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REPORT ON MEETINGS FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS*Myra Kestner*

10th May 2001 **“Selection of Films from the East Anglian Film Archive”** *by Richard Cooke*

The East Anglian Film Archive is now held at the University of East Anglia Centre for East Anglian Studies, but will be moving in two years' time to the new Norfolk Record Office building. The Film Archive is seeking more material, including any amateur films which our members may know of, and now has videos for sale and an on-line catalogue of available films.

The films shown to the Society included “The Herring Harvest”, shot both on board a 1930's steam drifter, where the herring were netted, and in Lowestoft, where they were unloaded, gutted and packed. A 1933 record of the wheat harvest, showed old and new farming methods used side by side in a period of transition, with scythes being sharpened and a combine harvester in action. Another film described the transition from predominately wherry transport on the Broads to the holiday-makers' boats of twenty to thirty years ago. Car racing on the sea wall and also a car ride through Lowestoft, including a not greatly changed London Road South, were recorded on an amateur film from 1920. A 1938 publicity film advertised Lowestoft attractions for holiday-makers, including open air swimming pools, a boating lake, a roller skating rink, tennis courts, bathing chalets at 15 shillings a week, cinemas, pier entertainments, rows of deck chairs and donkey rides.

Thursday, 14 June 2001 **“A Walk around Beccles”** led by David Lindley

Our walk around Beccles started at the Church Tower, which really should be called the steeple. It was probably built separately from the church as a more conventional position would have been dangerously near the cliff. We continued past the eighteenth century Town Hall formerly used as a court room, to the New Market and Ballygate, where we observed clues to the situation of ancient houses and the changes that had been made to them. In the Old Market we also looked at the tower which was originally part of a chapel, and had later been built into a wall.

The walk finished at the Kings Head where a large party of members enjoyed an end of season dinner.

28th June **“Round Tower Church Outing”** with Bill Goode

Bill again choose a very pleasant evening for our annual pilgrimage to visit two round tower churches and we still have some way to go before we can say we have visited all 181 Round Tower churches in England. Our first for the evening was in the very picturesque setting at Burgh Castle, St Peter & Paul. Material for the tower & church was most certainly robbed from the nearby Roman Fort. Interesting features were the cutting away of the original walls to make more room, sometimes

causing one to wonder how the walls managed to still stand! We then went the Belton All Saints a short drive away. Much of this has been rebuilt and probably the earliest parts date from the 14th century. The doorways have some very fine carvings.

Sunday, 22 July 2001

“The Summer Outing to Gressenhall”

The first tour of the day, which was to be led “Behind the Scenes with the Archaeologists”, had been booked for our Society. On arrival, we were divided into four groups and taken through the different sections of Norfolk Archaeology, including the Sites and Monuments Record, the Air Photo Library, the Biological Records Centre and the Identification and Recording Service.

In each section, members of staff explained their work to us and answered questions on the displays.

An afternoon tour of the workhouse buildings had been arranged, and we also had time to explore the newly refurbished, extensive and very interesting workhouse exhibition and the traditional country cottages.

There was a programme of four different lectures in the workhouse chapel. Many of us managed to fit in the talk on “Seahenge” but did not have time in our busy programme for the others.

When we left at the end of a full day, some members of the group were already planning return visits to the rest of the Rural Life Museum and to the Union Farm.

Thursday, 13th Sept. 2001

“Wilde School - The Truth”

by John Stannard

Mr Stannard, Chairman of the Civic Society, told the story of the refurbishment of the old Wilde School Building and the archaeological dig which has been taking place there. The building that survived to be given to the Civic Society by Birds Eye was in two parts, built in 1788 and 1859, but the original use of the site dated from much further back.

The first tasks were to clear the site, including trees and ivy growing in the buildings, and raise funds for the project. The roof was stripped and after treatment for damp, the pantiles replaced. Handmade bricks were used in restoring the building. An archaeological dig was not originally planned, but when the floorboards near the door were taken up, an assortment of finds, including slate pencils, tip cats (carved pieces of wood used in games) and marbles, which had been lost by schoolboys, were uncovered. Volunteers joined the dig, and deeper down, a cannon ball (probably late sixteenth century and from the battery), an emerald ring, many unusual sherds of pottery and fifteenth century walls were found. There were many cobbled walkways, multilayered and of different dates.

The building is now open to visitors, displays have been mounted and a reconstructed classroom is being prepared. Local history research is underway and information on local history will be received with interest.

Thursday, 27th Sept. 2001

"The Lost City of Dunwich"

by Mark Mitchels

In its early days, Dunwich had a fine natural harbour and was a major seaport. Roman roads appeared to lead eastwards towards the town and it is believed that the early Christian Bishopric was founded there by St Felix. In Norman times, many important people settled in Dunwich, but the Domesday recording of loss of land to the sea, between 1066 and 1086, gave a hint of the troubled times ahead. Despite this loss of land, the town had grown and instead of the one church recorded at the time of the Conquest, there were three churches twenty years later.

A spit of land extending southwards from Southwold allowed Dunwich to control the harbour entrance and thus claim taxes from Walberswick, Southwold and Blythburgh for shipping entering the harbour and river. The loss of land, however, continued and in 1216 the sea covered much of the old town. In 1287, a storm caused a breach in the spit of land and following this there was a continual struggle to seal the breaks and keep the entrance to the harbour at Dunwich open. After a storm in 1328, the harbour entrance was blocked and in 1404 it was established that Dunwich had no legal right to claim taxes from the neighbouring towns.

After this ruling, and with the continuing loss of land to the sea, Dunwich declined rapidly, and became a fishing village noted as a centre for smuggling.

Thursday, 11th Oct. 2001 **“The Industrial Archaeology of East Anglia”** *by David Alderton*

The Industrial Archaeology of East Anglia is more extensive than might at first be thought. Defoe described Norwich as the “chief manufactory”, particularly noted for the production of cloth. It declined in relation to the new industrial areas in the north, due to a reluctance to introduce new methods and not because of a lack of coal and iron, which could be brought in by sea. There were local iron foundries, and the first East Anglian iron bridge was constructed in 1803.

When Smithdale’s iron foundry in Norwich closed, Mr Alderton bought and preserved its nineteenth century records. Industrial firms of the past kept few records and those that they did keep were usually destroyed when the firm closed. Many of the old machines were not destroyed, but survived alongside those that superseded them. The best way to find out about the industrial past is thus through looking at its tangible remains.

Mr Alderton has photographed many of these old industrial buildings, before they were destroyed. As well as iron foundries, these included brick kilns and chalk pits in the Norwich area. Several of the old industrial buildings of Lowestoft, now lost, were included in this collection.

Thursday, 25th Oct. 2001 **“East Anglian Churches and their Treasures”** *by Alan Jones*

There are some interesting explanations for the ancient and unusual treasures which can be found within churches, and also for those churches which are themselves unusual.

Pakefield Church was once two churches, divided by a wall, probably because it was on the border of two manors and each lord wanted his own church. Its sarsen stone suggests that it was originally on a pagan site.

The Southwold Church chancel roof is better painted than that of the nave, a reminder of the division of responsibility between cleric and congregation for maintenance of different parts of the church.

Remains of some rood screens and stone mensas still remain, but removed from their original positions. After they were first removed during the sixteenth century, they were reinstated during the reign of Edward VI and then removed again when Elizabeth I came to the throne. Wall paintings decorated medieval churches but though some remain, for example at Wenhaston, many others have been whitewashed over.

Other churches contain curious relics from the past, such as scratch sundials, often placed just outside the south door, and occasionally dog whips, for use by the official church dog whipper. The step downwards on entering old churches served to keep in the herb scented rushes strewn on the floor. Yew trees were planted in churchyards by order of Edward I, and served as reminders of eternal life as well as satisfactory windbreaks.

Thursday, 8th Nov. 2001 **“The Mysteries of Ancient China”** *by Peter Ramsome*

We were entertained by Peter Ransome of the Norfolk Library Service, talking about the Mysteries of Ancient China, based on his visit to China in 1999. The talk replaced the advertised one on “Prehistoric Barrows”, due to the illness of the original speaker. The very first Emperor Q’in Xhi Huangdi (“Q’in” is pronounced “Chin”, and it is after him that China was named.) reigned from 221 BC. He unified Chinese writing, and the same script is still used today, he instituted land reforms and built the first Great Wall, which closed the northern frontier to the marauding Mongols. It is said that a man died for every yard built, and there are 2,500 miles of the Wall. It was extended in the 15th century by the Ming dynasty, who also transferred the capital to Beijing (Peking) in 1406 and built the Forbidden City. Q’in was paranoid about assassination. His palaces had secret passageways and he had a huge bodyguard. He desired immortality, but actually died at 50. He was buried in a huge man-made hill. His tomb, made as a microcosm of the world, has never been opened, probably because of a superstitious fear of releasing evil spirits. It had the first “terra-cotta warriors” made to guard the tomb. It is ironic that their arms were taken by the Han usurpers and used to kill his son. Later Ming dynasty “warriors” were made life-size and had individually modelled faces. Chinese civilisation set the standard for the East and echoed in many ways Ancient Egypt, grave goods being very similar. Most impressive were the pictures of a jade suit, made of 2487 pieces of jade, which completely

covered the body of an Empress. Jade was believed to preserve bodies. There was a notable improvement in ceramics from the Tang dynasty onwards, the statues of grave attendants being remarkably life-like. The Chinese religion of ancestor worship believed in immortality, as did the Buddhist religion, introduced in 100 AD. The last Emperor was deposed in 1912 by the communist revolution and eventually, after prolonged brain-washing, ended his life as a humble gardener. The talk was much enjoyed by the members, who asked several interesting questions.

Thursday, 22nd Nov. 2001

"The History of the Wherry"

by Michael Sparkes

The early boats on the Broads were keels, with one central, square sail like a Viking ship, but these were superseded by the more economical wherries. Wherries, and the earlier keels, served as lighters unloading (or lightening) ships which were unable to reach the harbour because of sand banks or unloading in places where there was no harbour, as well as for inland waterway transport. Old photos showed wherries in the waterways heavily loaded with wood with the crew standing on the deck in front of the load and unprotected by the well which was later introduced. The sails were treated with fish oil, with the addition of coal tar to prevent rats from eating them. This, and exposure to smoke made them black.

With the coming of the railways and improvements in roads and road transport, the use of wherries declined. Some continued for a while as holiday vessels in the summer and commercial transport in the winter but many finished up filled with mud, holding back mud banks on the Broads. The Albion Wherry, originally built at Oulton Broad in 1898, has been restored by the Wherry Trust and can be chartered during the summer months for tours. It has been in Lowestoft this winter for repairs.

Thursday 24th January 2002

"Significant East Anglian Trees"

by Terry Weatherley

The woodlands of the past were managed as a source of wood products for varied uses. In Reydon Woods coppice stools, five or six hundred years old, survive. Well known ancient trees are not, however, found in woods but, like Kett's Oak on the roadside between Norwich and Wymondham, stand alone. Kett's Oak and Hethel Old Thorn were measured by Grigor, author of "The Eastern Arboretum", in 1840. Terry has measured them again to estimate growth and taken photographs to compare with old drawings. Whether or not Kett's oak is the original tree, or another planted at the same site, is disputed, but the present tree is the same as the old tree described by Grigor.

At Worlingham there are a number of interesting trees, including a nearly hundred foot high *Zelcova Carpinifolia* from the Caucasus growing in Worlingham Park Drive. Some large trees stand on field boundaries which have long since disappeared. Terry has entered these and other significant trees on a spread sheet, giving measurements and their suggested planting dates. As an aid to finding the age of an old tree, John White of the Forestry Commission has built up a data base of measurements and ring counts taken when old trees are felled. Last summer he measured the massive oaks on the Benacre Estate and gave them an average planting date of 1603.

Data from Terry's talk on calculated age of trees - date your own trees!

OAK TREES

| Location | girth | age | planted | Location | girth | age | planted |
|---------------------|-------|-----|---------|----------|-------|------|---------|
| | 6 | 85 | 1916 | | 21 | 475 | 1526 |
| | 7 | 97 | 1904 | | 22 | 517 | 1484 |
| | 8 | 112 | 1889 | | 23 | 560 | 1441 |
| | 9 | 128 | 1873 | | 24 | 606 | 1395 |
| | 10 | 146 | 1855 | | 25 | 653 | 1348 |
| Carlton Court | 10½ | 156 | 1845 | Henstead | 26 | 702 | 1299 |
| | 11 | 167 | 1834 | | 27 | 753 | 1248 |
| | 12 | 189 | 1812 | | 28 | 806 | 1195 |
| | 13 | 213 | 1788 | | 29 | 861 | 1140 |
| Secrets Corner | 14 | 139 | 1762 | | 30 | 918 | 1083 |
| | 15 | 267 | 1734 | | 31 | 977 | 1024 |
| | 16 | 297 | 1704 | | 32 | 1038 | 963 |
| | 17 | 329 | 1672 | | 33 | 1101 | 900 |
| | 18 | 362 | 1639 | | 34 | 1165 | 836 |
| Kessingland average | 19 | 398 | 1603 | | 35 | 1232 | 769 |
| | 20 | 436 | 1565 | | 36 | 1301 | 700 |

BEECH TREES

| | | | |
|------------|----|-----|------|
| | 10 | 102 | 1899 |
| Pams beech | 13 | 149 | 1852 |

Thursday, 14th Feb. 2002

"Dating Houses"

by Ian Hinton

Dating houses without going inside them can be very difficult as, in former times, house owners took trouble to modernise the exterior of their properties. Even a date inscribed on a building may indicate an important event rather than the date when it was built. Larger houses were usually much altered and smaller ones were poorly built and have since disappeared. Most timber framed houses, now surviving, were thus middle sized and belonged to yeoman farmers.

In the sixteenth century chimneys and fireplaces were introduced. Houses were then built around a central hall, with service rooms at one end and a parlour at the other. These houses can still be identified by the positioning of the chimney two thirds of the way along the roof, between the hall and the parlour. Before chimneys were introduced, the fire had been in the centre of the hall. There might have been chambers above the parlour and service rooms, but not over the hall. This division can sometimes still be recognised, for example through the presence of an overhang on either end, but not on the centre of the building. Inside the house, slides for the shutters, which pre-dated glass windows, may remain visible.

Early brick was expensive and of poor quality so was less frequently used. Alterations made to brick built houses are more easily identified through obvious changes in brickmaking styles and colours.

Thursday, 28th Feb. 2002

"The History of Corton "

by Michael Soanes

The medieval village of Corton stood next to the church, towards the south and east, but by the fifteenth century, with increasing maritime trade, the village had moved nearer to the cliff. Corton was without a vicar for a hundred years from 1645 and the large church fell into disrepair. The cliff edge village was lost to the sea and, as land in other directions was privately owned, new cottages were built further south on Corton Common, with a small payment being made to the Lord of the Manor. Some of the disappearing cliff edge cottages were recorded in paintings by a local artist.

The long history of erosion continued, with sea walls built by Jeremiah Colman (the Norwich mustard

king) in the late nineteenth century, and by the local authority in 1960, both being undermined by the sea. Colman had his summer residence at Corton, owned most of the village, and built many of the present day houses. Mr Wigg catered for visitors, owning a teashop and letting bathing machines, seats and a diving board. Sewage, like erosion, has played a continuing part in the history of Corton, and the early postcards showed holidaymakers bathing happily beside the sewage pipe. When the tide started to go out, the pipe was opened and sewage flowed into the sea.

Today, after twentieth century holiday camp expansion, little remains of old Corton.

Thursday, 14th March 2002

“Medieval Moats in Suffolk”

by Edward Martin

From the twelfth century onwards many moats were dug around the houses and castles of the wealthy, as status symbols and not for defence. The approach, over a drawbridge and through an impressive gatehouse, was constructed as a statement about the social position of the owner. Today, gatehouses sometimes survive standing alone, or with other, newer, buildings built around them.

It was very important to noblemen that they should have displays in keeping with their status. A knight often had an acre of land within his moat, whilst a parson or a well off freeman might have half an acre. The moats were usually shallow, and the area within flat, so they were an ineffective defence. Moats were particularly popular where they could be successfully maintained, as in the water retentive clay areas of East Anglia. Occasionally other high status buildings, such as lodges and dovecotes, were moated. After the fifteenth century, when brick became more usual, house walls were often built directly beside moats. Visitors were meant to be impressed when they saw the reflection of the buildings in the water.

Sometimes Medieval moats are wrongly described as dating from Anglo-Saxon and Viking times. The remains of the enclosures of Anglo-Saxon thanes are sometimes still evident, but these cover a wider area and enclosed the church and outbuildings as well as the manor house.

Thursday, 21st March 2002 **"Leonardo da Vinci: Engineer and Artist"**

by Bernard Ambrose

Leonardo da Vinci was born in Northern Italy in 1452 and, when he left school, was apprenticed to a Florence workshop engaged in architecture, sculpture and painting. After leaving this employment, he became a military engineer, designing an early tank, a rapid fire crossbow and a contraption for pushing ladders away from a wall an enemy army was attempting to scale.

He is well known as the painter of the “Last Supper” and the “Mona Lisa”, but he had many other interests, including geology, botany and anatomy, and was a supremely inventive Renaissance man. Much of his surviving work consists of engineering drawings of his many inventions, preserved in collections such as the Codex Leicester, bought by Bill Gates for nineteen million pounds in 1994. Some designs were for manually operated lifting machinery to be used in cathedral building, and others were attempts to design aircraft and parachutes. The flying machines were based on his observation of birds, and the parachute actually worked in modern tests, though with some doubts about its safety.

Bernard Ambrose has constructed models, using these drawings and descriptions, and members were able to turn handles and operate winches as well as look at slides showing Leonardo da Vinci’s art work and designs.

Thursday, 11th April 2002

“The Hoxne Hoard”

by Judith Plouviész

During the late Roman period, when the Empire was under attack from Anglo-Saxons and other barbarians, treasured valuables were buried by wealthy Romans for safe keeping, and sometimes not dug up again. These wealthy Romans would have lived in villas like the courtyard villa discovered at Ipswich. Such hoards have been uncovered at Mildenhall and Thetford as well as Hoxne but it is unlikely that a hoard or a villa will be found in the Lowestoft area. Unlike the hoards at Mildenhall and Thetford, which were not reported for a long time after they were discovered, the Hoxne hoard was quickly reported and was excavated by archaeologists.

At Hoxne, 500 Roman gold coins and 14,000 Roman silver coins were excavated, together with gold

and silver spoons and jewellery. Two well known artefacts were a silver tigris, which may originally have had its paws resting against a vase, and a pepper pot made in the form of a Roman empress. It appears that the Hoxne hoard had been packed in straw, inside a wooden box, and two small silver padlocks were also found.

Jude Plouviez also gave a brief report on the archaeological work now underway in the Carlton Colville area, as a result of housing developments and preparations for the new southern relief road. Medieval artefacts and a well have been found in the clay soil and the remains of an Iron Age and Roman field system on the sandy soil. There is evidence of habitation over a long period of time. Work is now underway in the field opposite the Transport Museum and near Carlton Colville church.

Myra Kestner

Thursday, 25th April 2002

“A Victorian Slide Show”

by Trevor Burlingham

A magic lantern and accompanying glass plate slides, found in the church vestry at Croxton near Thetford, were restored by Trevor Burlingham and used as the basis for his presentation. The photographs had been taken by Rev Watts of Thetford and dated from around 1900 and from the 1914-1918 War. When he retired, Rev Watts lived at the Croxton vicarage until it was sold and the magic lantern was then removed to the church.

Some photographs were of the river and bridges, still recognisable today, but at that time used by the barges which were hauled by horses up stream from Kings Lynn. As well as Thetford streets and buildings, the slides showed the workhouse, where Rev Watts was chaplain, and its infirmary wards. The nurses were all magnificently and stiffly starched and the workhouse inmates also wore uniforms. Many of the slides were of local uniformed groups, not only nurses and paupers, but also soldiers and boy scouts. All sat still and solemn, partly because of the long photographic exposures essential at the time. The rare casual, outdoor photograph was likely to be spoiled by blurring. Groups of mothers and children were in their best clothes and enormous hats, which were also worn on trips to the seaside.

Some slides were used for religious instruction and others were of humorous cartoons, including one of a man lying in bed under shrunken bedclothes, as the result of failing to use “Lux” when they were washed.

80 HIGH STREET, LOWESTOFT, AND ITS NEIGHBOURS TO THE NORTH: AN EXERCISE IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL URBAN TOPOGRAPHY

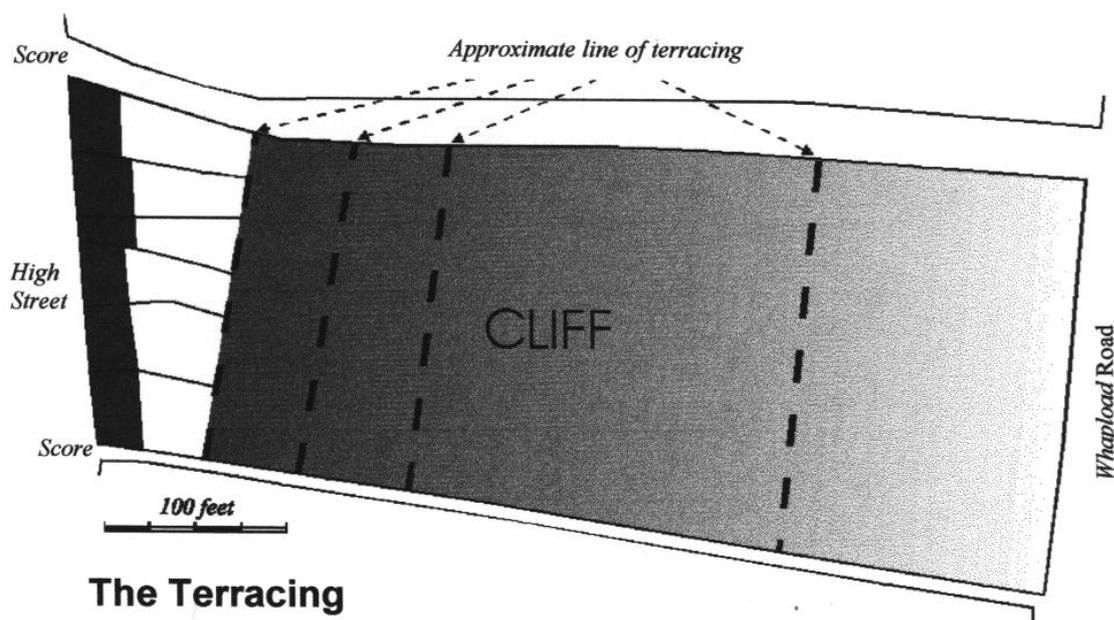
David Butcher

Maps by Ivan Bunn

The pre-industrial town of Lowestoft, as represented today by the High Street and the areas immediately east and west of it, developed progressively during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries on land unfit for anything other than rough grazing. A combination of factors is likely to have caused the settlement to move from its original site some half a mile to the south-west,¹ but one key consideration was probably an increase in maritime activity, which in turn generated the need for a more convenient operating base.² Centuries of change have ensued since that time, but the High Street itself still adheres to its original alignment (especially on the eastern side) and the basic disposition of building plots has also changed comparatively little. The area between Rant Score and Wilde's Score (just over two and a half acres in size) is an admirable example of this, retaining its six messuages fronting the street – a contrast to the changes that have taken place to the rear.

In establishing a new community along the top of the cliff at Lowestoft, our mediaeval predecessors showed considerable resourcefulness. Most impressive of all is the way in which they made the cliff-face usable by constructing a system of terraces from end to end, held in position by retaining walls.³ This work cannot have been done piecemeal and at random, and it would seem therefore to have constituted an exercise in civic landscaping and co-operation in order to achieve a common objective. Originally, the house-plots were of the burgage type (long and narrow), running from the High Street down to Whapload Road, but this delineation was altered radically during the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, with land at the bottom of the cliff being sold off for commercial development as the fishing industry flourished and expanded.⁴

Generally speaking, the width of the individual houses along the street was reflected in the width of



the plots to the rear, but examples can be found of narrow dwellings with wider plots, and vice versa (this is reflected in the first two maps which follow). Another factor in the arrangement and shape of

¹ Adjacent to the present day confluence of Rotterdam Road, Normanston Drive and St. Peter's Street.

² Lowestoft's growing involvement with fishing is perhaps best demonstrated by Great Yarmouth's attempt to control what it saw as a commercial threat to its own herring trade, by having acts of parliament passed in its favour during the second half of the fourteenth century.

³ Most of the cliff is terraced into four stages, but there are individual dwellings where further terracing has been carried out at some point.

⁴ Originally, the term "burgage" referred specifically to lands and tenements in urban areas, which were held of the manorial lord for a specified annual rent. Because the house plots in such communities were usually long and narrow, and stood at right angles to the street, the term has become generic for all plots of this nature.

the plots themselves is the presence of the scores.⁵ There were six of these trackways in the main, built-up part of the old town, linking the cliff-top with the beach area below,⁶ and the burgage plots followed their east-west alignment. The overall impression gained from the study of Lowestoft's topographical development in the early modern period is of concerted community activity, but under manorial control. This is analogous with other towns in England, where building was permitted on low-grade land, and where a regular income was generated for the lord of the manor by a system of entry fines and annual rents.⁷ Most of the houses on Lowestoft's main street (and to the west of it) were copyhold tenure, and every time a property changed hands the new owner paid a set fee to the manorial steward, acting on behalf of his employer, and the transaction was recorded in the minute books.⁸

The first surviving document which gives a definite picture of Lowestoft in topographical terms is a manorial rental of June 1545⁹ – the compilation of which coincided with remarks made about the town by the third Duke of Norfolk, as he occupied himself with a survey of coastal defences against the background of a possible war with the French and the Scots.¹⁰ He referred to the place as being “right well builded” and went on to pay tribute to the thrift and honesty of the inhabitants. Leaving aside a certain amount of “public relations” parlance, his descriptions do give the sense of a community that was prospering. The six plots abutting the street between Rant Score and Wilde's Score at the time are described in the rental list as follows:

- Nicholas Shotsham – a messuage and fish house (now numbers 70&71);
- Christopher Foster – a messuage and fish house (now numbers 72&73);
- Nicholas Nichols – a messuage and fish house (now number 74);
- William Rawlinson – a new house and garden (now numbers 75&76);
- Elizabeth Hooker (widow) – a messuage and fish house (now numbers 77-79);
- Robert Clow – a messuage, fish house and garden (now number 80).

The information clearly shows that five of the individual properties incorporated fish-curing premises (producing what we today would call red herrings), and the smokehouses were almost certainly situated at the base of the cliff, where the ground levels out down towards Whapload Road. It was here that any buildings used to store fishing gear and other maritime equipment were also sited, for easy access to the shoreline. Lowestoft did not have a harbour until 1830 and, until this facility was available, the Denes served as one, large, open-air wharf, with all commodities being taken out or brought ashore by ferry boats plying between the off-lying vessels and the beach.¹¹

The basic pattern of habitation in Lowestoft at the time was determined by this factor, with most of the merchants and leading members of the maritime fraternity living in houses along the top of the cliff, and with the less well-off members of the population concentrated in the side-street area to the west of the High Street itself.¹² Contrary to popular belief, pre-industrial society was highly mobile and it may be significant that, of the six people listed above, only two of the families can be detected in the 1524 Lay Subsidy (the Shotshams and the Hookers) and only one in the 1568 return (the Shotshams).¹³ Definite maritime links can be attached to the Shotshams, who were well established

⁵ The word derives from the Old Norse *skora*, meaning to cut or make an incision. The scores at Lowestoft were originally surface-water drainage channels down the face of the cliff which provided a convenient means of getting to and from the beach.

⁶ Using the names in current use, they are as follows: Mariner's, Crown, Rant, Wilde's, Maltster's and Herring Fishery.

⁷ Deal and Whitehaven are two which come to mind.

⁸ Copyhold meant that the individual occupants held their respective properties under the rules of the particular manor and (in theory, at least) had a copy of these in their possession. In many cases, copyhold was as flexible as freehold and gave people as much freedom to dispose of their holdings.

⁹ Suffolk Record Office (Lowestoft), 194/A10/71. This record office will hereafter be referred to as SRO.

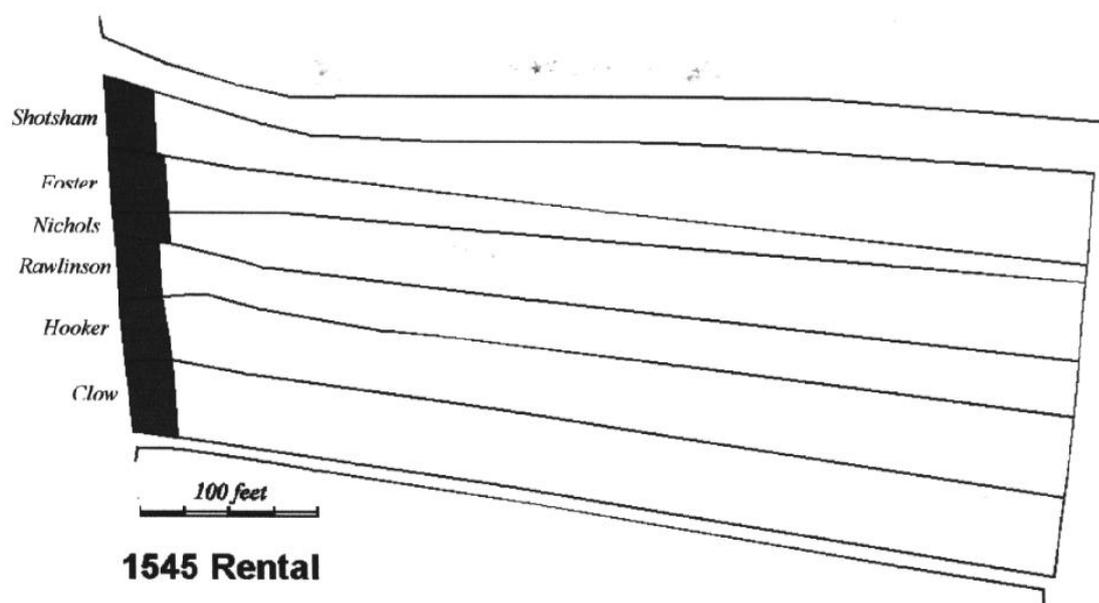
¹⁰ J. Gairdner & R.H. Brodie (eds.), *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic – Henry VIII*, xx, i (London, 1905), p. 370, no. 717.

¹¹ “Denes” is a variant of “dunes” and refers to the area of rough grass and scrub between Whapload Road and the shoreline. It was of considerable importance in Lowestoft's pre-industrial economy and was strictly controlled by the manor.

¹² It is possible, of course, that the owner of an individual messuage may not have lived there, but rented the property to someone else.

¹³ S.H.A. Hervey (ed.), *Suffolk Green Books*, x (Woodbridge, 1910), pp. 243-7, and *Suffolk Green Books*, xii (Bury St. Edmunds, 1909), pp. 186-9. Not all of the property owners listed necessarily lived in the town.

as mariners/fishermen in the town during the sixteenth century.



The next key document that assists with an understanding of Lowestoft's physical development, after the 1545 rental, is a manorial roll of December 1618.¹⁴ This verbal account of land and buildings in the parish shows some interesting developments concerning the area of land under consideration here – most notably, the ownership of five of the six messuages by a family of gentry status called Rant. Their acquisition of what are now numbers 70&71, 72&73, 74, 75&76, and 77-79, High Street, is what must have led to the adjacent score bearing their surname – which it has continued to do right down to the present day. Ownership in 1618 was vested in Christopher Rant, who presumably lived in one of his properties and rented out the others to produce an income. The description of individual house-plots is less detailed in the 1618 roll than in the 1545 rental, with the term "tenement" being used to cover all of them and with no reference(s) to ancillary buildings.¹⁵

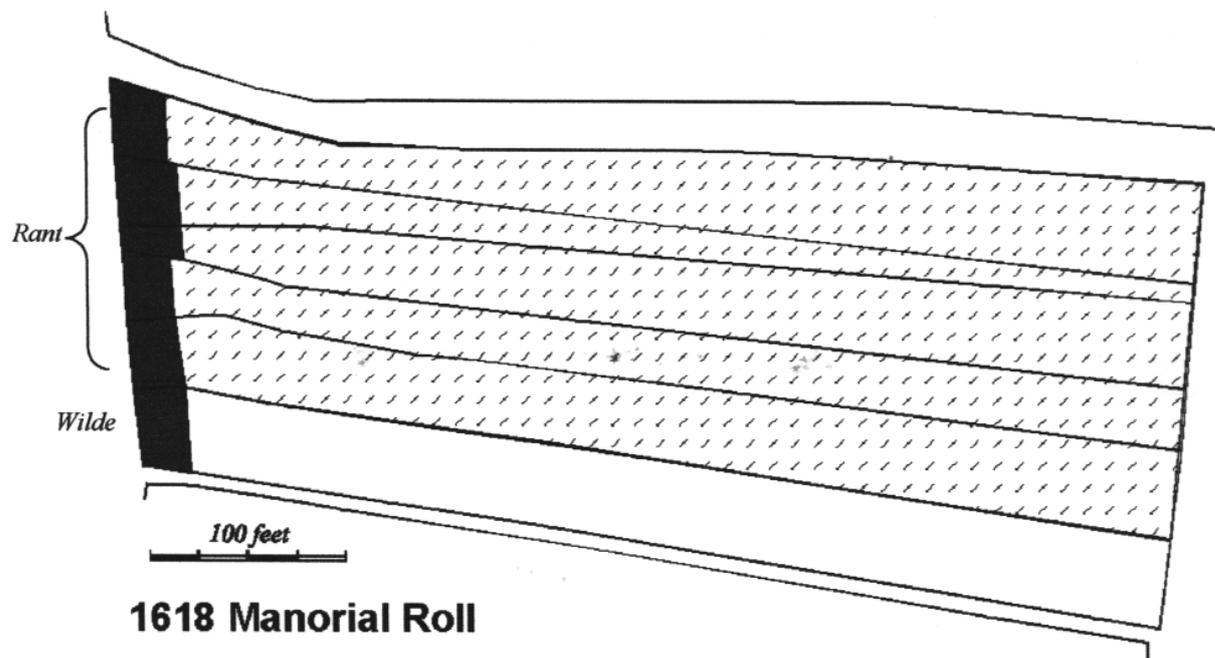
The only property in the block that the Rants did not possess was the current number 80. This belonged to the Wilde family (merchants) who, in their own turn, gave their surname to the score on the southern boundary. They had acquired the messuage via the will of Derick Harman, a master shoemaker, who (in the absence of male heirs) bequeathed it to his oldest daughter Mary in May 1575.¹⁶ She had married William Wilde in August 1569 and, a decade after receiving her father's bequest, she and her husband ordered the building of the house we see today, embellishing the front doorway with the year of construction and the initial letters of their respective Christian names. The dwelling was to stay in the possession of the Wilde family until well into the eighteenth century, eventually becoming part of a bequest for the establishment of a free grammar school for forty male pupils.¹⁷

¹⁴ SRO (Lowestoft), 194/A10/73. It was compiled for the lord of the manor, Sir John Heveningham.

¹⁵ The document does, however, make reference in some cases to property owners who succeeded the people mentioned in the 1545 rental. Thus, we learn that numbers 75 & 76 had once belonged to the Beffield family (landowners) and numbers 77-79, successively, to William Green and Edward Forman (merchants).

¹⁶ Public Record Office, Prob 11/57. The document refers to him as Richard Derick (als. Harman) and shows him to have been involved in fish-curing as well as his primary occupation – a feature which is typical of the mixed economy of the time. It also classifies him as a merchant, which may be the testator's way of grandifying himself. Having his will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, as Harman did, was another means of self-elevation.

¹⁷ John Wilde set out his intentions in his will of July 1735. He died three years later and was buried at Worlingham. It was another fifty years before the school opened – in a building constructed for the purpose, which stood alongside the score towards its lower end (but which no longer exists).



The basic process of consolidation of the five plots, carried out originally by the Rant family, was maintained throughout the rest of the seventeenth century, and throughout the eighteenth as well, though with some modification. During the 1640s and 50s, a nonconformist merchant, Thomas Porter, acquired the holdings from James Rant, Christopher Rant's son and heir, before disposing of them to his own son, John, in 1675.¹⁸ Eleven years later, Benjamin Ibrook, a merchant and vessel owner, who had moved into the town from Southwold, purchased two of the dwellings (current numbers 72&73, and number 74) – exclusive of most of the accompanying plots, which remained in John Porter's possession.¹⁹ Ibrook had missed out on numbers 75&76, because that particular messuage had passed into the ownership of a branch of the Arnold family (merchants and mariners) twenty years earlier – again without most of its accompanying land. Additionally, he did not acquire the most northerly plot (now numbers 70&71), which was bought by William Mewse (butcher), exclusive of the majority of the land, at the same time as the other two properties changed hands (September 1686).²⁰

Ibrook's chance to create a large residential and commercial holding of his own came in 1714, when he purchased from John Porter's widow the house which is now 77-79 High Street, together with all the land and buildings resulting from the hiving-off process of the previous century. This gave him control of the total ground-area north of the Wilde family's holding and south of Rant Score, abutting onto the High Street houses' yards to the west and Whapload Road to the east – a space some one and a half acres in extent.²¹ The area today is largely occupied by premises belonging to Birds Eye Walls – the overall size augmented by some land formerly belonging to the Wilde family's plot. During the course of the dwellings becoming separated from the bulk of their ground, two of them (numbers 74 and 75&76) were left with very small yards indeed – hence the provision of a drying-ground immediately to the west of them (for domestic linen and clothes), of which they had the use, plus a right of way to and from Rant Score. Both of these features are still observable today and serve to

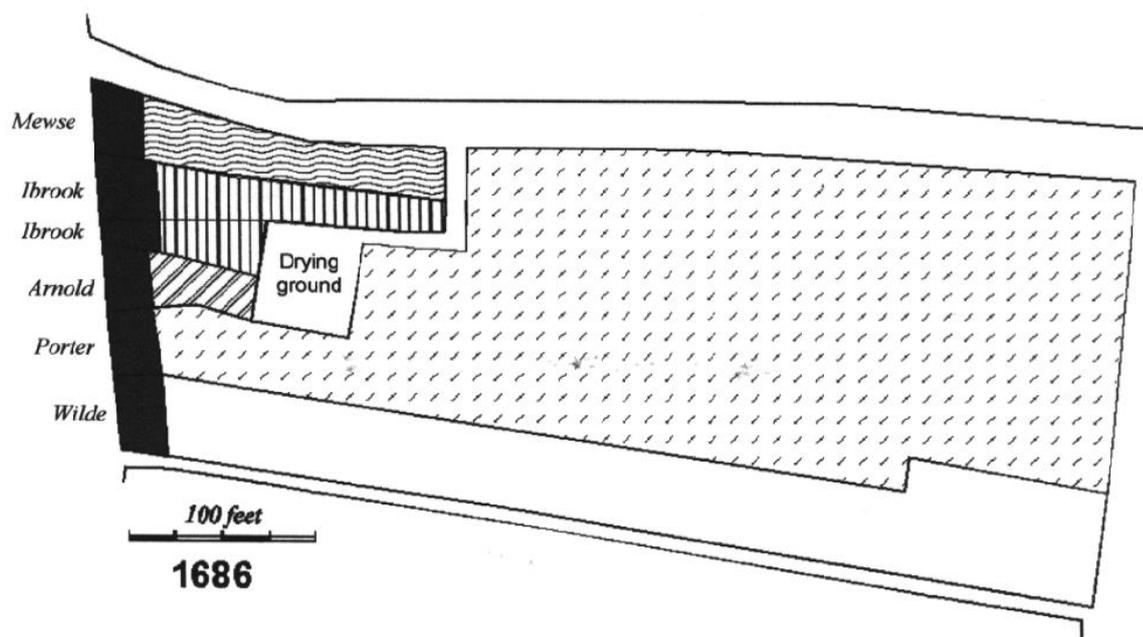
¹⁸ In January 1665, Porter was indicted at Beccles quarter sessions of attending conventicles. His co-accused were William Rising (merchant), Samuel Pacey (merchant) and Edward Barker, the dissenting minister at Wrentham. Rising lived at what is now 67 High Street

¹⁹ It is possible, even likely, that Ibrook rented curing and storage facilities from John Porter. Porter himself obviously chose to retain control of the industrial premises on the respective messuages, either because he was using them himself or because he was able to derive an income from them.

²⁰ Mewse's trade may help to explain why archaeological excavation has revealed so much butchered animal bone (mainly cattle, pig and sheep) close to the present entry-way on Rant Score.

²¹ A descendant of Benjamin Ibrook still held some of the land, albeit on a considerably smaller scale, in the middle of the nineteenth century. See the Lowestoft title map and apportionment of 1842: Norfolk Record Office, TA 658.

remind us of the durability of some ancient privileges.²² The other shared facility apparent in surviving documents (one which was common over the whole town) is the use of wells: numbers 70 & 71 and 72&73 drew water from the same source; so did numbers 77-79 and 80. There is no specific reference to number 74, so it may have had its own well or shared the one in the yard of numbers 75&76.



The third, and final, major piece of documentation which sheds light on Lowestoft's topographical development is a list of all copyhold tenants of the manor, drawn up in 1720 by the vicar, John Tanner.²³ He seems to have carried out the work partly because of an interest in his adopted town, partly because (as a chief tenant of the manor) he was responsible for collecting the lord's rents on a periodic basis. The descriptions of the owners and their respective properties serve as confirmation of the various sales and transfers referred to in the paragraphs above and may be summarised as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Mary Mewse (widow) | – several tenements and a yard (now numbers 70&71); ²⁴ |
| Benjamin Ibrook (merchant) | – one messuage and yard (now numbers 72&73); – one tenement (now number 74); |
| Ellen Landifield (mariner's widow) | – one tenement (now numbers 75&76); ²⁵ |
| Benjamin Ibrook (merchant) | – tenements, with garden (now numbers 77...79); ²⁶ – one large yard with fish houses; |
| Mr. James Wilde (merchant) | – piece of land abutting onto Benjamin Ibrook's property to the north and west; ²⁷ – one messuage (now number 80). |

²² All the property transactions referred to in this article are to be found in the manor court minute books: SRO (Lowestoft), 194/A10/5 to 17. A summarised version of them was produced in the 1720s by John Tanner, vicar of the parish. See SRO (Lowestoft), 454/2.

²³ SRO (Lowestoft), 454/1.

²⁴ "Several" does not mean "many", but "separate". The term suggests subdivision of a dwelling.

²⁵ Ellen Landifield came into possession of this property in 1718, via the terms of her father John Fowler's will – he having purchased the house in 1683, following the bankruptcy of John Arnold.

²⁶ Again, the plural term "tenements" suggests the subdivision of an existing building.

²⁷ This had been purchased from the Rant family in 1641 by James Wilde's grandfather, John. Two fish houses, a salt house and a well stood on it. The fact that James Wilde is referred to as "Mr." in Tanner's listing shows the respect he commanded in the community.

1720 Listing

Considerable comment has been made about the sale and subdivision of the six individual plots between Rant Score and Wilde's Score, but comparatively little said about their overall arrangement and organisation. Reference was made earlier to the terracing of the cliff-face in order to make it usable, and there has also been comment on the location of the fish houses. However, nothing has been said about the garden spaces mentioned, nor about what documentary study and archaeological investigation have revealed. It is clear from surviving probate material (especially the inventories) that the uppermost terrace served as a yard for the dwelling house itself, accommodating outbuildings in some cases and providing a hard-stand storage area. The next terrace down was used as a garden-space or amenity area for the occupants of the house, sometimes with a small orchard planted and possibly with a summerhouse constructed.²⁸ However, this did not prevent it being used as a disposal point for domestic waste and rubbish of all kinds²⁹ - a fate that also befell the two lower terraces, where the industrial buildings were situated (fish houses, net stores and the like).

Much of the cliff thus served as a general dumping-ground and the records of the annual leet court (which dealt with infringement of manorial rules) attest the problems caused by the disposal of waste, with even the scores and the street(s) being used to deposit both rubbish and sewage.³⁰ At a distance, however, the face of the cliff, with its terracing and tree-planting, appeared attractive - to the point where Edmund (Gillingwater, who wrote a history of the town in the late eighteenth century, could refer to "the hanging gardens of Lowestoft" as some kind of local wonder.³¹ What he had in mind can be seen in a perspective view by Richard Powles, leading scenic illustrator at the porcelain factory, drawn in about 1785 from a position somewhere on the northern denes.³²

Two centuries, and more, on from those times, we are left with the basic landscaping and street pattern, but with major alterations imposed upon them. Most noticeable are those changes that have taken place on the lower levels of the cliff, and on the Denes themselves, whereby various kinds of light industry and retail activity are now carried on in old buildings that once serviced fishing and in modern, purpose-built units. On the High Street itself, many of the sixteenth and seventeenth century houses have either been replaced or given new facades. The block of land under discussion here is a good case in point. Numbers 70&71, 72&73 and 74 are all examples of mid/late Victorian architecture, and all serve a retail function - on the ground floor(s) at least. Numbers 75&76 and 77-79 retain their basic form, but with considerable remodelling of the ground-floor areas, which are again devoted to commercial activity. Only number 80 has anything resembling its late sixteenth century exterior and would still be recognisable to its first owners, William and Mary Wilde.³³

Today, a good deal of what we are able to learn of the past has come from below the surface of the ground. The limited archaeological exploration possible on this site (inside the building running down the side of Wilde's Score, in the garden space next to it, and across near the entry-way from Rant Score) has revealed much of interest - not just in the form of artefacts, but also in the survival of boundary walls, pathways and cobbled yards. A number of these structures over-lie earlier examples of the same, and they speak eloquently of the constant management and remodelling of the cliff to serve current needs at any particular time. The landscaping work carried out by the Lowestoft Civic Society to the rear of its headquarters is simply another phase in that process.

²⁸ Vegetables were not usually grown in the garden space, as might be the case today.

²⁹ This partly explains the large quantity of pottery and glass fragments (covering a 400-500 year time-scale overall) that have been found during archaeological investigation.

³⁰ This body met, on the first Saturday in Lent, at either "The Crown" or "The Swan" inns.

³¹ E. Gillingwater, *An Historical Account of Lowestoft* (London, 1790), p. 50.

³² I. Gillingwater, 'Drawings illustrative of the History of Lowestoft, Mutford and Lothingland' (1807): SRO (Lowestoft), 193/2/1. Isaac Gillingwater was the older brother of Edmund and, like his younger sibling, a barber/wig-maker by trade. He produced a fine, manuscript, three-volume history of Lowestoft and the surrounding area, and the collection of drawings cited here was obviously intended to illustrate it in the event of its publication. It is obvious that Edmund Gillingwater drew heavily upon his older brother's material for much of the information used in his own published tome. For the older Gillingwater's work, see SRO (Lowestoft), 193/1/1, 2 and 3.

³³ The one external aspect that has changed is the roof cladding. The building was originally thatched, but now has pantiles. The trusses beneath, however, are original.

PAKEFIELD DIARY

Paul Durbidge

Since the middle of last year I have been working on my house and it has been six months or so since I have walked along the beach at Pakefield although I had been told of various cliff falls and other changes brought about by both heavy rain and sea action. Finally on a bright day after Christmas I finally gained the beach. It was intensely cold and the north westerly winds easily penetrated the small gaps in my coat as well as whipping up the fine dry sand into the air.

The surface of the sea appeared almost glassy with the undulating rolls on the surface finally giving way to waves curling over before crashing down on the beach sending foaming water surging up the beach and around my shoes. Previous storms had broken up areas of Moorlog peat and the low water mark was littered with bunches of soft pale coloured sea weed and small pieces of mahogany coloured tree roots that once grew on an old land surface several thousand years ago. Amongst the weed were the remains of razor shells and the egg cases of both skate and whelk along with several other types of sea weed that had been broken away from the sea bed by violent storms. In such conditions it is worth looking out for Jet and amber and Adrian Charlton showed me several good examples of the latter which he had collected some days earlier. There are many tales of large pieces of amber being found along our beaches and while some may well be true the higher percentage of finds are quite small after being broken and later abraded on the bed of the sea.

A couple of weeks later Adrian Charlton showed me a small plastic bag half full of small chips of amber which he had picked up off the beach in little under a week with colours varying from milky yellow to fragments of really dark orange.

Much of the darker coloured amber is thought to be over 50 million years old and is probably originated from the Baltic region while the more yellowy forms are much younger with origins nearer home. At one time this country was joined to Europe and the present North Sea was once a vast plain mostly covered with large pine forests and any conifers suffering damage would release resin which basically protected the tree from fungal attack.

However at some stage in it's life the tree would fall and subsequently decay, that is apart from the resin which over a long period of time eventually becomes fossilised and it is this we now pick up on our beaches.

It was quite noticeable that the beach I was walking had been subjected to several high tides and this had resulted in the surface being quite level allowing high water to strike the base of the sandy cliffs which in turn brought down more cliff especially in the vicinity of the old Rifle Range. To the south especially adjacent to the Ministry of Defence land several large sections of heavy grey clay had broken away and rolled halfway down the sloping cliffs after further high tides had undercut the base of the cliff. With the army watch towers now gone along with some of the perimeter fencing the last sentinel is a solitary flag pole which stands silently two feet from the cliff edge as if waiting its fate.

Up until now there were semi grass covered slopes angled to the beach but now these have been replaced with exposed light sand which has been covered after tides washed away several tons of material from the base. The broken remains of two Roman tiles were picked up from the beach as well as two crude cubes of tile roughly 1½ inches square, these are the remains of Tessarae and were once part of a floor surface and nearly a hundred or so pieces were recovered at this point a few years ago.

Probably as a result of the unstable cliff the resident Sand Martin colony has now moved further south and I counted nearly a hundred of their small tunnels dug into the face of the cliff. These are the smallest of our swallows and I have a deep affection for them and have watched them on numerous occasions, they are the earliest to arrive in late March and by September most have left our shores to winter in Africa.

In continuing my walk along the low water mark the loss beach material was considerable and was very noticeable in section at the base of the cliff. Depths varied from two to three feet while further north where the fishing boats are tied up over six feet of shingle has gone leaving a deep drop to the lower beach. The removal of the beach material has once again exposed the invasion defences as well as the shattered remains of a concrete pill box and a wide scatter of concrete filled sandbags. To the

sharp eye small green fragments can sometimes be found amongst such mayhem and they often consist of spent bullets, bits of copper and brass and also lead remains.

Modern coinage is often lost on the beach and is often later found in very deteriorated condition while on the other hand odd silver pennies or the occasional medieval buckle are often found in fairly good condition. Over recent years pieces of dark grey lava stone have been observed after deep scours of the beach and to date well over a dozen pieces have been recorded at Pakefield. This material was widely imported during Medieval period and later fashioned into small hand mills to grind corn and while some of the remains are probably waste material the majority have at least one surface either pecked or grooved to assist the process of grinding, the operation being carried out by using a second stone acting as a rubber. Another location where one can see millstones is in the east wall of Pakefield Church where three large pieces of the dark mineral have been built into the face of the wall where they stand out clearly against the narrow medieval bricks and various blocks of sandstone.

JETTONS

Two jettons picked up off the beach at the foot of the cliffs were found in good condition and are certainly worth mentioning. Jettons or reckoning counters were first used in England around the 13th century and apart from some exceptions most were made of brass, they are widely distributed and are of similar thickness and appearance to the silver hammered coins of the Medieval period. By the 14th century they were present in England and also in the Low Countries although it is thought that they were also in use in France as early as the 13th century. The 16th century saw the production of the German Nuremburg jettons which were being produced on a large scale right up until the middle of the 17th century, with the imperial Orb or Reichsapfel being the most common design.

The two Pakfield finds were not abraded and are as follows:

German 16th century jetton, material brass - 25mm diameter

Obverse. Hans Schultes with an orb surmounted by a cross, within a double tressure of three arches and three angles.

Reverse. Lion of St Mark with nonsense legend.

German 16th century jetton, material brass 22mm diameter

Obverse. Three crowns and three Iis surrounded by a broken rose.

Reverse. Hans Krauwinkel with an orb surmounted by a cross within a double tressure of three arches.

Common Names on German Jettons

Damianus Krauwinkel 1570 -

Hans Schutes 1553-1574

Georg Schutes 1550 - 1596

Killian Koch 1557 - 1617

Conrad Lauffer 1600- 1625

Wolf Lauffer 1618 - 1632

Hans Lauffer 1612 - 1634

PAKEFIELD CLIFFS

Small thickened body sherd in soft brown buff material re-enforced with small crushed white flints. Bronze Age or Neolithic. Found by Adrian Charlton.

Pakefield - Metal remains from beach level

Silver hammered Long Cross Penny, Edward II, Canterbury mint
Copper Rose farthing of Charles I
Part of a 16th century Nurenburg Jetton
Silver four pence of Victoria 1841
Florin "Godless type" Victoria 1849
Rhodesian shilling 1936
Two English shillings 1956/57
Sundry abraded copper coinage
Small pronged bronze alloy buckle c 1450
Broken rectangular copper alloy buckle with pin c 1600
Double loop oval shoe buckle c 1650
Two Double loop shoe buckles c 1650
Copper alloy annular buckle with scalloped decoration c 1600
Small oval post medieval mount with moulded ends
Three lead musket balls
One lead pistol ball
Section of copper alloy bell(?) with outer relief. Diameter 3½ inches. Post Medieval (?)
Two brass thimbles
Decorated top from a gilded copper alloy 18th century watch key
Fragment of large croatal bell with founders mark W

A large number of bells carry the initials W.G. but the name of the foundry is yet not known though some of the large bells are very similar to those of Robert Wells c1800.

A GROUP OF FINDS THAT HAVE COME FROM CARLTON COLVILLE

Paul Durbidge

BELOW ARE LISTED THE FINDS FROM CARLTON COLVILLE

Neolithic Bronze Age

Four flint scrapers and a number of secondary flakes

Romano British

Grey ware body sherds including base forms

Remains of both roof tile and flue tile

7th Century Anglo Saxon

A number of body sherds and three rim forms

16th Century Stoneware

Part base from frilly based jug

Body sherd of yellow and brown slipware c 1800

Metal Finds

Silver hammered three halfpence of Elizabeth I c 1571
16th century German jetton with orb surmounted by a cross within double tressure of three arches
Norwich token 1847
Large token (?) D. Hill & Co, Woolen Manufacture, General Drapers, Shippers, North Shield
Canadian one cent 1991
American one cent 1890
Victorian farthing 1840
Two domed lead spindle whorls - Medieval
Double loop oval shoe buckle c 1650
Double loop shoe buckle with moulded decoration c 1650
Spur buckle c 1700
Copper alloy plain spectacle buckle c 1500
Copper alloy purse bar with broken loop late 15th early 1600
Three post medieval copper alloy studs with pins, one florat type, one plain and one oval form decorated with cross hatching
Squared musket flint
Three lead musket balls
Thin flat circular lead weight c 1800(?)
Fragment of large croatal bell c 1800
Greater part of two jaws or Jews harps c 1800, cast in copper alloy. These types date from the 17th or 18th century, the exceptions being much earlier forms.
Greater part of a thin silver heart shaped brooch with *mispah* inscribed on one surface. Such brooches were favourite amongst soldiers who would give them to their wives and sweethearts, the word means "*remember me when we are apart*".
Various brass thimbles and abraded coinage

TREASURE TROVE FIGURINE FROM CARLTON COLVILLE

Paul Durbidge

The small 7th century Anglo Saxon figure found by Adrian Charlton and mentioned in last years Annual Report was finally declared treasure trove and purchased by the British Museum for £25000 with half going to the finder and half to the land owner.

It is expected that this highly significant Anglo Saxon find will be placed on display in the British Museum during the early part of the year.

Acknowledgements

The writer would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr David Ecclestone for his continued help with the coinage and also thanks are due to Adrian Charlton for his continued involvement in the early history both in and around the Lowestoft area.

Finally my grateful thanks to Mr R Collins for producing the present contributions from the written draft.

Paul Durbidge March 2002

SOME CLAY PIPES FROM LOWESTOFT

Paul Durbidge

Remains of clay pipes can be found almost anywhere but especially where there was once early industrial activity, or areas that were used for continual occupation and they are without doubt the most common of all the finds of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Distribution is extensive and perhaps this is not so surprising bearing in mind several thousands were being produced each week by the various pipe manufactures. Tobacco was first introduced into England around 1588 and the clay pipes appeared shortly afterwards with the small pipe bowls being influenced by both the cost and availability of tobacco being brought into the country. On a deed of 1611 we learn that the first known pipe makers in Holland were English and the Dutch town of Gouda soon began to be the main centre of what was then a major new industry, although in France it was to be well into the eighteenth century before clay pipes were being smoked on any scale. In Germany there were a number of pipe manufactures during the mid 18th century which produced highly decorated styled pipes as well as the German Tyrolean pipe. This was very popular with both the Austrians and German smokers and it was decorated with hunting scenes and hand painted pictures on the earthenware bowl the mouth piece usually being made of horn.

In this country clay pipes are often dismissed as having little importance although the range and style is quite extensive and while most of the early types are basically plain many of the later forms are well decorated with businessmen using them as an advertising medium, these subsequently being referred to as fancy clays.

Remains of broken clay pipes are often seen on ploughed fields and perhaps the odd isolated find may well have been used by a farm worker or ploughman. Occasionally, concentrations of 17th century pipe remains occur and this may well indicate where troops of the Civil War were quartered or it may suggest a possible marching route, while smaller areas of 18th century pipes might point to the locations of old fair sites or Romany camps, etc.

During the late 60's a quantity of clay pipes and stems were found by the brothers Terry & Adrian Charlton and these were recovered on high ground at the north end of Lowestoft, close to the old Royal Falcon public house. The finds were apparently found quite deep down between two very old brick walls, one of which followed the ground profile downwards towards Whapload Road. As well as the clay pipe remains a number of glazed stoneware sherds and 17th century earthenwares were encountered of both English and Dutch origin while amongst salt glazed body sherds were a number of face masks and impressed stamps from Rhenish salt glazed belamines. The pipe remains are of particular interest by reason of the types involved which include bowls from the 16th century to the late 19th century with the most ornate item being a French clay depicting the patriarch Jacob and dating from the late 18th century.

Details of the pipe remains are as follows:

At least five of the bowls date from the period c 1630-50

They are approximately ½ inch in diameter with milled rim and just under an inch tall with the bowl leaning sharply forward, the base of the bowl is flat.

c 1650-70

In this small group of eight bowls there is a noticeable increase in size although the barrel shape forward incline and square base remain the same.



c1650-70

c 1670-1720

The largest number of bowls 37 in quantity would appear to date from this period or fairly close to it and in this group it is noticeable the bowls have lost their bulbous shape as well as the milled rim in favour of a more elongated appearance. The flat heel remains although the top of the bowl has now been trimmed parallel to the stem instead of sloping downwards towards the front of the bowl, another change is in the finish of the bowls which are much smoother and decidedly more brittle.



c1670-1720

Late 18th - 19th Century

Some of the late 18th & 19th century pipes have been decorated and a wide range of subjects have been used and from this group of 34 bowls eleven have basket weave patterns with some involving a scroll pattern. An acorn pattern, a RAOB (Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes) pipe with Buffalo horns and a large fish depicted with flowing weed shows just some of the patterns used by the pipe makers while on other bowls footballers, flower heads and scalloped patterns have been employed. The pattern on one the bowl suggests it may be Masonic while on two others soldiers in period dress are shown with cannon and the word NORA can be seen beside a man in eighteenth century dress holding a long rifle, while on another a military crest is shown with a raised crown over a large harp. A variation of a claw holding an egg represented by the pipe bowl is present and so is one of the large irregular thorn pattern pipes while simple thin narrow parallel ribs have been employed to decorate two narrow thin bowls.

Makers Marks

At the beginning of the seventeenth century it was normal for the marker to stamp his initials or name on the heel and in most cases these initials were enclosed in a circle and later cartouche marks were stamped on the side or rear of the bowl.

Later on the initial of the makers first name was shown on the left hand side of the spur and the initial of his surname on the opposite side.

On the Lowestoft bowls thirteen have large makers marks and the letters W and H are present on six, while on another the letters L and M are present. On the remaining six the marks are extremely small and very close to the heel, one appears to be M, the opposite side having an L, while on another a very small raised crown is present on both sides of the bowl with the letter M beneath on side. On another a small circular flower pattern has a K beneath it with a D on the opposite side while the letter M and I are present on another bowl.

The letter M occurs again on the side of another spur while small raised knot pattern is on the opposite side while on the last example the letter M is visible on one side while the mark on the other side is illegible.

The French Clay

The most interesting of all the pipes remains is a moulded bowl head with the face of a turbaned bearded man with fragments of clear glass for the eyeballs and traces of a dark enamelled glaze on the turban, facial features and beard. The head is nearly 3 inches tall and is French in date with two narrow raised panels on either side of the beard with the name *JACOB Paris* on one side while the other again the name *JACOB* in large letters and the word *GAMBIR* in small print. Also across the Turban is a narrow band with the inscription *JE SUIS LE VRAI JACOB (I am the real Jacob)*. The pipe maker *GAMBIER* of *GIVET* was one of the two large concerns producing several million pipes a year from 1780-1926, and in 1867 it had a workforce of some 600 people. These French clays as they were known had a moulded bowl head with detachable wooden stem and a horn mouthpiece and the bearded figure of Jacob was one of the most popular with both the Belgians as well as the French producing several million of these pipes alone.



Apart from the occasional finds over the years little practical research has been carried out regarding the early development of Lowestoft in this part of the town. Unfortunately the present finds were not recovered under archaeological conditions and bearing in mind quite a lot of stoneware and earthenware was encountered it is near impossible to put the discoveries in any context bearing in mind it was found in such a small area.

It is hoped that perhaps sometime in the future there will be another chance to examine the location more in detail with a view to adding more to our knowledge of the early development of the town.

**REPORT ON FIELDWALKING BY THE FIELD GROUP OF THE LOWESTOFT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 2002.**

Jon Reed.

The work has not been as intensive as in 2001, because there was great difficulty in getting a Saturday team together. However, we have walked six fields – with mixed results.

One field to the North of the Somerleyton Estate yielded very little, in spite of the next field, walked some years ago, producing prolific flint industry and some mediaeval remains. The only item of some interest was a tile fragment with a paw print on it, presumably from when it was being made. Another item, which was a puzzle to us, is a stone ball c. 1¼" [32 mm] diameter. It is too small for a hammerstone and is unlikely to be a stone shot. It could be a glacial or water-worn pebble.

Last year we had to stop halfway across a field to the East of Ashby Church due to Foot and Mouth. We went back this year anticipating many finds in the other half of the field. We were disappointed. Conditions were not good for walking, witness the fact that four of us sunk in the mud during the morning, all having to be rescued and hopping round trying to recover our wellies. However we found a few mediaeval domestic wares, and some mediaeval brick and tile fragments. Near the building footings found last year, a concentration of oyster shells was found.

Another field near Kitty's Farm yielded a great deal. 78 items of worked flint gave an indication of industry. Two interesting finds of dark grey gritty material may either be late Iron Age or Roman. There was relatively little mediaeval material but 17th and 18th century material abounded. Among this was a fragment of soft red tile with an impressed half-inch circle and centre hole. An Elizabethan silver half-groat was found. There was quite a lot of lead in various forms including what appeared to be a weight – but it had no markings and weighed 2.6 ounces [75g].

Another adjacent field, walked with 3 metal detectors this time, produced very little. Two further fields were walked but the finds have not yet been analysed. Anybody wishing to have a more detailed list of the finds should contact the museum, where they are kept.

THE LOWESTOFT SCENE 2001 – 2002

Jon Reed

Last year it was Foot and Mouth Disease that dominated the headlines – now thankfully over; for the time being at least! This year it is something that is nothing to do with local events – September 11th. I think it is fair to say that the attack will go down in history as one of the worst ever examples of gratuitous violence. I know of 3 Lowestoft families who went through hell trying to find out if their children were still alive – there are probably many others, but the 3 I know about are Iaian Catling, Jane Burd and James Berridge, son of our own Malcolm Berridge. All 3 worked in New York close to or in the World Trade Centre and all 3 survived intact.

For the last two years I have reported on excessive rainfall and, of course, flooding. This year, as I write, we have the first substantial rainfall for a month. It has been a wonderful spring, but don't let us forget that there was a lot of flooding last summer and autumn. Corton, Central Lowestoft, Carlton Colville and Pakefield were all flooded. A boy of 8 wrote to Waveney to ask them politely to do something about it because he couldn't play with his football in his garden, and the residents of Carlton Colville sent a petition to Waveney about continued flooding. Searching the records I can find no mention that anything has been done. We have also had the odd storm, causing yet more coastal erosion. In May last year the Suffolk Coastal Strategy document was released, showing that hundreds of acres in our area will be left to the sea. For example, Pakefield, Easton Bavents, Kessingland and Covehithe. The reason is of course financial, but it is a losing battle when global warming is raising sea levels. Cotton villagers have held a public meeting about the closure of their beach, having had a fall of the defences last June. They got a dusty answer. The money will not be applied for until August and, if granted, work could start in November – Might that be a little late? Waveney were reported to have committed £2.8M to maintain the defences for up to 20 years, then abandon it to the sea. Incidentally, a local man has pulled the plug on a new metal staircase of 60

steps down Hopton cliff to replace an earlier wooden one. He claimed the steps were too narrow and the Parish Council were ordered to remove it.

Industry has been having a good year on the whole. In August Klyne Tugs got a government contract worth £75M for emergency towing. They have a new tug/supply vessel, the *Anglian Princess*, built in Japan, and in November ordered a second identical vessel, the *Anglian Sovereign*, to cost £10M. SLP won a new contract in March 2002 worth £13M from Shell U.K. for a platform for the Goldeneye field off the Moray Firth. SLP are also in the news for the intended wind generator at Ness Point. They have battled through a ministry inquiry into the siting and the noise level, they have been in competition with Next Generation at Swaffham – and they have won. The new generator will be built by them. It is stated as 150m high (500 feet to us old reactionaries) with a blade diameter of 70m (230 feet) and will be the largest in the world – another gem for Lowestoft's crown. It's not all about the big companies; take Sims Systems, a very small company in Whapload Road, who have supplied Navigational Aids to SLP for the new BP Hopton platform. In September the Broadblue Group announced they would start building luxury sailing catamarans in Oulton Broad, putting £1M into the project. The good news was offset by the liquidation of Zephyr Cams early this year. Also there was a strike at JenWeld, all 250 members of the GMB union went out over poor pay rises over a ten year period. It was settled fairly quickly. The exception to the good news is the fishing industry, who are threatened with a complete ban on cod fishing and further restrictions on other quotas. Their case was taken up last Autumn by Bob Blizzard in the House. Incidentally, the Colne Fishing Co. scrapped two 20 year old trawlers, and prompted a rumour that they were going bust – which fortunately was untrue. On the trade side, the local pharmacists are getting twitchy over Tesco plans to have their own pharmacy – their buying power enables them to sell some products at a saving to the customer of 40%.

Housing seems to go up at a great rate these days – and it's selling, for a change! Lowestoft has benefited from the housing boom (We have house prices rising in line with the national average). Persimmon Homes are paying for part of the relief road going from the Carlton Crown to Lowestoft Road, near Bloodmoor, and are funding an archaeological dig in advance of this. More of that in the paragraph on heritage, but this is all part of their contract to build housing along the line of the road. Their estate at the western end is known as Carlton Grove. The South Quay development has been revised yet again, after Stephen Byers interfered in August. The new plan is for restaurants and shops, and a boardwalk on the inner harbour. It will cost £30M and will provide 750 jobs – we will have to keep an eye on both these estimates! Funding has been provided for two refurbishment projects. The Housing Capital Programme is paying for the work on Coppice Court sheltered housing and the scaffolding went up on St. Peter's Court in September for the £1.4M repair job that Waveney originally said they couldn't afford. The residents have been battling over a proposal to increase the signal strength of the aerials on the roof Suffolk County Council have said that they will uphold the principle of not putting such aerials near dwellings. They claim there is no proof of health problems, but they are doing it as a precautionary measure. Finally, the Powerhouse showroom in London Road North burnt out last November, attended by 11 fire engines and 80 firemen. So far the windows are still boarded up.

Now Heritage – overworked word! The new south-western relief road will cross quite a lot of archaeology, currently being excavated by Suffolk Archaeological Unit, and it includes what is possibly one of the earliest buildings in Europe, early Bronze Age or even Neolithic. The dig is now virtually over and the bulldozers will shortly move in. Throughout the year work has been continuing at Wildes School. It is now pretty certain that there was a 15th century building there before the present one. The future of ISCA (International Sailing Craft Association) is very much in doubt. Neil Hunt escaped prosecution for fraud in February and the vessels are in store at the moment. The historic vessels charities are having trouble. The *Lydia Eva* was pronounced unseaworthy and had to be hauled out at Oulton Broad. The charity are raising £70,000 by selling bonds to cover the repair costs. The Lottery Heritage Fund will match what they raise. The *Mincarolo* was attacked by vandals in September. The *Albion* was laid up in October and repaired at a cost of £25,000, being relaunched in January. The vessel originally cost £455 in 1898! Adrian Charlton has shared in £25,000 paid by the British Museum for an Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt figurine he found at Bloodmoor, the best one of five in the whole world. Peter Spalding, who worked at Pye for many years has many photos of Pye,

which opened at the Oulton works in the 1950's, and Philips which bought out Pye. At the height of production in the 1960's, some 2800 people were producing colour televisions. The site is now occupied by Sanyo.

I'm sure there have been many changes in the leisure scene, but the only ones I have recorded are last summer's take-over of the Wherry Hotel by Westerfield Hotels, which secured 70 jobs. They are spending £200,000 on refurbishment. And the installation of lights on masts at the South pier and the Claremont pier. Called 'St. Elmo's Fire', they are the work of David Ward and are part of the Maritime Art Trail. They cost £69,000.

On the health front, there have been strenuous efforts by families to keep open the special units at Lothingland Hospital for those with learning difficulties, including meeting with Bob Blizzard. At this point there is no outcome to the problem. Suffolk Health have agreed a merger between Lowestoft and South Waveney Primary Care Groups to form the Waveney Primary Care Trust. Will it make any difference to us? Finally £4.5M has been granted for a makeover of the James Paget I.C. Unit (Intensive Care) and an improved Endoscopy suite is under way.

Lowestoft College has hit financial snags after loans were called in. As a result 30 staff have been made redundant and 40 classes have been axed.

In May 2001 a rigid inflatable was launched for the Marine Watch. It will help fight crime on Oulton Broad and as far as Somerleyton. The Broads Authority has a new chief, Dr. John Packman, who has announced a complete modernisation of the Authority. The dome is on the Cotton water treatment plant. It is 400 feet by 500 feet, about the size of a football pitch, and is intended to keep smells down. The plant is low-lying, to reduce visual impact, and has cost £63M. The Kirkley regeneration scheme has produced the Kirkley Centre on the site of the old Grand Cinema on London Road South. This is as well as the Kirkley Business Centre (£1.7M), approaching completion on the South Quay and a gymnastics centre (£1.4M). Waveney plans to enlarge the conservation area from Kirkley across to the docks, the station and nearby roads. Waveney also announced in January that a grant of £484,000 would be used to make Cambridge Road and Oxford Road safer and more attractive.

There were a few significant events during the year. In July the 200th anniversary of the Lowestoft Lifeboat was celebrated. For those who don't know, Lowestoft was the first town in the country to have a lifeboat. In the same month the Air Show was an even greater success, with over 300,00 visitors watching it, 50% up on 2000. Unfortunately it left a deficit of £85,000 which Waveney have covered and have promised to budget for an Air Show as a firm annual event for the foreseeable future. In August Lord and Lady Somerleyton re-opened the Somerleyton Post Office. It is also a general store as in other small places, such as Blythburgh – a move much to be applauded.

In October it was announced that increased funding would bring an extra 21 police into the town. In March we saw where the funding was coming from when we got our Council Tax bills!

The roads and the railway. There has been for a year an hourly bus service from Carlton Colville and Oulton Broad to the James Paget hospital. The Department of Transport have awarded Norfolk County Council £920,000 to improve the Yarmouth to Lowestoft bus service. There have been numerous hold-ups due to roadworks. London Road South was closed for 3 weeks to replace a broken Victorian sewer pipe, Normanston Drive was difficult to get along for 3 or 4 weeks while they were resurfacing and has recently been the subject of even more work at the big roundabout, Station Square had a sewer problem in July and the Ambulance Service moaned that they would be held up and people's lives would be endangered. I mean, what did they expect? That the sewer should be left collapsed? In the event all went off well. The Esso garage in Beccles Road is currently closed, being rebuilt by Tesco for a Tesco Express Shop, and will re-open in June. In September it was announced that £1M of European Objective 2 cash was available for developing the Triangle and High Street. Two architects have submitted plans and they are under consideration. A proposal has been approved for a 'Linear Park, alongside the Southern Relief Road that will run from the Water Tower roundabout to Riverside Road, where the CWS used to be. The road looks so different now, without the CWS, Richards and Beacham Foods. The relief road was approved at a cost of £25M in December 2000. Councillor Gifford Baxter in April this year was pushing for the by-now mythical third crossing to be added to the recently published Waveney Future Plan. Bob Blizzard has joined the row over Anglia Rail's plans to double the frequency of trains to Norwich. Certainly the Oulton Broad

North level crossing does cause a deal of delays. While some alleviation would be provided by making it automatic (the level crossing bloke seems to have something against cars), it is unlikely that this would provide a fill solution. The unused buildings at Lowestoft Station will probably become a pub/restaurant to be built and run by J.D.Wetherspoon, who are putting £1M into the project. Then there's the Southwold Railway. Proposals to reinstate part of the line have met with scepticism and enthusiasm in equal quantities.

Finally there are two celebrities to mention. Firstly Barbara Turner died aged 74 at the turn of the year after a long illness. She was for many years the Society secretary and helped Michael devotedly in the museum. She was also a stalwart in the Lowestoft Ladies Lifeboat Guild, organising the annual house-to-house collection for many years. Our sympathies go out to Michael. Then there's Bryan Clarke, known as Professor Jingles, of Kessingland. He loaned his Punch and Judy, with the two figures, for our Childhood display in 2001. Pictures of his puppets were used on a full set of stamps last year.