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A SUMMARY OF THE TALKS/EVENTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS*Myra Kestner***1999**28th May: **Annual General Meeting**10th June: **Lowestoft Porcelain**

John Howell

The Lowestoft porcelain factory probably opened in 1760, but was winding down by 1799. Many examples of Lowestoft porcelain are preserved in the Museum, including the birth tablets which were only made in Lowestoft, inscribed with the names of children of factory work people.

17th June: **Visit to the Dunwich Museum**

Although small in size, the museum is packed tight with the history of Dunwich, including a model of the medieval town which disappeared into the sea. After the museum visit, we walked to "The Ship" for a fish and chip supper.

8th July: **Round Tower Church Tour**

The ever popular Annual Round Tower Church Tour, led by Bill Goode, visited Gisleham and Rushmere to view two churches with remaining Saxon features inside their round towers. The evening finished with refreshments, unexpectedly provided for us at Gisleham.

9th Sept: **Archaeological Excavations at Bloodmoor Hill**

Richard Mortimer

Richard Mortimer, who led the archaeological dig, described the Anglo-Saxon village uncovered at Bloodmoor Hill as probably the most important settlement of the period discovered in East Anglia during the past 30 years.

23rd Sept: **The History of Fish Fingers**

John Scott

Mr Birdseye observed the Eskimos freezing food in ice, took the idea home with him and, in 1930, produced the first American frozen foods. John, as a young laboratory assistant, made the first British fish fingers in 1950, using a model flown-over from American.

14th Oct: **More Characters of East Anglia**

Mark Mitchels

Brief histories of East Anglian characters, including George Crabbe, Edward Fitzgerald, Margaret Catchpole, the Rector of Stiffkey and the teachers at the strike school near Diss, were told and beautifully illustrated.

28th Oct: **The History of Brookes of Lowestoft - 1874 to 1987**

Peter Hansford

In 1874, J W Brooke came to Lowestoft and bought an iron foundry in Alexandra Road, starting a firm which became a major employer in the town. In its heyday, the firm manufactured "marine motors, motor boats and internal combustion engines for

commercial purposes".

11th Nov: **Beccles New Market** David Lindley

The New Market is actually about 700 years old, but building styles in the market vary from Mediaeval, through Georgian and Victorian to 20th century. At one time there were 5 inns on the market, but the one major one now remaining is the Kings Head.

25th Nov: **The Secrets of Fieldwalking** Jon Reed

Subtitled "Keep your heads down and Walk Straight", Jon's talk included both practical advice and a display of local finds now held at the Lowestoft Museum. From the finds made in the Somerleyton area, it appears that there has been continuous occupation there during the past 5,000 years.

2nd Dec: **Pre-Christmas Social Evening at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club**

Another successful Social Evening and buffet at the Yacht Club was enjoyed by members and guests. James Comyn judged items brought for valuation and both he and Johnny Johnstone discussed and described examples of porcelain.

2000

27th Jan: **The Gisleham Field Names** Terry Weatherley

Through research in the Record Office and in the fields of Gisleham, Terry has put together a collection of interesting maps, field names and interpretations. Slides were shown of a variety of old maps, including some with field names plotted on them.

10th Feb: **The Late Sixteenth Century Window Revolution** John Dean

In the Middle Ages, only the houses of the very wealthy English had glass windows. Other, poorer houses had shutters instead of windows. In 1567, immigrant French glassmakers were licensed to make glass in Sussex and by 1580 glass windows were widespread in England.

24th Feb: **The History of the East Anglian Transport Museum** Mark Carr

A dedicated team of volunteers collects and restores the vehicles, and builds the trackways and housing for the exhibits. The Lowestoft tram, among the exhibits now on display, was one of the fifteen trams used on the line which ran between Pakefield and Yarmouth Road until 1931.

9th Mar: **Roman & Saxon Archaeological Finds in the Waveney Valley** Mike Hardy

Mike Hardy has been fieldwalking in the South Elmham area for many years, between two Roman roads where there is a high density of Roman material. Some of the artefacts found suggested that there were farmsteads in South Elmham where cereals were grown.

23rd Mar: **The History and Manufacture of Soap** Jon Read

Soap has been made though the ages and a recipe was written on a 4,500 year old tablet in Mesopotamia. In seventeenth century Britain, soap was taxed and manufacturers were licensed. In 1853, the Soap Act was repealed and factories were set up where soap was boiled in washing coppers.

13th Apr: **The Suffolk Shore Line** Stuart Bacon

Investigation by the Suffolk Underwater Studies into the land and settlements lost to the sea, including some of the large number of sunken wrecks off the East Anglian coast, which are believed to be as full of treasure as the Valley of the Kings.

27th Apr: **One of the Last Horsemen** Ron Ashman

Based on the life of Ron's grandfather, who was foreman and horseman on a farm at Lound until he retired in 1959, and describing some of the changes in agricultural practice and rural life over the last fifty years.

Some Notes on the Basement Floor of the Old School House Wildes Score Lowestoft Suffolk*Paul Durbidge*

During the latter part of 1999 Mr John Stannard a local builder contacted Mrs Lilian Fisher chairman of the Lowestoft Archaeological & Local History Society with regards to a possible limited archaeological investigation of a cobbled floor situated in a narrow store room in the basement of the Old School House.

The building in question stands to the rear of No. 80 High Street or Flint House which was built in 1586 and the school was originally connected to it in the form of a rear wing.

A previous owner of Flint House was Admiral Sir Thomas Alien Bart, Comptroller of the Navy and John Wild lived there shortly before opening his school in 1788.

The school provided free education for the sons of some 40 Lowestoft fishermen and continued as a school up until 1944 when the building was later used as a boys youth club before finally being employed by the food company Birds Eye as an additional store.

THE EXCAVATION

The area containing the cobbled floor was rectangular in shape and measured approximately 14 feet by 6 feet. This in turn was enclosed by plain soft red brick walls with only the east wall comprising of both brick and occasional Flintwork. Entry was gained by a single external door situated in the centre of the north wall.

The entire floor surface had been cobbled and there was a noticeable slump on both sides of the doorway, directly above was a boarded floor supported by eleven near square section joists approximately 5' 6" above the cobbles with the remains of both laths and reeds nailed to the underside of the floorboards. To start with half of the cobbles were lifted which showed most to be of fist size, with some exceptions and while there was evidence that some had been laid on a thin bed of sand the majority had been set directly into the dry earth.

On several cobbles mortar was present but it is more likely that this was the result of them being previously used elsewhere before being reused in their present location. With these now removed the earth directly beneath them was trowelled and later forked which in turn revealed small pieces of blue and white tile close to the doorway and the continued removal of the mixed soil resulted in animal bone, glass and glazed earthenware being found along with clay pipe stems. The majority of the finds were made where the floor had slumped and where the earth was noticeably quite damp and there was a lessening of material towards the centre of the floor. Three of the most interesting discoveries were two fragments of a biscuitware saucer and a small semi glazed peg with a faint trace of cobalt on the tip.

These three items compare favourably with previous discoveries made in Factory Street in 1968 prior to the building of the multi storey block of flats and they can be safely attributed to the old Lowestoft China factory.

The soil directly beneath the cobbled floor terminated at approximately 8½ inches and subsequently revealed a layer of very small crushed brick and mortar fragments across the entire floor to a thickness of ¾ inch. Beneath this lay another concentration of very mixed almost loamy soil containing earthenware, stoneware, oyster shells, glass and several hazel nut shells. Three pieces of pin tile including one with partial glazing on the upper surface and coarseware pottery were recovered in this layer as well as a large incised rim from a shallow dish. The soil removal adjacent to the south wall exposed a clay foundation and embedded in the clay were a number of oyster shells and fragments of two frilly based jugs.

From the style of some of the pottery from this layer it would seem that some was characteristic of the 16th century. The presence of the frilly based forms would suggest probable trade with the Low Countries which again would tie in with the blue and white tile remains encountered earlier.

The mixed soils finally terminated at very dark mixed sand some 13 inches below the crushed brick spread and fragments of both bone and pottery were still being encountered actually in the sand, before finally it became barren as the sand became clean and undisturbed.

As expected, over all the main group of pottery belongs to the period roughly between 1700-1800

with a number of exceptions. The reason for this being that some proportion of the infilled soil had been brought in to its present position.

As far as the bone remains are concerned there are quite a number for such a small area. The majority are quite small and roughly 90% have been butchered and these include several splintered remains. Their distribution was throughout the infill and the same applies to the oyster shells.

There were approximately 21 inches of mixed soils before unbroken sand was encountered and I think it unlikely that the high content of bone remains were found in their original location. It is more likely they were consumed nearby and came in amongst the mixed soils which were employed to build up the floor level prior to the laying of the flint cobbles.

THE FINDS

TILE

Seven pieces of blue and white decorated tile are probably Delft (import ?).

Part of a plain white tile with crazed and pitted surface compares in type to the blue and white forms.

ROOF TILE

Remains of a pin tile with the outer surface coated in a rich golden brown glaze, signs of mortar on both sides, thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

GLASS

23 pieces of glass, two were obscure wired and one was mirror-like, the remaining sherds were made up of clear forms with thicknesses varying from $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{3}{16}$ inch, oxidising was present on several of the very thin pieces.

WINE BOTTLES

Fragment of an oxidised kick up base, part of a neck and eight plain greenish forms with two being oxidised. On one very thin sherd there was a leaf profile, ca 18th century.

GLAZED EARTHENWARE

There were 14 fragments of white/off white sherds, some had blue transfer patterns and one had thin gold lines, on another fragment there was an overglaze decoration, ca 1900.

STONEWARES

Part of a base with splayed walls in grey stoneware with a profile similar to a small belamine.

Fragment of lustreous stoneware, (import?), ca 1600

Fragment of rim from a brown glazed inkpot.

Part base of a frilly based jug coated in a rich brown glaze. Probably a German import.

Part base of a frilly based jug in a yellowish buff fabric with a small splash of green glaze on the base, very crude internally with evidence of additional thickening being applied to the sides of the vessel.

Thin body sherd of stoneware with incised line, blue glazed.

BISCUITWARE

Small biscuitware peg with sand glazed surfaces. Probably kiln furniture.

Two body sherds of biscuitware probably from a saucer, all three objects are thought to have originated from the nearby china factory.

COARSEWARES

Rim in light orange fabric with incised decoration and traces of soot on the underside.

Rim in hard dark fabric with light coating of rich brown glaze, rims of these types were being produced during the early 16th century right through to the 17th C and 1800's.

Part of a thick coarseware base, a hard orange material with a grey core, external surfaces show wipe marks and runs of a water orange glaze.

Flat sherd probably from a dish in hard orange fabric with a heavily soot stained underside, spots of glaze visible.

Small dark grey body sherd with soot staining, spots of green glaze.

Two body sherds in light to dark grey fabric, both with signs of wiping on the external surfaces.

Body sherd in hard grey material with soot staining on internal areas.

Thickened body sherd in brownish grey fabric containing mica, wipe marks visible on external surfaces.

Part of small base possibly from a jug with applied pinching. A hard orange fabric with a mottled greenish brown glaze to both surfaces. 1700 to 1800

Rim form glazed in yellow buff.

Body sherd in hard orange material with inner surfaces glazed in rich brown glaze mottled with dark green.

Body sherd in red fabric with outer surfaces glazed with a pitted rich brown glaze.

Hard red body sherd with soot staining externally, interior surfaces coated with a rich golden brown glaze.

Body sherd from a flat dish with the internal surface coated in a rich golden brown glaze. Small rim in red fabric coated in a rich near black glaze.

Body sherd from a dish in a hard buff material with thin line marks on the underside. The internal surfaces are coated with a rich yellow glaze, ca 1800 to 1900

Part base in a hard orange fabric and glazed with a rich pitted brown glaze on the inner surfaces, soot present externally.

Thickened rim from a dish in rich golden brown glaze.

Small body sherd in buff fabric with both surfaces coated in a rich yellow glaze. Small body sherd of coarse dark brown fabric.

BONE REMAINS

Some 32 pieces of bone including rib can be attributed to domestic cattle (BOVID) and a further 18 are from sheep (OVIS).

Eleven small bones are from rabbit while a further three are thought to have come from fowl. 48 pieces of small splintered or broken bone are unidentifiable.

SHELL

Several oyster shells were encountered throughout the infill and even in the clay footings, mostly these were very small and in the region of 1½ inches across. The largest being 2¾ inches.

Two garden snails and a rams horn snail were found along with the remains of three hazel nut shells during the removal of the soil.

SMALL FINDS

Four clay pipe stems.

Two small buttons, one with signs of deterioration.

A small piece of mother-of-pearl with a rivet hole possibly from a small knife.

METAL

Some iron remains were found in the infill and mostly these were nails and heavily corroded. At least four of the nails had been clenched over and it would appear that these were of square section with domed heads.

There were also four small pieces of brass or copper, two being small rectangular plate forms, another being a small cut bent strip, with the fourth being a small sectional piece or squared rod.

A small heart shaped mount with a raised decorative pattern in the opposite corner has evidence of a small fixing stud or pin in the centre possibly for mounting on leather or wood. There is also a suggestion that the item may once have been silvered. C 1800

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society is most grateful to John Stannard for providing the opportunity to test the floor for

dateable material and also for providing a lighting source for us to work with.

Thanks also due to Ron Ashman and Adrian Charlton who carefully went through all the content in a somewhat confined area, ideally I would have liked to have involved more people but the very restricted space and the presence of Acrows supporting the ceiling above may well have caused problems.

All the discoveries made at the School House have been washed and cleaned and have now been handed back to Mr Stannard for possible inclusion in displays at the School when finally completed sometime in the New Year.

Paul Durbidge November 1999

A Review of Fieldwalking for 2000

Paul Durbidge

The middle part of March this year saw the conclusion of the sixth year of fieldwalking on the Somerleyton Estate and it has differed slightly from previous years with the inclusion of some Saturday mornings and the response to this has been most encouraging.

There are over eighty fields formed by the estate and over the last six years nearly half have been covered in the survey and this does not include any of the land farmed by the tenant farmers. At the start of the project it was thought the survey would take about ten years to complete but a more recent appraisal would indicate that fifteen years would be a more realistic figure to cover all the estate land. This year we have concentrated on the lighter soils and put on hold the heavy clay areas such as fields at Ashby and it is certain that more such clay areas exist on other parts of the estate.

Ground conditions such as these consist of heavy brown boulder clay often laying in ridges and contain both flint and chalk making visual searching near impossible and equally difficult to walk upon, even the use of a detector is greatly restricted by reasons of the irregular ground and its many cavities.

The arrangements for fieldwalking begin in late November when an enquiry to Mr Chris Lockhart the farms manager will indicate which fields will be under plough for the new year, in addition to this it is essential to know if there are any additional fields where walking is not allowed due to diseased crop.

There are at present four of these no-go areas. When the ploughland areas are known a visit is made to see firstly if they have been ploughed and as to the suitability of the soils, if the land has been ploughed it is important the surface has been left long enough to be weathered and anything less than four weeks would not be long enough to allow satisfactory visual searching with any chance of success. After this there is the liaison with the gamekeeper Mr Arthur Wymark. Shooting often starts in late October and continues right up to until early February, this sometimes being followed by additional hare and pigeon shoots. With syndicates paying considerable amounts of money for a seasons shooting, fieldwalkers would not be very welcome near any wood or copse where a shoot had been arranged for the next day so this link with the gamekeeper is critical. Consequently arrangements are made to keep well away from any shooting areas until early February when the guns stop and we have more freedom of movement. Searches then continue up until the fields are finally drilled which is usually during dryer weather and this is often during the middle of March.

Over two hundred single finds of flint flakes and implements were picked up this season and these include core scrapers, borers and trimmed flakes. The greater part of a leaf arrowhead found at Ashby indicates the continuing need for hunting while the cutting end of a chipped axehead recovered comparatively close to the Bronze Age founders hoard found at Somerleyton in 1926 may well have some connection, and was probably used in woodland clearance at that time.

By far the earliest pottery found was single thickened base sherd studded with small grits of Bronze Age date while equally important find was of a 7th century Anglo-Saxon sherd which is the first ever to have been found on the estate. Several greyware sherds including rims of Romano British date were also picked up as well as a piece of abraded Samian and what appears to be a thick body sherd of colour coated ware of the same period.

A number of Medieval sherds were once again encountered still with traces of soot on some surfaces while others had splashes of rich green glaze on the outer surfaces. Fragments of strap handles from jugs were also found as well as part of a semi-glazed corded handle with strong thumb marks at the base end. Small pieces of pin tile were also recovered, some being plain while others were partially glazed in either rich green or splashed with patches of reddish brown glaze.

Odd blue and grey sherds of the imported stoneware known as Westerwald were encountered on some fields as well as part base of a small frilly based jug again indicating imported material.

Post Medieval stonewares are represented by both grey and salt glazed fragments as well as glazed earthen wares which appear on most field surfaces and these also include slipware forms, on particular field yielded nearly all late period material and this included the remains of over forty clay pipe stems and bowls.

Metal remains were quite widespread with lead being the most prolific, the majority is undoubtedly modern while other pieces can be safely attributed to specific periods such as the lead musket shot which for the first time includes the larger Napoleonic balls.

Other remains include lead spillage and solid cast lead tubes which are not easy to date while the small cone shaped lead spindle whorl found with pottery is probably of medieval date.

Finds of Bronze alloy or brass are again varied. The remains of a five pointed rowel from a spur being found in one field while in another the remains of four rumbler or sheep bells were recovered along with various buttons and the broken foot from a Medieval cauldron.

Another field produced a small decorated stud while fragments of broken buckles and a small Medieval book clasp were recovered on separate fields as well as war time shrapnel which has a wide distribution but appears in quantity on the Ashby fields.

Of the coins that were found the most interesting is a small silver early Roman coin which is as yet to be identified, other silver coins include a silver hammered sixpence, a shilling and a sixpence.

Some twenty four copper coins were found, some being badly worn but from the thinness and vague impressions it would seem that most date from George II up until 1932, the only exception being a small perforated Greek lepton of George I of Greece and dated 1869.

THE FINDS ARE:

Neolithic	Leaf arrowhead & unfinished leaf arrowhead Cutting end of chipped axehead, scrapers cores, flakes and bores Flake from a polished axehead
Bronze Age	Thickened heavy gritted base form
Romano British	Greyware rims and body sherds, abraded rim from a Samian cup, body sherd colour coated ware
Anglo-Saxon	Body sherd of 7 th century date
Medieval	Coarse ware and rim sherds including green glazed sherds Part of strap handles and corded handle Fragments of partially glazed pin tiles
15 th & 16 th century	Blue and grey stoneware sherds of Westerwald
Post Medieval	Stone wares, glazed earthen wares, clay pipes and slipwares
Metals	Silver, Roman coin (<i>to be identified - probably an early Republican</i>) Silver sixpence Elizabeth I, 5 th issue Tower Mint 1582-1586 Silver sixpence 1884 Silver shilling George in Copper lepton of George I of Greece 1869 Twenty four copper coins George II to 1932 Remains of six rumbler bells Bronze spillage

Lead spillage
Five pointed rowel from a spur
Flower impression bronze stud
Part of a non-ferrous spur
17th century shoe buckle
Bronze decorated stud in shape of a fleur-de-lis
Small bronze book clasp
Part of bronze alloy foot, probably from a cauldron
Small lead spindle whorl
Small pocket pistol lead ball
Four musket balls
Two brown bess Napoleonic musket balls
Lead pewter buttons
Post medieval buckles, pottery and thimbles
Shrapnel

Last season a lead plate fragment with a two strand interlace pattern was sent for further information. It was subsequently identified as a probable trial piece and may have been used to test out a particular design. The suggested date was 700-1200.

In conclusion I would once again like to express my sincere thanks to Lord Somerleyton for allowing the continuation of the survey and thanks are also due to Mr Chris Lockhart the farm manager for his continued help.

Finally my thanks to all the fieldwalkers for giving up their time and support for this season. This is where all the skill is in actually seeing the material often in difficult conditions and picking it up.

The fieldwalkers are:

Ron Ashman, Jack Balls, Adrian Charlton, Dick Collins, Richard Gibson, John Gill, Keith Harris, Sara Hudson, Bill Hudson, Myra Kestner, Philip Offord, Trixie Preston, Jon Reed, Alan Weller, Janet Wickings, Peter Wood and David Watson.
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The writer would also like to thank Dick Collins for giving so much of his time to produce these contributions to the report from the original longhand, and also for the inclusion of the drawings for which I am extremely grateful.

Paul Durbidge March 2000

Recent Finds from Corton and Pakefield Area

Paul Durbidge

CORTON

More medieval and post medieval pottery has been recovered from the cliffs at Corton over the last year by Adrian Charlton, and while some has clearly come from the ploughland directly above, it would appear the majority has originated from early pits dug into the surface and later exposed as a result of coastal erosion. Some of the sharply angled rims appear to date from around the 13th century and several pinch marks are present on the soot encrusted base remains.

Dribbles of light green glaze are visible on some of the body sherds while others are completely covered in rich green glaze. Decoration on two body sherds consists of a vertical applied strip of clay and parallel lines of tear shaped pellets, a decoration also used on a large jar found in a medieval pit at Pakefield a few years ago. Most of the sherds are from cooking pots with some from jugs and shallow dish forms and it appears that the same applies to the post medieval material which also includes some stone wares. A number of animal bones and teeth were observed, the majority of these being

domestic ox and sheep.

PAKEFIELD

Apart from the cliffs much further south erosion at Pakefield has reduced sharply over the last two years and subsequently the two medieval infills in the cliff face have remained stable with only odd pieces of coarseware pottery and a large section of pin tile being observed in the infill.

A similar situation appears at the Romano British feature uncovered a few years ago, again there is little movement over the last year apart from a small breakout where small pieces of tile and greyware were recovered.

These finds include part of a large everted rim, a small coarseware base and a hooked rim while building material consists of the upstand from a roofing tile and the remains of two box tiles one with evidence of combing to the outer surface, irregular pieces of fired clay were also observed.

Field Surface Pakefield

A quantity of secondary flakes have been picked up from a field surface again by Adrian Charlton not far from where more flakes and a flint graver were found some years ago. Last year a flint Bronze Age arrowhead was recovered close by suggesting that these recent discoveries may be associated with this earlier period.

Pakefield Beach

A small abraded 3rd century Romano British coin was found at beach level along with a double buckle of medieval date. Sometime later a small solid cast medieval foot was recovered as well as an abraded long cross silver penny, the date lies between 1247 and 1480 and the mint appears to be Canterbury.

KESSINGLAND

A number of coarseware medieval cooking pot sherds were picked up over a short period on the lower part of the cliff line at a position where previous finds have been made.

At the foot of the cliffs a complete bi-facially worked spearhead of Neolithic date was picked up amongst sand and beach shingle.

The find spot is directly beneath a field that has produced a number of Mesolithic tranche! axe over previous years.

BLOODMOOR HILL CARLTON COLVILLE

A cast gilt alloy buckle in the form of a raised anthropomorphic head with a double contoured hairline was recovered by Adrian Charlton, the period is Anglo-Saxon 575-675.

A fragmentary gilt copper alloy wrist clasp was also found by Adrian Charlton – the period is Anglo-Saxon 500-600.

Bloodmoor Hill covers an extensive area and was inhabited over several periods of history probably by reason of it being the most defensive site in the area and also there was a ready supply of water.

A large and varied amount of archaeological material has come from this location over the years and below I have listed some of the material I have seen over the last year.

Two flint flakes from polished axeheads		Halfpenny William III 1699
Neolithic slug knife		Copper coin George III 1799
Flint scrapers and secondary flakes		Musket balls
Sestertius Pius 138/161		Lead plumb bobs
Sestertius Faustina 138/161		Pistol balls
Sestertius Faustina 138/161		Small bronze stud with decorated face
Base silver Antonianus Valerian I 253/260		Small ornate medieval buckle
Constantine I 318/324		Fragments early window glass
Constantine I 318/324		Bronze cauldron foot
Silver coin of Athelredn 978/1016		Fragment cauldron rim
Silver Groat		Lead pewter and brass buttons

Aesica brooch fragment 1 st century	Part of deer antler with cut end
Denmark 2 Skilling 1667	Part of three whetstones
Silver sixpence Elizabeth I	Lead spillage
Shilling William III	Bronze spillage
Medieval token	Brass or bronze thimble
Rose Farthing Charles I 1645 (small)	Military buttons
Rose Farthing Charles I 1645	Bronze studs
Small jetton	Official Georgian currency weight
Decorated end to a knife handle	Child's thimble
Small medieval buckle	Sundry copper/brass fragments
16 th century bronze buckle	Romano British pottery sherds
Small trade token 1604	Middle Saxon pottery sherds
Three Cartwheel Pennies 1797	Medieval pottery sherds
Shilling of Anne 1702-14	3 tokens
Norwich Farthing 1667	Military cap badge of Norfolk Regiment

Since writing this report high seas backed by NE gales have brought down much cliff at Pakefield resulting in nearly all the sandy slopes protecting the base of the cliffs being washed away. The south beach levels were again lowered and large amounts of grey clay containing small boulders ended up on the beach the latter shaving scars where they had been dragged along by the ice sheets thousands of years ago. Most of the medieval feature P5 has been destroyed as well as the lower part of the bottle dump referred to in last years report. Also the wooden steps used by the holiday makers from the nearby caravan camp have also been washed away leaving a vertical drop of some eight feet to the beach.

A Romano British Pit at Black Street Gisleham Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

During 1982 foundation trenches for a new house were being dug at Black Street Gisleham. The site is on sloping ground south east facing and overlooks marshland which now forms part of what was once a wide inland estuary originally discharging into the open sea at it's eastern end. A short distance to the south west a large tongue of land juts out into the marsh and during the 1970's fieldwalking produced quite a large number of flint implements as well as a scatter of medieval pottery from the peninsula.

The majority of the finds were of Neolithic date, the only exceptions being a crude tranche! axe of Mesolithic date and half of a perforated stone mace head of probably Bronze age origin.

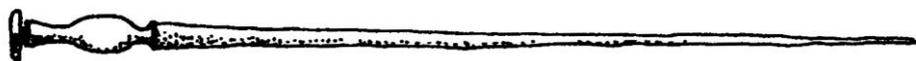
There was some degree of surprise when the initial trenches at Black Street uncovered a small cache of large coarseware body sherds of Romano British date which included both rim and base and all appeared to belong to the same pot. After washing and cleaning the sherds were reassembled and they formed a large coarseware jar of probably 2nd century date complete with it's decorated shoulder pattern of hatched lines running around the vessel.

During the continued removal of earth from the other trenches burning was observed in some areas and occasional sherds of pottery were recovered but not in any grouping or concentrations and it was to be several years later after the house had been completed that further evidence of occupation was to come to light.

The middle of 1992 was when more work was being carried out in the garden at the back of the house and this in turn revealed a large infilled pit containing pottery tile and brick comparatively close to the earlier discovery of the coarseware pot.

This new feature was approximately six feet across and nearly three feet deep, and during the removal

of the pottery and tile a complete bronze pin of Romano British date was found embedded in the side of the pit.



The Bronze Alloy pin found in the side of the pit.

Examination of the pottery showed that some was imported from further afield, notably Samian with some of the other wares originating from Colchester, Oxfordshire and probably the Nene Valley. It is thought most of the coarsewares were made locally and the owners of the house spoke of a fine band of grey clay uncovered at depth to the front of the house during the digging of service trenches and it is likely that this seam of clay could have been used by the potters at that time.

Although as yet no post holes or foundations have been uncovered on the site it is likely that there were some structures there, albeit quite basic affairs with timber framing to support a tiled roof and possibly a small group of out buildings with perhaps one serving as a weaving shed.

Over recent years there have been a number of Romano British discoveries within a mile radius of the Black Street site with finds varying from coins, brooches and pottery while at Kessingland a quantity of broken roofing tiles were found with associated third century pottery. Further away at Bloodmoor Hill Carlton Colville recent excavations have confirmed the existence of a substantial settlement during the 2nd and 3rd century and I suspect that within the next few years there will be many more recorded finds of varying importance within the area which will greatly add to our knowledge of these early settlers.

Black Street Gisleham - The Finds Broadly Classified

There are some 72 rim forms from the site and these are as follows :

Four beaded rims in grey fabric

Thinned rims from a shallow coarseware bowl with external grooves

Thinned bowl rim in sandy buff fabric

Five thinned rims in grey fabric with slight overhang, all are from shallow bowls

Five flattened rims from straight sided bowls, the internal surface of one has been burnished

Very thick rolled rim from a storage jar

Eight hooked rims in micarous coarseware with diameters from 5¹/₂ - 6¹/₂ inches, soot is present on four

Small section of hooked rim in fine greyware with traces of burnishing on the inside of the rim

Fourteen everted rims, all are probably from wide mouthed jars, soot is present on two

Rim from a wide mouthed jar with a cordoned shoulder

Light grey everted rim from a wide mouthed jar with burnishing to the internal surface

Two rims from small greyware beakers, the fabric is micarous and both have been burnished externally

Three light grey coarseware rims

Eight fragments of grey coarseware rim forms

Two greyware sherds of bead and flange and decorated on the upper part of the flange with continuous groups of four pin holes

Body sherd of hard dark red fabric with single horizontal wavy line decoration

Base Remains

Six gritty coarseware forms with 2 - 3¹/₂ inch diameters

Three thickened base forms in dark grey coarseware with cheese wire markings

Five additional forms in dark grey material containing mica

Part of a base in a very coarse whitish buff fabric with a diameter of approximately 3 inches

Cheese Press

Part of a cheese press in a hard brown buff fabric. It is uncertain whether this is part of a lid or

not but it has five pairs of perforations around the base of a conical point and a further five outside the raised area. The underside is near black in colour and

appears to have been burnished, the underside of the cone has been clearly hollowed out when the clay was leather hard (*fig 3*).

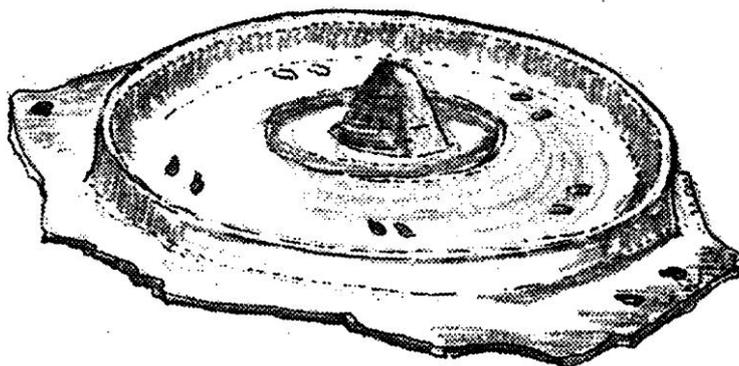


FIG 3

Lid

Part of a lid in grey fabric with rounded profile.

Decorated Sherds

Obtuse angled lattice between two false cordons on a grey body sherd

Lattice pattern on two small greyware body sherds

Single angled lines below a band of burnish on two greyware sherds

Angled lattice pattern on a thin greyware sherd

Horizontal band of wavy line on the shoulder of a greyware jar

Colour Coated

Sherd from a rough cast colour coated beaker

Colour coated beaker with rouletted decoration } Colchester mid 2nd Century

Body sherd from a carinated jar in grey coarseware

Nine body sherds are with burnishing, all are heavily micarous, there are fifty two body sherds of plain greyware

Samian

Rim DR36 Barbitone leaves. Central Gaulish

Rim DR33 and part base with part of impressed stamp possibly BVTRIO there is also a fragmentary part of another impressed stamp

DR 33 Five rim forms Central Gaulish

Footring possibly DR33 or 35

DR37 Panel decorated AD85 - late 2nd century

Mortaria

Rim of mortaria studded with small quartz grits

Two body sherds of mortaria in light buff fabric densely studded with small grits including flint, quartz and occasional ironstone - late 2nd century

Abraded sherd of small mortaria in orange fabric with mixed grits - probably Oxfordshire

Fragment of rim from a buff mortaria bead rim and reeded flange - 3rd to 4th century

Bone Remains

DOMESTIC CATTLE (BOVID) Teeth

DOMESTIC SHEEP (OVIS) Leg bones teeth

PIG (SUIDAE) Tnsk and small rib

Three bones have indications of burning, and there are also some bird or rodent bones

Shell

Nine large oyster shells

Iron Remains

There are ten headed nails with eight having flattened near circular heads and square sectioned shanks. Lengths average 2¼ inches. Three appear to have been used to fix two timbers together and have subsequently been clenched over. There were also three with washer type forms. The iron remains are greatly corroded and while other square section fragments are possibly the remains of nails the purpose of some other corroded remains is not known.

Flint Industry

There are three secondary flakes.

Brick and Tile

Four pieces of irregular clay daub with trace of chalk in the mix and there are three fragments of clay with a single smoother face. These may be the remains of a clay lining to an oven.

There is evidence of building material in the form of three pieces of IMBREX and two of TEGULAE, one of the latter being a very small section, the other being of standard size and also much heavier.

Of five pieces of brick so far found, both wipe and trowel marks are visible on the upper surfaces, thickness average 1¼ inches in each case and the remains have been cast on rough ground.

The fragmentary pieces of tile or brick picked up on the site have no distinguishing features but it would be reasonable to think that a number are contemporary with confirmed remains.

Loom Weight

The greater part of a probable loom weight found was also from in the pit. It is triangular in shape with a through perforation approximately 2 inches down from the apex. The object is made of fired clay and contains a number of small flints in the well cracked fabric which is identical to the material used in the bricks.

Lead Remains

A small lead object in the shape of a marine capstan was recovered in two halves. It measures roughly 1½ x 2 inches and was originally cast as a solid piece and then chopped down the centre. It weighs 5.1 lb. and all the surfaces are well patinated. It may have been employed as some sort of weight but its true purpose is as yet not known, (fig. 2)

A tube of what appears to be plain sheet lead was found to be decorated on the inside face with a series of raised lines and dots when carefully unrolled. Similar examples have come from Kelvedon and also Wickford with the Kelvedon example having a Cffl-RHO or Cffl-IOTA symbol. The function is unknown but possibly they are religious or even Christian. (fig-V

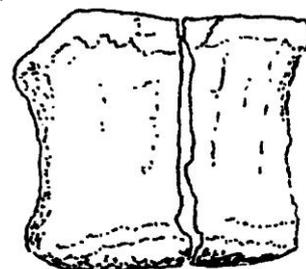
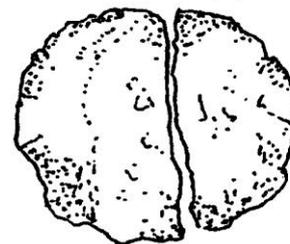


FIG 2



Items are full size

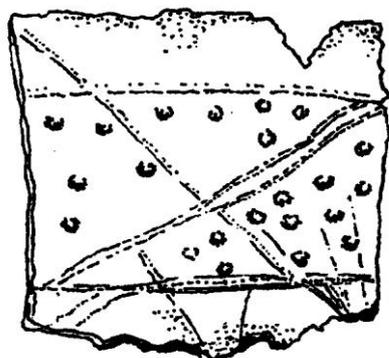


FIG 1

Coinage

Only one coin has so far been recovered, this being an abraded bronze of MARCUS AURELIUS 161 to 181 AD.

Medieval

One greyware rim form from a cooking pot and part of a medieval strap-handle from a jug.

1600-1700 – there are three blue and grey Westerwald stoneware fragments and part of a grey stoneware base, all are probably Low Country imports.

Tile – a small piece of thin flat orange tile rough cast underneath with drag marks on the upper surface is thought to be part of a post medieval pin tile. There are traces of mortar on the edges.

Four rims with rich golden brown glaze on orange fabrics are thought to be of 17th or 18th century date.

Oxidised glass from a wine bottle.

Part neck of a Victorian ink pot.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr & Mrs C Barker for allowing me the chance to both examine and record the finds made in their garden.

The presence of an archaeological situation where you live is a most envious one.

Paul Durbidge March 2000

Lowestoft Museum Report

JonReed, Hon. Curator

I have been curator for 5 years and there have been many changes in that time. The working team now has 19 people, more or less involved as their time permits. We have put in 14 new permanent displays and have completely revised the Everitt Room into a historical sequence. We have an annual display on local subjects in the Foyer and the museum has been redecorated. Since going to free admission the average annual visitor count is 20,738 and the best year was 1997 with 23,100 visitors. We are the best attended museum in the area, although the Transport Museum comes close. This is mainly due to our location in Nicholas Everitt Park, with thousands of people going past the door during the year - a situation we do not want to lose.

This year we have put in five new displays and revised two others. The new displays are:

- 1 Lowestoft At War memorabilia. This was put in partly for the schools who seem to have a never-ending fascination with World War 2.
- 2 A pictorial display on Sir Samuel Morton Peto, something that has long been lacking.
- 3 The mediaeval font of Flixton Church with the story of the church itself.
- 4 '1000 Years In Lowestoft', the foyer display on the occasion of the millennium.
- 5 A new loan display of Lowestoft Porcelain accompanied by revisions of the information boards on the Porcelain.
- 6 The annual revision of the case on items Made, Used or Sold In Lowestoft, an excuse to get out things in the collections that would not otherwise see the light of day.
- 7 A revision of the Stone Age case to include a hoard of Neolithic hand axes on long-term Loan from Persimmon Homes Ltd. They are of national importance, being very large and regular, probably made for ceremonial use, and being one of very few such hoards ever found in the country.

Apart from these obvious evidences of our activity, the more mundane work of the museum goes on from year to year. There is the recording, which has to be done on a regular basis to keep up. We are about to be dragged into the 21st century with the acquisition of a computer system for this work, although it will be also used later on to publicise the museum on the internet. We have spent five

years doing a collections audit. This involves checking the items in stock for condition, packing and whether the records are correct. It involves a fair amount of conservation.

While the museum is registered, we have at the moment been reduced to provisional status due to difficulties between the registering authorities and Waveney District Council. The main effect of lack of registration is that the museum cannot get grants. Without grants we cannot carry out essential work such as conservation, nor can we consider any sizeable project. I am hoping for a rapid solution to this problem.

This is my last year, advancing age catching up with me. At the moment there is no replacement, but measures are in place to keep the museum going. We have some 35 stewards, who do a magnificent job, as does their organiser. We need more, of course, and a recruitment campaign is going on, both in the local press and on radio. I must say that I have enjoyed my time as curator, but it is time for me to step back and let somebody else take the reins - somebody with new ideas and initiative. It can be very rewarding, such as when a new display is admired by the public or when a sad old piece in the collections is rescued for posterity. It has been fun!

A History of the Christian Church in Lothingland

Michael Chester

In AD 596 Pope Gregory (Bishop of Rome) dispatches a school of missionary monks, led by Augustine, to Kent for the express purpose of converting the pagan English to the Christian Faith.

Whether Augustine penetrates further than Kent is doubtful, but around 630 AD King Sigbert of East Anglia encourages the Irish missionary Fursey to preach Christianity to his subjects. A small monastery with cells made of wood or wattle and daub, for no trace remains today, is established at **Burgh Castle** by Fursey and his followers.

In the middle of the 7th century Fursey's work is reinforced by a Burgundian monk Felix, who founds a Bishop's See at **Dunwich**. However, no stone-built churches were erected in Lothingland at this very early period.

Successive pillaging by Mercians of a heathen disposition induces Fursey to flee to France, leaving his brothers to carry on his work. According to the writings of the Venerable Bede, by the time of Felix's death in 647, the Kingdom of East Anglia was firmly and devoutly Christian.

During the 8th and 9th centuries successive invasions by Norsemen bent on pillaging and burning churches and settlements may have gradually diluted the Christian Faith. However there is no firm evidence to suggest a total reversion to the old pagan ways.

10th CENTURY

By around 900 the Danish invasions have ceased, leaving East Anglia with many Danish settlers. It is from this period that some Scandinavian place names originate, such as Blundeston, Lound and of course Lowestoft;

or, in Old English, Lothu Wistoft. This century sees the Kingdom ruled by Christian Saxons in relative peace and stability; many churches in Lothingland were built, or at least commenced building, at this time.

As few, if any, written records of early churches have survived, the estimation of the build date of a church usually depends upon the architectural style. Lothingland possesses many round tower churches of flint and rubble construction. These are thought to span the period from around the time of King Alfred to the end of the 11th century. From the early 12th century the square Norman towers were fashionable. Repairs and rebuilds over the centuries in later styles may sometimes confuse the issue. Churches which can be dated to the 10th century are **Ashby, Blundeston, Burgh Castle, Gunton and Lound**.

Fritton church deserves special attention as parts of the church, i.e. the chancel and the tower, may be dated to the 9th century. The original narrow nave was increased in height and width and more or less rebuilt in the 14th century, using the existing north wall. The result is a church with an offset

tower.

There may have been a Saxon church on the site of **St. Margaret's, Lowestoft**, but later rebuilding has presumably destroyed the evidence.

At this period prayers and chants were recited by the priest in Latin, which few people understood. People were nevertheless pious and obedient to the Christian principles. Churches were not furnished with seats save for a few at the wall, from which the phrase "the weak go to the wall" derives. Many ordinances such as penance and part of the baptism service were performed in the church porch. Priests were considered above the civil law and had the right of appeal to the Pope. The ties of the English church to Rome were very strong and continued so to be until the 16th century.

11th CENTURY

The Norman Conquest of 1066 brings stability and freedom from Danish raids. East Anglia is now ruled by William I, a stem Christian king. A period of energetic church repair and building commences.

By the middle of the century **Pakefield** is recorded as having a church in medieties; that is, two churches built side by side and sharing a common dividing wall. At this time Pakefield consisted of two manors, one known as Rothenhale and the other as Pakefield Pyes (or Drayton). The southern mediety was used by Rothenhale, the northern by Pakefield Pyes; each having its own Rector and Patron. This arrangement had no parallel in England and the reason for it is not known. Normally the Saxon manor comprised a manor house, farm and church, the last being built on consecrated ground. It seems possible that one manor and its church may have been destroyed in the Battle of Bloodmoor Hill and the church site desecrated. In such circumstances the more fortunate manor would have agreed to share their consecrated site and a double church built. The church appears not to have had a tower until the 15th century, when the common wall was replaced by arcading. This tower replaces a porch in the southern mediety. The northern mediety is dedicated to St. Margaret and the southern to All Saints.

Oulton church, built near a cliff overlooking the Oulton marshes, can be dated to the Norman period. Dedicated to St. Michael, it was built in the cruciform plan of a small cathedral. The central stone-built square tower was replaced with brick in the 18th century. The south side originally had a transept leading to a small chapel.

12th and 13th CENTURIES

In the 12th century the first written record of the church of **St. Margaret's, Lowestoft** occurs. A grant of Henry I, made sometime between 1123 and 1135, appropriates the rectory (meaning the church, its lands, rents and tythes) to the recently founded Augustinian Priory of St. Bartholomew's at Smithfield, London. Included in the same grant are the churches of St. Andrew, Gorleston and All Saint's, Belton. This grant is confirmed in the reign of Henry I by a charter of 1230. All three churches were probably in a poor state of repair at this time.

At **Corton** a church dedicated to St. Bartholomew was in existence by 1299, when the first induction of a vicar occurs.

At **Herringfleet** a monastery for Augustinian canons is founded by Roger Fitz-Osbert, the Lord Warden of Lothingland and Lord of Somerleyton as well as many other manors, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St Olave. The latter was a Norwegian king and Christian martyr from the time of King Cnut (Canute). Founded in 1216, St. Olave's Priory included a single-aisle church. It becomes fairly wealthy, having acquired land in twenty-seven parishes in East Anglia and the churches of Herringfleet, Burgh Castle and Hales.

14th CENTURY

Early in the 14th century the church of **St Margaret's, Lowestoft** was rebuilt, perhaps for the first time entirely using stone and mortar. This was almost certainly done and the cost borne by the Austin Canons of St. Bartholomew's Priory, London.

Between 1347 and 1349 the ravages of the Black Death reduce the population by as much as a half, or even more. Yet only one memorial of this period remains in St. Margaret's, Lowestoft, dated 1365 to "ROBERT INGLOSSE". It is the earliest memorial within the church. Around this time the

population of Lowestoft moved from just south of St Margaret's towards the coast. This may have been partly due to the Black Death but was certainly in line with increasing maritime activity. Similar movements are recorded in some other villages in Suffolk following the Black Death. The clergy are equally affected and some parishes are left without a vicar.

Blundeston, St Mary's is rebuilt in this century. Using a method also seen at Fritton, the earlier tower and one wall are incorporated in alterations to widen the nave. The result is, like Fritton, a church with an offset tower.

In **Lowestoft** two chapels were erected, almost certainly at the initiative of St. Bartholomew's Priory. One was at the south side of the town, on the seaward side of the highway leading to the narrow spit of shingle between the beach and Lake Lothing, on the way to Kirkley. Perhaps intended as a wayfarer's chapel, it became known as the Good Cross Chapel. Offerings made to the Holy Cross in the chapel amounted to a respectable - for that time - £9 annually for the vicar of Lowestoft. Later destroyed by the sea, no trace remains of this chapel. The second chapel was situated in the middle of the town and may have been intended as a Chapel of Ease to St. Margaret's. It was said to have been built on arches with cells which were inhabited by needy people, including at one time the Sexton of the Parish. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries it ceased to be used as a place of worship.

From 1367 **St Bartholomew's, Corton**, with its rectory, was appropriated to the Abbott and Canons of Leiston Abbey, near Aldeburgh.

16th CENTURY

For over 500 years all church services and masses were conducted in Latin. Few people could read the Bible or understand the Latin breviary. The head of the church was the Pope, who had jurisdiction over Ecclesiastical courts and demanded tithes from the clergy.

At the beginning of the 16th century a groundswell of protest at the dominance of Rome culminated in an Act of Parliament in 1529. At the insistence of Henry VDI restrictions were placed on legal fees demanded by the clergy and all payments and appeals to the Pope were abolished. The King was confirmed as "Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England". The Reformation of the Church had begun.

The Dissolution of the Monasteries followed, starting with the least wealthy. By 1540 most monastic houses had had their assets seized by the Crown. The transfer of property was poorly controlled and less than a quarter ended up in the Treasury. The rest found its way to friends and relatives of the king or was just simply stolen.

In the 16th century some churches in Lothingland were dependent on the monasteries and their dissolution was to have far-reaching consequences as far as maintenance and upkeep were concerned. The Priory of St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield with its endowments is granted to Sir Richard Rich. This grant includes the church of **St Margaret's, Lowestoft** and St. Andrew's, Gorleston. Though Lowestoft manages to retain its church lands for their original purpose of providing income for church maintenance, by 1592 the church is in dire need of repair. The church wardens raised the money by collection from inhabitants and hayning-money from the roadside to meet the cost of repairs.

The church of **St. Bartholomew's, Corton**, having been dependent on the Canons of Leiston Abbey, is included in a gift to the brother-in-law of Henry Vin, Sir Charles Brandon, who part-exchanges it for Henham Hall. The church then passes to the Crown and from this time gradually falls into disrepair. Burgh Castle church of St. Peter and St. Paul and **St John's, Hemngfleet**, together with the **Priory of St Olaves**, is granted to Sir Henry Jemingham of Somerleyton.

All these changes were of course political and probably had no effect on the worship of parishioners. However, in the reign of Edward VI on Whit Sunday in 1549, the English Prayer Book is introduced. Perhaps the old Latin Mass and Breviary were never completely discarded.

In 1553 Mary, a devout Roman Catholic, is crowned Queen of England and restores the liturgy to the Latin form. Married priests are discharged and all Clergy required to honour the supremacy of the Pope. Regrettably she fails to restore the monasteries.

Elizabeth I is crowned Queen of England in 1558 and the reforms of the church begun by her father Henry VIII and brother Edward VI are continued. The English Prayer Book is restored, married priests tolerated and a spirit of "the days of Good King Harry" fostered.

Later in the century the Recusancy Laws impose a fine of 12 pence for every non-attendance at Church on Sunday. This was hardly ever done except against known Catholic recusants. Although Elizabeth was firmly Protestant, she nevertheless disliked the wanton destruction of religious works of art. In an attempt to rid churches of any remaining Papal reminders, a Royal Act of 1561 required the Rood to be removed from the top of the screen, which was itself to be retained. The Rood was the carved wooden figures of Christ on the Cross, flanked by the Virgin Mary and St. John, and was placed on top of the carved wood or stone Screen dividing the Chancel from the Nave. There was often a loft behind the Rood to provide access for dressing and lighting the figures on certain Holy Days.

As part of the reforms, many stone altars were demolished and mediaeval wall paintings white-washed. At **St Botolph's, North Cove** a fine series of wall paintings were recently discovered in good condition under layers of whitewash. Early Screens survive at **All Saints, Belton, St Edmund's, Fritton and St John the Baptist, Lound**, though much restored. No churches have retained the Rood.

Sometime during the 16th century the carved-stone reredos from behind the altar in **St Mary's, Somerleyton** is removed and buried in the churchyard for safe-keeping, or perhaps for destruction. It is found in the 19th century and returned to the church during restoration.

At the **Pakefield Church** in medieties (two churches under one roof) in 1549, for the first time, one Rector is inducted to both medieties, though by different Patrons. From 1555 the church of **St Peter's, Kirkley** falls into such a state of disrepair that the parishioners are obliged to use the northern mediety of Pakefield as their parish church. This arrangement continues until the middle of the 18th century.

17th CENTURY

Following the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, James VI of Scotland claims the throne as James I of England. Protestantism continues to be the doctrine of the Church of England and restrictions on Catholics are strengthened; particularly after the unsuccessful Catholic inspired Gunpowder Plot of 1605.

James proves to be an uninspiring king, much given to self-importance. He proclaimed to Parliament "The state of Monarchy is the supremest thing upon earth; for Kings even by God himself are called gods". His greatest achievement was the publication in 1611 of the Authorised Version of the Bible. Although written by a committee of scholars and edited by Bishops, it becomes firmly established in churches. It is revised in 1870 and continues today as the modern version of 1989.

After the death of James I in 1625, the future King Charles I unwisely marries the strongly Catholic Henrietta Maria, daughter of Henry VI of France, thus sowing the seeds of future trouble. Parliament was tending towards a Puritan majority and was strongly anti-Catholic. The continuing rift between Parliament and the King led to Civil War breaking out in 1642. After a somewhat bitter conflict, mostly in the West and North-Midlands, Charles I is executed in Whitehall in 1649.

Though no battles occur locally, churches and the clergy do not escape the attentions of Puritan zealots. In 1644 Francis Jessope of Beccles, on commission of the Earl of Manchester, removes brass memorials and defaces the carved fonts at St. Margaret's, Lowestoft; All Saints, Pakefield and other Lothingland churches. In the same year Colonel Oliver Cromwell and a posse of Roundheads visit Lowestoft and carry away to prison in Cambridge the vicar, his clerk and other notable townsmen; where they remain until 1646. During this period church services are suspended or sometimes performed by the laity. Registers of christenings, marriages and burials are not properly kept.

Civil unrest continues till 1653, followed by 7 years of Parliamentary rule. The restoration of the monarchy takes place in 1660 and, to reinforce this change of administration, it becomes compulsory to set up the Royal Arms in churches. The preferred position is in place of the Rood figures, but little notice is taken of this advice. However, arms are set up at St. Andrew's, Gorleston from 1664 and later at Blundeston and Pakefield churches.

In the 1660's an outbreak of witch-mania spread over much of the country; an earlier Act of 1604 meant that witchcraft was a capital offence. In 1664 two Lowestoft widows were found guilty of witchcraft at Bury St. Edmunds Assizes and burnt at the stake.

As dissenters, Quakers of the Society of Friends were persecuted in Lowestoft and elsewhere for adhering to their faith. The first recorded instance was in 1671 when a meeting of Friends was dispersed at Pakefield.

With the increasing availability of the English language Bible, people began to question certain points of interpretation and from this time the growth of religious sects occurs. In Lowestoft a Congregational Dissenters' Meeting House was established in Blue Anchor Lane (now Duke's Head Street); however for several years the members have to ride over to Great Yarmouth's Meeting House for Holy Communion.

18th CENTURY

In 1702 Queen Anne gains the throne of England and proves to be a homely and deeply religious ruler in the Protestant tradition. An Act of Parliament of 1704 orders the church tithes, previously annexed to the Crown since the Dissolution of 1534, should henceforth be directed to the stipends of needy clergy; to be known as Queen Anne's Bounty.

This additional contribution was to prove an essential addition to the subscriptions raised by Rev. Tanner of St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft in 1721, to purchase the impropriation of St. Margaret's for the use of the current vicar. Henceforth all rents, tithes on church lands and herring landings would be paid to the vicar and used for chancel repairs and other repairs and improvements.

In 1703 a hurricane removed the roof from Flixton church and it was never put back. The church falls into ruin from this date.

The Rood Screen in St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft was destroyed in 1710, though by what agency is not recorded.

At Pakefield in 1746 the two mediocities of the double church are consolidated by an order of the Bishop. It would be treated as one church with one Rector and one Patron. From 1748 the northern mediocity ceases to be used as the parish church of Kirkley and the bricks are removed from the dividing arcading around this time.

At Pakefield a regular meeting of Friends is held from around 1723 and the first recorded Quaker marriage is in 1757 at Pakefield. Following a visit to Lowestoft by John Wesley in 1761 a Methodist group of non-conformers is formed. In 1776 a Methodist Chapel is built on land off Frary Lane (now Meeting House Lane).

19th CENTURY

At the beginning of the century people were generally supportive and respectful of the Established Church;

whilst lacking the piety of previous centuries. The destruction of monuments and inhuman religious persecution were now barely remembered things from the distant past. These were the times of the sporting parson and the scholar vicar.

At St. Margaret's, Lowestoft the Rev. Robert Potter in 1800 had already served as Vicar for eleven years. A Cambridge scholar of some standing, he had translated Greek classical works. In his younger days his portrait was painted by George Romney. Around 1800 he commissions or was presented with a Lowestoft porcelain tea service bearing his heraldic crest in coloured enamels.

At Pakefield Church of St. Margaret's and All Saints the Rev. Francis Cunningham was inducted in 1814 and, with the aid of his wife Richenda (nee Gurney), makes a most favourable impression and continues until 1856; thus becoming the longest serving rector of the consolidated mediocities. From 1830 he becomes Vicar of St. Margaret's, Lowestoft, installing a curate for routine duties at Pakefield. His wife, Richenda, a sister of the prison reformer Elizabeth Fry, was a talented artist, having studied under John "Old" Crome of Norwich. She contributed several topographical drawings for Alfred Suckling's "History of Suffolk" in 1847.

Mrs. Cunningham established a Sunday School in Pakefield Church sometime between 1814 and 1830. At Lowestoft, Rev. Cunningham was instrumental in starting a subscription to build a new Chapel of Ease on land off Beccles Road (now St. Peter's Street). Dedicated to St. Peter, it replaced an earlier chapel situated near the present Town Hall which, even in the 18th century, was considered too small. The new chapel was consecrated in 1833.

As the century progresses more Methodist and other Non-Conformist Chapels and meeting houses are built than at any other time. Their Evangelical style of preaching seems to attract increasing congregations; however in some rural areas it is treated with mistrust, some traditionalist clergy referring to the new fashion as "tabernacle gas".

A small Quaker Meeting House was built in 1832/33 in the corner of a garden in Pakefield Street, generously donated by the Scales family. By the late 19th century the increasing population of South Lowestoft induced the Friends to build a Mission Hall in St. George's Road, Pakefield in 1897. Others were built at Lowestoft in Salisbury Road, Victoria Road and Chapel Street. At Lowestoft in London Road an Independent Congregational Church was opened in 1858 and in 1899 a Baptist Church was consecrated, also in London Road. At Kirkley the parish church of St. Peter's was restored and altered between 1875 and 1887.

Another long-serving Rector at Pakefield was the enigmatic Lewis Price. Installed as Rector in 1871, he finally left in 1901. A strict Sabbatarian, his approach to Christian worship was Evangelical and Protestant;

disapproving strongly if any of his flock attended St. Peter's, Kirkley, which he regarded as excessively High Church. Perhaps emulating the Methodists, Rev. Price introduces during the summer the novelty of open-air services. In 1896 an East window is installed in Pakefield Church to celebrate twenty five years of Rev. Price's "Evangelical Protestant Ministry" at Pakefield. It was an unusual and perhaps unique memorial for any church, which met with a mixed reception.

In Lowestoft the building of the harbour and the opening of the railway in 1847 led to a dramatic increase in the population of South Lowestoft. To provide for this increase a new church was built in Gothic style by Messrs Lucas, the builders of Sir Samuel Morton Peto's modern terrace in South Lowestoft, and was opened in 1854. The dedication was to St. John the Evangelist.

The area now known as Oulton Broad was then in the parish of Carlton Colville, and people used St. Peter's Church there. By the 1880's it was clear that, with the huge increase in population, an additional church was needed and in 1884 a single-hall church dedicated to St. Mark was consecrated. A few years later Oulton Broad became a distinct and independent parish.

At Corton it was decided to secure the chancel roof of St. Bartholomew's church and continue services there;

allowing the nave to remain a picturesque ruin. By 1846 the church was extended westward into the old nave and a new west wall constructed.

At Somerleyton Sir Samuel Morton Peto commissioned the architect John Thomas in 1854 to rebuild the near derelict parish church of St. Mary's. The original tower and part of the chancel were retained and a new nave in sympathetic style added. A 15th century stone reredos found in the churchyard was returned to the church and finally all was completed in 1888.

20th CENTURY

Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 and the Coronation of Edward VII a period of peace and prosperity followed; allied to greater freedom and opportunity for religious expression than had been achieved in the past. Sunday Schools were well established and attendances at Churches and non-conformist Chapels and Meeting Houses continued the regularity of Victorian times, often with three services on Sunday. The observance of Sunday as a day of rest and prayer was unquestioned.

In April 1900 the Cunningham Memorial Beachmen's Church in Whaplod Road, built in 1868, was consecrated for the first time and dedicated to Christ. It became known as Christ Church. A Congregational Church was built in Kirkley between 1900 and 1903. Sometime after 1961 this church was closed and later reopened as St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church.

The isolation of some clergy from their parishioners was receding and, if not exactly fraternising, they were nevertheless approachable. Typical of this trend was Canon Tupper-Carey, who came to St. Margaret's, Lowestoft in 1902. His informal style brought large congregations. He managed to overcome the fishermen's superstition which prevented a parson "coming aboard", and he is particularly remembered for introducing the annual "Harvest of the Sea" Thanksgiving service in 1903.

At the early part of the century the Goldspink brothers, both Quakers, were the first skippers of the

Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen's Mission smacks berthed at Lowestoft.

For the first time since the 16th century a Roman Catholic church was erected in Lowestoft. Dedicated to Our Lady Star of the Sea, it was built in Gordon Road and consecrated in 1902. At the Lound Church of St. John the Baptist between 1912 and 1914, the Rev. Booth Lynes commissioned the artist Sir John Comper to restore and beautify the interior of the little Parish Church. The effect was pleasingly glowing in the Anglo-Catholic style, which in previous centuries would have been thought unacceptably Roman. However, Lound Church continued to be an attraction to visitors and a source of pride to the parish throughout the century.

During the Great War (1914-1918) little if any structural damage occurs to local churches as a result of the bombardment in 1916. However, most people suffered some personal loss in their families. Some churches commission restorations and furniture as memorials to those that fell. A new church was designed in 1920 to stand in Roman Road, Lowestoft as such a memorial. Due to lack of funds it was not completed until 1936 and dedicated to St. Andrew. At St. Margaret's, Lowestoft a peal of eight bells was given and dedicated in July 1920. Later a War Memorial side chapel was restored and dedicated in 1923. This was altered in 1964.

No sooner had the memories of the First World War faded than war with Germany broke out again in 1939. This time the aerial bombing caused considerable damage and loss of life. After fire bombing on 21st April 1940, Pakefield Church was reduced to a shell. Fortunately most movable furniture, including the altar were saved. Sadly some fittings and the 14th century font, left in the ruined church, were vandalised. After the war Pakefield Church was the first in the country to be restored and reconsecrated on 29th January, 1951.

Meetings for silent worship at the Quaker's Meeting House in Pakefield Street were discontinued in the 1960's. However in 1984, with help with restoration from the Friends (South Lowestoft) Ranger Guides Unit, meetings for silent worship were restored. Additional services for worship continued at the Friends Mission Hall in St. George's Road, Pakefield.

The 1970's were a sad decade for Lowestoft churches. St. Peter's Church, built as a chapel of ease for St. Margaret's, was demolished and a road widening scheme built. St. John's Church, Kirkley, built by Morton Peto as part of his modernising scheme in the 19th century, was taken down. A year later in 1975 St. Peter's Church, Kirkley was rededicated to St. Peter and St. John.

The Trinity Methodist Church in Park Road, Lowestoft opened in 1970 and replaced the Methodist Church in the High Street, which closed in 1974 and was later demolished to make way for flats.

During the second half of the 20th century new churches were built to accommodate an ever-increasing population. At Gunton, in Hollingsworth Road, a modern church was opened in 1955 and dedicated to St. Benedict. A new Baptist Church opened in London Road South in 1973. In Oulton Broad the modern church of St. Luke's in Homefield Avenue was consecrated in 1960.

At the end of the century there were more denominations of the Christian Church represented in Lotingland, and with more freedom to worship in their own ways, than at any time in history. Strict observance of Sunday as a day of rest and worship, accepted at the start of the century, became confined to a dedicated few. The accent of most Churches became drawn to fellowship. Congregations were not declining but worked harder to maintain churches and keep the interest of all age groups. Whether this increased freedom and independence led to a decline of the Christian ethic is debatable.

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Appendix 1.

**LIST OF PLACES FOR CHRISTIAN WORSHIP IN LOTFFINGLAND AT THE
END OF THE 20th CENTURY.**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Ashby	St. Mary	Herringfleet	St. Margaret
Belton	All Saints	Southtown	St. Mary
Blundeston	St. Mary's	Hopton	St. Margaret
Bradwell	St. Nicholas	Kirkley	St. Peter & St. John
Burgh Castle	St. Peter & St. Paul	Lound	St. John the Baptist
Cobholm	St. Luke's	Lowestoft	St. Margaret; St Andrew; Christ Church
Corton	St. Bartholomew	Oulton	St. Michael
Fritton	St. Edmund	Oulton Broad	St. Mark, St. Luke
Gorleston	St. Andrew; St. Mary	Pakefield	All Saints & St. Margaret
Gunton	St. Peter, St Benedict	Somerleyton	St. Mary

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Baptist Church	Gorleston; Gunton; Kirkley
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Gorleston; Gunton
Elim Pentecostal Church	Lowestoft
Free Presbyterian Church	Oulton Broad
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses	Lowestoft
Methodist Church	Bradwell; Corton; Gorleston; Kirkley; Lowestoft
Roman Catholic Church	St. Peter's, Gorleston; St. Nicholas, Kirkley; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lowestoft
Salvation Army	Kirkley; Lowestoft
Halls Seventh Day Adventist Church	Gorleston; Oulton Broad; Pakefield
Society of Friends (Quakers)	Mission Hall, Pakefield; Meeting House, Pakefield
Spiritualist Church	Lowestoft
United Reform Church	Gorleston; Lowestoft; Oulton Broad
Wesleyan Reformed Church	Lowestoft

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Beresford Road Evangelical Church, Lowestoft
The Bethel, Lowestoft
Bethel Gospel Hall, Gorleston
Brethren's Meeting Room, Oulton Broad
Bridge Road Gospel Hall, Oulton Broad
Cliff Park Community Church, Gorleston
Commodore Mission Hall Oulton Broad
The Depot, Lowestoft Community Church, Gisleham (South Lowestoft Industrial Estate)
The King's Church, Gorleston
Kirkley Run Missionary Hall, Kirkley
Mount Pleasant Gospel Hall, Lowestoft
The Tabernacle Charismatic Church, Cobholm
Tonning Street Hall, Lowestoft

A condensed version of this article has been produced as an illustrated booklet, part of the Lowestoft Museum series, on sale in the museum and at the East Point Pavilion.

The Lowestoft Scene 1999-2000

Jon Reed

The things that are most remembered in the last twelve months are the Millennium, the death of Jack Rose and the closure of Barclays Bank branches. The millennium we shall all remember for the rest of our lives. The celebrations were memorable - even if they couldn't light the beacon for a few minutes. The one thing that was really a damp squib was the millennium bug. There were no problems that I heard of, even my old watch happily recording 2000, in spite of dire warnings from the makers. Jack Rose succumbed to cancer in February, aged 73. He was a symbol of Old Lowestoft, a pleasant man with a passion for the past of the town -even if he sometimes slightly embroidered history to make a point in his many lectures. He had a wonderfully dry sense of humour. There were 500 at his funeral in the Trinity Methodist Church and the Book of Remembrance was signed by thousands. He had a part in founding Lowestoft Museum and he set up and ran the Lowestoft Memorial Museum. He was also a noted historical author and had a huge stock of old photographs of the town. He is much missed.

Barclays Bank closed 2 branches in April 2000 - the one at Kirkley being the only one left in that area. There was wholesale condemnation, both locally and nationally. The excuse was that so many people are banking by internet nowadays that the branches were not viable. As many people pointed out, you can't pay in or take out cash through the internet; so the withdrawal of a local service was inexcusable and showed a contempt for personal and small-business customers that is breathtaking. To follow this up the Government are now talking seriously about closing many post offices, leaving some people high and dry.

To happier things. On the industrial and trade front, Boulton & Paul were sold to Jeld-Wen Inc. for a reputed £2.5 billion, and have since taken on more staff. Colne Fishing took delivery of a high-tech trawler a year ago (sadly, it was built in Holland!). In June Birds Eye opened a new £1M product development centre to celebrate 50 years in Lowestoft, and 2 months later closed their pea processing plant. However, the work was transferred to Salvesen's, still within the town. In October Klyne Tugs won a contract for emergency towing vehicles in the Orkneys. The same month one of their tugs, the Anglian Duke, rescued an American freighter aground in the Solent. Odebrecht "demerged" from SIP, who promptly got a contract worth £40M for gas-fired power plants. Later, in February 2000, they completed a Shell accommodation module worth £8M. KYE have also been successful, getting a £2M contract for a low operating-cost platform for the new Skiff field for Shell. Plans for a high-tech business park at Carlton Colville have been referred to Planning with a recommendation to accept the proposals. The Somerfields sell-out resulted in Rainbow taking over the Carlton Colville store, with no job losses. John Grose have spent over £100,000 on a redevelopment of their Whapload Road site. Putford Services (oil industry support and safety) were taken over by Seacor Smit for £25M. The new Hippodrome is very near completion. Marks and Spencer have completed a £100,000 refit. Aldi want to build a new store on Commercial Road with 100 parking spaces. After a successful first attempt at the Triangle, a Fanners' Market has opened at Ellough.

Of course. It hasn't all been good news. Unemployment, in spite of a slight fall last June, is still above the national average. Scott's Brewery has closed. Tesco want to build a leisure and housing complex at their North Lowestoft site, but this is being bitterly opposed by the locals. Once again fish quotas have been cut. The plaice quota was only cut by 4.5% but the cod quota was down by no less than 38% - more trouble for the beleaguered fishing industry, already hit by Waveney having to start charging some £14,000 a year for inspection and monitoring as a result of an EU directive.

Then there is the fabled South Quay development. As things stand, the old C.W.S. factory has gone (after a fire in December) and a Peterborough firm have put forward proposals for a £32M development including restaurants, a cinema and factory shops. There is a Waveney proposal on the table to put a Maritime Heritage Centre there, mainly to house the ISCA ethnic boat collection although all the other museums with any maritime content are being asked to consider joining in. The development will tie in with the new Southern Relief Road, the plans being unveiled for this a year

ago. The Chamber of Commerce have said that the South Quay development will siphon off some £2.5M trade from the town centre. This is under discussion!

The roads have been their usual mess during the winter, though it has not been as bad as last year. The All Hopton roundabout was put in very quickly and should eliminate the terrible accidents that have happened there. The Barnby Bends are still a pest, but the bypass may well go in over the next twelve months. The new relief road from the Crown to Lowestoft Road, Carlton Colville is also scheduled for building soon. The new Northern Spine Road is now Millennium Way, what else! The other main news on the roads seems to be the pedestrianisation in Kirkley. Wellington Road now has a gateway and there is a beautiful Victorian garden.

The latest proposal is to pedestrianise London Road South, presumably after the Southern Relief Road goes in. Of course, if the bridge sticks open again, like it did last August, the traffic chaos will be even worse. Some rural bus services are being axed. Anglian Railways have pulled their socks up. We have had a through train to London since October. There is new rolling stock and repairs have been done at Somerleyton, Oulton Broad North, Oulton Broad South and Beccles stations. The rail bridge from Denmark Road to Commercial Road, which has been there since at least 1870, is to be pulled down. Why?

St. Peter's Court's future is still in doubt. First there was a repair bill of around £2.5M, then Waveney put it up for sale, they couldn't sell it so tried to give it away but got no takers. The derelict Grand Cinema has been demolished and will be replaced by a community centre costing £1.2M. People from other parts of the country are buying houses in the expectation of making profits from the new industrial push in the town. Persimmon Homes are proceeding with the Beccles Road development and several other housing developments are under way.

The millennium celebrations have been mentioned, but it should be pointed out that an ambulance from the mythical "Holby City" was in attendance. And we should also mention in passing the Air Show, which as usual went very well. And we should recall the Eclipse last August, seen clearly in Lowestoft

Now to Anglian Water, who do not seem able to avoid shooting themselves in the foot. First, the poorly-sited Corton sewage plant got the go-ahead last May. Then they were fined for letting sewage onto the beach, thus costing the blue flag clean beach award. Then there were catastrophic floods in central Lowestoft last August, due to a cloudburst, which caused the antiquated drains to overflow. There was 2 feet of water in Station Square and the Hollywood Cinema was flooded. Anglian Water were challenged to put things right and their response has been a survey followed by plans to spend £1M on flood prevention. At the same time it was announced that a new treatment plant was to be sited at Ness Point. There's a thing. There's Lands End, the Lizard, John O'Groats and now a sewage plant to mark the furthest East point. Marvellous! A local doctor slammed the idea since they will be pushing out partially treated sewage, which is an obvious health hazard. Anglian Water have now announced a viewing tower at the site, presumably to watch the flow of effluent.

There have been lots of public works announcements, and even some action. A new visitor trail has been started at the "Fish Lab" (who are CEFAS?). The police announced a new beat system last May. To date I can't say I've noticed their presence. In July a new lifeboat house was opened. It is the first purpose-built one since the first Lowestoft lifeboat entered service in 1801. Pakefield lighthouse has been re-opened for use by Coastwatch volunteers. Southwold Pier is being refurbished. A row has been rumbling on for some months about the Fire Service's wish to close the Clifton Road station, leaving south Lowestoft without cover. The wheelie bin men have been instructed to ignore bundles of refuse not actually in the bins. Waveney councillors have awarded themselves an extra £300,000 a year and the Town Hall clock needs £100,000 of repairs. Would a new one be cheaper? Now we are told by the new Chief Executive that Waveney District Council is to be reorganised, with fewer committees and only 3 department heads instead of 5. We are promised more consultation, which I suspect means that they will ask our opinion then ignore it as usual.

There seems to be a Lot of Government and EU money on offer. In July Lowestoft was awarded Assisted Area Status and Waveney awarded Enterprise Grant Area Status. Also in July £800,000 of "5b objective" money was given by the EU for the alterations to the East Point Pavilion, together with £148,000 for an investigation into the new Maritime Heritage Centre, £331,000 to Lowestoft College

and £100,000 to the Port. New funds are announced to help coastal towns affected by cheap foreign holidays. Waveney will receive £14M from Europe over a period of years for promoting employment. Finally English Heritage are giving £135,000 for regeneration of buildings in the High Street.

On the heritage and leisure front, several things have happened in the last twelve months. A "golf garden" is being installed on the seafront. Broadland Holiday Village has got 5 star rating. The Water Lane swimming pool was closed for repairs recently. Suffolk Wildlife Trust have opened a wetlands habitat at Henham with funding from the EU, the Lottery and money from landfill tax credits. Three cottages have been discovered under the Come & Sew Centre (ex Edwards Outfitters) in the High Street. They are possibly 200 years old and were open to the public at Easter. A reed boat, built for Colonel Blashford-Snell's Brazilian river expedition, was received by ISCA in January. ISCA, incidentally, have threatened to leave town unless they get a new site at the South Quay development. A cross commemorating Coastal Forces Veterans is to be moved from Yorkshire and installed at the Maritime Heritage Centre. A start has been made on a "linear park" along the old Lowestoft-Yarmouth railway line. A First World War lookout post was exposed by the tides on Southwold beach. It was originally half a mile inland. The Lydia Eva is no longer seaworthy due to the hull being very fragile. She is being laid up and the Mincarolo is being based in Lowestoft this year. The Excelsior Trust have received £120,000 from the EU to establish a permanent maintenance base. In April 2000 Lowestoft Museum received from Persimmon Homes on long term loan a hoard of 3 exceptional hand axes. Two are very large and they are all beautifully shaped, probably being for ceremonial purposes. They were found during a dig along Beccles Road prior to housing development. Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Rugby Club's attempt to build a £2M sports centre at Blundeston has been withdrawn due to local objections, in spite of being given planning approval. A rider was killed at the Somerleyton Horse Trials in September, but Lord Somerleyton has vowed to continue the trials, with more attention to safety.

On the Education side, Lowestoft College opened a new Maritime and Offshore Centre of Excellence. The Old Warren House School got an Ofsted award for above-average performance in Design and Technology. Last summer Kirkley High School hosted a two-week literacy school.

In June a Primary Health Care Group was founded, consisting of G.P.'s, Community Nurses, Social Services and so on. Sadly, the funds were withdrawn for kidney dialysis at James Paget Hospital and sufferers still have to go to Norwich for treatment. A new mental health initiative, based in Lowestoft, was announced in November.

And what about the weather? It has been VERY WET! Above-average rainfalls have been reported nearly all year. There has been some good weather, but it is fairly rare to get three good days in succession. The worst rain was last August when a cloudburst flooded parts of the town, as already reported.

Finally, two celebrities have retired. Jimmy Hoseason has sold out to a management consortium for £22M - he got the OBE as well! Our President, Malcolm Berridge, has relinquished the reins at Waveney. We wish him a happy retirement and look forward to seeing him being more active in the Society and at the Museum.