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THE LOWESTOFT PICTURE COLLECTION

by Adrian G. Parker. MA. MSc. MRTPI., Chief Planner, Waveney.

The opening of Broad House Museum has enabled the Waveney District Council to put a large part of the Lowestoft picture collection on display for the first time. Whilst a few paintings and prints have been on the walls of the Central Library since 1975, and others in the Town Hall or the Planning Department since 1982, most remained in basement storage. From 1983 I began to catalogue what there was, identifying or amplifying the catalogue which existed, and assess their condition; the Area Museums Service specialists in oil paintings, and in watercolours and prints gave advice. Since 1984 the Council, using the Lowestoft special rate and grant aid, have fully restored eleven oil paintings, five watercolours and twelve prints, and reframed many others.

The first recorded donation to the collection was in June 1905 – a copy of a Chandos portrait of Shakespeare; the Carnegie Public Library opened that year in Clapham Road where the County Offices now are. The records of donations held in the Lowestoft Borough Council museum book are undoubtedly incomplete, but between 1905-41 there were 71 paintings or prints given to the Corporation for the town. On 6th March, 1941 the library was bombed, and many of these were destroyed; at least 10 were salvaged. After the War there was the hope of building a new library, art gallery and museum. In the mid-1950s, and especially in 1962-65, there were great periods of donations and bequests which now form the basis of the collections, as well as purchases in 1968-72.

There are 56 oil paintings, 45 watercolours, and 13 works in pencil or ink; in addition there are 53 photographs, but in the case of these the only reason that they are regarded as part of the District Council's collection is that they are still framed – those that are unframed have remained in the library and record office. The biggest item is 44 x 74 ins., known as 'The Wreck' by John Nash (who died at Somerleyton); it was damaged and a great problem to store, and has been removed from its stretcher and rolled. The subject seems to be a 1914-18 War smack shattered by a U-boat. The biggest item on display is the huge (31 x 53 ins.) watercolour in the main museum room, a marvellous painting looking west up the inner Harbour. The smallest item is a pencil drawing 5 x 7 ins. by the Ipswich artist, Leonard Squirrell.

I am glad to say that research has identified the donors or purchase date of 90 out of the 114 paintings and sketches, and they are, or will be, listed on the labels for each picture. I hope that this small acknowledgement of their memory can show the town's gratitude to donors, and that others will feel encouraged to make suitable donations.

The subject matter of the collection has serious omissions which I would like to see made good. Naturally, there are many ships – 25 individual ones, smacks, a paddle-steamer, the 1890s fishery protection vessel – and groups such as 'Sabbath Morning with our trawlers', showing Hewett's Gorleston fleet. G.V. Burwood, E.G. Tench, and Jack Gregory feature most. G. Colman Green made paintings of yacht regattas and yawls, Charles Dixon painted the harbour in the 1920s, and Thomas Preston was recording the early harbour and Lake Lothing scenes in 1839-40. Naturally enough

scenes in Lake Lothing were painted by many people, showing the variety of shipping, the bustle of new development and shipyards, for example pictures in 1839, about 1848, in the 1870s and 1886 to 1920s. The oldest painting may be that of the Lowestoft sailing lifeboat, perhaps about 1823, but the oldest dated ones are 1835, of Lowestoft Beach. The oldest drawing may be that showing George II's involuntary visit (landing to escape a storm) in 1737, or alternatively the lovely pencil sketches of Kirkley and Pakefield Churches, dated 1819.

Whilst there are many prints of Morton Peto's 'Lowestoft New Town' – the South Beach development of 1847-60 and later – there is a great lack of other pictures of the town. After a certain stage, perhaps photography takes over the process of recording, but these collections contain very little of the High Street and Beach and nothing of Pakefield or Oulton Broad. Perhaps opportunities will arise !

At least I hope that my efforts and the District Council's willingness to support the expenditure needed have safeguarded, improved, and restored the collection to the best condition it has probably ever been in. This is not an 'art collection' but a vibrant record of parts of the town's history.

THE LOWESTOFT PORCELAIN AT BROAD HOUSE

by John Howell

With the opening of the new Lowestoft Museum at Broad House last August, Waveney District Council took the opportunity of providing a permanent home for the town's collection of Lowestoft China. The inclusion of a large and valuable collection of Lowestoft Porcelain in a museum which had hitherto been purely that of the Lowestoft Archaeological & Local History Society may be viewed in a number of ways. It could be considered an intrusion, an embarrassment or an asset, depending upon one's point of view.

Unfortunately, the time available before the official opening by Her Majesty The Queen on 1st August was insufficient for the display of Lowestoft Porcelain on the first floor to be properly organised and labelled, but it must be said that to move and unpack some 500 pieces of porcelain and get any sort of display done in a short space of time was a very considerable task. This rather ad hoc display prompted many comments from visitors that the cases were overcrowded and difficult to look at – a feeling echoed by a number of local collectors of Lowestoft Porcelain, who offered their help to reorganise the display. After discussion, it was suggested that these volunteers should join the 'Friends of the Museum' and form a special group to undertake the work. The task of co-ordinating the group fell to David Sturman and at the first meeting he was elected secretary and myself chairman. Eight of us have worked on Sundays through the winter, mostly those whose names appear as contributors to the provision of the large island cases, and ably assisted by Mr. J. Johnstone of the Health & Housing Department.

At the time of writing, a week or so before the opening of the Museum for Easter, it seems a good opportunity to try to give some background to the town's porcelain collection and perhaps put it into context with other major public collections.

Firstly, for the benefit of those who may be unaware of the town of Lowestoft's role in the history of English porcelain manufacture, the following basic information is offered. The first porcelain to be manufactured in England was at Chelsea in 1745. This was quickly followed at Bow, Worcester, Derby, several works at Liverpool, Longton Hall and other minor factories in Staffordshire, Lowestoft, the hard paste factory at Plymouth and later Bristol and finally at Caughley in Shropshire. Thus, Lowestoft, separated from its nearest rivals by over 100 miles, was the only East Anglian 18th century porcelain factory. Production at Lowestoft started shortly before 1760 and ran under basically the same management for some 40 years – longer than any other factory save the great concerns at Worcester and Derby. Thus, apart from their intrinsic value to collectors, the wares of the Lowestoft factory are historically important. This Society should surely welcome a major collection of local wares as a real asset to its Museum – that is, providing it is well displayed and labelled.

Little was known about Lowestoft Porcelain before excavations at Morse's Brewery on the site of the old factory revealed numerous wasters and moulds in 1902/3. Gradually, with continued research, Lowestoft has become one of the best documented 18th century porcelain factories, but there is still much to discover.

A trickle of donations of porcelain formed the beginnings of the Borough collection before the Second World War, but this was not actively encouraged and it was not until quite recently that purchases

started to be made to build up the collection. When the collection was stolen from the old Library premises in Suffolk Road, in January 1971, the list circulated by the Police amounted to 79 items. Fortunately this was eventually recovered intact. Purchases of individual items continued and included some quite rare pieces. Then, in 1979, George and Betty Bolster offered to sell their large private collection to the town. They were planning to retire to George's native County Cork, and wanted the collection to remain in Lowestoft. After suitable valuations this purchase was achieved and had a completely overwhelming effect on the existing collection, many of the original pieces being duplicated. There are bound to be certain drawbacks to the purchase of a large readymade collection and there was one particular one with the Bolster collection. All great collectors have their particular likes and dislikes, and ideas as to the way their collection should develop. There was with the Bolsters a particularly strong urge to reassemble complete tea/coffee services. A task which today would be both extremely difficult and fearfully expensive was much more a possibility a quarter of a century ago. Thus, at the time when the Bolster collection was acquired for the town, it contained the better part of SIX such services.

Now, the objective of a museum should presumably be to entertain and hopefully, educate its visitors. The display of one near complete service may well make an interesting feature, but row after row of teabowls and saucers, six of each the same, is quite unnecessary, and, in fact, resulted in the overcrowding mentioned earlier.

The task of the group of 'China Friends' was firstly, accurately to catalogue all of the porcelain, including various 'foreigners' and then drastically to weed out duplicates to achieve a more coherent and less cramped display. Next, we needed to consider the addition of didactic material and, of course, adequate labelling. We now have a table-top case with most of the F.A. Crisp collection of original moulds from the factory excavations together with photographs of pieces of china cast from them. Also included are kiln furniture and suitable explanations. Unfortunately, there is little wall space adequately to display a graphic explanation of the location of the old porcelain factory and the layout of the rooms therein, the ideal spot being occupied by a well-produced but entirely out of keeping modern aerial view of the development of Lowestoft harbour. The porcelain display may not be complete with every last label when the Museum reopens at Easter, but should be quite close to it.

It is hoped that you will give the china another look and approve our winter's work. You will still see a very large display which might be off-putting to some, but do please read at least some of the explanation and find out what was happening at the china factory over two hundred years ago. This is, after all, the third largest public collection of Lowestoft Porcelain in the world, rivalled only by Norwich Castle Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Committee Chairman's Note:

The town's collection of Lowestoft Porcelain comes under the aegis of The Charter Trustees, and Mr. Johnstone is the Officer officially appointed to look after it. It would therefore be more accurate to say that Mr. Johnstone was ably assisted in its display by a group of enthusiastic Lowestoft Porcelain collectors rather than the other way round.

LOWESTOFT BRANCH OF THE SUFFOLK RECORD OFFICE

by W.J. Goode

It was with wonderment that I learned from the staff of the Lowestoft Central Library, that this was the busiest Library in East Anglia. We constantly hear of what Lowestoft can do badly or not at all, so this comes as a very welcome surprise. It is very good news therefore, that our Central Library, from 16th December, 1985, incorporated a new Branch of the Suffolk Record Office, with the main depositories at Ipswich (East Suffolk) and Bury St. Edmunds (West Suffolk).

Lowestoft has always been too far away for comfort from the great bulk of Suffolk Records, and through this, our affinity with Norwich has grown. This, however, does not help us to research the wealth of Suffolk Records. We have many attachments to Norfolk, especially the Church; in connection with the local churches being in the Norwich Diocese, so that many of our local church registers and Faculty Books etc. are to be found at Norwich. The object of this article is to make us aware of the extent of the research that can now be done in the local Record Office.

The new lay-out of the Central Library has been designed to give a quick and easy service for all departments. The Childrens Library continues to cater for youngsters of all ages and tastes, and while

still on the ground floor, the Audio and Video Department provides cheap hire of classical and modern sound and visual items.

The Lending Library is always busy with an excellent supply of books of all types. The old Reference Library, has now moved to the Gallery over the Lending Library and is now called the Information Department. From here, all the general information is available, from Telephone Directories of all the country, to Post Codes. From Trade Directories to Who was Who; and from Ordnance Maps to Holiday information.

Details of the many clubs and associations in the area, can be obtained from the counter, and much more local knowledge can be learned from the efficient and helpful staff. There is still a large range of reference books that can be selected and studied on the range of tables provided. Old local newspapers from many years back are also available, and many of these are now on film, with Viewers that enables one to search a large batch of papers quickly and easily.

The Branch Record Office is upstairs where the Reference Library was and it incorporates the local history items previously held in the Reference Library. It has a total staff of four, including the local archivist in charge, Rosemary Rogers. Eventually the aim is to have all the Waveney area records in this branch, together with copies of many county wide records such as parish registers, census returns, etc.

Already this branch enables students and the public to study locally, many more records and manuscripts than have so far been available without travelling the long distance to Ipswich. The main accessions now stored at the Lowestoft Branch of the Suffolk Record Office will be listed overleaf.

Acc. No. Description

01. Lowestoft Borough & predecessor authorities
03. Oulton Broad U.B.C.
04. J. Colby, boat owner of Pakefield.
05. Lowestoft Deeds.
06. Lowestoft Town Book.
07. George Gage & Son, horse cab proprietors of Lowestoft.
08. Stannard, ships logs.
10. Microfiche of Suffolk Parish registers.
11. Microfilm of Quaker Sessions Order Books.
15. Lowestoft 1821-1851, Census returns.
14. William Youngman, wine & spirit merchant, Lowestoft diary.
15. Arnold ship's logs.
18. John Chambers Ltd., shipbuilders & marine engineers of Lowestoft.
19. Wangford R.D.C.
20. Halesworth U.D.C.
21. Wainford R.D.C.
22. Bungay U.D.C.
23. Ships logs crew lists for Lowestoft.
24. Fishing boat agreements for Lowestoft.
25. Shipping registers. Lowestoft.
26. Lowestoft Rotary Club.
31. Lowestoft Medical Officer of Health reports.
34. Mutford & Lothingland Poor Law Union.
35. Fowler family of Gunton Hall.
36. Wangford Poor Law Union.
38. Photos of Tavcouberge Schoolroom.
39. Beccles Wesleyan Methodist Circuit.
- 40, 41. Elliott & Garrod, engineers of Beccles & Southtown.
45. Lothingland R.D.C.

45. Rodwell & Co. Solicitors - deeds.
46. Worlingham Hall Estate Map.
47. Lowestoft Wesleyan Methodist Circuit.
59. Lowestoft School Board & Education Authority.

Many accessions are only partly listed and so may not be available yet for the public to use. Some are also unavailable because they require repair.

The Lowestoft branch of the Genealogy Society also have their very extensive records at this Record Office, that can be searched by the public.

The Friends of the Round Tower Churches Society has started to place their records in this Record Office as a local study. The records of Suffolk are already in, and Norfolk and the rest will follow as soon as they have been catalogued. They consist of Church Notes; Church Guides; Photos; News Cuttings and various other manuscripts and books.

We are indebted to the local archivist, Rosemary Rogers for getting out the above list of accessions and for the valuable help that is always available.

RECORDING TOMORROW'S HISTORY TODAY

by A.M. Turner

I have felt for some time that this Society should record in its Annual Report the changing face of Lowestoft as it occurs. We should then be producing, once a year and under one cover, a reference for future generations, of the development and changes in the town. This need only be in brief or note form but it would form an invaluable starting point for a researcher in say 20, 50 or 100 years time. Every member of the Society could participate by passing on to the Annual Report Editor his or her observations each year when asked for them. In an effort to 'lead by example', I offer a few such notes here:-

August 1st 1985 – Visit to the town by Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip.

During 1985 the buildings at beach level between the two piers were demolished and a new sea wall was built.

Autumn 1985 – The railway between Lowestoft and Ipswich was reduced to a single track and the level crossings on the line were converted to 'open crossings', despite the fact that they crossed busy main roads. The original line (The Lowestoft & Beccles Railway) was opened on 1st June, 1859 and was merged with the East Suffolk Railway in 1858. Originally the terminus was to have been near the old St. John's church. (Ref. The East Suffolk Railway, J.M. Cooper, the Oakwood Press).

Lowestoft Museum moved from its original site in The Prairie to its new home in Broad House.

In January 1986 demolition work started on Mann Egerton's garage in London Road South in preparation for the building of a new garage on the same site to be opened later in the year.

Work started on the building of sheltered flats on the site formerly occupied by St. John's church.

Work started on demolition and site clearance of The Prairie prior to building the Britten Centre.

In the heavy frosts of February 1986 Oulton Broad froze over and for a short time it was load bearing.

AN INFORMED LAYMAN'S VIEW OF EXPERT ARCHAEOLOGY

by Jon Reed

It is very difficult for expert archaeologists to criticise their peers without creating rancour. A layman, by definition, has not the expertise, but can perhaps suggest to his betters a more global view of the future without giving rise to too much indignation – if he chooses his words carefully.

I deliberately use the words 'expert' and 'layman' to avoid the invidious distinction between professionals and amateurs. There are many practising archaeologists who are self-financing and are therefore, strictly speaking, amateurs, but who are nevertheless experts. To underline the point one only has to look, for instance, at the number of private flyers who make such a great contribution to aerial archaeology.

Archaeology is pursued on several levels for several ends. From the expert's point of view, the pursuit of knowledge is an end in itself. Archaeology also interfaces with other disciplines as a facet of overall knowledge. For the many thousands with an informed interest, like me, archaeology exists as a very intriguing hobby. For the general public, visual archaeological evidence and the occasional outputs of the media are the sole contacts with our heritage.

There is no doubt that the current interest in archaeology must be fostered, whether at the superficial public level or, more importantly, that of in-depth authoritative research. Fostering unfortunately presupposes funding. Our country, with its fascinating heritage, is suffering from the twin effects of inflation and recession. These create an environment where the first casualties are those activities which can be considered to be non-productive. Another effect is that of unemployment which, with shorter working hours and increased personal mobility, makes for a public with more leisure time, greater ability to travel and, I suggest, an increasing desire to be informed as well as amused.

Huge numbers of people swarm over castles and stately homes. They throng picturesque villages, tiptoe round old churches and observe with interest experiments in reconstructive archaeology. It is true to say that public opinion and pressure are the forces which cause authorities to act. For archaeology to take advantage of the situation, it must make more appeal to the public at large.

Archaeologically speaking, the startling results of aerial reconnaissance have opened up vast new fields for investigation. Our knowledge of the past has increased dramatically and it is up to the profession to maintain this momentum.

But what do Joe Public and his wife and kids know about all this? Their information comes almost solely from three sources – from T.V. programmes which tend to be rather scholarly, from 'colour supplement' publications which tend to be rather superficial and from museum exhibitions which tend to bewilder by being heterogeneous.

The momentum of archaeology is beginning to be braked by lack of money. The public must be made aware of the exciting new discoveries and theories. The public interest in something new, that can be seen and appreciated, is what keeps one in the limelight. A continuous stream of information, in an effective nationwide campaign, is necessary to foster that interest. This will maintain public pressure and, as a result funding should be more available. Funds are vital to the serious investigation which is, to the archaeologist, the true purpose. The published information, in whatever form, detracts from the time available for the real work but is, ironically, necessary to ensure the continuance of that work.

A sort of archaeological news service implies regular progress reports and this, in turn, means that the experts should not hold onto results until they are 101% certain of them, but should instead publish quickly and regularly their finds and, of course, their interpretation of them. Naturally, mistakes will occasionally be made – what about Piltdown Man? – but the incidence will be very small and, in any case, wide and immediate publication may well reach other experts who can offer new light. A statement was made in my presence that no interpretation should be put forward on the features shown by aerial photography unless concrete evidence is forthcoming to prove the point. This attitude is, apart from being stultifying, counter-productive. What earthly use are a set of photographs and maps of lines on the ground with no identification, however intuitive, and no possibility of investigation since the latest council estate or motorway now covers the ground? They could only provide a momentary interest without interpretation. Why bother going to the trouble and expense of taking photographs in the first place?

I am well aware that efforts are being made to publicise activities and that, in many cases, the results have been disappointing. There are possibly three reasons for this. Firstly, publicity has not been fully orchestrated. That is to say that perhaps the coverage has been somewhat parochial. Secondly, the mental outlook of a serious archaeologist is unlikely to be that of a publicity officer and, as a result, the level and aim of the material can well have been a little off-beam. Finally, a contentious point, if a little sensationalism is needed to get the public attention, why decry it? I have heard the derisive remarks made by experts about the popular press and I think this attitude should be deplored. The media know how to get to their audience and, in any case, only the experts can correct errors. What I am really saying here to the experts is that you should not take yourselves and your work so seriously. Try to look at your profession in the light of other people to whom it is just a leisure-time interest. Try to capture their imagination.

I wish to insert here a note of personal prejudice. I feel strongly that the visual impact of archaeology is its prime advertisement. The great archaeological exhibitions of recent years serve to emphasise the point. Pompeii, Thracian Gold, The Vikings (for all of which I personally queued over an hour). The

Sutton Hoo treasure – well, the list is legion. Of course, I realise that it is impossible to preserve everything physically. The high percentage of time spent by archaeologists on rescue work is increasing as a result of the pressure of concerns who cannot afford to let their investments lie dormant. However, there are many ways of overcoming this problem. Photography, models, exhibitions of artefacts and, most of all reconstruction can be employed where preservation is impossible. People want to get into the skin of our ancestors to see how they lived, what they ate, how they traded, what their tools were like, how they were clothed. There is no other way to encourage this than to give them the opportunity to see and vicariously experience.

I have the reputation of being rather a rebel. I don't think I deserve it fully. Perhaps devil's advocate would be more appropriate; I am trying here to awaken a more catholic appreciation in both experts and laymen. I hope at least to have made you think a little !

A BUILDING SITE AT CHAPEL STREET

by Paul Durbidge

While working in Broad House I spent some time looking at the collection of Lowestoft China and it brought back memories of 1967 when the area in and around Chapel Street, Lowestoft, was under redevelopment, for it was in this part of the old town that most of the porcelain was made.

Since that time a great deal more interest has been shown in Lowestoft China and several small collections have been started, with, perhaps, a few collectors' mistakes resulting in material from other factories being attributed to Lowestoft, a mistake I made myself when buying my third piece.

During the early part of 1967 building contractors moved on to the site and began the initial task of ground clearance for the building of a tower block, an old people's home and a number of maisonettes. Shortly after this stage sub contractors moved in and began to prepare the base that was to support the tower block, and it was at this point I started work on the site as a carpenter. A pile-driver was set up and soon the area was subjected to quite loud banging as the piles were hammered into the ground. Soon after this the owners of several shops in the High Street began to complain, not only because of the continual banging but because the vibrations were causing objects on shelves to work their way forward towards the edge and subsequently onto the floor below. Obviously, where bottles were concerned this had disastrous consequences, especially at one off licence where the owner took things very well after losing a number of bottles in this way, and she ended up by pushing the reminder back at least twice a day until the vibrations stopped.

With the completion of piling, numbers of service trenches were dug out and areas of soil were removed prior to pouring with concrete, and it was at this stage that the first fragments of material from the china factory began to appear.

They consisted of pieces of biscuit ware, pegs, spurs, several base forms, and a number of tea pot spouts and a couple of lids. Most of the material was encountered less than two feet below the present surface, although a trench for drains at five feet still yielded material showing in the sides of the cutting; again biscuit ware was present as well as the remains of two 18th century wine bottles with typical handmade necks and heavy base forms. On the north side of the site, near the kiln location, were numbers of fused wasters with between four and five saucers or bowls stuck together and heavily distorted. From the same location came two pieces of dark grey pottery, both were rim forms and the profiles suggested a date of about 1400 or near to it.

The broken remains of stoneware jugs were uncovered some time afterwards and from the style and colour it is probable that they originated from the Low Countries.

The continual ground disturbance and the repositioning of top soil led to the finding of numbers of small bowl fragments; some were glazed in blue and white although the majority were plain, and occasionally, patterned forms came to light. There were also numbers of pegs being encountered, they varied, from one inch, up to two and a half inches, and many had traces of blue enamel on them.

After washing some of the biscuit ware, underglaze was observed on two bowls and on others there was evidence of over firing as traces of burning were observed; it was also noticed on two glazed fragments. After a while development started where the present old people's home is sited, and once again the upcast from trenches yielded more salt glazed fabric, this time from English Belarmines. On one was the traditional face mask which suggested a date around the 18th century, while a sherd from a green patterned type showed a Rheinisch origin, tying it down to the 17th century.

This new location yielded more pottery as the development continued, but this time it was small sherds of earthenware with a date ranging from the beginning of the 17th century up to the 19th. Some of the decoration was basic but nevertheless quite attractive in its style. Quite a large area of soil was removed to allow for concreting, and during this stage the digger cut through a mass of clinker in which pieces of glazed china could be seen, as well as pieces of wasters. The layer was roughly 5-8 inches thick and was observed in two locations, within fifteen feet of each other; large animal bones were exposed as the work continued and also a number of broken saggars. Glaze was present on the majority of the sherds and varied from crazed white to traces of green and blue, while the outsides appeared an almost metallic brown.

At this stage groundwork on the site was well under way with earth being moved from one place to another and service trenches becoming quite complex. Steel reinforcing was rapidly being positioned and shuttering erected prior to concreting large floor slabs. Timber, shingle and steel mats were placed over much of the area and this was without taking into consideration the movements of dumper trucks and a very large mobile crane. It was in this situation that fragments of Chinese porcelain were found, suggesting that the Lowestoft potters were copying the oriental style on their own ware, though towards the end of the life of the factory the position was reversed. With the amount of soil being moved from one place to another it was impossible to say which part of the site the fragments had originally come from, only that quite a number of pieces were there on the site.

In all, several boxes of biscuit ware were recovered from the site and retained by the Archaeological Society until they could be housed in a proper museum, but it was a great pity there was no earlier investigation of the site prior to its development, for obviously more knowledge would have been gained and more material would have come to light from what was once a highly successful porcelain factory.

About a year ago I walked through the area again on my way to Crown Street and near the access to the tower block there was some disturbance to the ground where a cable had recently been laid. Sure enough, visible in the dark soil, were the remains of a small piece of biscuit ware and two broken pegs, on one a faint trace of cobalt.

CHANGING LOWESTOFT 1985-86

by A.G. Parker

Last year's Annual Report put forward the view that there is a need to positively record the timing of changes in our surroundings in the town; only some of these will ever be found in the local newspaper by future researchers.

Town Centre

Temporary closures of Prairie from July 1985, and finally from 4th April, 1986 for the construction of the Britten Centre shopping scheme. Reconstruction of 91-95 London Road, refaced and re-roofed to match No. 89 on the other side of the Prairie entrance. Demolition of former Museum and last remnant of Premier Laundry in mid March 1986, and of former houses in Prairie in April 1986. Demolition of bus garage (former Alfresco Cinema) is expected at the end of July 1986.

Pryce builders merchants moved out of their Battery Green warehouse to Trinity Road in May 1985.

South Lowestoft

Construction of flats on the St. John's Church site started officially in October 1985, but little was visible until December; this old persons and disabled persons housing by Orwell Housing Association is, regrettably, to be called Levington Court and will not perpetuate the St. John's name.

Mann Egerton's London Road South site was demolished in January - February 1986, starting with the former Methodist Chapel building on Hill Road (the adjacent houses up to St. John's Road were acquired and demolished in about 1983). The steelwork of Phase 1 of the new showrooms site had been erected by the end of March 1986.

Flats beside the Jolly Sailors public House, Wilson Road, Pakefield, under construction from January 1986.

Supermarket and shops at Uplands (Ashburnham Way) under construction from December 1985.

Roads

Kirkley Park Road/Carlton Road junction islands constructed October 1985.

Fir Lane/Oulton Road/Woods Loke East junctions realigned as a mini-roundabout in February 1986. From this point to Crestview Drive had been widened on the north side when the petrol filling station was built in late 1984.

Alexandra Road link and Clapham Road roundabout built, and realigned, March - April 1986.

Pakefield Terminus road junctions altered to flow around the island triangle of buildings, February - March 1986.

Buildings, etc.

St. Margaret's Churchyard wall set for completion by May 1986

Bus depot, Gasworks Road, under construction from February 1986

Netstore at 333 Whapload Road partly demolished May 1985; remainder revealed to date from about 1650.

No. 18 OLD NELSON STREET

by Alan Weller

Following demolition of the old Lowestoft night shelter at St. John's Church hall at the end of August, 1984, a house in Old Nelson Street was used as a meeting place for former night shelter users and staff.

This house, No. 18, was a detached bay fronted style probably built in the late 1930s or 1940s. It was certainly not the house at the same address which Cooks Lowestoft directory of 1883 names as the residence of George Farrer Yallop, a boat owner.

The latest No. 18 Old Nelson Street was demolished on 23rd December, 1985 in preparation for the building of the new Magistrate Court.

VANISHING ELMS

by David Cuming

If you follow the footpath from Oulton Broad to Lowestoft, through the boat yards on the north shore of Lake Lothing, you will reach the footbridge that crosses the Norwich/Ipswich railway line. Over the bridge the path follows the railway line for about 20 yards, then turns and runs adjacent to Constable Close and on across Normanston Park. The tree line started on the left side of the path as it turned away from the railway, for about 10 yards, after which it was bordered on both sides by elm trees for a distance of about 78 yards, to where Normanston Park commences. All of these trees were attacked by Dutch Elm disease about 4 or 5 years ago, and have stood like skeleton sentinels until last year when, in February, about 30 trees in Constable Close were felled, those being considered the most dangerous. At the end of October the remaining trees were felled and sawn-up, leaving just three small trees amongst the reeds. This activity proved timely for the local children who, each night after the workmen had gone, would plunder the logs and move them over the footbridge to the Guy Fawkes night bonfire held on the waste ground there, the site of the old Brooke Marine yard. The number of trees felled was about 80.

OUR HOUSE - WARREN ANNE. FLIXTON

by M.G. Reeder

Warren Anne is sited at the junction of two unmade tracks, O.S. ref. TM509961. These led from Flixton using the natural crossing point in the small valley which now contains the Flixton decoys. One track turns south at Warren Anne and serviced a Staithe on the river Waveney, also the adjoining marsh-grazing meadows, the other track continued west to Somerleyton.

Warren Anne is a typical Yeoman farmhouse of the 17th century, it retains its original shape and much of its original layout.

Brief Physical History

Originally built with free standing brick gable ends, a central brick chimney stack, timber framed front and rear walls and a simple pitched thatched roof.

Early on, the front wall was replaced with brick. This is built of small bricks 9"x 4½"x 2 1/8" and is not keyed into the gable ends. Probably the timber frame of the front wall suffered some form of disturbance, possibly subsidence or decay, leading to near collapse before being bricked up. Signs of this are sloping beams – ref. Fig. 5 – and the brick wall was built with a curved ground plan and a vertical curve, as though it exactly matches the bulging timber frame it replaced. This wall appears to have been deliberately built like this because the bricks are level and not tilted.

The north gable end and rear wall were rebuilt and as they are bonded together and are of similar sized bricks, 9½" x 4 5/8" x 2 5/8", they are assumed to have been built at the same time. This gable has tumbling in the brickwork – ref. Fig. 3 – this keys the brickwork together better at the edge of the gable. The earliest dated tumbling I have found recorded is 1656 at Westerfield in Suffolk. Most authorities seem to agree that this was not in general use until after 1700. No tumbling is used in the southern gable.

A brick lean-to 'backus' was added, probably late 19th century. Two dormer windows were added, probably late 18th century.

In the 1930's the thatch was removed and replaced by tongued and grooved boarding and asbestos cement slates.

17th. Century Internal Arrangement – Ref. Fig. 1

Accommodation in the original house was probably:- On the ground floor, two large rooms and one small room. On the first floor two rooms, access to these was on the west side of the chimney breast, the top two fixed treads are still in place. One has a hole in it, probably for a vertical handrail and upstairs another hole in the principal rafter is probably for a guard rail, ref. Fig. 6. The door between these two upstairs rooms was on the east side of the chimney breast, part of the frame of this doorway still remains in the present dividing wall – ref. Fig. 5.

Each of the ground floor rooms had an open fire place, that in the south room was plastered internally and lined to look like stone blocks, remains of this were found within the opening, but how far it extended is not known. (1) On top of this plaster were many layers of whitewash, in some places it was approximately ¾" thick.

Generally, the plastering, of the walls was done with a mixture of chopped straw, sand or road dust, lime, and cow dung, then finished with lime wash. Much of this has been found and remains in situ, vouching for its durability.

One piece of original frame has been found in the front wall, it is only a few inches of vertical stud pegged to the end of a tie beam. Maybe more remnants of framing remain under the plaster.

No evidence of original window and entrance positions have been found, but all the present positions are typical of a baffle entry Yeoman farmhouse of this period. Therefore, I assume them all to be very near their original positions. On the ground floor there are only three windows, all facing east, the northernmost one is a modern replacement and slightly larger than the original. Both the other two could well be still the original style and size and contain parts of the original oak frames, the centre mullion of the kitchen window has the correct moulding. Upstairs there would have been a window in the centre of each gable end, as there is now, the southern one could well be the original opening.

Originally access to the first floor would have been on the opposite side of the chimney to the entrance. The form of these stairs, or ladder, is interesting to speculate upon. One, possibly two, of the top treads remain in situ. A simple straight ladder up to the first of those treads at 5 feet from the ground floor would give a cramped access with a sharp right hand turn at the top, but no worse than that given by modern loft ladders. The hole in the lower tread would seem to be for a vertical hand rail but would leave a narrow space between it and the chimney upstairs. Probably the elderly and infirmed never ventured upstairs. Much of it would have been used for storage of crops and ladder access with a clear drop allows unimpeded raising and lowering of sacks or bundles. No ceiling would have been fitted, the first floor would have been open to the thatch which may have been plastered or whitewashed on the underside. The original south gable end is still plastered up to the ridge.

18th-19th Century Internal Arrangement Ref. Fig. 1

Accommodation probably remained unchanged until converted into two dwellings sometime before the 1842 Tithe map shows the house to be divided. It was then owned by William Barber, the southern end was occupied by William Read and the northern end was occupied by John James. With the house were 2.10 acres which included 1.40 acres of marsh grazing.

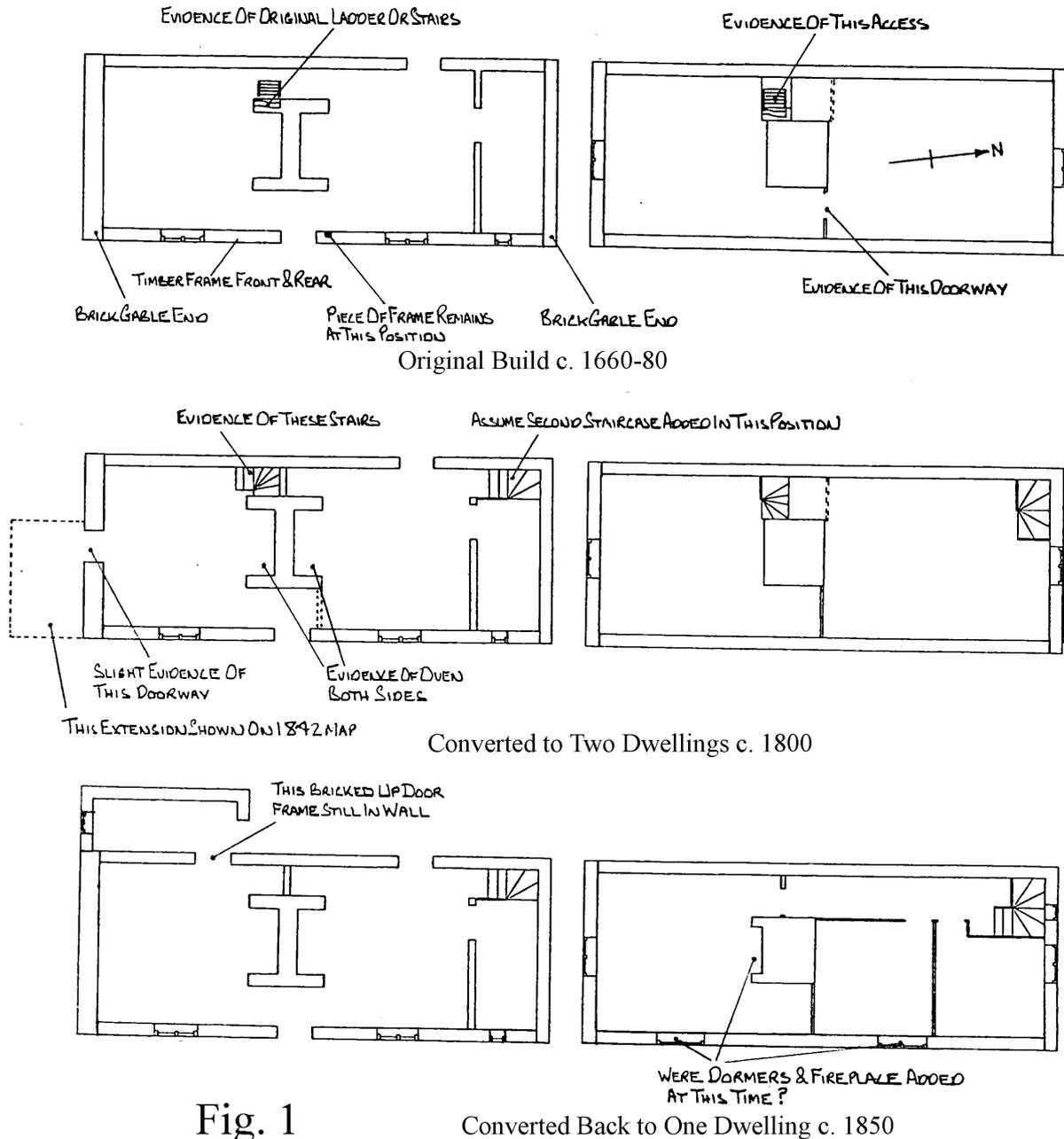


Fig. 1

Converted Back to One Dwelling c. 1850

To provide for double occupation, assuming that each half was self contained, another staircase was added in the north west corner and a small window to light this was built into the new north gable end wall. Thus the north end had on the ground floor, a large room with a fire, a small room, staircase, and back door, upstairs was one large room. The south end had on the ground floor, the front door, one large room with a fire, possibly a door through the centre of the south gable wall, to a small lean-to extension on the south end, staircase, upstairs was one large room. The Tithe award map seems to confirm this logical division, ref. Fig. 7. A door through the south gable is not proven, a row of bricks approximately three feet in length laid on their sides with heads on the wall face were found at the centre of the base of this wall and interpreted as a door tread, but no other outline of an opening can be traced. One top tread of a very narrow 180° turn staircase is still in position where the original staircase had been, ref. Fig. 6. This later stair had come out into the room as still shown by marks in

the plaster and had had a door across it two steps up at the line of the face of the chimney breast, the door frame was still in place.

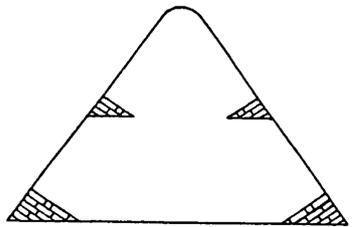
At about this time the two dormer windows could have been inserted. Or were they and the upstairs fire place already there at this time. Also, when was the upstairs ceiling added, was it at the same time as the beams were covered up by lath and plaster downstairs. These laths are riven, not sawn, so could be of any date.

When the conversion back to one dwelling occurred is no more certain than the previous changes.

Roof Structure

TIE BEAM CHAMFER STOPS
'NOTCHED CYMA WITH DVOID & BAR.'
'DVOID STOPPED BEFORE A FLAT & TONGUE WITH A NOTCH.'

FIG. 2



BRICK TUMBLING IN NORTH GABLE END WALL

FIG. 3

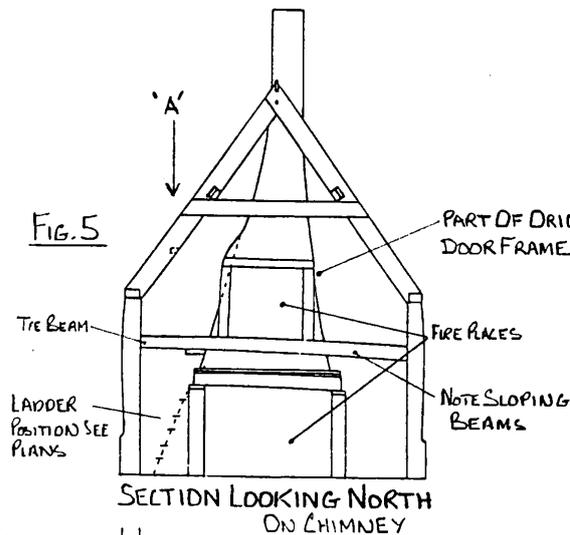
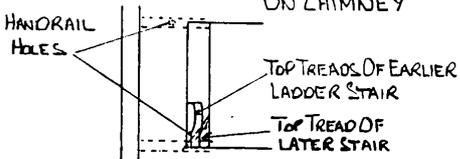
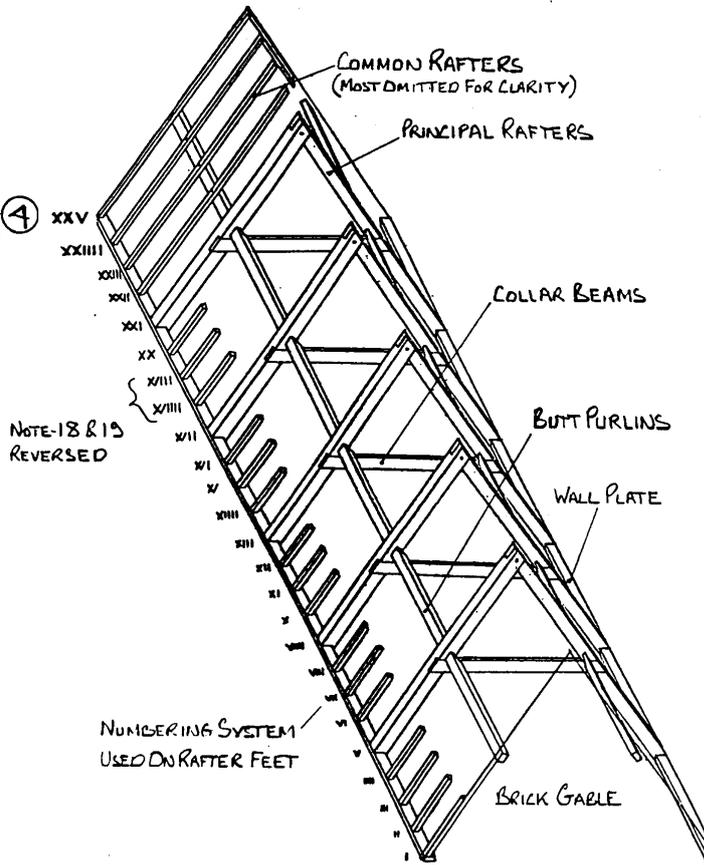


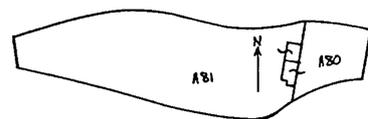
FIG. 5



PLAN OF OLD STAIR POSITION FROM ARROW 'A' ABOVE FIG. 6



ROOF STRUCTURE FIG. 4



1842 TITLE AWARD MAP SHOWING THE HOUSE DIVIDED INTO TWO DWELLINGS. A80 & A81 ARE EACH LISTED AS 'COTTAGE AND GARDEN'

FIG. 7

So far the roof structure has not been mentioned, yet it is probably the most interesting and puzzling feature. It is a butt purlin roof with principal rafter trusses each having a collar beam, the purlins are cut back and tenoned into the centre of each principal rafter, ref. Fig. 4. This is a type of construction used from the medieval period through to the end of the 17th century. As far as I can tell all joints are held together with wooden pegs, no nails are used, and each joint is numbered using carpenters type Roman numerals as shown on the diagram.

Access for detailed examination is very difficult because the ceiling added at collar beam height is fixed to joists nailed upwards into the purlins, and is, therefore, not load bearing. I have managed to check many of the lower ends of the rafters on the west side and proved to my satisfaction the complete sequence from one to twenty five. There is an assembly error, numbers 18 and 19 have changed places ! The only changes that appear to have been made to this structure are the possible insertion of the dormers, and the definite addition of a ridge board.

It appears inconceivable that this roof structure is not the original. However, there is a snag, for this roof structure is not made of oak, it is entirely made of soft wood, as are three matching tie beams all moulded and having chamfer stops as Fig. 2, and all ground floor ceiling beams which also have the oval moulding. All authorities seem to agree that chamfer stops ceased to be made at the end of the 17th century, and those chamfer stops and oval mouldings are typical of the later 17th century. Therefore, all details point to a construction date for this timber work in the latter half of the 17th century. Although softwood had been imported from Scandinavia to the east coast ports since the 14th century, it was used as boards and panelling, its use as main structural timbers of quality is not accepted by architectural historians.

Is it possible then that some eccentric persons carried out all this carpentry in the 18th or 19th century as an exact reproduction of the 17th century, but using the wrong wood ? There appears to be no reason for doing this, it would not have enhanced the value of the building and the roof structure would hardly have improved one's social position ! It must surely have been made in the 17th century and there must have been, and may still be, many other similar examples awaiting discovery.

Ownership

No documentary evidence of the builders or original owners has so far been found. In 1652 Sir John Wentworth had a map made of his estate, this included Flixton on the edge of it. This map was copied and brought up-to-date in 1663. Our house does not appear in the expected position. 'Coy House' (presumably short for Decoy) is shown nearby but no trace can now be found of this site. Was this an error, how accurate is the map, was our house built to replace or supplement Coy House ? Flixton Decoy is adjacent and would have required close supervision, therefore I suggest that our house was built shortly after the map was revised and it was to house a fairly important man to look after the Decoy. On the Wentworth map Flixton Decoy is shown to have 12 man-made decoy channels (pipes) leading from it, many men must have been employed to maintain and operate them and many thousands of ducks must have been harvested each year. (2)

In the 1805 Enclosure Award the owner is James Barber. This is the first record of an owner we have found so far. Then, as already mentioned, William Barber is the owner in 1842. At an as yet unknown date after this, the house passed to the Morse family. They owned most of Blundeston, Lound and Flixton. Part of that family were brewers in Lowestoft and our house became a beerhouse named The Warren Arms. Next door was Warren Farm (now Decoy Farm) and the Warren was a house on the lane leading to Somerleyton and was most probably on the site of the original rabbit warren.

What the internal arrangements were at this time is again speculation but probably the beer barrels were kept in a newly built 'backus'. The now blocked doorway from the large room into the 'backus' is still obvious. Customers were served in the southern room and outside. Probably the old staircase had by this time been blocked up.

In 1884 the Rev. Francis Morse sold the house together with his estates to Sir Saville Crossley, thus it became again part of the Somerleyton estate. I must point out here that this is deduction, the only documentary evidence I have is a notice of sale dated 25th June, 1884 which includes Flixton house and estate, and a cottage formerly known as The Warren Arms. It does not state for whom this is being sold, but some years ago a member of the Morse family told me that they had once owned our house and used it as a pub. This ties up with the information in the local directories, where Morse are Lords of the manor until the 1885 edition, when Crossley has taken over and Morse is no longer mentioned. Also, the Morse's definitely built Flixton house just prior to 1844 and then lived there, so

it is most likely they still owned it in 1884. (3) Further research into licensing records may well turn up some dates. From 1884 to 1961 the house was part of the tenanted Decoy Farm owned by the Crossley family.

We find this house very pleasant to live in and gladly put up with its idiosyncrasies, adding modern facilities without destroying the original features. For instance, the door into the bathroom lobby has a 5' 5" high opening, the three 6 feet plus member of the family have learned to duck ! Draught proofing the old windows is easy with modern foam strip. Not so easy is ventilation, all the old windows were either shut or held fully open by a hook. I have contrived to modify them without damage so that any degree of opening can now be achieved. After several experiments, a hood was found to be the way to prevent the open fire from smoking. This does spoil the visual effect of an 'Inglenook' but the alternative is to live with a howling gale indoors.

How many people have been born, lived, and died in this house in its 500 years ? There must have been bad times, but many more good ones. We find the atmosphere in and around the house very friendly and we seem to fit in with it. This could be considered to be just a vivid imagination, except that we found in the Enclosure award of 1805 that the meadow in front of our house was named then as Reders Green. Then, searching through the inventories to the 1665 map, we found it named Reeders Green. Did ancestors of ours live here in the past ? They certainly lived nearby in the early 19th century. The more research one does the more avenues open up, and the more fascinating history becomes.

- (1) 'Painted Brick Chimneys - Superstitious Finds in Chimneys' by Timothy Easton of Debenham Local History Group. It seems from his investigations in the Debenham area that virtually all fireplaces by the 17th century were plastered and painted internally and externally to imitate high quality brick or stone work.
- (2) 'Broadland Adventure' by J. Wentworth Day, first published 1951 by Country Life, republished by E.P. Publishing Ltd., 1976. Page 89 onwards describes Flixton and Fritton decoys and in detail how they were used.
- (3) For further details of the Morse family connection with our house and the villages of Flixton, Blundeston, and Lound, see article 'Warren Anne, Flixton' in the Blundeston & District Local History Society - Information sheet No. 13 (Jan. 1978). A copy is held in the Lowestoft Record Office or available from editor of this Annual Report.
- (4) Vernacular Architecture - Volume 2 - 1971. This is the annual publication of the Vernacular Architecture Group. This has an article entitled 'Chamfer-Stops: A Provisional Mode of Reference' by S.R. Jones. In this article, thirty six chamfer-stops found in building's are drawn, defined, and dated. This definition is made up from a combination of two of those illustrated.
- (5) 'Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture' by R.W. Brunskill, first published 1971 by Faber and Faber. This illustrates and describes several variations and this definition is made up from those illustrated.

CARLTON COLVILLE NATIONAL SCHOOL

by Mary Goffin

St. Peter's School was built in 1843 on land that had previously been part of the garden of Linden House. The present Linden House, when it was purchased by the Rev. Edward Jermyn, Rector of Carlton Colville, in 1813 from the Rev. G. Anguish, Rector of Gisleham, was in fact two cottages with about an acre of land. On part of this land Church Cottages, later known as School Cottages, were built and then the school was built on land taken from the garden of the end cottage. It cost £200 to build and could accommodate 170 children, but was enlarged in 1875 and again in 1890. By 1905 the Board of Education acknowledged that the school could accommodate 228 children, by which time it consisted of an infant room, middle room and main room, and had outside lavatories.

From the school Log Books, kindly loaned to me by the present Headmaster of Carlton School, and covering the years 1863-1932, we find many fluctuations in the number of pupils attending. When Alfred Bedwell was appointed Master in April 1867, he was the sole teacher and 97 children were present in July of that year. In October a Pupil Teacher helped him, and two ladies of the parish came in frequently in the afternoons to give sewing lessons to the girls. The Pupil Teacher scheme was introduced in 1846, to replace Monitors by apprentices aged 13-18 years, whom the Master had to

train and teach, and who were examined locally in Religious Knowledge, and also by visiting inspectors. Queens Scholarships for Pupil Teachers, tenable at training colleges, were introduced to raise the academic standards of teachers. Under the Revised Code of 1862, the educational legislation, commonly referred to as 'payments by results', Pupil Teachers passing their examinations or being awarded scholarships earned monetary grants for their school. Alfred Bedwell, who was Master at Carlton for 33 years, trained several, and received many grants, but his first Pupil Teacher, Orson Bull, was the most successful, gaining a First Class Scholarship to Battersea Training College, the most prestigious in the country in 1873. We are not told the amount of the grant he earned, but Pupil Teacher Fredrick Clow, who passed the Queens Scholarship, second class, in 1878, earned the school a grant of £2. By 1876 there were 139 children on the registers and the staff consisted of the Master, a Pupil Teacher and the Sewing Mistress, and by 1882 there were 198 children taught by the Master, an Assistant Mistress, a 4th year Pupil Teacher, a 1st year Pupil Teacher and a monitress/assistant. 200 children were present for examination by H.M. Inspector in 1885 but no details of staff were given between 1885 and 1902. For an average attendance of 191 children the Master had three Assistant Teachers, one Pupil Teacher and one probationer Pupil Teacher to help him in 1904. By 1928 the Board of Education had restricted the number allowed to be accommodated to 185, but that year there were only 170 on the roll. The numbers declined further when in 1931 the under fives were excluded from the school and the senior children were sent to Pakefield School in preparation for the opening of the new school for infants and juniors only, in 1932.

One of the main reasons for the Church giving up its school was the high cost of the repairs necessary to bring the school up to the standard required by various Education Acts and also the lack of space available for expansion.

From the Log Books as well as the Carlton Colville Chronicles we learn that on many occasions the school was closed by the Medical Officer of Health because of epidemics of measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria and whooping cough, yet surprisingly the Burial Registers show few school age children died at these times, although many pre-school age children did. In fact, deaths of school children were not recorded in the Log Books. One child shown to be absent from school with 'lockjaw' (tetanus) was revealed by the Burial Register to have been buried a week later. One of the Pupil Teachers who was absent through illness for so long that he missed his Pupil Teacher exam, and whom the inspector said should be released from his apprenticeship 'for his own sake' was within six months entered in the Burial Register, having died age 17 years, but no mention was made in the Log Book. The death of one of the teachers was recorded and the children were given a half holiday to attend her funeral. The epidemic of influenza which ravaged Britain in the late 1918 caused 60 children and the headmaster to be absent from St. Peter's school. Eventually all schools in East Suffolk were closed from 6th November, 1918 and did not reopen until 12th December, to try and prevent the spread of this severe illness which had caused numerous deaths.

We discover that the summer school holiday, in July and August, is a comparatively recent development. Originally it was referred to as 'Harvest Holidays' and lasted four weeks, and the dates varied according to whether the harvest was early or late in any particular year. Very often when the harvest was early the school closed abruptly, as an entry in the Log Book for August 3rd, 1905 illustrates; 'Owing to harvest having begun very suddenly a great many children have been kept from school by their parents to carry meals. August 4th, school closed for Harvest Holidays'. Most years the school did not close until the 14th or 15th of August. In the first mention of August Bank Holiday as a Public Holiday, the Log Book records that attendance at school that day was low ! The following year the children were given a half holiday and in subsequent years they had a full day off but returned to school to finish the term. As a Church School, odd days holiday were given for such religious days as Ash Wednesday, Ascension day and for such events as the Parish Tea, Sunday school treat, jumble sales, and fates, but comments abound that attendance was low because many children had gone to the Chapel Sunday School treat, the Co-op. Society treat or the Regatta at Mutford Bridge. In 1866 the Master comments that 'Royal Oak Day (May 29th) has fallen into disuse'. Half holidays were given for royal occasions, like the wedding of Princess Louise in 1871 and Princess May of Teck and Prince George (later George V) in 1893. The celebration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee warranted a complete week's holiday 'to enable the room to be used for the old people to dine in' and a week off was given also for her Diamond Jubilee, and yet strangely no mention was made of Queen Victoria's death. A half holiday was given for the Peace Proclamation (Boer War) in June 1902 and later in the month a week's holiday was given at the express wish of the King. This was the only intimation of the Coronation of Edward VII. For the Coronation of George V and Queen Mary the school closed for one week in celebration. The reopening of St. Peter's Church after much 'restoration' gained the

pupils one day off in May 1884 and for the opening of St. Mark's Chapel of Ease in May of the same year, a half holiday was granted and another half holiday was given on the opening of the new organ in the Parish Church in the November. Many children had to attend Church on these days as the 'singers', as well as for the Dedication of the New Burial Ground in 1903. Several winters were so severe that the school closed on many occasions because of snow and because the children lacked boots. The Carlton Colville Chronicles gave us a very detailed account of how W.W.I affected the lives of the residents of Carlton but the School Log has very little comment except to say, in May 1916, 'that the classes had to be rearranged, made necessary by the influx of children from Lowestoft, the result of the bombardment of Lowestoft'.

In the 1860's many references are made that fees due on Quarter days were often not paid and one parent complained in 1869 that she should not pay the last quarter because her child had been absent. On being told her child had attended 54 times so she must pay, the child was withdrawn from Carlton Colville School and sent to Pakefield School. With the provision of Government funding, especially under the 'Payments by Results' Revised Code of 1862, less is written about fees and more about H.M. Inspectors. They governed the amount of grant given, both for educational needs and for the upkeep of the premises. Before the enlargement of the school premises, threats were made by H.M. Inspectors in their Annual Reports to reduce the grant to persuade the Managers to have the work done. In 1875 a deduction of $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the grant was made because 'of the failure on the part of the Managers to remedy defects in the premises first pointed out in 1872'. This had the desired effect for later in 1875 it is recorded 'that a meeting of the Landowners and Ratepayers of this Parish agreed to a voluntary rate of 6d. in the £ upon rateable property in the Pariah to pay for additional school building'. While alterations and additions were being built in July that year the Master complains many times about the noise and disruption to teaching. Two weeks extra Harvest Holidays were given but still the work was not completed until October. The new room was used for the first time on 8th November but a later entry reveals that the room was unused from November 22nd because of lack of heating.

When H.M. Inspector visited the school in 1898 he wrote 'my carriage nearly ran over some children, who for want of a proper playground, play in the high road at a dangerous corner where the roads meet. The Managers are requested to consider whether they can provide a proper playground'. For many years this criticism was repeated by the H.M.I. in his report and in 1909 he added 'the weak point of this school is the want of a playgroundwith the yearly increasing rush of motor cars from distant towns whose chauffeurs, it is to be feared, are not familiar with the dangers of country roads there is a serious risk as the school discharges directly into almost a main road at three cross ways'. As a result of this report Canon Bignold loaned a field opposite the school in Rectory Road (where a house called Castle Grey is now) for use as a playing field. It was first used in September 1910 and according to his diary entry in February 1933 Canon Bignold had been 'compelled to do away with the playing field opposite the old school as boys came from Pakefield and Oulton Broad and did much mischief'. This field was also used for Parish occasions such as fetes, sports and school treats.

A very useful part of the curriculum for the senior boys was the school garden. This was started in 1909 and situated adjacent to the churchyard on Church Lane where the bungalows of Waters Avenue are now. The churchyard was extended and absorbed part of the garden in 1928, but additional land was made available in the Waters Avenue area. A specialist Horticultural Instructor, Mr. Creek, visited the school regularly and gave instruction. Vegetables were grown, fruit trees planted and lessons in grafting and allied gardening subjects given. Sadly we find that vandalism is not new, and occurred on two occasions, in 1912 when 'all the grafts worked by the lads were either broken or spoiled by some persons unknown' and again in 1921 'some persons unknown had entered the school garden and pulled up and scattered about some of the crops and seriously damaged a pear tree'. On different occasions it is recorded that 2 cwt. of potatoes and 2 bushell of onions had been sent to the Sir John Leman School at Beccles and also to Pakefield School. In 1910 an interesting list of the names of the boys and the number of hours instruction in gardening each boy received was given. Several of these boys were mentioned in the Carlton Colville Chronicles as men from the village who served or were killed in W.W.I.

Early reports of children misbehaving were sometimes given – a boy was birched for playing truant in 1863 and in the same year a boy refused to clean the room and was encouraged by his parents – he left the school. There is an entry in 1867 that says 'children kept in for being absent at Sunday School' and the following year 5 boys were punished for playing in Church, on Sunday. Apart from being

'kept in' no details of punishments were given. In 1907 some girls were punished for rude behaviour but mostly it was the misdeeds of the boys that were recorded. A report of a number of boys caught smoking also details the punishments varying from 6 strokes on the hand to none. The Headmaster also wrote 'I sent them away to inform their parents of the offence and the punishment', this in 1926. I have been told of two occasions when some girls were also caned on the hand; these are not recorded in the Log Book. There had been a 'posh' wedding at the Church and amid the confetti thrown over the happy couple were some small silver coloured cardboard horseshoes. Some of the girls had gone to collect these 'treasures' and were late back into school, so they were lined up and caned. The other time boys were involved as well and again the children were late back to school. They had gone to a field opposite Uplands House where an aeroplane had come down – this episode is mentioned in the Carlton Colville Chronicles as happening on October 30th, 1918. The excitement of seeing this crashed plane outweighed the punishment known to be awaiting them on their late return to school. On both these occasions the children absented themselves at playtime. I am sure there were many other occasions when both boys and girls were caned on the hand for misdemeanours long since forgotten.

St. Peter's was a National School, run jointly by the Church and the State, but administered by the Managers, mostly local landowners with the Rector as Chairman. It was important under the 'Payment by results' legislation that the Register was marked daily and that it was checked regularly by one of the Managers, as the number of children present formed the basis for assessing the grant. H.M. Inspectors visited at odd times to check that this was done. One entry in 1876 states, 'When I called the Register was not marked at 10.5, 9.50 being the time specified on the timetable'. In the 1860's and 70's it was quite common to find entries such as 'low attendance – many boys crowkeeping' varying with the seasons to boys absent 'topping beet', 'helping with the harvest', 'gone to sea fishing', 'gone blackberrying or acorn collecting'. Some entries show children returning to school after 3 or 4 months, and in one case 11 months at work. Girls were often also shown as returning after many months absence but seldom show as having been at work, more likely as 'being needed at home'. The Attendance Officer, first mentioned in 1878, was a frequent visitor, although his efforts at first did not improve the attendance, especially in winter. In July 1881 the Master records 'I gave the Attendance Officer a list of 25 children absent, at work, last Monday, but the attendance is no better this week'. In 1885 31 children's names were again given to the Attendance Officer as having attended less than 7 times (in a month) but in 1887, after the parents of three families of children were summoned and fined for poor attendance, the numbers attending greatly improved and from about this time few children are reported 'absent, at work'. Most absences are recorded as due to illness or very bad weather and occasionally to lack of suitable boots.

As a Church School and also as an educational policy, Religious Knowledge was a very important subject, and frequent visits were made by the Rector to assist in the teaching. An annual visitor was the Diocesan Examiner of Religious Knowledge who conducted an examination of all the pupils in the morning and they were then given the afternoon off and usually a 'treat' by the Rector. Like the H.M.I. he sent a Report to the Master which mostly said that the standard of teaching at the school was very good. Very frequently this examiner was the incumbent of one of the local parishes like Kessingland, Somerleyton, or Pakefield. From the turn of the century visits to the school by the School Medical Officer, the Nurse and the Dentist were very frequent. The dentist and his lady assistant carried out their treatments at the school, as did the nurse, but the doctor examined the children there, and then recommended further treatment as necessary. Fire drill was a regular and necessary feature as the rooms were warmed by central iron stoves and reports were made that the school could be cleared in 'less than half a minute' ! This stove was often very smoky and on several occasions classes had to be moved because of the smoke.

A report from H.M. Inspector in 1922 said, 'this school is conducted in cramped and inconvenient premises situated at the junction of three roads, which bend sharply, and are much used by motor and other traffic. To reach the playground the children have to cross the road at the junction, and special supervisory measures have to be taken to safeguard the crossing. The children from Standard 1 upwards are divided into four sections, and occupy two long narrow unpartitioned rooms. To make the best use of these requires much sympathetic co-operation and some self-sacrifice at times on the part of the teachers. Notwithstanding the difficulties, however, the work reaches generally a very satisfactory standard'. It was 10 years before a new school was built and during that time the Headmaster made many complaints about the poor state of the building. During a storm in 1930 rain poured into the main room from the roof and a few weeks later the ceiling of the Infants room came down.

Although the school was built in 1843 the whereabouts of the Log Book for the years 1843-1863 has not been discovered. Only from the Log Book 1863-1904 can we find details of the staffing of the school. Mr. James Howell is shown as an Assistant Teacher of the 3rd. class with George Solomon as a 3rd year Pupil Teacher in 1864. No note is made of Mr. Howell leaving but the following year Mr. W.H. Allison is shown as Master, a certificated teacher of the 2nd class. Mr. H. Hunt was temporary Master for one month in January 1866, followed by John Graham who took temporary charge of the school for two weeks before Mr. Moses Lancaster, a certificated teacher of the 3rd class was appointed Master on 19th February, 1866, with his daughter as a 3rd year Pupil Teacher. His wife assisted too, by taking needlework classes in the afternoon. By March 1867 the H.M. Inspector report was so very critical of the running of the school that the grant was reduced by $\frac{1}{10}$ th. The Pupil Teacher's work was so unsatisfactory that the Inspector was 'unable to sanction her engagement as a Pupil Teacher'. The next entry shows that on April 24th, 1867, Alfred Bedwell commenced his duties as Master and no mention is made of the resignation of Moses Lancaster. The school then settled and developed under Alfred Bedwell as Master for 33 years. On his resignation in December 1900 H.M. Inspector had this to say, 'After so many years of faithful discharge of duty here by the Headmaster it will be long before his familiar face, kind disposition, and ready willingness to profit by any hints for the good of the school will cease to be missed. I heartily wish him a long enjoyment of his well-earned rest'. Bertie John Quadling commenced as Master in January 1901 and served the school well until his sudden death on May 6th, 1926. Mr. F.L. Wales commenced his duties as Master on 1st July, 1926 and stayed until August 1931, when he left to take up an appointment at Trimley St. Martin. Miss E.M. Lamb was appointed Headmistress in September 1931 and was the first head teacher of the new Council School which opened in January 1932, with 118 children from 5 years to 11 years on the Roll. The new school was built by an Ipswich firm whose foreman was Bill Barrell and the workmen lodged with Mrs. Oakes at Belvoir Terrace.

As the school was no longer a Church School Canon Bignold did not visit it so frequently, but the other visitors, the Attendance Officer, the Medical Officer of Health, the Dentist, and the Nurse were still regular in their visits. The school garden was worked for some time by parties of boys from Pakefield Senior School under the supervision of Masters from that School.

With the transfer of the school to new premises the old school building was used as a Church Hall, improvements being made to the sanitary arrangements and to the provision of a kitchen area. As the venue for a number of social activities in the village it did a good service but with the opening of the Community Hall in 1978, the hiring out of the Hall declined and the Church had difficulty in keeping the fabric in good condition, and it was eventually decided to sell the property and use the proceeds to help finance new premises. The Church Hall, the old school, was given permission from Waveney Planning Committee to be converted into a private dwelling and in May 1985 it was put up for auction. It did not sell at the auction but sold privately later, but this purchaser withdrew and eventually it was sold in December 1985. The new owner wants to convert it into a private dwelling according to the character of the original buildings.

Tenders for the building of a new Vestry extension incorporating a Church Hall have been accepted and building should be completed during 1986. The building will not be as large as the old school building but its facilities should be similar.

Editor's Note:

The source for the Carlton Colville Chronicles referenced in this article were notes written by Canon Bignold in the parish registers between 1900 and 1940. These were transcribed and edited by Mr. J.R. Goffin and published as a book by the Parochial Church Council of St. Peters, Carlton Colville, with the assistance of the Norwich Union Insurance Group in 1983.

Further information following publication of this book is contained in the article Carlton Colville and Canon Bignold by Mary Goffin published in the Annual Report 1984-5.