

Volume Thirty Three : 2000 -2001**Contents**

A Summary of the Talks/Events in the Last 12 Months		1
The Restoration of the Museum Cannon	Arthur Howell	8
The Search for Manthorpe	Myra Kestner	9
Report on Fieldwalking by the Fieldwalking Group of the LA&LHS 2001	Jon Reed	13
Flint House and the John Wilde School Project	Paul Durbidge	14
A Bad Year for Cliff Slides at Pakefield Suffolk	Paul Durbidge	19
A Late Medieval Pit at Pakefield Suffolk	Paul Durbidge	20
A Silver Figurine of Anglo Saxon Date from Carlton Colville Suffolk	Paul Durbidge	24
The Lowestoft Scene	Jon Reed	25

A SUMMARY OF THE TALKS/EVENTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS*Myra Kestner*11th May 2000 **"Dunwich Greyfriars, A Monument in Crisis?"***by Tom Loader**Tom Loader is from the Suffolk Archaeological Unit.*

Greyfriars at Dunwich is owned by English Heritage and is designated as a Site of National Importance, but it is still largely unexcavated and is liable to slide into the sea. At the present rate of erosion it will be attacked in 10 years time and will have totally disappeared by 2068.

The history of Dunwich probably goes back to 630 AD when St. Felix set up the first bishop's see in England. By late Saxon times it was a major port and was later described as the largest town in the country. It's Charter dates from 1199 when the town defences were probably built. In 1286 a storm choked the harbour entrance and the population cleared it, but had to stop erosion prevention measures. In 1328 a catastrophic storm resulted in the diversion of the river mouth to Walberswick and the decline of the town dates from then.

The Franciscan Friary (the Franciscans were known as the Grey Friars) was established in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) by Richard & Alice Fitzjohn. In 1290 the grant was confirmed for 4.5 acres, but the present boundaries give over 7 acres and cover the filled-in town defences. After the Dissolution the buildings were despoiled for their stone. In 1936 there was a cricket pitch on the site. The remaining walls were probably south of the cloister and were possibly the civic building reconstructed from part of the Friary. The holes in them are from World War 2 gun emplacements.

3 excavations have taken place. The first, in 1935, looked at the Temple Mound just south of the Friary. A "map" was produced, purporting to be a copy of a 1300 map which could not be found afterwards. The 1587 map is more accurate and shows Dunwich after the Dissolution. A 1969 map correlates the other maps and shows erosion. Stanley West excavated in 1970 and proved that the town ditch had been deliberately levelled. In 1997 the Suffolk Archaeological Unit proposed digging two trenches near the cliff and two more at the Friary. This provoked a battle with the Parish Council which made the headlines in the local and national press. The Guardian described it as trench warfare. In the end the two Friary trenches were dug and discovered wall footings. They returned in 1999 and dug several trenches diagonally across the site, discovering, among other things, several burials, of which they excavated three, all in a good state of preservation. Tom Loader estimated there may be between 600 and 1000 burials which, if excavated, would throw light on the lifestyles of the wealthier people of the town, since well-off locals paid to be buried there.

Although English Heritage will not pay for further excavation, there is a possibility of European funding. Mr. Loader left it to the audience to decide whether the Friary was a monument in crisis. His talk was much appreciated by the Society.

Jon Reed

25th May 2000 **Annual General Meeting** (see minutes issued separately)

8th June 2000 **"Suffolk Village Signs"** *by Maureen Long*

Maureen Long's interest in "Suffolk Village Signs" started by chance when she and a friend, on their way to Ditchingham, drove past the sign at Beccles which is now on the cover of the first of their three books. Since then, they have photographed two hundred signs and researched their histories, and a Village Sign Society has been formed. The slide show was developed from the photographs taken for the books. The fashion for East Anglian village signs started in 1912 on the Sandringham Estate, but a large number date from a Women's Institute competition to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Many of the most attractive signs are made of wrought iron, in a forge at Brandeston specialising in their manufacture, some are painted pictures and others are carved in wood. Most of them depict local industries and agriculture, famous local people and legends, the origins of the village name, or an intricate combination of all of these. Mendham, for example, has "Charlotte and her Horse", from the painting by Munnings. Yoxford an ox fording a river, and several villages have legendary wild men or horses and ploughs. *Myra Kestner*

17th June 2000 **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.

29th June 2000 **Round Tower Church Visit** *Led by Bill Goode*

This year Bill led us to look at two Round Tower churches close to home. Again the weather was fine and we had an enjoyable evening. Many interesting features were seen.

St Mary's Blundeston. First we looked at the tower and saw the location of the blocked up Saxon belfry windows about half way up the tower. On the NW corner is a small circular window high up which looks to the altar, the purpose of which is not fully understood. The tower is off centre with the nave due to rebuilding when the church was enlarged. During this work the porch was reconstructed and some of the pillars were fitted up-side-down. In the church yard is a font from the ruined church at Flixton and also an interesting headstone requested by a Schoolmaster to have spikes on the top to prevent boys from sitting on it!

St Peter's Gunton. The tower was added to the church as the 'D' shaped section would suggest. Some fine and unusual Norman doors were seen and the church has a fine single wagon roof stretching the whole length of the building. Major restoration work has taken place in Saxon times, in 1700 by Charles Boyce and in the early 1900's by the owners of Gunton Hall. In the graveyard is a stone in memory of a little girl who was killed outside the church by a horse.

Our thanks go to Bill Goode for organising this and showing us all the features. *Dick Collins with help from Alan Jones*

Saturday 8th July 2000 **Flag Fen Coach Outing**

It is a long time since we have been able to fill even a small coach, but this year was different, with thirty one members and friends keen to visit Flag Fen. As we arrived, the rain stopped, and we were greeted with a "Welcome to the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society" poster on the door. After our early start, a cup of coffee was much needed, and we finished it whilst watching the introductory video. An hour long guided tour of the site was provided, explaining the displays at Flag Fen. Round houses from the Iron Age and Bronze Age have been reconstructed from post holes found on site, and thatching was in progress on the Iron Age house. Bronze Age timber from the palisade, which had been erected to protect the settlement, is preserved by keeping it in water in a preservation hail. Sea Henge, now at Flag Fen for preservation, is similarly kept in water and under a constant spray. The Bronze Age wooden platform is currently being excavated, with painstaking work on wood pieces embedded in mud. This may have been a holy site of religious or ritual significance and there is evidence of offerings of deliberately broken swords, trinkets and sacrificed animals. Later, a Roman causeway was constructed across the site, wide enough for ten Roman soldiers to march along, side by side; and almost directly above the Bronze Age palisade. When the medieval

Mustdyke was constructed, it cut across the Roman causeway and heaped soil on it, thus preserving a cross section for us to view. Still no rain, and we were able to enjoy a picnic lunch in the grounds, revisit some of the sites seen on the morning tour and look at the Roman herbal garden and the Soay sheep. Inside the visitor centre, a small museum displayed finds and told the story of Flag Fen. After tea, we left for home and the rain only started again when we were on the coach. *Myra Kestner*

20th July 2000**A Tour of Old Yarmouth***Led by Norman Fryer**and Colleagues from the Yarmouth Archaeological Society*

We gathered outside St Nicholas Church, the largest parish church in Britain with its huge asymmetrical aisles. Above the bell ringing practice, we listened to Norman Fryer begin his unflinching and entertaining mixture of knowledgeable historical information and local anecdotes. The town wall of Yarmouth and its towers were originally built in the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and remain today in a particularly good state of preservation. Starting from King Henry's Tower in St Nicholas Churchyard, we viewed much of the town wall, including the section where houses had been built on top of it, and the remaining towers. Continuing to the South Quay, we looked at the Tolhouse and at the impressive buildings on the quayside. After a glimpse down some of the remaining "rows" and a walk through the vast old market place, we returned to our starting point at St Nicholas Church. We can now anticipate a request from the Yarmouth Archaeological Society for a tour of Lowestoft. *Myra Kestner*

14th September 2000 **"The Ordering of a Community: Local Government in Pre-Industrial Lowestoft"***by David Butcher*

Pre-Industrial Lowestoft was a well organised, highly structured and controlled small community, where all the inhabitants had, and knew, their places. Local government was administered by the manorial courts of the Lord of the Manor and by the parish vestry. The local manorial court continued to meet well into modern times, thus ensuring that the manorial court rolls are particularly well preserved.

The manorial court consisted of the Court Baron, which supervised land transfers, disputes over landholdings and the use of the Lord's wastes, or common lands, and the Leet Court, which dealt with misdemeanours, such as throwing rubbish in the street or not attending church. The Court Baron met every six weeks but the Court Leet only on an annual basis. Set fines were imposed, both as entry payments when property was transferred, and as punishment for misdemeanours. The chief tenants of the Manor attended court and acted as jurors. The few reported criminal cases were referred to the Quarter Sessions at Beccles.

The officers of the parish vestry included overseers of the poor, who administered the Poor Law, collecting rates, making payments to the needy and supervising the almshouses. Other officers were responsible for ensuring the repair of the highways and the maintenance of trading standards. The vestry also organised the beating of the parish bounds and collected the tithes owed to the Lowestoft vicar. *Myra Kestner*

28th September 2000**"The Lowestoft Lifeboat"***by Michael Chapman*

Lowestoft was one of the first places in this country to have a lifeboat (23 years before the Lifeboat Institution was founded) and next year celebrates its 200th anniversary. Michael Chapman has been on the lifeboat committee since 1965 and Hon. Secretary since 1968. In his talk to the Society on "The Lowestoft Lifeboat", he described the history and development of the local service during these 35 years and the many awards to crew members for rescues made during the period.

When the village on the Beach was demolished in the 1960s, crew members had to move their homes further from the lifeboat station. The size of the maroons fired by the coastguards to summon them was enlarged so that they could be heard from a greater distance. Since 1981, pocket alarms have been used to page the crew.

The "Frederick Edward Crick" served as lifeboat for several years and was replaced by "The Spirit of Lowestoft", financed by successful local fund raising, in 1987. The lifeboats are supported by voluntary contributions and the local lifeboat guilds work hard to raise funds. In 1993, the Hook of Holland lifeboat visited Lowestoft and the following year "The Spirit of Lowestoft" made a return

visit to the Hook of Holland. The new boathouse was opened in 1998 at the South Pier and the lifeboat (soon due for replacement by a newer boat) is now nearby on the south east side of the yacht basin.

Myra Kestner

12th October 2000

"The Norwich Millennium Site"

by Andy Hutcheson

The Norwich Millennium Site", where the Norwich library once stood, provided a rare opportunity for archaeologists to excavate part of an inner-city. Archaeologist Andy Hutcheson explained how finds on this site had changed understanding about the early development of Norwich. It was previously believed that pre-Norman Norwich was very small and centred on a market at Tombland. Discoveries relating to a gold working industry on the library site now suggest that this had not been a rural area outside the town and that Anglo-Saxon Norwich thus covered a larger area. Finds started with mid Anglo-Saxon Ipswich ware and included a gold ingot and a gold decorated crucible of the later Anglo-Saxon period.

The Normans further developed the area near St Peter Mancroft and founded the new market there, with the Anglo-Saxon district continuing at Tombland. In the early Norman period, the two communities lived separately and had different legal systems. In the twelfth century, there were two stone houses among the buildings on the library site, all with accompanying midden pits. A coin of this period was found there, divided into four to form farthings.

In 1961, when the library was built, the site was flattened, causing difficulties for the identification of later medieval buildings. Some of the medieval buildings, including the timber inn which was situated next to the two stone houses, may have survived until this levelling of the site.

Myra Kestner

26th October 2000

"The Air War over Lowestoft"

by Bob Collis and Colin Pearce

For the second time in recent lecture seasons, Bob and Colin, from the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum at Flixton, visited the Society to talk about aviation history and show some of the collection of photographs and records. We have, of course, also had a Society visit to the Museum.

Before and after photographs of Lowestoft streets hit by bombs compared the destruction following air raids with present day peaceful houses and gardens. Some of these sites give clues to their past, with newer houses among the old or, as in North Parade, new sections of brickwork where damage has been repaired. Censorship prevented the identification of buildings shown in press photographs, and when Lowestoft police station was bombed, the coat of arms on the building was removed from the photograph and the caption stated that the police station was in an "East Anglian coastal town".

German aerial photographs from the early days of the war marked places of interest to them, such as the harbour. In practice, these preparations did not always ensure success; sometimes pilots reported an attack on Yarmouth when they had really bombed Lowestoft or Pakefield.

The Anderson and Morrison shelters protected some Lowestoft people but the civilian "roll of honour" for those killed in Lowestoft, on display at the War Memorial Museum, is lengthy. The worst incident in Lowestoft occurred in January 1942 when a bomb falling in London Road North killed 70 people, most of them in Waller's restaurant.

Myra Kestner

9th November 2000

"The Anglo-Saxon Poem Beowulf"

by Basil Abbott

The poem was written in old English in the 6th Century and was given its title only 100 years ago. It is the story of a hero who fought monsters, which is in the Heroic tradition, but the monks who copied out the poem omitted anything they considered unsuitable, leaving a somewhat sanitised edition, different from, say, the more earthy Icelandic sagas of a similar theme. In the story Beowulf travels from Sweden with his followers to deal with a monster, who, for eleven years has been attacking the court of King Rothgar. In the battle, the monster is injured, and the monster's mother (even more formidable) attacks, but is killed by Beowulf. Fifty years later, Beowulf himself is killed whilst slaying a dragon.

In the Bible and in literature throughout history, the battle of good and evil is portrayed by heroes killing a monster or giant, for example David and Goliath. Also, characters similar to the monster's mother can be found in Grimm's Fairy Tales, portrayed as wicked mothers and stepmothers, perhaps

displaying some fear of women in general and mothers in particular. Yet Beowulf and the monster are alike in many ways. Is man a monster, too?
Lilian Fisher

23rd November 2000 **"Town Life under the Roman Empire"** *by Sarah & Bill Hudson*

To gain a further understanding of life in Roman Britain, Sarah and Bill have visited Spain, Italy and France where a far greater number of Roman buildings remain, either in good preserved condition or well restored. Britain was on the periphery of the Roman Empire and conquered at a later date in its history. The writings of Tacitus state that baths and forums were built in Britain, but the remains of these buildings, for example the baths in the town of Bath, are often under settlements continually occupied to the present day. Little survives of many other Roman buildings, as stones have been carried away to construct later houses and churches. In Spain, Italy and France, the ruins of Roman towns often still stand, adjacent to the modern town.

Themed groups of slides, taken on these travels, showed vast aqueducts, and theatres and bridges that are still used today. The remains of streets, houses and shops and shop signs, temples, household shrines and mosaics were also shown. The construction of present day houses and of bullfight arenas appears to show continuity from Roman times.

Some Spanish towns were named for Roman emperors, including Zaragoza for Augustus and Juliobriga for Julius. Juliobriga was the administrative capital for northern Spain and its ruins are typically near a modern town. Juliobriga, and the town and museum at Merida, where perfectly preserved Roman glassware was photographed, were the subjects of many of the slides, though some others resulted from travels in Britain, France and Italy.
Myra Kestner

7th December 2000 **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. Paul Durbidge talked on local archaeological finds and Jon's quiz was a little different this year.

25th January 2001 **"The History of Gisleham Parish, 1066-1714"** *by Terry Weatherley*

Terry brought with him examples of local history research ranging from field walking finds to documentary evidence and photographs. Although the talk starting date was 1066, we were interested to see artefacts such as a Saxon spindle weight and a Viking bridle part, indicating still earlier settlement.

Early Gisleham was on the marshes and, like coastal parishes, had its wealth partly assessed in herrings by the Domesday Book compilers. The church dates from this period and has Anglo-Saxon features, notably the window in the lower part of the round tower and a flint plinth. Inside the church there are medieval wall paintings, including one said to be of St Dorothy, who as the patron saint of florists, was painted with flowers in her hair. Near the church is an ancient building commonly described as a tithe barn, but also suspected of being a guild house. In 1270, Gisleham was granted the right to hold a market, which continued over many years in a long narrow field near the church. Coins dating to the reign of George I have been found in this field.

The Manor House disappeared many years ago but a double moat still remains. The Manor House was some distance from the church and apparently on the edge of a common. The drawbridge was taken up and the moat cleaned out in 1794. In 1986, Society- members dug two exploratory trenches in the moat and a report on this excavation appeared in the Society Annual Report (Volume 19) for 1986-7. Copies are held in the Museum and at the Record Office.
Myra Kestner

8th February 2001 **"The Sutton Hoo Ship"** *by Mark Mitchels*

In the 1930's, landowners discovering interesting mounds on their lands could dig them up if they wished to do this. Mrs Pretty of Sutton Hoo sent for Basil Brown who came to visit her on his bike and, with her gardener and gamekeeper, started digging. Luckily Basil, though untrained, was an archaeological genius. Slides brought by Mr Mitchels, included some photographs of this original excavation, showing the internal outline of the boat. This had been plotted through the finds of metal rivets and discoloured earth where the wood had once been. The outline of the boat was destroyed by tank exercises during the war.

The stem of the boat had been cut off during sixteenth century trench digging so that the chamber

containing the burial was no longer in the centre of the mound. This had saved it from a successful attack by grave robbers who dug in the wrong place.

Following Basil Brown's discovery, excavations by British Museum archaeologists uncovered treasure buried with an important Anglo-Saxon man, thought to be Wuffing King Raedwald who lived at nearby Rendlesham and died in 625. The buried man was dressed in a red tunic with a yellow cloak with a sword and purse beside him. There were spears near his head and bowls at his feet, all beautifully decorated, with the gold as usual remaining untarnished. The purse contained 40 gold coins, 37 of them from different parts of Europe and perhaps paying the 40 ghostly rowers who, it was believed, would take him on his final journey. The treasure and burial has striking similarity to descriptions in Beowulf, and it is possible that the author attended the burial.

The Trust is currently preparing a major Sutton Hoo exhibition on the site, including a reconstruction of the ship and burial goods for public display. Perhaps this would be an interesting Society outing for 2002 or 2003.

Myra Kestner

22nd February 2001 **"Top Hats and Servants' Tales - A Century of Life
on the Somerleyton Estate"** *by Ann Gander*

Oral history recordings made by retired Somerleyton Hall servants and an elderly aunt, born about 1897, from the upstairs family, described the upstairs downstairs life of the stately homes which came to an end after the Second World war.

A housemaid in the 1920s lived in a shared room, with a chest of drawers dividing the two beds, and from the windows watched the ladies in their ballgowns on the lawn. In the morning she was up early to scrub the floors and make the fires. At first she was fifth housemaid but rose to be number three and was sometimes given the more interesting job of unpacking for visiting ladies. The cook had a twenty foot range, black leaded daily by the kitchen maids who also washed up in a big wooden sink, using sand, soda and vinegar to clean the pots. There was a strict hierarchy among the servants, with the butler in charge of the men, the housekeeper heading the maids and the cook in charge of the kitchen. They walked into the servants' hall in strict order of precedence and a maid to a visiting earl went before a maid to a commoner.

The elderly aunt remembered the names of the servants she knew as a girl. As their parents entertained royalty and were away for the Season, and their brothers were sent to boarding school from the age of eight, girls of her status spent much of their time with servants. The housekeeper, cook and maids lived in but many servants, including the butler and the outdoor staff, lived out within the estate. The Somerleyton Hall family took a paternal interest in the estate families and almost unheard of for any of them to go to the workhouse.

Myra Kestner

8th March 2001 **"The Landscape History of Broadland"** *by Tom Williamson*

We were very pleased when Tom Williamson arrived after a difficult journey in the pouring rain from Norwich, with transparencies wet from a fall in a puddle. Meanwhile Jon Reed had announced the re-opening of the Lowestoft Museum, including the new "Lowestoft Childhood" display, and the purchase of artefacts from the Bloodmoor Hill dig.

In 1787 it was believed that the Broadlands had been unclaimed marsh before the recently constructed windmills had drained it during the previous twenty years. The landscape history of the Broadlands pastures is, however, much more ancient than was then thought. In the 1720s, Daniel Defoe described black cattle feeding on these pastures and an enquiry after the 1607 flood referred to the rich reclaimed land which had been inundated. When parish boundaries were fixed in the twelfth century, the Broadland parishes (for example Toft Monks) owned detached pieces of marsh, thus demonstrating that there had all ready been reclamation and that the land was useful for grazing.

Peat cutting for fuel started in the late Anglo-Saxon period on the less productive common land and was dug to a depth of two metres. Fieldwalking in the Havergate area has produced finds of pottery from the ninth and tenth centuries onwards. The extraction of peat continued until after the fourteenth century climatic changes, when rising sea levels caused flooding. There was increasing manorial control of peat cutting on the common land but some limited shallow peat extraction resumed on privately owned land after the late eighteenth century enclosures. During the nineteenth century, this

led to some localised flooding which has since largely disappeared.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, fishing was important and in the seventeenth century the duck decoys (notably at Fritton) were constructed. The windmills built in the eighteenth century also changed the landscape. The Broadlands are designated an environmentally sensitive area but they have been man made and changing land use has caused continual alterations. *Myra Kestner*

22nd March 2001

"Local Archaeological Finds"

by Paul Durbidge

Paul reported on five local sites where he had been involved in archaeological work during the last couple of years, starting with Covehithe and proceeding through Pakefield, Somerleyton and Carlton Colville (Bloodmoor Hill) to Wilde's Score.

At Covehithe, a metal construction, yet to be identified but thought to be part of a First World War early warning system, has appeared. There were also some wood parts from old sailing ships found on the beach. Among the many slides shown, were some of the ship/house built on the beach between Covehithe and Benacre for a production of David Copperfield.

Due to the recent wet weather, there has been much slippage of the clay over the sand on Pakefield cliffs. Over the last few years, five pits containing animal bones and mainly medieval pottery have appeared. The fieldwalkers walked fields near Ashby Church and near Somerleyton Church this year but had to finish early because of foot and mouth disease. Supporting research is now being undertaken in the Record Office, starting with the Manthorpe Green area. A lead spindle weight of Scandinavian style, dated 9th to 12th century was found near Manthorpe Green.

Metal detecting in the soil pits at Bloodmoor Hill, undertaken with permission of the archaeologists after excavations there, uncovered an early seventh century amulet figurine, gilded over silver, which has now been pronounced as treasure trove.

Wilde's School, which functioned from 1788-1943, is being redeveloped by the Civic Society and Paul has led excavations there. As well as marbles and slate pencils, the contents of a massive in-fill has been uncovered, containing pottery from dates spanning 300 years.

Interesting recent finds brought by Paul, and inspected by members after the meeting, included a silver Elizabeth I sixpence and bells which had possibly been used in a bizarre medieval game called hen thrashing. *Myra Kestner*

5th April 2001

"Ancient Egypt: Tombs, Temples and the Afterlife"

by Peter Ransome

The Ancient Egyptian civilisation and its three kingdoms lasted from the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt, around 3,100 BC, until Cleopatra's reign in 30 BC. Just returned from another trip to Egypt, where he had been preparing more slides for his talks, Peter guided us through a rapid tour of the old, middle and new kingdoms and the many dynasties of three thousand years of Ancient Egypt, before describing in more detail their tombs, temples and beliefs.

Since the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, inscribed in three languages, including Greek as well as the script of the old and the middle kingdoms, it has been possible to read the Ancient Egyptian writings on papyrus and monuments and study their society and beliefs.

The Ancient Egyptians believed in life after death and were embalmed and then buried with grave goods and wall paintings which would help them on their hazardous journey to join Osiris the God of the Afterlife. Kings, such as Tutankhamun, were buried with valuables, including death masks of solid gold. Many were depicted carrying a flail in one hand and a crook in the other, representing their power to punish and to guide, and with the vulture emblem of Upper Egypt and the cobra of Lower Egypt on their masks. The earlier Kings were buried under the pyramids, but in Tutankhamun's time they were buried in the Valley of the Kings on the west bank of the Nile. The east, where the sun rose, was for the living, and the west, where it set, for the dead.

The temples were not for public use but were where the Kings prayed for good harvests. The Ancient Egyptians had many gods, ninety percent of them animal deities, adopted from the tribes which came together when Egypt was unified. In the time of Akhenaten, the father of Tutankhamun, there was a dramatic and soon to be reversed change, when the sun disc was declared supreme and the other gods demoted. *Myra Kestner*

26th April 2001

"About Time"

Clifford Bird

Clifford Bird's talk "About Time" covered thoughts on the meaning of time, the early efforts made to measure it, and a presentation and display of old clocks. Members' clocks and watches brought to the meeting were also shown and discussed.

In this country, candles, sun dials and water clocks consisting of a hole in a bucket through which water dripped were the earliest methods of measuring time. In some ancient civilisations, there were more sophisticated methods, including Arabian calendars based on star charts. In China, water clocks the length and breadth of our lecture hall, and twice as high, were constructed.

Time measurement became necessary to the Christian church when monks were required to pray at three hourly intervals. At first, candle clocks and hour glasses (or rather three hour glasses) were used. The earliest clocks only showed hours and only had an hour hand, but gradually half and quarter hours were introduced. A 1720 clock on display showed the typical marking of half hour intervals by fleur de lys and further divisions into quarters and half quarters (eighths) of an hour. The early eighteenth century twenty four hour astronomical clocks, still sometimes to be seen on the west end of churches, were used to calculate the date of Easter. The considerable display of old time pieces included a model of an Inca circular calendar, an astrolabe, a mid seventeenth century lantern clock which accompanied travellers and was hung on the wall where they stopped for the night, and an 1860 wooden cuckoo clock carved in castle shape. Until the railways imposed a unified time system, clocks were set from midday, when the sun was highest in the sky. Midday was thus seven and a half minutes later in Bristol than at Greenwich.

Myra Kestner

The Restoration of the Museum Cannon

Arthur Howell

This article refers to the cannon that now stands, splendidly restored, in front of the museum. Arthur is gathering more facts about the cannon and these will be displayed in the museum later. He carried through this project single handed. It is a tribute to his determination and persuasiveness.

Jon Reed

SUMMARY OF EVENTS - Ref: Sponsorship of Carriage for Cannon

The story starts by recollecting one of my early memories as a young boy in the 1940's. Before the war ended or just after I remembered playing on the cannons that stood at the top of the steps opposite to where the bandstand used to be in Belle Vue Park.

My involvement with the Broad House museum, and the fact that a cannon had stood outside for many years led me to research the history of the movements of the cannons since the war.

Before the Second World War the cannons were buried at Rotterdam Road Depot and were not recovered until 1970. However I was sure that I played on these cannons before the war ended or just after.

My cousin was also able to remember the cannons and so I approached Jack Rose, but unfortunately he was unable to throw any light due to the fact that he was on active service during those years.

So if the cannon at the Broad House museum was not recovered until 1970 it could not have been one of the pair that used to stand in Belle Vue Park.

On a visit to a village fair I picked up a postcard of the cannons in Belle Vue Park and dated 1908 (a little early to prove my point). This did however establish that the cannon at the museum was not one of the missing ones due to the fact that the size and markings did not match.....so where have they gone?

On going back to the museum, the cannon looked forlorn and out of place on its concrete plinth. Therefore I decided to renovate it and then thought it would look splendid on a wooden carriage outside the museum, especially as we believe it was used to defend Lowestoft all those years ago.

So my quest for sponsorship began.....

The first company I approached, the Security Officer was very good but I was unable to get past the

secretary who wanted my request in writing for it to be given to the Managing Director. I did not want to go down that path.

The second was very helpful but could only offer a small cash donation due to several sponsorships commitments. They did contact a further supplier who would supply the wood at a reduced rate. This was something I might have had to consider.

The receptionist and fellow workers at the third company were very helpful but the Managing Director did not want to know and suggested simply that the Council could find the money.

Rushmeres was the jewel in the crown. When approached they had the same enthusiasm as I had for the project and could see the potential for the museum and Lowestoft as a whole. Without hesitation they offered to supply the quantity of suitable wood to re-build the carriage.

I contacted Lowestoft College who agreed to build the carriage if the wood was supplied. Rushmeres duly delivered the wood.

The problems were not finished yet though. I chipped the concrete base from the barrel ready for it to be transported to the College for it to be married to the newly built carriage. Even with a crew from Lowestoft College we could not lift it into the van because it was too heavy. Another trip to a local firm for help but their gear was too large. I then contacted the Highways Department (Waveney Contract Services), who promptly provided the correct gear and the cannon was delivered to the College.

By the time you receive this the carriage and cannon should be on display at the Lowestoft College prior to its removal to the Broad House museum for permanent display.

I would like to add my thanks, especially to John and Ron Rushmere for their immediate and helpful response in supplying the wood. Also, to the Lowestoft College for the construction of the carriage.

Finally to my family and friends for having to suffer the consequences of my endeavour to achieve a carriage for the cannon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rushmeres Timber Merchants - Sponsorship for wood

John Rushmere

Ron Rushmere

Lowestoft College

Robert Knights (Carpentry and Joinery Department) Metalwork Department

Highways Department (Waveney Contract Services)

Trevor Andrews - For supply of lifting equipment Robert Whybrow - For pursuing carriage plans

Waveney District Council

Peter Whybrow - For information provided

And to the Town Hall staff for searching the archives and supplying the carriage plans.

The Search for Manthorpe

Myra Kestner

The Society fieldwalkers, out in the rain, plodding through the muddy winter fields, needed a helper who would look up maps and records in the dry and comfortable warmth of the Lowestoft Record Office. This could well be a long term project but immediate interest was in the deserted settlement of Manthorpe and its Green, supposedly south east of Somerleyton.

Manthorpe Green was clearly marked on the estate map of 1652, the tithe map of 1843 (copy of 1837 original map) and the estate sale map of 1862, so finding its location was not difficult. It was also shown on Hodkinson's map of 1783 and the Ordnance Survey early series map of 1837 (where it was incorrectly, and unfortunately, named as Mantrap Green). All these maps, or copies of them, are held in the Lowestoft Record Office.

The earliest surviving Somerleyton estate map was drawn in 1652, after the death of John Wentworth. It "rectified" a ruined map of 1614, which no longer survives, and showed a landscape already much altered by enclosure and emparkment. Amended notes on this estate map, dated 1663, were prepared following the death of Lady Ann Wentworth and the passing of the estate to John Gamey. The map and notes divided the estate into eighteen precincts, the first consisting of Somerleyton Hall and Park. Precincts one and two were described in detail, but information decreased as the survey proceeded and there is much less available about precincts thirteen to eighteen. Part of Precinct Two, near Manthorpe Green, was enclosed in the time of Samuel Morton Peto (1844 to 1863) and developed as parkland. Some of this area has reverted from parkland to woodland or farmland since then.

Society members who heard Paul Durbidge's talk on "Local Archaeological Finds", on 22 March 2001, will remember seeing a slide showing the part of Manthorpe Green which can still be recognised, lying between Green Lane and Green Farm. On the other side of Green Lane there is an area of scrubby woodland, containing a pit, which was also once part of Manthorpe Green. Before Green Lane was extended southwards, in Peto's time, from Manthorpe Green to the present B1074 (Blundeston Road), it was called "the way from Manthorpe to Lound". Blundeston Road was also an ancient road, described on the 1652 map as "the way leading from Somerleyton anciently called Aldgate Way or Old Way".

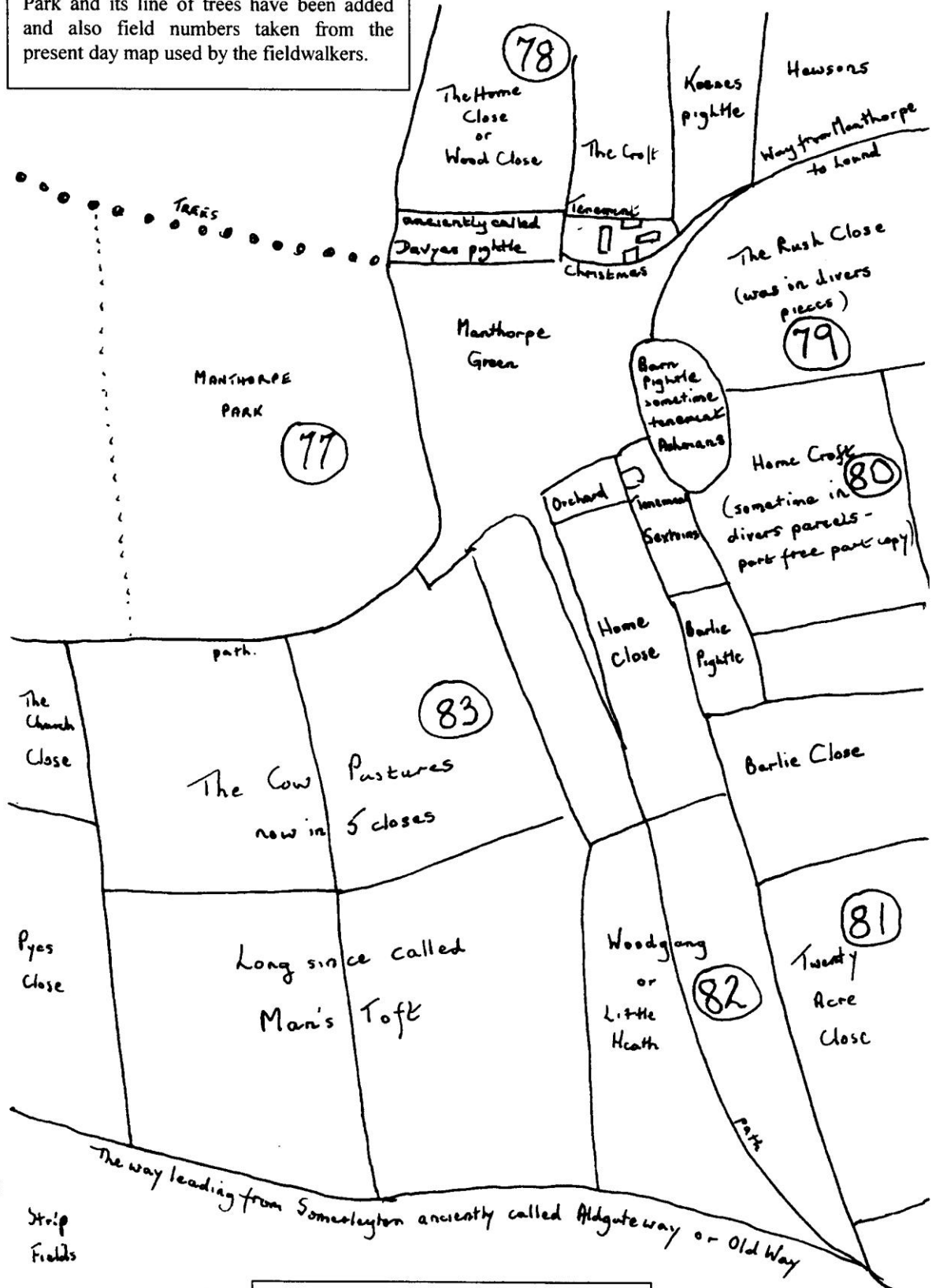
The 1652 estate map showed tenements around the sides of Manthorpe Green where it did not lie against the park boundary. These dwellings are now represented by Green Farm, but formerly included Ashman's, Sextein's, tenement Christmas and a plot which may relate to a tenement which had already vanished, but had anciently been called Davyes. The tithe map copy of 1843 named the area of parkland nearest to Manthorpe Green as Manthorpe Park and it is possible that this land was once attached to tenements which were formerly on the west side of the Green. It is also possible that Manthorpe Green had in former times extended westward into the present park towards Somerleyton Hall. However, many small greens were roughly triangular in shape, funnelling out at the entry points, and had farms and cottages around their edges^[1]. Manthorpe Green as shown on all the maps fits this description, apart from the absence of dwellings on its western side.

The first record of Manthorpe may date from 1180, when Robert de Manthorpe was named in a charter held at the Bodleian Library^[2]. Manthorpe near Somerleyton was not mentioned in the Domesday Book and the only East Anglian green recorded there was Mangreen, just south of Norwich. The origin of Mangreen may have been the Old English "gemaengrene" - the common green^[1]. A similar derivation is suggested^[3] for St Peter Mancroft in Norwich. Another Manthorpe, in Lincolnshire, was mentioned in the Domesday Book, and a place name dictionary gives "Outlying farmstead or village of a man called Manni, or of the men" as possible alternative derivations^[4]. Thorpe, like Ashby and Lound, was an Old Scandinavian word and evidence of Danish settlement in the area.

Before the Jacobean Somerleyton Hall shown on the 1652 map was built, there was probably a manor house overlooking church, commons and peasant settlements, with trackways connecting all these important places. In 1983, the remains of an ancient road could still be seen, marked by an avenue of trees, leading from Somerleyton to Lound^[2]. This is shown, also as a line of trees and not as a pathway, on the 1652 map, skirting Manthorpe Green and the site of Manthorpe Park on their northern edges. "The Old Way called Hewson's Lane but now quite out of use" was further north, leading from Tenement Owdens (now Park Farm) towards Somerleyton Hall.

South of Manthorpe Green were the Cow Pastures, described in 1663 as "long since called Man's Toll". In 1652 and 1663, Man's Toll was divided into five pieces and in the "long since" days it had been in "divers parcels", possibly as common fields belonging to the settlement. Strip fields were shown as still existing in 1652 in the area south of Aldgate Way. Although there were many crofts and closes in the Somerleyton area, tofts were unusual. The Oxford English Dictionary quotes a 1592 definition that "a toll is a place wherein a messuage hath stand" and suggests that it could mean a whole holding, a house with outbuildings or a piece of land larger than a house. A place name dictionary translates toll as Old Scandinavian for a homestead^[4]. There is thus a suggestion that a dwelling or dwellings were nearby. Buildings in the region of the present Carpenter's Shop Farm were first visible on a surviving map at the time of the enclosure award of 1805, but there may have

Most of this map is traced from a copy of the 1652 Somerleyton Estate Map (held in the Lowestoft Record Office). Manthorpe Park and its line of trees have been added and also field numbers taken from the present day map used by the fieldwalkers.



Manthorpe Area
approximately 76% of original scale

been an earlier dwelling there. The nearby Little Heath, with a path leading through it, also suggests a continuation of waste or common in this area, where there may have been cottage encroachments.

The original settlement of Manthorpe is less easy to locate than Manthorpe Green, partly due to emparkment, but also because it may have shifted from one site to another, retaining the same name^[5]. Settlements around greens date from the twelfth century at the earliest^[6], so the tenements shown on the 1652 Somerleyton estate map probably post-date the original Manthorpe which gave its name to the green.

Numbered fields, within Precinct Two, on the present day map used by the Society fieldwalkers:

- 77: The section of this field south of the line of trees, which Brooks says marks the line of an old road from Manthorpe to Somerleyton Hall, appears to have been called Manthorpe Park. It may have been part of the ancient settlement or its fields. As the triangular Manthorpe Green had dwellings shown on the other two sides in 1652, it is likely that there were also other dwellings on the third side within field 77. The northern boundary of field 77 appears to be the old perambulation way marking parish boundaries.
- 78: The south side of field 78 edges Manthorpe Green and the old tenement Christmas. It contains on its southern edge the area described on the 1652 map as anciently called Davyes Pightle. The continuation of the old road from Manthorpe to Somerleyton, marked by a line of trees, was probably between field 78 and Manthorpe Green. The rest of field 78 was divided by Hewson's Lane. To the north was part of the area of pightles which now lie open one into another", described in 1663, and to the south the Home Close (or Wood Close) and the Croft. In 1843, this area was called Barn Close. Possibly one of the old tenement buildings was then used as a barn.
- 79: On its west side, this field bordered Manthorpe Green and, in the area where Green Farm now stands, the 1652 Tenement Sexteins and the Bam Pightle "sometime Tenement Ashmans". This field was enclosed and divided more than once. In 1652 the north part was called the Rush Close, and the south part formed a section of Home Croft and Lower Croft, described as "sometime in divers parcels part free part copy". In 1843, it was divided, along different boundaries, between Rush Close and Upper Long Piece.
- 80: Like field 79, this field has been enclosed and divided more than once. In 1652, it was divided between Home Croft, Lower Croft, Barlie Close, The Further Croft and Barlie Pightle and bordered Tenement Sexteins. In 1843, it was divided differently, between Rush Close, Lower Long Piece and Eleven Acres. On its western edge, a lane called The Loke, in 1862 appears to have replaced an earlier lane, slightly to the west, which had led across Woodgang or Little Heath.
- 81: This field, known as Twenty Acre Close, has retained its borders throughout the entire period. A small wood called "Devil's Wood" was marked on its eastern side on the 1862 map.
- 82: Field 82 comprises most of the area called Woodgang or Little Heath on the 1652 map and the area divided between the Poor Common and Cuckoo Pightle on the 1843 map. Part of the piece taken from the Little Heath was then enclosed as the Brickyard Pightle. In 1652, there was a pathway running over the Little Heath, entering the Aldgate way at the same point as the later Loke.
- 83: This field is in part on the site of the Cow Pastures, long since called Man's Toll. It includes part of the old pathway through the Little Heath and borders the area which was formerly Manthorpe Green

References

- ^[1] Edward Martin "Greens, Commons and Tyes in Suffolk" (East Anglian Studies)
^[2] Edward Brooks "A Thousand Years of Village History"
^[3] Brian Ayres "Norwich"
^[4] A D Mills "A Dictionary of English Place Names"
^[5] C Taylor "Village and Farmstead"
^[6] O Rackham "The History of the Countryside"

And many thanks to Lowestoft Record Office, particularly for help with the maps.

Report On Fieldwalking by the Fieldwalking Group of the LA&LHS, 2001.*Jon Reed*

In 2001 there has been a change of organisation. After several years Paul Durbidge has relinquished his role as organiser. Jon Reed, who was organising the walkers has taken over this role. Richard Gibson is now organising the walkers. With 21 on the list, the season ran two teams on Saturdays and Sundays to give everybody a chance to walk. In the event only the regulars turned up, so those who didn't come will be left off the list for 2002 and will have to reapply. Jon Reed is learning from Paul Durbidge the intricacies of identification.

The season started on January 5th, an early start due to unexpectedly good weather after weeks of rain. We began by walking two fields, now one large field, near Ashby Farm. There were surprisingly few finds, surprising because of the proximity to the farm and to a field where a great deal of material had been found in previous seasons. These two fields showed very little activity before the 19th century, with minimal evidence of flint working. Metal finds included two mediaeval bronze pot rims, an Elizabeth I penny, a George II penny, a toy cannon, a few musket balls and some World War 2 finds.

The Saturday team then moved on to a field nearly opposite the entrance to Somerleyton Hall. This field showed some use in Neolithic and Bronze Age times. The pottery finds were mainly from the 17th century onwards. The brick and tile finds indicated the possibility of a building in the field, no trace of which now remains. Little metal was found.

The Sunday team went on to a field near Kitty's Farm. This produced considerable flint finds, sufficient to indicate flint industry there. Strangely there were very few completed flint tools. The main evidence of pottery was from the 19th century onwards and there were indications of a building in the corner of the field near the present farm, with many pantile and slate fragments. This work was completed by walking the next field. This showed the same pattern of flint working, but had very little pottery. Metal finds dated from the 17th century onwards, with some lead, a nice spur buckle and a horse harness buckle.

We moved on to a field to the east of Ashby Church. It is known that this was the site of Ashby village before the Black Death. The field was, in the main, not very productive, but directly behind the church there was an area showing considerable stone and brick. Medieval bricks were found, including one complete one, measuring 1¾ inches x 4½ inches x 9¾ inches [4 cm x 11.4 cm x 24 cm], we also found squared flints, some with mortar adhering. The area with the scatter of stone and brick was some 10 or 12 metres square. The building material was associated with earthenware from bowls and jugs, indicating that this was a domestic situation, rather than a purely ecclesiastical one.

We have been interrupted by weather and, finally, the foot and mouth outbreak caused us to have to abandon the season. However, it has been an interesting year. We have found evidence of areas of fairly intensive flint industry and of mediaeval activity.

Our grateful thanks go to Lord Somerleyton for his continued permission to walk his land, to Chris Lockhart, the estate manager, for his co-operation and to Arthur Wymark, the gamekeeper, for his interested help.

SUMMARY OF FINDS.

<p>Flint Industry 220 flakes. 68 completed tools. 32 cores. 12 potboilers. 1 hammerstone.</p> <p>Mediaeval 53 pieces of pottery. 20 metal items. circa 40 items of building material. 1 hand millstone.</p>	<p>16/18th Century 36 pieces of pottery. 6 metal items. 31 items of building material. 2 coins.</p> <p>19/20th Century 128 pieces of pottery. 25 metal items. 38 items of building material. 17 pieces of glass.</p>
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Flint House and the John Wilde School Project

Paul Durbidge

The old school house in John Wildes Score stands close behind No. 80 High Street, a 16th century building better known as Flint House, which was built in 1586 as a wedding gift for William Harman to his daughter Mary on marrying William Wilde one of a family of wealthy merchants. Flint House remained the family home up until the 17th century when John Wilde died and left money in his will for a school to be set up to educate boys from the local fishing families and the school finally opened in 1788. One of the conditions was that the Vicar of the parish would hold a service with the pupils on December 23 every year preaching a set passage from the bible about education, a practice that continued right up until the 1930s. The building remained a school until 1942 when much of it was destroyed in an air raid and the building now being restored is the only remaining part of the school. It was built of red bricks with a pantile roof and was constructed in two parts, the western end in 1788 with a later addition added about 1850, the two buildings being separated by a vertical joint in the brickwork which is visible in both the north and south walls. Forty boys attended the school and one teacher taught them. The printers Holbrook and Co. worked there from 1882-1894 and used several of the pupils from the school as apprentices.

The Excavations at John Wilde School Lowestoft - An Interim Report

During the later part of September 2000 at the request of the Lowestoft Civic Society a limited excavation was organised to test the ground surface beneath the floor of the upper part of the school building. The excavation was to include members both from the Civic Society and also the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society. Arrangements were put in hand to open up part of the floor area and also allow members of the public to follow the progress of the excavation over one weekend. Subsequently the greater part of the wooden floor of the school was taken up along with joists and wall plates and also the sleeper walls which then gave a working area of roughly fourteen feet square. There was of course no guarantee that anything important would be found although it was hoped that there might be some objects relating to the school beneath the floor. However, I don't think anyone realised just how much material was finally going to be found, it was in fact history under the floor boards.

As would expect there was much dust on the ground surface and it was possible to see the remains of clay pipes, odd nails and even walnut shells scattered about the floor but it was some odd shaped pieces of wood that initially caused the interest. On average they were about four inches long, oval in section with both ends tapered to form rough points and all appeared to have been made with pocket knives. Several suggestions were made as to what they were made for but it was a local man visiting the school who finally identified them as being 'tip cats' and he spoke of playing the game as a child many years ago. Apparently the small pieces of wood were laid on the ground and the tapered end was struck with a stick which sent into the air where they were quickly struck again to see how far they would travel. Some time later a woman who once lived in Coventry spoke of playing the game when she was a child suggesting the game was not just a local one. Other wooden remains varied from odd chips to shavings, a wooden blind pull and what appeared to be a small wooden top minus the centre pin. The intended purpose of other small wooden objects is not clear apart from the fact that two appear to have been turned with other remains trimmed with knives.

Before the actual excavation began all the loose dust and fine soil was brushed into a large pile and sieved. This initial operation resulted in the recovery of clay marbles, pieces of slate pencils and clay pipe stems as well as an early Victorian ring containing both emerald and opal settings. Previous to this a seventeenth century bone toothbrush was found as well as a small delicate cameo insert probably from a finger ring. Once all the sieving was completed approximately 1½ inches of soil was stripped back across the square. Even at this shallow depth it soon became too apparent that we were in fact trowelling a considerable amount of mixed infill containing mortar, bricks, tile and also cobbles, but amongst this were sherds of earthenware, stoneware, marbles, animal bones and slate pencils. While the earthenwares appeared mostly of local origin, the stonewares appeared to be imported forms and later sherds of Dutch delft were recovered in the fill. Oyster shells along with both hazelnut and walnut were encountered with indications some of the former had been eaten by mice. There was one soil change and this was along the northern wall and probably the result of

digging out for wall foundations and amongst this up-cast was a section of medieval green glazed pottery decorated with both pinch work and a combed wavy line. The continued removal of the infill uncovered an irregular spread of soft crushed brick, beginning at the western end of the square and noticeably sloping downwards towards the cross-wall at the eastern end. Three distinct patches of sawdust were also observed at this stage, two on the southern side of the crushed brick feature the third nearer the NW corner.

The brick spread averaged $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness and two sherds of blue and white delft were found embedded in the surface as were a number of small non ferrous pins, clay marbles, bone and small shards of thin window glass. Continued removal of the infill in the SW corner uncovered the top of a 14 inch brick and cobble wall of 15th century construction coming off the south wall of the school at right angles and extending inwards by nearly seven feet. The wall appeared to stop at the southern wall and it is possible that it may have been cut through when the foundations for the school were laid although by how much is not known. The infill adjacent to both these walls was principally made up of a heavy concentration of building rubble including more cobbles and both pan tile and pin tile as well as a liberal amount of mixed soil. Numbers of animal bones continue to be found in the rubble, some of which appeared to be quite old by both texture and colour. Amongst these remains were odd small fragments of blue and white fireplace tiles again probably of Dutch origin, iron remains were also present in the shape of corroded nails, small heel irons, two pocket knives and a whistle.

The fireplace opening was also sited on the south wall, and directly beneath this were the remains of the hearth built up on five layers of bricks to support the sections of thick shaped sandstone that formed the kerb around the heath. Confirmation that printing was practised at the school was confirmed by the discovery of fourteen spaces and a copper advertising block found in a small grouping on the right hand side of the fireplace and more spaces were found in front of the fireplace. On the left hand side glass shards from 18th century wine bottles were retrieved with more stoneware sherds, clay pipe stems and bowls which include an extremely small bowl in the shape of a lady's boot.

Amongst more bones, earthenwares and oyster shells was found part of a polished red agate with squared sides which is thought to be another insert from a ring and at the same location dominoes and marbles were recovered.

Directly in front of the fireplace was found part of the neck and rim from a 15th century jug or flagon, the internal surfaces were glazed in a yellowish green glaze which the outer surfaces were glazed in a mixture of greenish/brown glaze. Soot was still present on the rim where there was a slight indent indicating the beginning of a pouring spout.

Small sherds of Lowestoft porcelain were also found in the rubble, some of which were glazed forms while others were biscuit ware examples. Over two dozen fragments were identified as coming from saucer dishes, slop bowls, tea bowls, coffee cups and even a decorated handle stub in biscuit ware from a small rib mounded jug.

The presence of these sherds and the variation of types asks the question where did the infill originally come from prior to being deposited to its present location and it would seem that it was somewhere quite near to the old china factory. This theory was strengthened when a long exploratory trench was dug in the floor of the second part of the school which in turn confirmed that infill had also been brought in here to level up the floor as they had done in the upper end of the school. Up-cast from this trench again yielded more porcelain sherds along with a fragment of Chinese Nan King and a small piece of Japanese Imai. Probably more important than these finds were the discovery of part of two unglazed stacking rings and a small fused waster and stack all are associated with kiln furniture. Objects such as these were found in abundance when groundwork was being carried out for the building of St. Peters Court in 1967, the location being adjacent to the old china works.

It was reasoned that the introduced soils contained within both parts of the school was added purely to bring the surface up to level as the original land surface probably followed the slope of the score. Consequently the western end is reasonably shallow while the eastern end is the deepest.

As the digging continued in the upper part of the school a doorway was cut through the 14 inch cross wall which in turn revealed a section through the infill, this measured nearly 6 feet in depth before terminating in mixed dark sand. Just below the level we were working was a thick irregular layer of

rubble containing more bricks, mortar and broken tiles and this stretched right across the square. Below it were occasional oyster and bone remains, random pieces of building material and spots of carbon in very dry hard compacted soils.

FUTURE WORK

The continued removal of soils and rubble from this first room later revealed both brick and cobble features and a more detailed account of these and the discoveries made in the basement during the underpinning will be examined in more detail in a report to be compiled later this year.

LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE FINDS MADE IN THE UPPER FILL OF THE CLASSROOM FLOOR

SLATE PENCILS

The remains of over one hundred and sixty slate pencils were spread across the square with fragments also under the basement floor and at depth where they had worked down through various cavities.

CLAY MARBLES

Over fifty were recovered again mostly in the upper fill but again odd ones were found at depth. Colours vary from reddish browns, brown buff, off white to pale grey. Size varies from just over $\frac{3}{8}$ to nearly $\frac{7}{8}$ inch, colours of blue, brown and orange are visible on some.

DOMINOES

These were found beside and in front of the fireplace and include one $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch long by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, the thickness is only $\frac{3}{16}$ and the two values have been separated by a shallow cut. A second counter is $\frac{5}{8}$ inch wide but broken in its length and appears to be from another set, the material may be bone.

TIP CATS

Of the eleven picked up from under the floorboards all appear to have been crudely shaped with pen knives to form the irregular tapered ends, the longest is $3\frac{3}{4}$ inch, the smallest 2 inches.

PRINTERS TYPE SPACERS

Of the total of forty-five, a group was recovered beside the fireplace with single finds being found mostly in the vicinity of the crushed brick spread while three were found under the cobbled floor in the basement.

PINS

Thirty-four non-ferrous round-headed dress pins were well scattered, they averaged $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length.

PIPE STEMS

Over one hundred and forty remains of clay pipe stems were recovered and the majority appear plain although one stem was stamped W SOUTH CROSSLEY and the heel of another pipe was marked T - B. Of the clay bowls recovered most are decorated with designs such as Negro's heads, a barrel, basket weave, small lady's boot, raised pimple design, moulded grooves, rouletting around the top of a plain bowl and so on. One of the smaller plain bowls indicates a 17th century date while many of the moulded forms are of 18th century character and later.

MATCHES

In the vicinity of the fire place fourteen matches were found the longest of which were $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

SHELL

Over a hundred and thirty oyster shells were picked up as well as fragments while thirteen winkle shells were found mostly near the fire place. Three whelk shells and two crab claws were also encountered in the infill.

It was interesting to find twenty-two garden snail shells and two rams horn types with more additional fragments of both types. The halves of fourteen Walnut shells along with 18 Hazel nuts shells were encountered with many of the latter being eaten by mice.

BONE

The distribution of bone was widespread including small chips and splinters and over two hundred

and fifty pieces were found. Most appeared quite old by reason of colour and texture while a few near the fireplace appeared much more recent. Overall the remains were from domestic cattle, rabbit, pig, sheep, deer and small rodent, remains of teeth were from cattle, sheep and pig and tusks from wild boar were encountered.

BUTTONS

Most of the thirty-three buttons found were in the centre of the square with odd ones well scattered, types include small brass forms, mother of pearl, bone, lead and possibly jet.

IRON REMAINS

Most of the iron remains were heavily corroded and not possible to clearly identify, the objects that were are as follows:

- forty-three nails including cut and clasp;
- Five small heel irons;
- part of and adults heel iron;
- a whistle;
- a pocket knife and pocket knife blade;
- and an iron key.

CHINESE PORCELAIN

Thin very small fragments of high finish Chinese porcelain include:

- one with a narrow blue band running around the inside of the rim;
- another with a looped and cross pattern;
- with the third having a brown external slip.

All are typical of Nan King porcelain and are probably from small bowls with a date range around 1750.

LOWESTOFT PORCELAIN

High up in the infill some eighteen fragments of Lowestoft porcelain including both biscuit ware and glazed forms were found and several more were encountered as more infill was removed. The remains were as follows:

biscuit ware:

- rim from a 9 inch bowl - 1770;
- a body sherd;
- rim sherd from a coffee cup;
- sherd from a 6 inch slop bowl - 1760;
- four thin body sherds;
- OG bowl rim- 1790;
- rib moulded spiral moulding from a tea bowl - 1775/80;
- part of neck from a mug - 1765/70.

glazed sherds:

- blue and white part base from a saucer - 1760;
- blue and white part base from a saucer dish - 1775;
- blue and white cell border 8 to 9 inch bowl - 1785/90;
- blue pattern from shallow dish - 1755;
- blue and white sherd from a tea bowl - 1760/65;
- fine patterned print bowl or saucer - 1780;
- glazed saucer dish with flowers and loop - 1780.

GLASS REMAINS

Well over one hundred and forty single pieces of glass were found and they fit into at least four different groups:

blue coloured glass:

small cambered shard from a bottle $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick. Fragment is milky blue with rounded shape and suggestion of a small rim;

flat 16oz window glass with oxidising to one surface;

small cambered shard with rounded form approximately $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick.

red coloured glass:

small thick fragment $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick;

fragment Cranberry red with one face undulated;

greater part of hat pin finial with part perforation.

moulded glass:

very thin moulded glass, the main part cambered and twisted inwards at the bottom;

small squat broken droplet;

shard of 16oz glass with rounded edge.

flat glass:

shard of flat glass of irregular thickness;

three shards of $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick clear glass, one end rounded in shape and probably from a conservatory. Two parallels to this were found in the outside area adjacent to the brick drain early in 1999.

several shards of 16oz clear glass, the majority of which were heavily oxidised.

wine bottles:

A number of green to dark green shards including both wall shards, necks and kick up base forms have come from free blown examples of wine bottles. Some of the shards are quite thick and heavily oxidised and it is likely they date from the late 18th century.

TILE

Amongst the rubble were a considerable number of broken red pantiles and occasional pin tiles. While these can safely be attributed to the 19th century there were some much earlier remains. These were 16th century pantiles made of a very hard fabric, roughcast underneath with drag marks on the upper surfaces. On three a patchy purple/brown glaze was present on the upper surface, while on two unglazed forms fixing holes were present in the upper parts of the tiles.

FIRE PLACE TILES

In the seventeenth century flat tin glazed tiles were introduced from the Netherlands for fire place decoration and a number of these fragments have been recovered from the up-cast. Remains are mostly small and from corners, the designs are in blue and at least one appears to be drawn from contemporary life.

TIN GLAZE EARTHENWARE

Two sherds of tin glazed Delftware from large plates were found in the crushed brick layer and a number of very small sherds of this blue and white pottery were found scattered across the square.

STONEWARE

Most of the stoneware remains appear to date from the late 17th to early 18th century and suggests that a fair percentage is imported wares. These are salt glazed forms as well as rich grey glazed forms and variations of both which belong to small mugs and jugs, and included in the group are some sherds of Westerwald.

EARTHENWARES

It would seem that the main bulk of the pottery is from the late 18th century through to the 19th and sherds are from large glazed bowls, small mugs, shallow dish forms and strainers.

Red wares are also present and there are a few glazed and unglazed forms from the 14th century including a green glazed finger nipped decorated sherd from a large jug.

While some of the semi-glazed sherds indicate a 15th to 16th century date it is likely that many of the unglazed sherds are also of this period with the same forms being used by potters over a wide span of years.

CONCLUSION & THANKS

As stated earlier this is very brief account of the initial stages of the excavation in the schoolroom and at the time of writing there is still a considerable amount of material as yet to be identified.

The writer would like to take this opportunity to thank both the Secretary and Chairman of the Civic Society, Mrs Jane Jarvis and Mr John Stannard for their total involvement in the project and thanks are also due to Mr Russell Sprake for identifying the Lowestoft porcelain fragments. Also to Mr David Butcher and Mr Ivan Bunn for their contributions which were greatly appreciated.

Thanks are also due to both members of the Civic Society and the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society who put in all the effort and groundwork. Finally my thanks to Lee Coulson and Lee Hannant for all their help in what turned out to be a fascinating insight into another part of Lowestoft's early history.

Paul Durbidge March 2001

A Bad Year for Cliff Slides at Pakefield Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

In compiling the yearly erosion measurements at Pakefield it is noticeable there is a lessening of damage by sea action compared with earlier years although the present wet weather has resulted in much surface water draining down the cliff face. At a point where the MOD land joins Pontins Holiday Camp the presence of an overgrown field dyke has resulted in large amounts of water to discharge over the cliff and subsequently scour out a wide gully in the cliff face washing both clay and rubble to the beach below. A short distance to the south more water has washed away many of the softer pockets of the cliff causing large areas of earth and clay to begin a gradual slide down the cliff.

At Crazy Mary's Hole a continual surge of water fed from dykes bordering the fields has been sweeping down a bush lined gully to the beach where it has cut out an irregular channel before discharging into the open sea. The continual rains have resulted in the dykes being full to the top with water draining from the fields and the headlong rush of the water downwards to the beach has caused a large corner of the cliff to be brought down on the southern side with the material subsequently being washed out to sea. In walking towards Kessingland one can see there has been some collapse of the grey clay beds higher up which has sent a number of narrow streams of wet clay to the beach below and further south close to the caravan site the situation sharply deteriorates. Here where the plastic soil pipes once discharged water at the foot of the cliff there has been much movement of grass and bushes, which are now slowly sliding down the face of the cliff. Much of this material is being under mined by small streams of water and liquid clay and while occasional hawthorn bushes and the odd large elder hold up the slide in parts the result is inevitable as more weight piles up behind.

Over a five hundred yard stretch many hawthorns and sloe bushes now lay at the foot of the cliff with masses of wet grey clay and mud building up behind them. At the second caravan site there is a lack of bushes and shrubs and with no roots to slow up this slippage, streams of liquid clay and mud have built up on the beach with more streams of water and mud discharging down the face of the cliff washing out shallow channels and gullies. An elaborate set of steps formed from scaffold poles and timber and leading from the top of the cliff to the beach has now been sealed off to holiday makers as the structure begins to move under the sheer weight of mud and clay sliding both down and across the face of the cliff. Water discharging from the large fractured soil pipes is undoubtedly increasing what is now a serious problem although the damage lessens further towards Kessingland. Along this stretch the make up of the cliff slightly changes with more sand and soil and the presence of more bushes as scrub have for the present stabilised much of the cliff to some degree.

A Late Medieval Pit at Pakefield Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

By the middle of April last year a combination of NE gales and high seas had brought down the majority of the scree lying at the foot of the Medieval pit features known as P5 and by early May the last remains of infill from the feature had collapsed to the beach below. In the mixed soils were the remains of eight large animal bones including leg bones from domestic cattle along with a couple of teeth and a small lower jaw either from a dog or even a fox, in addition there were small bird bones. Some pottery was recovered and this consisted of a smooth light grey rim from a shallow dish, a small section of base and eight body sherds in grey buff fabric, probably for cooking pots. A small body sherd in a hard pale orange fabric with rilling also had traces of a green glaze and probably came from a jug.

Lava stone was again present this time in the shape of a small rectangle and like previous examples the underside was rough hewn while the upper surface had been grooved to form a small hand mill.

At about the same time another section of the cliff had collapsed some 58 feet to the north revealing the profile of yet another pit with animal bones sticking out of the lower fill.

In the mass of grass, clay and soil laying beneath the feature were several sherds of pottery, animal bones and even brick with carbon spots also visible in many of the large chunks of clay and compacted soil.

At the time of writing some 144 body sherds of hard fired pottery that had fallen from the feature have been examined and the majority of these are very gritty in texture and several contain small flint inclusions as well as tiny flecks of mica.

Colours of the material varies from light to dark grey to variations of buff and the sherds compare with pottery found in previous pits further south during 1986/7. Soot is present on at least 35 of the sherds mostly on the external surfaces and in some cases this is quite thick.

In addition to these are some 18 body sherds in soft red fabrics and here the clay appears much more smooth and finer than the previous group and there is also an absence of mica.

Base remains consist of 21 sherds and it would seem that the majority belong to quite large pots with the influence of the Medieval period shown on the sagging base profiles, at least one of the vessels appears to have broken on the fire resulting in both the underside and the resulting fracture being well soot stained. In comparing these remains it shows that most have a regular thickness of between $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and wiping is visible on several of the inner surfaces of the pots.

On the interior surface of one small base small dots of rich brown glaze are visible and on another the inner surface is completely covered in a yellowish sandy glaze.

Of the ten cooking pot rims, eight are in a light grey fabric and the pots are globular in shape, once again the texture is very gritty and in two there are also wheel made lines, diameters are in the region of $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 inches respectively and again mica is present.

Two additional rims show more steep sided walls with one vessel in a hard dark greyware and the other in a more reddish fabric again with several small flint inclusions. This particular example has a wide overhanging rim with a simple rounded profile, the inside of which has been decorated with a simple wavy line, externally the surface is well crazed and in addition it has a good coating of soot.

A rather colourful rim from a globular storage jar has a diameter of roughly 9 inches and part of a long thumbled handle is present directly attached to the underside of the rim. Glaze has been applied to both the top and inside of the rim with more patchy orangy green glaze under the rim and high on the shoulder of the pot.

On a globular lid sealed jar the fabric is hard orange and the external surfaces have been decorated with rilling and there is also the indication of another incised vertical pattern. A lifting lug probably from the same vessel has been decorated with seven incised lines and again there are signs of a wavy line showing in the clay above the lug. On both examples glaze has been partially applied and consists of variations of green to blotchy dark green.

HANDLE

Part of a rod handle coming off the rim is again in hard red ware and part of the handle and the inside of the rim have been partially glazed in a rich dark brown glaze with both spots and dribbles of glaze on external surface. Part of a small earthenware foot is possibly from a skillet and the same vessel is also partially glazed on the inside surface with small dots of brown glaze visible externally.

DECORATION

On a grey body sherd a thin vertical strip of applied clay has been used while in another a wide irregular spread of vertically applied clay has been smeared on the wall of the pot over a horizontal wavy line scoured into the surface of the clay.

Body sherd of red fabric with a narrow horizontal band of nicked clay strip running around the shoulder of the pot.

On a red body sherd there is a large oval thumb impression section of clay that originally formed the terminal end of a thin section of handle which continues upwards to the underside of the rim before returning downwards terminating with another thumb impression mark opposite the former.

On the external face of two grey buff body sherds are a number of small conjoined lines scratched into the clay and it is thought these may well be graffiti rather than decoration.

GLAZE

There are colour variations in the green glazes with some being quite dark while others appear sandy or cheesy as in the case of two rim sherds, one is from a pancheon dish the other from a shallow bowl and over all the glaze appear quite poor and lacks any real distinction.

STONEWARE

Only one body sherd of stoneware has so far been found and this is grey in colour and probably came from a small mug.

ROMANO BRITISH BASE

In two of the previous pits found nearby, Romano British pottery was found amongst Medieval remains and the greater part of a small coarseware base of the same period has been found in this present feature. The base which is in a light brown fabric was part of a light second century jar which compares with examples found with tile and brick a short distance away.

MILLSTONE

Two large pieces of lava millstone can be seen in the East wall of Pakefield church and two further pieces have come from the present pit. One small piece is clearly waste material while the other is part of a small five inch hand mill with its upper surface grooved to facilitate grinding.

WHETSTONE

A four inch section of a whetstone formed from mica schist shows wearing to one face and side and it is identical to another example found in a feature further South, small pieces of this mineral have also been observed on the adjacent field surface.

BUILDING MATERIAL

Two small nodules of very uneven clay are thought to be daub.

BRICKS

The remains of nine bricks have come from the pit and there are three distinctive types as far as size and colour are concerned.

Two are in fairly compact material pale yellow-buff in colour and they are rough cast, the size is $1\frac{5}{8} \times 3\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

The second type is large in size averaging $2 \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches and the material is more crude by reason of very irregular under side surface showing many cavities and holes with colours from pale orange to a mixture of cinnabar orange. The remaining bricks are all straw or grass marked on the underside and in some cases on the sides along with cracking marks, slumping is present on the upper surface of a few of this group. Colours vary from yellow buff, orange cinnabar red to a mixture of pale orange and pale yellow and there is also much distortion on all the remains which measure $2 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ inches approximately. Hard mortar is present on the face of one of these bricks and a number of small flints

are visible in the mix.

PEG TILE

The broken remains of four tiles were recovered and in each case all were rough cast on one side with drag lines visible on the other face, the material is a very hard gritty red containing some small grits and the thickness of the tiles averages ½ inch.

METALS

One piece of lead spillage and a lead musket ball were retrieved on the slopes of the cliff below the feature along with a copper farthing of George IV dated 1827. There were also some small heavily corroded iron remains and amongst them were three square shanked iron nails with domed heads, these measure 2¼ to 2½ inches in length respectively.

SHELLS

There were sixteen oyster shells and the remains of a small clam.

ANIMAL BONE

Of the thirty eight animal bones examined twenty one were from domestic ox and these include fractured leg bones, vertebrae and rib. A further eight leg bones and ribs from sheep were found and three additional ribs are probably from pig.

Six small bones were thought to be from bird and rabbit.

One unexpected find made during the recovery of the bones and pottery was the upper part of a milk tooth from a young Hippopotamus, the identification being made by members of the West Runton Group. At the time of writing no other related finds have been made and it will be interesting to see what remaining bones and teeth are still embedded in the feature, *ps. Originally it was thought the tooth was from a big cat. After submitting it to the West Runton Group, it appears we have a new animal, but they have not suggested what date it may be.*

Conclusion

This is an interim report on material that has already fallen from the feature although it would appear a sizeable amount still remains in the cliff face. The intrusion measures just over thirteen feet across at its widest point with a central depth of just over six feet, the upper part shows slumped bands of dark earth with some carbon while the lower levels appear to be made up principally of clay with some soil containing a number of flint stones and occasional animal bones.

Beach Finds from Pakefield

Non-metal Item

Clay pipe bowl ca 1700

Metal Remains from Beach Level

While some metals have been found in the Medieval pits a much wider range has been recovered at or near beach levels over recent years and this is the direct result of falling cliff containing top soil from the fields directly above. While most of the finds are post medieval in date it is more than likely that some of the earliest dated material has a connection with the pits, examples being early coinage, spindle whorls, buckles and clasps, etc. The following finds listed below are those I have actually seen over the last year and they probably represent a small amount of a much larger group recovered in previous years.

Bells

Remains of two croatal bells, one with founders mark C

Greater part of large croatal bells with fish scale casting ca 1600

Buckles

- Fragments of late date and decorative forms
- Copper alloy rectangular shoe buckle ca 1700
- Two double loop oval shoe buckles ca 1600
- Cast copper alloy sub annular shoe buckles 1660-1720
- Copper alloy single loop oval buckle and plate with traces of gilding ca 1400
- Copper alloy spectacle buckle ca 1600

Button

- Small brass button with star burst decoration
- Late 18 century naval button with anchor and rope and traces of gilding
- Royal Artillery brass button with three cannons, post 1795
- Nine various lead pewter buttons
- Two non ferrous boot buttons

Coins

- Silver hammered groat of Mary 1553-54
- Silver hammered groat of Henry VIII 1544-47 Canterbury mint
- Silver hammered sixpence Elizabeth I 1592-95
- Silver hammered sixpence James I 1603-25
- Half crown of William and Mary 1689
- Two German Jettons of Hanns Krauwinkle 1635 and remains of three others
- Half crown of George V 1928 Florin 1921
- Victorian sixpences 1859 & 1872 Sixpence 1955
- Abraded *Vi* sovereign dated 1905 Two copper farthings 1865 & 1920 Abraded copper coinage of George II Rose farthing Charles I 17th Century token

Commerce

- Five domed lead spindle whorls with diameters from ¾ to 1 inch.
- Three perforated free standing weights, two large and one small
- One recessed lead weight possibly a traders weight
- Two very thin lead perforated free standing weights
- Small lead bale seal

Household Item

- Short squared profile of a small spoon handle in bronze alloy with four impressed stamps ca 1700
- Greater part of a 15th century purse frame in bronze, the central boss is shield shaped and the plain medium length arms have twisted terminal
- Part of a brass or bronze alloy spur
- One large thimble, six medium and one small

Jewellery/Fastenings

- Long oval shaped lead brooch (?) with pieced decoration in shape of a vine (Medieval?)
- Part of small medieval belt clasp
- Small copper alloy hook fastener ca 1700
- § Bronze alloy stud, three corned in shape, surmounted with a raised cross at the top followed by the English rose with raised fleur-de-lis at the lower point, traces of gilding are present
- § Small plain bronze alloy stud with fixing pins

§ <i>Both items are post medieval in date</i>

Misc. Metal Objects

Bronze spillage

Three lead musket balls

Broken Sherds from a Medieval Jug

During the early part of April last year over sixty small pieces of pottery were found in a small concentration on the slopes of the cliff to the South of Crazy Mary's Hole. With the exception of two soot stained grey buff sherds from a cooking pot all the remains were part of the same vessel and from two rim profiles it would seem the sherds were once part of a Medieval jug.

There was no evidence of handle or base and the fabric appeared reasonably soft in texture and pale orange in colour and while the body sherds all appear plain the jug has been decorated with rilling around the neck. At the time of discovery there was no indication of any feature in the cliff from where the remains might have come from although a small medieval pit containing pottery was revealed near by after cliff falls in 1995. It is likely that these recent finds may also have been part of a small deposit before finally spilling out on to the slopes of the cliff where they were later found.

Roman Material Found at Beach Level

Just as last year tiles and brick have been picked up amongst sand and shingle at the foot of the cliff along with some sherds of greyware pottery. Remains of two Romano British roofing tiles have the characteristic upstands while two more the distinctive half circle sweep is present on the flat face of the tiles.

In addition two pieces of brick were also found, one being $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches thick with two square sides and a rough cast underside while the other example was just over an inch in thickness.

In each case the remains were in a soft orange material with occasional flints visible in the firing clay, two fist sized lumps of irregular fired clay also found at beach level compares with pieces found with Roman pottery some years ago and it is thought these may be part of the lining from an oven or even a kiln.

Towards the latter part of last year two sections of millstone were recovered, both were made from millstone grit and while one was a piece of waste material the other was a large section from a Romano British millstone. Like the Medieval lava millstone this too was rough hewn with wide grooves cut into the grinding face and these appeared noticeably worn towards the centre of the stone indicating it had considerable use. Unlike the much smaller hand mills of the medieval period this particular example is much larger in size with the rounded profile suggesting a diameter in the region of 16 inches and a tapering thickness between $1\frac{1}{4}$ & 2 inches respectively.

Since compiling this report more pieces of broken roof tile and greyware pottery have washed out of the Romano British Feature where earlier this year a small slate hone was found. The implement which is nearly three inches long and just over half an inch wide has a worn hole at one end and it is possible that the tool may also have been used to burnish pottery.

Acknowledgements

The writer would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr David Ecclestone for identifying the coinage and also thanks are due to Mr Adrian Charlton for his continued involvement in the early history of Pakefield.

March 2001

A Silver Figurine of Anglo Saxon Date from Carlton Colville Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

During the early part of 1998 Cambridge Archaeological Unit carried out extensive excavations at Carlton Colville and subsequently uncovered evidence of both Romano British and Anglo Saxon occupation. Prior to the excavations several large heaps of soil were created as heavy plant stripped off the upper surface prior to the actual excavations and in late June of that year Adrian Charlton was given permission by the site director Richard Mortimer to both search and detect these heaps with the possibility of recovering archaeological material. Some coins and non-descriptive material was found

along with pot sherds, part of a quern and flint industry and these were listed and given to the site director.

During the first week of July while using a detector on a heap that had produced some of the previous material a small near black figurine of a man with partial gilding was found. While the site hut used by the Archaeologists was still on site it appeared that the team had probably left the site and subsequently the figure was submitted to the Norwich Castle museum for identification as at this stage it was not known if the object was old or relatively modern by reason of its condition.

With the major building work on the Castle museum and the subsequent movement of the collections it was to be several months before the object was finally traced to Gressenhall where it was finally examined and sent to Dr. Leslie Webster of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities who identified it as being a votive object of the seventh century the report was as follows.

TREASURE REPORT TO CORONER: ANGLO SAXON 7th CENTURY SILVER GILT FIGURE
WITH SUSPENSION LOOP FROM CARLTON COLVILLE LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK

Silver-three dimensional bearded male figure wearing a cap and belted knee length trousers; the trousers, hands and face are all gilded; a suspension loop is attached to the cap. The figure is 43mm high and weighs 12.2 grams, the silver content is approximately 93% and traces of mercury were present in the gilding.

This striking object belongs to a small group of anthropomorphic images which are known from the early Anglo Saxon period. A very similar figure in bronze was found in the nineteenth century in a grave in the seventh century cemetery at Breach Down Kent, though it is clean shaven with clearly delineated hair and does not appear to have been worn as a pendant, other related anthropomorphic pins and pendants are known from seven century graves at Broadstairs and Dover. These enigmatic images appear to have had an amuletic function. The Carlton Colville specimen is unusual not only in being made of gilded silver but in the precision of its execution, seen in the very careful delineation of its features, and the highly selective use of gilding. The date range of the related items suggests that the piece too should be dated to the first half of the seventh century.

As the object came under the Treasure Trove Act of 1996 the Coroner Mr Leguen de Lacroix was informed and at an inquest in Lowestoft last September the figurine was declared treasure trove.

The British Museum have since shown an interest to purchase and at the time of writing valuations have been established by both Bonhams and Sothebys of London.

Note from Editor – the British Museum did purchase the figure and can be viewed on :

http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=8855&partId=1&searchText=carlton+colville&page=1

The Lowestoft Scene 2000 - 2001

Jon Reed

What sticks in the mind from the last twelve months? Foot and Mouth, of course. It's still with us in no uncertain manner. The daily images of starving sheep wring the heart strings. Tim Crick at Benacre lost 3700 sheep and 15 cattle, even though the disease has not reached our area – yet. We have already suffered badly from swine fever, though that has now been conquered. In March a blanket ban was put on livestock movement across Suffolk and Norfolk, footpaths were closed and Suffolk Wildlife Park put up the shutters. They have re-opened for Easter, as has Pets Corner. The Suffolk and Norfolk Shows have been cancelled. In April the Government told us that the countryside was open for tourism. This is somewhat of an exaggeration, since many places are still closed. Boat hiring goes on but boats are forbidden to stop beside farmland and some staites are closed. Even rubbish collection is banned in restricted areas.

Then there's the weather. Somebody once said that England does not have a climate – only weather. How true! Almost continual rain for over a year now with widespread flooding. Add to that severe

storms in November causing much coastal erosion. Some pundit has said that, if it goes on, Southwold could become an island. I hope they have a better ferry than the one from Walberswick! In December Easton Bavants lost another 40 feet of cliff and Corton has been suffering since last autumn, with beaches closed and houses in danger. Good news there, though. Waveney have allocated two-thirds of their coastal protection budget to Corton and are asking MAFF for help. The total cost is estimated at £2M. And spare a thought for Carlton Colville. They have been suffering flooding from inadequate drainage for well over six months, culminating in a serious flood in November, possibly partly as a result of new housing going up on The Mardle.

Employment has benefited from several new initiatives. In May 2000 a scheme was launched by Bob Blizzard called 'Lowestoft Into Work', aimed at disadvantaged people. Last July the Eastern England Development Agency predicted 1000 jobs on the new South Quay site. The £32M scheme will have shopping and leisure facilities as well as industry. Already several small firms have indicated strong interest and it is estimated they would boost employment by 300-400. David Young of the Liberal Democrats has said that the site would put 300 local jobs at risk due to competition with South Lowestoft. One international firm has indicated that it would like to transfer its European H.Q. there and the developers have promised to spend £1.75M on workspace for small businesses, to be leased to Suffolk County Council. In August £163,000 of European money was promised for 100 new jobs, as well as £83,000 from Suffolk for projects within Waveney. Also in August £1.25M was promised for employment of the physically disabled from the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB), in association with the Shaw Trust and the Prince's Trust. There is also a possibility of 300 new jobs at KYE after their takeover by the Nigerian-based Adamac Group. Last month Sanyo announced they were taking on 100 more staff for their new engineering laboratory, on which they are spending £5M.

Industry seems to be doing better. In May 2000 TDC delivered a chemical injection plant for an oil rig off Brazil. You may have come across it as it trundled down the A 12 to Felixstowe. They had already delivered a £1.5M wellhead to the same company. In July SLP launched the Trent oil rig and promptly announced 200 redundancies. All these people were later taken back on new projects. KYE's takeover will mean £50M of refurbishment work from their new owners. In September LEC Marine got a £5M order from the Royal Navy for electrical equipment on two new vessels, meaning 100 new jobs. Also in September the Waveney Rush Co. moved to Oulton Broad, making mats and baskets, and Ivy House Farm Hotel opened a new conference centre. In October a Shell rig built by KYE started producing gas.

It has not been all good news. BP Amoco announced that they were phasing out standby rescue vessels for oil and gas rigs in favour of helicopters. This means the loss of local jobs and Bob Blizzard accused them of a failure to consult, which they had promised to do. The cost of fuel, the latest fishing quotas and banned fishing areas spell virtual disaster for local fishing. Local fishermen threatened a port blockade during the fuel blockade last September. The town was also brought to a standstill by lorries and taxis, although it was described as more of a carnival procession in the local press. Colne Fishing have taken the unusual step of paying for fuel instead of taking it out of the crews' pay. Sizewell and Bradwell have admitted they sometimes kill thousands of fish in their water intakes after accusations by local fishermen that they are contributing to the shortage of fish. Flouting the ban on fishing, which also affects inshore fishing on the East Anglian coast, is being severely punished. A Dutch skipper was fined £30,000 at Lowestoft in March 2001.

Tesco have altered their expansion plans after local objections. In November a merger was announced between the Lowestoft Chamber of Commerce and the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce. In December awards were made to Hoseasons staff for their hard work and to Pontins for their environmental efforts. In March SLP proposed a wind turbine generator at Ness Point, which might well happen. It would be built by Next Generation at a cost of £1.3M. Also in March Lowestoft Porcelain 2000 had an opening ceremony. They have some interesting designs and have visited the museum several times to look at the original designs. In April Waveney Rover closed, but was bought by John Banks Ltd, a Honda dealer. Now, the masts! One-2-One, the mobile phone company applied in October for permission to put up an 80 foot mast at Harbour Road, Oulton Broad. There were vigorous local objections from residents, businesses and the Coastguards, who reckoned it would interfere with their radio. The application was refused in December and the company re-applied for a site off Marsh Road, Oulton Broad. This was turned down in February. Meanwhile Transco wanted

to put up a mast at Corton, right near housing. This was also refused and Waveney have said very clearly that no masts will be allowed near housing, so don't bother trying again.

Sir John Gooch died last year. He left a hefty bill for death duties and a house full of treasures, which were sold off last spring, raising a huge amount of money and a great deal of local interest. Afterwards a Cimabue painting, only 8 inches by 10, was found and was estimated by Sotheby's to be worth no less than £10M. It had been insured for £42!. Speaking of celebrities, one baby boy took the nation by storm – Leo Blair. Johnny Johnstone, keeper of the porcelain at Lowestoft Museum, proposed a birth plaque for him and got one made by Joan Pinter, a local lady. It was presented to Tony Blair by Bob Blizzard in July at No. 10. A copy has been presented to the museum. Another celebrity who has had an influence locally is Sir Fred Pontin, who has written his autobiography.

Benacre are building 12 flats in the Hall. Wrentham are up in arms about 34 new homes which would overload the already inadequate sewage system, causing flooding. Plans for 750 new homes on a greenfield site near the Rock Estate have been criticised because there are sufficient brownfield sites already available. This doesn't seem to have stopped Persimmon who are busily going ahead with a huge estate stretching south from the Beccles Road. They had an archaeological survey done and a hoard of Neolithic hand axes was found. They are of superb quality and have been loaned long-term to Lowestoft Museum.

When I do my notes I have a heading of "Public Works" which is fairly extensive this year. Last May a 14 foot statue of a lifeboatman, sculpted by Dominic Marshal, was erected by Lowestoft Bridge. In July Lowestoft was given Assisted Area status, which should bring in more European and Government money. In August the Port of Lowestoft signed an agreement with Suffolk and the Environment Agency to combat oil spills in the harbour. In September the pleasure boat "Ra", a solar powered boat, was launched. Local boat builders commented bitterly on its being built abroad. Closed circuit cameras were installed in seafront car parks in the autumn as part of the crackdown on crime. Pakefield lighthouse was restored in October for volunteer coastguards. In January the retiring Waveney Chairman, John Taylor, gave the Council an embroidered Millennium panel. The Air Show was a success again. Incidentally, Chris Hood, one of our Friends, is selling postcards of the millennium dawn from his own photos in aid of the next Air Show. Corton sewage treatment plant is now nearing completion, awaiting its lid. A new proposal for an inland waters lifeboat at Oulton Broad was approved generally but slated for its positioning in Nicholas Everitt Park, close to busy public slipways. Peter Haddon, owner of Pleasurewood Hills, put in a £1M bid for the structure of the dome, to be installed over the complex. Jack Thain has been protesting on behalf of pensioners about the number of them at or near the poverty level. Campaign efforts seem to have paid off in the last budget.

Waveney has completed its reorganisation. The three new corporate directors were appointed and almost immediately faced the task of saving £800,000 on the budget. Nine corporate managers were appointed in September, most of them having to re-apply for their own posts. The saga of St. Peter's Court seems to have been settled at last. I reported on it last year. Since then the residents were told in October that the £2.5M repair bill might be met. In November they were still waiting, but they were told in December that work will start this year. Ambitious plans for Station Square have been unveiled. There has been a lot of consultation, which produced some quite interesting ideas, including putting trams back, to run between South Lowestoft and the High Street. Other suggestions included more public loos and a more cyclist-friendly environment. Parts of Lowestoft have been invited to bid for a share in £45M Government SRB funding for regeneration. In February £1.7M of Government money (*our money?*) was promised for childcare places to encourage single parents back to work.

There has been a lot of activity on the Heritage/Leisure front. In May four local projects received £8,000 between them from the Millennium Festival Awards. In June Great Yarmouth accused Lowestoft of hanging on to the Lydia Eva. Incidentally, a Yarmouth Councillor said, "Everybody knows the only good thing coming out of Lowestoft is the A 12". The rivalry appears to continue. The Lydia Eva Trust said that the boat is unseaworthy and cannot be taken to Yarmouth. In August they launched a £2M appeal to cover repairs. Also in June the Excelsior Trust said that the ship may be lost to the town if money wasn't found. It costs £25,000 a year to run, but is claimed to bring some

£100,000 into the town businesses. However by March this year the Trust had acquired the old George Pryor shipyard, so presumably their financial crisis is over. All East Anglian beaches have passed the cleanliness standards (partly due to improvements in sewage treatment) and Lowestoft's two beaches have the coveted blue flag. The Hippodrome opened last July, rebuilt at a cost of £2.5M. Also in July Lord Somerleyton applied to build 70 self-catering log cabins at Fritton over 3 years. In September the Wildes School archaeological dig started in earnest. It is still going on and has produced some fascinating finds. In November the Civic Society opened the South Flint House as a Heritage Workshop Centre. In September the Lowestoft Classic Vehicle Club produced a souvenir mug for their tenth anniversary. Last autumn Councillors discussed a joint tourist initiative with Yarmouth (I wonder what the aforementioned Councillor thought of that idea). In December Carlton Colville raised a village sign and published a fascinating book about the history of the village. In February the Lowestoft Museum cannon, restored with an authentic carriage by Lowestoft College using timber given by Rushmeres, was installed at the museum. In March a plan was put forward to reopen at least part of the Southwold railway at a predicted cost of £1.5M. In November an auction of Lowestoft Porcelain raised £16,500 against a £6,000 estimate. A leaf dish sold for £1,955 against an estimate of £250.

Kirkley High School have been pressing for recognition as a Centre for Sporting Excellence. Last May AKD Engineering gave them £2,000 and in December they attained their goal. In June local schools were awarded £300,000, part of a £5M Government scheme to improve and extend schools. In August the free Early Start scheme was extended to three-year-olds. In September the Sure Start initiative for children in the Roman Hill area got £1.4M, with the parents demanding more say in how it should be spent. In October the Kizzy Preschool, the brainchild of Tricia Cuming, was opened by Bob Blizzard. In January the Briar School for foreign students announced that it was closing at Easter due to falling numbers.

In April 2000 a new ward, known as the Alfie Watson Unit, was opened at James Paget for the long-term care of the elderly and for rehabilitation. A health hazard was discovered at the town tip when a 9 kg lump of depleted uranium was found. It is apparently used in ship's ballast. In September it was forecast that more care homes would have to close due to underfunding, amid accusations of ageism. In January Gisleham got charity status for a pioneering attempt to provide a palliative care home to relieve Carers. In February James Paget reported a shortage of doctors and nurses, importing 20 nurses from the Philippines. Also in February 3 new vehicles were provided for Dial-a-Ride, given by local businesses and the Lowestoft Lions.

The roads – oh, the roads! We seem to have suffered from the usual crop of roadworks as well as several unforeseen hold-ups. In February, for instance, the All at Gunton suffered a burst water main. However, there appears to be some good news. The relief road from Carlton Crown to the Lowestoft Road is under way. Yet another dog-walking route lost, but that is sour grapes. And, wonder of wonders, we have the go-ahead in 2002 for the fabled Southern Relief Road, from Bloodmoor Road to Waveney Drive. However, it will only be single carriageway and will still cost £22M. In October it was announced that the A 12 from Ipswich to Lowestoft is to be "de-trunked". This means it will be the responsibility of Suffolk County Council, with fears expressed about the funding for repairs. Of course the roads have been overloaded with people trying to avoid the rail chaos. Since the Hatfield disaster the rail timetables have been a joke. The local lines have kept pretty well to time, but making connections has been a matter of luck. Among the sillier transport suggestions was a proposal to run a hovercraft service to the continent from Claremont Pier. Who knows, it could happen.

Finally two events made the headlines. The Festival of Light last August was a success, if a little low key. Then in January came the total eclipse of the moon. Lowestoft was very lucky in having clear skies and had one of the best views in the country.