme has been completed with the official opening of the new Eastern Edge beach huts in South Lowestoft. The 72 contemporary new beach huts have been installed as a replacement for 58 concrete beach chalets that were closed in the summer of 2016 due to safety concerns, and then demolished in July 2020. 36 are available to hire on a weekly basis, whilst some of the huts remain available for sale after inquiries have flooded in. 10 of the new huts having been designed with accessibility in mind, they are located on the lower tier and are accessed directly from the promenade. Waveney MP Peter Aldous said “For me this is perhaps the best beach on the Suffolk coast. It has been something of a hidden jewel for too long but now with the national publicity it has been gaining, these new huts really do showcase the wonderful beach we have”.

Stunning portraits unveiled

As work continues on a scheme to turn a historic former seaside hotel into 15 flats and a café, a series of stunning portraits of people connected with Lowestoft are now adorning the front of the prominent building. With the former Royal Court Hotel on London Road South in Lowestoft having stood empty for more than a decade, Kirkley businessman Desmond Baldry has teamed up with building owner Safdar Khan to brighten up the area.

Patrols continue after yet more anti-social behaviour at reserve

With the crime continuing around Lowestoft’s Carlton and Oulton marshes – both run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust – officers have conducted “proactive patrols” recently. It comes after bird hides were broken into and damaged at Carlton marshes last month and couple of weeks after a viewing platform at Oulton Marshes was destroyed by fire. Amid increasing reports of vandalism across the reserve, officials at Suffolk’s nature charity were forced into temporarily closing the hides – meaning birders and keen wildlife photographers have been prevented from using the facilities. These still remain shut a month on from the hides having been “broken into, doors kicked in, windows smashed and alcohol bottles left strewn across the site”.

Cinema’s future ‘secured for a decade’

In May, East Coast Cinema owner Michael Hansell wrote to Waveney MP Peter Aldous pleading for help for small businesses after seeing the Kirkley cinema’s energy bill more than double overnight. Mr Hansell had called for a windfall tax on energy companies, which was introduced later that month after a government U-turn on the proposal, the concept of which had been rejected by Conservative MPs, including Mr Aldous. Now, the cinema has announced £50,000 of investment over the next six

months which, they believe, in conjunction with the recent return to pre-pandemic levels of business, will secure the future of the cinema for at least another decade.

August

Library charity celebrates decade of support

The independent charity was launched in 2012 to run the county's library service and "make Suffolk a better place to live". Since then, Suffolk Libraries has kept all 44 libraries open, including Lowestoft, and saved Suffolk taxpayers £25M while its team worked hard on new activities for the local communities.

Historic High Street gets funding

Work is currently under way on 11 properties within the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone (HAZ). The HAZ includes the town's historic High Street and the original main medieval settlement. The projects are part of the five-year scheme which began in 2018 and is jointly funded by Historic England and East Suffolk Council, which runs in partnership with Lowestoft Town Council, Lowestoft Vision and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust. The re-build of the Grade II listed Crown Score wall has also almost been completed by Medieval Masonry and Alan Wright Consulting.

Call to find and protect green spaces

Historic England and the Gardens Trust has launched its new project, Suffolk's Unforgettable Garden Story, in a bid to discover, celebrate and protect historic parks, gardens, and landscapes across the county. Currently, just 23 historic green spaces across Suffolk, and nine in the East of the county, are protected and included on the National Heritage List for England. This includes Grade II listed Belle ue Park in Lowestoft.

Firefighters plea not to use sky lanterns

Firefighters are pleading with members of the public not to use sky lanterns after one landed next to a large field of standing crops. Posting on Twitter, Lowestoft South Fire Station sent out a message urging people not to use sky lanterns. Chief fire officials are again reminding people to refrain from having open barbecues and to take care when extinguishing cigarettes due to the dry conditions.

Warning as RNLI called to sandbank

Paddleboarders and swimmers had to be rescued from exposed sandbanks off the Lowestoft coast in a busy day for the town's RNLI crew. RNLI beach lifeguards and the Lowestoft RNLI lifeboat Patsy Knight were called at 5.45pm to help two paddleboarders who had gone out before finding the tide was flowing faster than expected. The Newcombe Sand was exposed more than usual, and this had attracted other paddleboarders, swimmers and people in small boats to go out to the sand bar. People entering the water as a swimmer or on a paddleboard or similar, at one place could find themselves being carried up or down from where they were heading.

Waveney MP calls for September cost of living support

Waveney MP Peter Aldous said a revised cost-of-living support plan should be made next month, once a new PM takes charge. It comes as the cost of living crisis is expected to intensify in the coming weeks, with further dramatic increases in energy bills are on their way. He said the issue had become one of the topics he'd been contacted about the most in recent weeks by constituents.

Hundreds bask in heatwave sun at 'wonderful' event

With the weather resembling the hot, tropical climate of the Caribbean, revellers enjoyed music and entertainment at Sparrows Nest Gardens. The annual free concert of music and entertainment was

billed as “Caribbean Fun in the Park”. Funds were raised for Warren School, a special school in Lowestoft catering for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Over 120 events planned for return of heritage festival

Lowestoft’s Heritage Open Days Festival will take over the town for ten days in September, with a historic steam vessel kicking off the occasion. The record number of events makes the festival the largest of any town taking part in the national celebrations honouring Lowestoft’s heritage as well as looking to the future. There will be a host of buildings to explore, along with guided walks, exhibitions, talks, films, concerts, boat trips and more.

Thank you! County voices appreciation for fire crews

Fire crews have been called out to over 1,300 incidents since the beginning of July this year. More than 600 of these were blazes in the open. Firefighters – both full-time and retained – have been sent to field fires in temperatures of up to 39°C. Some part-time crews have “worked at incidents for 12, 14, 16 hours over an evening or day and night, and then gone to work the next day”. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has been humbled by the outpouring of public support that they have received recently and would ask that residents continue to assist us by remaining fire safety aware during the dry conditions and warmer weather.

Anti-social driving

Police have seized one car and warned two drivers for anti-social driving in Lowestoft. Police are currently fighting an ongoing battle with those driving in an inconsiderate manner in the town, with officers stepping up patrols.

Joy for Indian Restaurant

An Indian takeaway in Lowestoft has been named restaurant of the year at the English Curry Awards 2022. Lowestoft Tandoori was among the winners in the East of England at the award ceremony which celebrates the best in the industry. It is owned by Meheraj Alam and Lowestoft’s deputy mayor Nasima Begum who will celebrate their 10th year in the town this October.

Digital story trail around town set to launch to inspire young readers

A digital story trail through Lowestoft has been launched this week aiming to inspire young readers and storytellers. It comes as part of a collaboration between get Suffolk Reading and local author Nigel Lungenmuss-Ward, whose story Freddie’s Impossible Dream is featured first. Six local businesses will host the first trail, displaying QR codes in their windows which takes visitors to a YouTube video reading Mr Lungenmuss-Ward’s story as families proceed along the hour-long walk through the Harbour and Normanston ward area of Lowestoft. The route will end at Lowestoft Library.

‘More interesting’ work needed in the East, say region’s MP group

More interesting and rewarding jobs are needed in East Anglia, Waveney’s MP says – as new figures reveal that employment in the East is higher than anywhere else in the country. The call for action from the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the East of England came just before new figures from the Office for National Statistics showed that the East has the highest rate of employment of any UK region – at 78.4%. Peter Aldous pointed out that there are currently 193,000 job vacancies in the region and just 102,000 officially unemployed. He added that the region is predicted to deliver around 600,000 new jobs by 2036.

Windfarm’s new vessel named in Lowestoft

North Star’s new hybrid powered daughter craft will support the safe transfer of windfarm technicians between the service operations vessel, where they live whilst working off-shore, to the wind turbines for routine or remedial maintenance, as well as trips to and from shore for deliveries. The vessel was

christened Grace Darling at a naming ceremony at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club, next to the firm's regional operations hub.

Tales from a lost village

The history and characters of Lowestoft's once-thriving fishing village, The Grit, are brought to life in Paula White's beautiful first book, *The Baker by the Sea*. The book is a story inspired by her grandfather, Percy, about the importance of community and family – and is drawn from the life she and generations of her family have lived in Lowestoft.

September

Scores Race celebrates 25th anniversary in style

It is one of the most unique road races in the country. A record number of finishers completed the hugely popular Lowestoft Scores Race, as the event's 25th anniversary was celebrated in style. Organised by Waveney Valley Athletics Club, Britain's most Easterly hill race saw runners taking in historic scores in Lowestoft once more. With the race starting and finishing in the upper High Street, this "demanding race" comprises 13 stepped and sloped scores over a course of about 4.75 miles and 401 steps for the senior race and around 1.4 miles and 254 steps for the junior race. Watched by a supportive crowd of spectators, organisers were thrilled with the turnout.

First section of historic pier decking successfully restored

A scheme to restore the decking and make it accessible again has taken a step forward with the completion of the first eight-metre section of the historic Claremont Pier in Lowestoft. Built in 1903. Claremont Pier has stood for almost 120 years at the heart of the town on Lowestoft's South Beach. After being taken over by new owners in July 2020, they set their sights on long term plans to extend the existing decking to its original length. A new rooftop terraced seating area has been created, the amusement arcade has been made bigger, an ice cream parlour, Piranha Joes Beach Bar and Bar 20 have been opened, the fish and chip shop has been refurbished and a performance, music and event area called The Venue has been launched. The contractor started doing the re-planking in June and the pier was opened in mid-July. Work has now been suspended until the winter whilst until the kittiwakes stop nesting along the edge of the old decking.

Council's station restoration slammed as 'ill-thought-out carbuncle by heritage campaigners

Plans to restore a part of Lowestoft station which has sat vacant for half a century have been blasted as "hideous, ill-thought-out carbuncle". The Lowestoft Central Project, which has been involved in several initiatives to restore other parts of Lowestoft Railway Station, warn the plans will "desecrate the heritage" of the building by adding a modern steel and polymer roof extension. In a statement about the plans, a spokesperson for the Lowestoft Central Project said "We have worked tirelessly with the rail industry and local community over several years to restore and rejuvenate much of Lowestoft's historic railway station, but believe plans mooted by East Suffolk Council to add a modern steel and polymer roof extension to the former station buffet to be a hideous, ill-thought-out carbuncle, set to desecrate the heritage and destroy the symmetry of a station once praised by art and architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner".

Family fun day's return delights

After an absence of two years a traditional event made a welcome return as large crowds flocked to a Broadside park. Lowestoft Lions Club were delighted with the response after bringing a fun event back to Nicolas Everitt Park in Oulton Broad.

First beer festival hailed as a huge success

The East Pint Beer Fest saw droves of visitors enjoying the recently refurbished East Point Pavilion. With a “fantastic” line-up of bands and DJs taking to the stage over the Bank Holiday weekend, the free-to-enter East Pint Beer Fest attracted the crowds from around Lowestoft and beyond.

“You can’t put a jumper on a giraffe”

Ahead of Liz Truss’s cost of living support plan, the CEO of Zoological Society of East Anglia – a charity that runs Banham Zoo and Africa Alive – said that they’re on the edge of their seat waiting for help, fearing such a rise will devastate the zoos. She said “We haven’t been affected by the price rises yet but we will see from October onwards what the full impact will be. Having heat for some animals is life or death – you can’t put a jumper on a giraffe.”

Construction bid for new hospital gains key government boost

JPH in Gorleston is one of 40 nationally selected schemes by the government for new hospital builds. Plans have been progressing with three options drawn up for a new-look site. The plans have been boosted by news that the minister of state for health has approved releasing funds to move the project along. A letter to the region’s MP says that funding has been approved for the hospital to carry out surveys for an outline planning application.

New outdoor gyms unveiled

Refurbishments have been completed at Normanston Park and at Fen Park, as new exercise and keep fit equipment has been unveiled. The installation of the new adult gym equipment in Normanston Park started in April and an all-age assault course in Fen Park has been opened. The two sites are overseen by Lowestoft Town Council and were opened by councillors at ceremonies.

Peter Aldous joins House of Commons tributes to the Queen

MPs from across the political spectrum rose in parliament to pay their tributes to the Queen following her death. Mr Aldous said: “I rise on behalf of the people of Waveney to pay tribute to the Queen. With the nation’s guiding light taken from us, there was for a moment, from my perspective, a sense of helplessness. What do we do? How are we going to get on without her? The answer is that we learn from the high standards of dignity, duty and humility to which she adhered throughout both her life and her 70-year reign. As she departs, we face more adversity and an uncertain and worrying immediate future. If we strive to conduct ourselves as she did, if we apply a mere modicum of her wisdom and sound judgement, then we will get through it.”

Four energy firms set up bases in Lowestoft

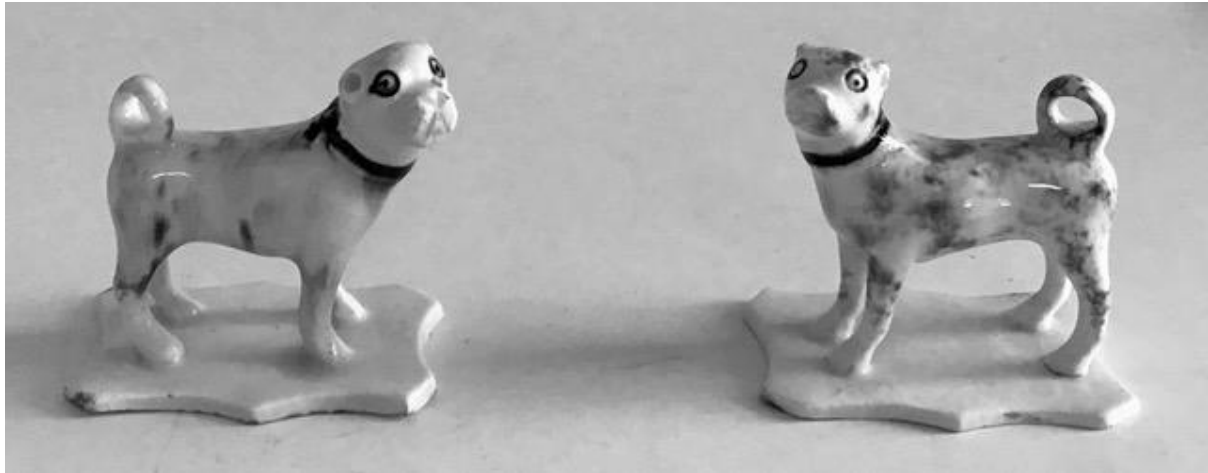
Four firms are moving to the town to be based at Orbis Energy – a five-storey building that overlooks the North Sea and provides offices for companies in the energy industry. AEP Global, Skanwear, Clean and Power and Vectur Energy Services will join businesses already working out of the hub. Orbis Energy, which is owned by Suffolk County Council, already has a number of high profile companies within the energy sector including ScottishPower Renewables, SSE Renewables and 4C Offshore.

Region’s MPs call for freeport benefits

North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker and Waveney MP Peter Aldous are among 13 Conservative politicians who wrote to both Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, during their leadership contest, to come up a plan to boost the coastal economy. Mr Aldous said: “Britain is a trading nation and there is more and more opportunity – in levelling up and getting out of the mess we are in – for coastal Britain to play a leading role.” A 2021 Survation poll of 1,000 young people in coastal communities found 49% planned to move away, with lack of jobs the overwhelming reason. Freeports are zones exempt tax and customs

rules – imports can enter with simplified customs documentation and without paying tariffs. Companies based there also pay less national insurance if they take on new staff.

Historic pair of porcelain pugs take centre stage



A pair of rare and unique Lowestoft Porcelain pug dogs has taken centre stage at Lowestoft Museum, having been acquired by the trustees. A new display was unveiled for the museum's 2022 season to show off the pugs, which date back to about 1770. And a new Pugs in Space feature has been added and showcased – highlighting the theme of local inventions, made in Lowestoft and future technology. According to the museum the porcelain dogs are "the only known true pair anywhere in the world" and they are delighted to be able to display them in their town of origin. The pugs are press moulded and are solid. They have impressed circles for eyes and a four-petal flower on the incised collar."

School transport 'mess'

A Lowestoft mother has labelled school transport "a total mess" after having to arrange her own journeys more than a fortnight into the new term. It comes as a number of taxi firms cancelled their contracts with Suffolk County Council amid rising fuel bills and staff shortages. Prior to the start of term, 39 contracts were handed back, affecting an estimated 120 children and young people, a number of which have special educational needs and disabilities.

Repairs to historic Victorian footbridge

After plans for a scheme of "repair and refurbishment works" to a designated structure in Lowestoft were given the green light in February, a new lease of life is earmarked for the 19th century Jubilee Bridge. The bridge runs from Belle Vue Park over The Ravine. The works are extensive and look to refurbish the bridge to a safe and usable structure as well as bringing it back to a condition which is visually attractive and well maintained. The bridge has been closed since safety concerns were raised during an inspection in December 2020. The work will last until May 2023.

'Amazing response' as hundreds support open day at fire station

After an absence of two-and-a-half years, South Lowestoft Fire Station opened its doors to the public – and the response exceeded expectations. As well as fire engines, emergency vehicles from other services who often work alongside their fire service colleagues were also on show.

Starfish trail hailed as a success

A popular annual trail has been hailed a success once again after making a splash on its return to Lowestoft. People in Lowestoft discovered the stars of the town over the summer months as the search to find 10 brand new starfish – along with two special friends – attracted a good response from members of the local community. Taking place throughout the town centre over the summer, the starfish and two secret friends were hidden in shops and businesses for families to try and discover.

‘A real need’: School uniform bank launched

Lowestoft Uniform Bank has been set up to help families struggling to meet the costs of getting their children fitted out with uniform. The new school uniform bank has now been running for a few weeks – and now new and pre-loved items are being sought as well as volunteers to help the service as it continues to grow.

‘Incredibly rare’ 2000-year-old anchor discovered

Archaeologists have described the discovery of a 2000-year-old anchor on the seabed off Lowestoft as an “incredibly rare” find. The distinctive wrought iron anchor was found 140 feet down in the Southern North Sea during survey works for ScottishPower Renewables’ £2.5Bn East Anglia ONE offshore windfarm. Experts believe the anchor is a rare example from the Roman or possibly late Iron Age – somewhere between 1,600 -2,000 years old – and is evidence of Romans’ seafaring and trading off the coast of the East of England.

Rare pieces of amber found

Joel Sagers from Gorleston had been enjoying a family walk along Pakefield beach when he was shocked to find three pieces of amber on the sandy shore. An expert believes the discovery was close to a “once-in-a-lifetime-find”.

Hundreds enjoy ‘very positive’ green event for climate change at park

Hundreds of people turned out to enjoy live music and local green initiatives in a popular park as awareness of climate change was raised at an inaugural event. With a “great atmosphere” at Sparrow’s Nest in Lowestoft, the town went green as The Great Big Green Week was hailed a success. The free event, organised by Lowestoft Town Council, formed part of the national ‘Great Big Green Week’ as it highlighted local green initiatives.

Abandoned people-trafficking boats causing hazards

Numerous people-trafficking boats are causing hazards to seafarers off the coast of Lowestoft after being abandoned. While those on-board have been dealt with by various government departments, many boats are being left at sea, floating towards off-shore wind farms, fishing areas and shipping lanes. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence said removal of boats has been “far more effective” than in previous years, despite the increase in number of vessels, many of which are rigid inflatable boats.

Park’s new viewing platform unveiled with ‘full’ Banksy to be reinstated

New viewing platforms have been installed around artwork created by the world’s most famous street artist Banksy. The two new viewing areas have been unveiled at the Banksy artwork on Nicholas Everitt Park in Oulton Broad. They have been installed so that the public can have a safe vantage point to view and photograph the artwork, whilst also protecting the banks of the landspring drain that was becoming “worn away” from the increased footfall in the area. The artwork – which showcases three children near a boat structure next to the tagline “We’re all in a the same boat” – also featured a corrugated metal sheet that was used as a boat, but this was removed by Oulton Broad Parish Council as it was blocking the flow of the landspring drain.

October

‘Perfect Bavarian atmosphere’ transforms seafront pavilion

After the Oktoberfest offerings saw the East Point Pavilion in Lowestoft transformed with German inspired food in a lively beer hall on Oct 1 and 2. Overjoyed organisers hope it will become an annual event.

Council’s £250,000 boost to coastal volunteers

London 2012 legacy funder, Spirit of 2012, announced the award of £250,000 to Great Yarmouth Borough Council and East Suffolk Council. The funding will ensure plans set out in the councils’ joint UK City of Culture bid earlier this year will be delivered. The two-and-a-half year Cultural Connections project aims to harness the momentum generated through the bid to develop local volunteering, using arts, culture and heritage volunteering to improve the wellbeing and life chances of its target groups.

Giant heron showcase ‘wonderful’ wildlife

An internationally renowned street artist, ATM, has hailed “some of the wonderful creatures” found at a popular nature reserve with the creation of a series of stunning murals. For almost four years, wildlife-loving street artist ATM has worked with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) to create eight murals on buildings across Lowestoft. Commissioned by SWT, the Wild Mural Trail is connecting Lowestoft’s town centre to SWT’s Carlton Marshes nature reserve via an eight mile circular walking route. ATM started work on the trail in October 2018, and, over the last four years, the London-based artist has created a marsh harrier, a giant barn owl, a water vole, a kingfisher, a Norfolk hawker dragonfly and an “amazing” bittern mural across the town. His seventh and eight murals of a giant grey heron at Lowestoft library and a kittiwake on the wall at Northfield St Nicholas Primary Academy, were completed this month.

Latest bird flu case leads to cull

Bird flu has been confirmed at a site near Lowestoft as a worsening disease outbreak continues to pile pressure on East Anglia’s poultry industry. Government vets identified a highly-pathogenic strain of avian influenza at a premises in Mutford. It is the ninth case confirmed in Norfolk and Suffolk since the start of September – an outbreak which has forced the cull of thousands of commercial chickens, geese and turkeys, as well as hitting wild bird colonies.

It's a fighter!

Lowestoft trawlerman Alex Wightman was collecting his nets when, to his surprise, he realised the big catch he hauled overboard was the remains of a P-47 Thunderbolt cockpit, which was stuck in his net. When Mr Wightman and his skipper got the parts on the boat they couldn’t believe the smell of petrol still on the parts. Local aviation historian Bob Collis and photographer and historian at the Port of Lowestoft Research Society, John Soanes, got in contact. Upon inspecting the parts they realised it was from the cockpit of an American P-47 Thunderbolt which were flown from Halesworth airfield between 1941 and 1945. The discovery is now on display at Halesworth museum.

‘Vital work’ of SOLD showcased

A charitable organisation has held a successful relaunch event. Special Objectives for the Local Disabled (SOLD), which is based on Harvest Drive on the South Lowestoft Industrial estate, offers people the opportunity to have access to a workshop environment in the SOLD studios. The Lowestoft charity, which relaunched after COVID on September 23, has been providing workshop facilities for disabled people since 1987. Since then, hundreds of disabled people have taken advantage of the facilities, working in a safe environment and having meaningful support from the staff.

Cinema caps prices at under £5

An independent cinema has announced a price cap to help families enjoy “regular” days out this winter, despite the cost of living crisis. East Coast Cinema owner, Michael Hansell, warned earlier this year that the ongoing crisis had plunged their future in doubt. After securing major funding for improvements to the heating and air conditioning system to reduce energy bills, which were completed this week, Mr Hansell announced that seat prices would be frozen at less than £5 per person. Mr Hansell also confirmed the 75% capacity cap which was introduced during the pandemic will remain “to maintain the current level of comfort for all customers”.

Time ‘running out’ for party to reassure

Time is “running out” for the Conservatives to show the public they deserve to remain in government according to one of the region’s Tory MPs. Waveney MP Peter Aldous said the economic fallout from chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng’s mini-budget had been “painful to watch”. Mr Aldous called for November’s medium-term fiscal plan to be brought forward to reassure the markets, after the pound plummeted and the Bank of England intervened to buy £65M of government debt.

Heroes who gave their lives honoured

A poignant event has honoured the brave service of sailors in the Second World War. Veterans returned to their wartime headquarters in Lowestoft as the Royal Naval Patrol Service Association held their 47th annual service of remembrance at Belle Vue Park, where a memorial to the fallen service members is located. During WWII, the town was the central depot of the RNPS, whose main role was minesweeping and anti-submarine warfare duties to help keep vital supply lines open.

Digital champions

Digital champions are now on hand to help East Suffolk residents get online. The fully-trained helpers can support residents to use East Suffolk Council services and other online needs. Digital champions are on hand, by appointment, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Marina Centre, Lowestoft.

Ward boundaries set to change

Some Waveney communities will see a change in their governance after East Suffolk Council approved changes to councillor numbers and ward boundaries. A unanimous vote in favour of the proposed changes was passed at a full council meeting last month, which will see changes across the district. The council also agreed to attempt to implement the changes before the council, elections in March 2023. In Waveney, the main change will affect the Harbour and Normanston wards in Lowestoft.

Natural burial park set for major expansion

It was the first natural burial park to be opened in the Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth area more than six years ago. Now the team behind the Gunton Woodland Burial Park – one of the first to be run by a non-profit making charity – is preparing for the next major phase of works. The Gunton Woodland Trust is set to expand into six hectares of agricultural land into the existing woodland burial area. It comes after change of use “from agricultural use to woodland burial park for the parochial church council of St Peter with Benedict” were approved by East Suffolk Council under delegated powers last month.

Pond work

A scheme of dredging works has begun at the pond on Gainsborough Drive in Lowestoft. With the town council having “agreed to progress works on the Gainsborough Drive Pond”, a three-week scheme of work has begun. The recent drought has contributed to low water levels.

Wildlife charity slams plans for third McDonalds

Suffolk's nature charity has urged people to "help save" a popular nature reserve. As the wildflower-rich meadows and ponds of Gunton Meadow Nature Reserve are "threatened with disturbance and disruption" from a proposed new development on vacant land, Suffolk Wildlife Trust has objected to plans. A development that could see a third McDonald's drive through restaurant open on land South of Leisure Way, was lodged with East Suffolk council in April.

Major £4.7M scheme 'progressing well' as sewage pipes are relocated

Works are continuing to "progress well" as part of a major £4.7M scheme to move a sewer pipe that is at risk from an eroding coastline. As the Lowestoft pipeline relocation scheme has been taking place for the past nine months, Anglian Water is "responding to the climate change challenge" as it invests £4.7M to "protect our vital infrastructure" from a rapidly eroding coastline. With three new sewer pipes installed and relocated, "further inland work" has been taking place as the existing pipelines that run through Gunton Warren Nature Reserve are at risk.

Heritage event celebrates 'amazing' legacy of town's co-operative movement

Memories were shared as hundreds of people turned out to reminisce during a major community celebration. Lowestoft's Co-operative history was showcased during a special event that highlighted how one of the largest food production complexes in Europe was based in the town. The popular Co-operative Wholesale Society's (CWS) canning factory once employed more than 1,500 people in Lowestoft. With the Co-operative Movement having always played a large part in Lowestoft's heritage and culture, two large food processing factories were built by the food producer Maconochie Bros in 1894 and 1933 on Waveney Drive and Riverside Road. CWS took over the factories in the 1930's, with a wide variety of "Waveney", "Unity" and "Wheatsheaf" branded lines. In the 1940's the factories expanded into the quick freezing of fruit and vegetables, with a wide range of products made in Lowestoft and distributed to millions by 1950 – as it provided substantial income to the local economy.

Customer Services Centre to be temporarily relocated

East Suffolk Council's Marina Customer Services Centre will be temporarily relocated to Lowestoft Library as work in the reception area has started and is expected to take three weeks. The refurbishments will see the reception area restyled to enable the council's 'Digital Champions' to help customers more easily who need support using online services.

MP calls for 'Five-Point Blueprint' to cure local dentistry headache

Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, has said he fears if more is not done to address "dental deserts" – including in Norfolk and Waveney – they will morph into a "large Sahara". In a backbench debate on dentistry, the Conservative MP set out a blueprint to combat the problems facing NHS dentistry consisting of five points. They were:

Finance

Recruitment and retention

Reforming NHS contracts

Oral hygiene campaigns

Accountability to local health authorities

Giant bridge span put in place for Gull Wing crossing

The first part of the Gull Wing structure was lowered into place at the end of Commercial Road recently. The mammoth operation saw the 1,400-tonne structure wheeled into the correct position, before it was jacked in and secured. The bridge section – called NAV1 – is 55 metres long and trundled at about one mile an hour to the two blocks it was to be fitted into, with the main operation taking about 40 minutes. NAV1 is the first of eight sections of the bridge which, when completed, will be the biggest bascule bridge of its kind in the world.

Zoo slashes prices

The Zoological Society of East Anglia, the charity behind Africa Alive! in Kessingland, has launched a new ticketing structure to help the site remain accessible. Off-peak tickets cost 20% less and will be available every day from now until the end of February.

Aldous 'relieved' at Sunak win

Just weeks after finishing as a runner-up to Liz Truss in the leadership contest to replace Boris Johnson, Mr Sunak won the backing of fellow MPs to be elected as the next Conservative leader and prime minister. Waveney MP, Peter Aldous, said that he was "relieved" that colleagues had picked Mr Sunak. He said that he had "every confidence" in the prime minister to "restore the Conservative party's reputation for fiscal competence", which he said had been trashed in the last month.

Joy as Alice's artisan business wins top honour

Alice Talbot from Kirkley, was crowned the overall winner of the prestigious World Jam Festival 2022 – just a year after unveiling her artisanal luxury jam and chutney making business. The young entrepreneur triumphed at the inaugural World Jam Festival, which was held last month in the picturesque village of Helmsley, North Yorkshire.

Spooky Saturday returns to boost town centre

Skeletons, vampires and evil aliens invaded Lowestoft's town centre to help families enjoy Halloween activities as Spooky Saturday returned. High Street businesses hosted an annual pumpkin trail, activities and entertainment aplenty, pulling crowds into the town centre and East Point Pavilion.

Music venue closes in face of rising costs

A grassroots music venue that gave a stage to up-and-coming artists has been forced to close amid spiralling costs. The Globe, in Lowestoft's High Street, was given a new lease of life in July but was hit by challenges shortly after opening.

Work to begin to tackle erosion near Pakefield homes

Around 2,000 tonnes of rock will arrive next month as part of efforts to protect homes. It comes as "urgent" work is set to be carried out for six weeks in November and December "to help reduce the continuing risk of erosion" at Pakefield. In June, East Suffolk Council had said that Pakefield had been subject to "unprecedented rates of coastal erosion" since 2019. With "accelerated erosion" continuing, the owners of four clifftop chalets seaward of Arbor Lane had been told that "demolition is advisable".

Woody opens £1.7M children's new emergency unit at hospital

A new £1.7M children's emergency department took 20 weeks to build has been opened at the James Paget University Hospital. The new department is approximately double the size of the old facility, providing modern accommodation including a dedicated waiting room and more assessment cubicles, offering greater privacy for patients. The completion of the new unit is the latest in a series of improvements to the hospital's emergency department.

Community fridge help for man 'scared to turn oven on' in cost crisis

A town's vicar who has run a community fridge for three years says he "can sleep at night" knowing visitors who can't afford to eat can get hot meals. In 2019, Rev Damon Rogers launched Suffolk's first community fridge at St Andrew's Church, on Roman Road, Lowestoft. The community fridge is supported by the Suffolk Waste Partnership, Waveney District Council, The Morrisons Foundation and environmental charity, Hubbub.

Hotel announces closure blaming ‘crippling cost of living crisis’

A hotel has announced “with a heavy heart” that it is set to shut next month. The Hog Hotel in London Road South Pakefield, served its last Sunday lunch on November 6 after owners saw costs more than double. The hotel said that it expects to see its costs to increase by more than 300% by April 2023 when government assistance ends. Following closure, staff have been paid their notice in full, given their share of tips and holiday pay before being allowed to leave their contracts early to find other jobs.

Lifetime achievement award for Tess

One of the region’s most treasured horsewomen has been honoured with an accolade at the prestigious Equestrian Business Awards. Broadcaster Clare Balding surprised the inspiration Tess Hardy – owner and proprietor of Pakefield Riding School – with a special video message announcing that had won the Lifetime Achievement Award for her services to the equine industry for more than 75 years.

Family unveils road name

A new access road has been officially opened as part of the latest developments in the construction of the £126.75M Gull Wing bridge. The new access road to the Riverside Business Park has been named in memory of former Waveney District Council leader – Colin Law – who played a leading role in talks with the government to win approval for the third crossing.

Ed Sheeran returns to Lowestoft

Ed Sheeran has returned to Lowestoft to continue filming his new music video. The Suffolk superstar and his production team were spotted in Lowestoft filming the video for a track for his new album.

From Lowestoft to Qatar

A long-established family run firm in Lowestoft has scored as it supplies the first-ever FIFA Approved Goals for the global spectacle. Having made the goals that the balls will be fired into, the UK’s leading manufacturer of sports equipment, Harrod Sport – part of the Harrod UK group of companies – will be supplying the goals to the eight stadiums that feature at the prestigious tournament.

Curry House owner’s delight at national award

Labone Indian Cuisine, which has restaurants in Oulton Broad, North Walsham and Sheringham, was named one of the UK’s best curry houses at the Bangladesh Caterers Awards.

Town’s local businesses vote ‘yes’ to five more years of BID support

An organisation working to promote Lowestoft has been given the green light to continue delivering its services for another five years. Businesses have voted ‘yes’ to the continuation of Lowestoft Vision – the town’s Business Improvement District. The proposals were aimed at further boosting visitor numbers and investment in the town, making it a great place to visit, shop, work and stay.

National recognition for popular theatre and First Light Festival

The organisers of Britain’s only non-stop beach festival and management at a popular community theatre are celebrating after receiving national recognition. First Light Festival C.I.C in Lowestoft and the Seagull Theatre in Pakefield have become the first two organisations in town to have been awarded National Portfolio Award status.

Town swings back to the 1960s

Stepping back in time, a special weekend of free entertainment saw people transported back to the swinging 60s. The crowds revelled as a range of exciting performances and activities took centre stage

in Lowestoft. A fine turnout of people enjoyed the entertainment provided by The Seagull Theatre as the special 1960s-themed weekend was showcased in Kirkley.

Mobile cancer care unit benefits from charity campaign

TV presenter Gloria Hunniford, patron of the charity Hope for Tomorrow, is heading up a campaign to promote the delivery of localised NHS cancer treatment with the use of mobile cancer care units, including one which is based at the James Paget University Hospital. The hospital launched its brand-new unit, called Jewel, in September this year following a successful trial. The trust's unit allows patients to be treated in Beccles, Lowestoft, Bradwell, Caister-on-Sea and Pakefield. Another unit operates from the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

Lowestoft pays its respects on Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was marked on the East Coast with the return of an annual parade and service in Lowestoft. Hundreds gathered on the seafront to pay their respects at the service on Royal Plain on Sunday morning. Led by soldiers of F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, the parade set off from Claremont Pier. This year's service also commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War.

Inspirational contest to celebrate Black History Month

Dozens of youngsters entered a writing competition organised by Lowestoft Town Council as part of Black History Month. 2022 is the second year that the town council has run a writing competition, open to all young people up to 18 years old, who attend school. or live in, Lowestoft. Tasked with writing about someone who inspires them, more than 70 entries championing historical figures such as Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole and Katherine Johnson through to contemporary figures such as Marcus Rashford, musician Lizzo and YouTuber Niko, were received.

Warm welcome

Lowestoft-based Kingsley Healthcare is supporting the Warm Spaces initiative – with all 28 of their elderly care services opening their doors. Throughout the winter, older people will be welcomed at any Kingsley home to keep warm in a comfortable place between 10.30am and 4pm. They will be offered unlimited hot drinks and soup and a roll if they attend around lunchtime.

East Suffolk refuse workers cancel strike

A planned strike by refuse workers in East Suffolk has been suspended following talks facilitated by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS). Staff employed by East Suffolk Council's waste management contractor Norse were preparing to walkout for a week, bringing potential disruption to waste collections for thousands of residents across the district. A spokesperson for the council, said that the industrial action had been suspended and that the employees would be balloted on the proposals that had been put forward.

Suffolk libraries launch campaign to support people during winter

Suffolk Libraries has launched a campaign to support vulnerable people through a difficult winter as the cost-of-living crisis worsens. The 'Be Kind in Kind' initiative will see the charity open all 45 of its libraries in a bid to make a difference to the community. Already offering warm spaces to those who are struggling to pay for heating, the county's libraries will offer free hot drinks, kindness racks – so people can pick donated clothes – hygiene products and a safe place to meet people.

Fishing communities

Peter Aldous has called on the government to do more to support fishing communities on the region's coasts – and pressed for confirmation on a management plan for bass fishing will also apply to EU vessels. Mark Spencer, minister of state for food, said the government was providing £32.7M a year

to support the seafood sector and, in addition, £100M is being provided through the UK's seafood fund to support the long term future and sustainability of the industry, helping to bring economic growth to coastal communities and supporting levelling up. Mr Aldous pushed for confirmation that the plan would accord with the post Brexit-EU trade and co-operation agreement.

Egg shortage

Shoppers have been met with empty shelves when looking for eggs in supermarkets across Suffolk. The bird flu outbreak has seen thousands of birds culled in the past couple of months, meaning a vast number of eggs are simply not being laid. The government ordered poultry farmers and backyard flocks and bird keepers across the three counties to bring their birds indoors to combat a worrying rise in cases across the region.

New book remembers town's link to prominent architect George Glover

A new biography about a pioneering architect has shed light on historical links to a number of buildings in Lowestoft. After delving into the history of homes in Stamford, Lincs for a book that was eventually published in 2020, author John Daffurn "discovered" the name of George Glover. Mr Daffurn said: "Glover lived in Lowestoft from 1848 to 1885 almost entirely at 20, Marine Parade. He is recognised in the South Lowestoft Conservation Plan for a number of Lowestoft buildings including 70-71 High Street (existing) and Blenheim House (now site of Sir Morton Peto House). Outside of Lowestoft he is recognised for the listed Wrentham Town Hall, but other buildings of his not listed include the Barnby Parsonage – now the old rectory – and the Coffee Pot Tavern – now Oulton Broad library. He also designed St Marks Church in Oulton Broad, and in 1832, was working on Lowestoft Chapel, which is now St Peter's Church, Kirkley".

Sea tragedy that claimed nine lives remembered as new plaque unveiled

A tragedy at sea which claimed the lives of nine crew members has been marked with the unveiling of a new plaque in Lowestoft. The 40-ton herring drifter Reclaim was heading for Kessingland when it was run down by a steamer more than 200 times its size. The collision happened on 19 November 1937, in what was reported at the time as "a thick fog". The plaque commemorates the lives of the nine crew members who lost their lives, the survivor, and the life of the owner - Robert Utting, from Kessingland.

'Exciting time' as local social enterprise buys domiciliary care provider

East Coast Community Healthcare (ECCH), the Lowestoft-based social enterprise, has bought domiciliary care provider Cavell Healthcare. The purchase will see all 85 full and part-time staff remain in their current roles. With ECCH working alongside GP practices to treat patients in their own homes, it provides NHS services such as nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and specialist palliative care.

December

Network of Warm Rooms launched across District

A network of Warm Rooms has opened across East Suffolk to provide a safe, welcoming space for anyone struggling with heating costs. From community halls and churches to leisure centres and pubs, the network of 30 Warm Rooms in the district is each providing a warm space, hot drinks and an opportunity to connect with others in the community.

Karate school's delight as eight scoop medals at Euro championships

Phoenix Karate School sent eight members to the WUKF European Karate Championships in Italy. The team members, most aged between eight and 14, took part in several competitions in kata and kumite sections over four days and won a total of five gold medals, three silver medals and six bronze medals. The school, which runs classes in the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft area, teamed up with the Kenshin Karate Organisation to send a 40-strong team to Italy in what it called "one of the toughest championships of the year".

MP has 'unfinished business' with town and will run again

Mr Aldous, who has represented Lowestoft, Beccles, Bungay and nearby villages since 2010, said he would gain be standing as the Conservative candidate at the next election, expected to take place in 2024. He said "There is an awful lot going on at the moment, whether that's with the Gull Wing bridge, flood defence scheme, work in the towns or the job opportunities that are hopefully beginning to emerge in the energy industry. There is a lot of unfinished business with fishing after Brexit too. That is why I have decided to stand again. It does very much depend upon the electorate, which I fully respect."

Road reopens after closure due to Gull Wing bridge works

A busy road that has been closed for more than a year for vital works has reopened. Vital construction works started on Waveney Drive in Lowestoft in September 2021 as part of the continuing third crossing roadworks being carried out ahead of the construction of the new Gull Wing bridge. With a section of Waveney Drive being closed, the county council said last year it was "the most efficient least disruptive and safest option available" ahead of the construction of the bridge.

Rocks offloaded to protect homes from 'continuing risk of erosion'

After around 2,000 tonnes of rock arrived on sea barges in Lowestoft, heavy plant equipment arrived in town. People were warned to "take care" around the Royal Green and Jubilee Promenade area in Lowestoft with pedestrian access "limited" during the arrival of the equipment. It will see works "to help reduce the continuing risk of erosion" at Pakefield carried out over the next six weeks.

Falcon set free at secret Suffolk location after being stolen from nest

A protected bird of prey has been released back into the wild at a secret location after being stolen from a nest. The peregrine falcon was found during a search of an address in Lowestoft in June and the police believe that the bird was taken for financial gain. Officers from Suffolk Police's Rural and Wildlife Crime Team contacted wildlife expert Peter Merchant to look after the bird and train it to hunt, ready for its release back into the wild.

Christmas Day swim returns after three-year absence

A huge crowd gathered at Lowestoft beach and promenade on Christmas Day morning to watch Reindeer, Santas and Christmas trees run into the sea. The event returned to Lowestoft after a three-year hiatus, with the swim cancelled due to the pandemic. The money from the Christmas Day swim will go to the James Paget Charity Trust and other local charities.

True meaning of Christmas on display

The true meaning of Christmas was on display as members of Pakefield Church congregation joined locals, friends and families on a walk around Pakefield encountering different parts of the nativity story along the way. There were 13 points to visit along the way and at each the Christmas story evolved. The route started at Cliftonville Road, passed along Pakefield Cliff, Florence Road and Pakefield Street before ending at the church for carols around the tree.