

Volume Thirty Five : 2002-03**Contents**

Report on Meetings for the Last 12 Months		1
New Finds at Pakefield in 2002-03	P. Durbidge	8
A Well Shaft at the John Wilde School Lowestoft, Suffolk	P. Durbidge	11
Sir James Edward Smith's Contribution to the Study of Natural History	J Stone	12
The Lowestoft Scene 2002 – 2003	J Stone	17
Edwardian Days Perceived in Postcard Collections	M Chester	25

REPORTS ON MEETINGS FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS

9 May 2002 **“Lowestoft Trains Past, Present and Future”** *by David Mackley*

The trams ran from the northern boundary of Lowestoft, along the High Street and London Road, to the Tramway Hotel just over the southern boundary in Pakefield. The Lowestoft Corporation Tramways system was opened in 1903 and the trams continued to run until 1931. The double-decker trams had an open upper storey and polished oak window frames downstairs, and were painted in yellow and a reddish brown colour. The single-decker “winter” trains were less popular, being draughty, and also inclined to come off the track. Although a comparatively small system, the Lowestoft tramways had a very large scrubber vehicle, used for cleaning the rails, and extensive sheds in Rotterdam Road.

By 1929, when a photograph showed a bus and a tram side by side, the tramway system was in need of renewal and repair and was being superseded by the motor buses. Unlike trams, the buses did not have to keep to the one route, and were therefore preferred.

Tram 14 is currently being restored at the Transport Museum in Carlton Colville, using parts from other old trains and, as a guide, photographs of the original Tram 14. Mr Mackley is keen to add to his already extensive collection of tram photos, which includes photos of the drivers and conductors, and to hear reminiscences of the trains in operation. *Myra Kestner*

13 June 2002 **Members' Brief Presentations** *by Jeremy Stone, Lilian Fisher, Jon Reed*
Jeremy Stone on “Kett's Rebellion”, Lilian Fisher on “Pakefield” and Jon Reed with a selection from his miniature collection, could each fill an hour, but managed to keep to less than half that time.

Kett's mid sixteenth century rebellion had a list of proposals for better government. A main concern was opposition to the enclosures of land then taking place. The rebels camped on Mousehold Heath and successfully attacked Norwich. The rebellion was later put down and many of the rebels, including Kett, were executed.

Pakefield was originally near Bloodmoor Lane and later moved to a coastal site. Stradbroke Road linked the two areas, and was a drovers' road. In this area, old farmhouses survive, several of them with cat slide roofs, which covered the dairies. “The Jolly Sailors” was once a farmhouse, situated a mile away from the sea.

The ten per cent sample of Jon's miniature collection, brought to be displayed, included a black pig through which six cathedrals could (sometimes) be seen, the smallest bottle of whisky (as certified by the Guinness Book of Records), miniature paintings and a tiny sarcophagus. *Myra Kestner*

22 June 2002

Visit to Sutton Hoo

Our annual coach outing took members and friends to the Sutton Hoo ship burial site and the recently opened visitor facilities provided by the National Trust.

The exhibition hall displays show the story of the discovery of Sutton Hoo and explain the lives and possessions of the Anglo Saxons who lived at the time of the burials. The centrepiece is a replica of the burial chamber found in mound one, with grave goods laid out, and containing a model of an occupant, believed to be King Raedwald who died in 625. The treasury contains Sutton Hoo items which will be changed annually on loan from the British Museum. After we had seen the exhibition, Sutton Hoo guides led us on a guided tour of the mounds, with a talk on the top of mound one, where the ship was found.

Myra Kestner

4 July 2002

Church of St Mary at Burgh St Peter Visit *led by Terry Weatherley*

For many years Society members were taken to view Round Tower churches by Bill Goode. Bill has decided to retire and his outings are much missed. We decided to continue the tradition, with a visit to a church with a tower which is not round but was described by Pevsner as “like someone’s folly of telescoping brick boxes imitating a pyramid”. After viewing the church, we went to the nearby Waveney Inn for supper.

Myra Kestner

12 Sept. 2002

“Marshmen and Wildfowlers of the Broads” *by Simon Partridge*

In the mid 19th century, the Broads were very different from the attractive holiday area we now know. They were the workplace and home of the marshmen and wildfowlers. The marshmen were employed to look after the rivers and broads. They used flat bottomed boats (reed lighters) manoeuvred by long punt poles. They gathered crops from the marshes, kept dykes clear, looked after windpumps and gathered bull rushes to make rush mats. Marsh hay was gathered and sent to London to feed cab horses. The first working day after Christmas until Easter was the time for reed cutting for use by thatchers. Only one marshman still plies his trade.

Wildfowlers, however, were the hunters of the Broads. In the late 19th century the waters were full of eel nets, in each of which could be caught 70- 80 stone of eels, mainly destined for the London market to be sold at 6d a lb. They were big business. The Broads were denuded of eels and fish until Acts were passed in 1920s making the practice illegal. The eel spears which took their place were also banned, although eel sets continued to be used. Birds were killed using long punt guns up to 11 ft in length and attached to the side of the punt. The guns were filled with nails and screws and 20 birds would be killed with one firing. The mid 1800s were the heydays of the killing. Avocets were worth a lot of money, to be used as ornaments when stuffed and mounted, and plovers’ eggs were big business. Decoys were used by landowners to trap and kill ducks en masse. Fortunately these practices were also made illegal in the 1920s. We must remember, however, that times then were hard, and making a living no easy matter.

Lilian Fisher

26 Sept. 2002

“Thames Coast Paddle Steamers” *by Peter Box*

We were entertained by Peter Box, talking about Thames Coast Steamers. His knowledge of his subject is encyclopaedic (he has published several books on the subject) and he took us in detail through the story. Indeed, the amount of detail was so much that there isn’t room to reproduce it here. The heyday of the Thames Paddle Steamers started in 1865 when the P.S. *Alexandra*, designed as a blockade runner for the American Civil War, was brought into service from London Bridge to Gravesend by the General Steam Navigation Company. She had a deck saloon, whereas previous such vessels combined cargo with passengers, who had to sit on the open deck (in their deck chairs!). They all had folding masts and telescopic funnels to get under the Thames bridges. *Alexandra* was so profitable that two more such vessels, *Prince Albert Edward* and *Princess Alice* were introduced the following year. The routes were extended to Margate and, later, to Great Yarmouth, some routes even extending to the continent. Soon after that there was a 3 times weekly service from London Bridge to Ipswich. Peter told us that they had “hat guards” for sale, to tie over ladies’ rather large hats. The

crew threw an old straw hat into the sea to encourage the lady passengers to buy them!

The next stage was the introduction of the “Belles”, starting with the *Clacton Belle* in 1889. They were faster, more comfortable and carried more passengers. Their popularity continued right through to the improvement in both roads and motor transport. In 1909 a charabanc could reach Great Yarmouth much quicker than a paddle steamer, and this spelt the beginning of the end for the Belles. The Belle Steamer Company was put into liquidation in 1915 but revived after the war. During the First World War the paddle steamers were converted for use as minesweepers, and did sterling service in the North Sea. In 1919 two were converted to hospital ships and sailed to Russia, a big voyage for a paddle steamer designed for use in the Thames. The Belles were still carrying passengers in the 1930’s, but more as a day trip. They were used with success at Dunkirk, and one, P.S. *Golden Eagle*, was part of the D-Day landings, sailing into Antwerp. Only one remains, the *Medway Queen*. Restoration was started in 1984 and she completed her sea trials in 2000. Two of our members are due to sail in her next month.

Jon Reed

10 Oct. 2002 **“East Anglia and the Early Settlement of North America”** by *Douglas Baker*
The Pilgrim Fathers of 1620 who sailed from Plymouth, as their last port of call in England, did not originate there but were East Anglian Puritans who wanted to found a “New England” in America. Many of the crew of the “Mayflower” came from Lowestoft. They were not, however, the first settlers in America, nor was Columbus, who only went to the Caribbean. Nomadic settlers from the Gobi Desert arrived about 20,000 years previously, followed much later by Scandinavians and then the Spanish.

The early English settlements of the 1580’s ended in disaster, and only in the first decade of the seventeenth century were there successful settlements at Jamestown, led by East Anglians such as John Rolfe, Captain John Smith and Bartholomew Gosnold. The “great migration” followed the Pilgrim Fathers’ settlement in New England when, between 1629 and 1640, many thousands migrated from East Anglia to America. The migrants were mainly people of the “middling sort” and some followed Puritan clergy removed from office by King James’s bishops. Eighteenth century migrants were more likely to be adventurers seeking fortunes and, in the nineteenth century, paupers were assisted to migrate to America.

Myra Kestner

24 Oct. 2002 **“Occupation and Industry in Pre-Industrial Lowestoft”** by *David Butcher*
David Butcher gave one of his very best talks to some 60 people. He told us about Lowestoft in pre-industrial days. He gave us a definition of a town, as opposed to a village, which used different occupations rather than the number of inhabitants. 20-30 is enough to make a town, and Lowestoft in the late 17th century had 100, in spite of only having 1500 inhabitants, which number did not increase dramatically until the railway came in the mid 19th century. In the early 17th century Lowestoft was in trouble. 300 people out of 1500 died in the plague in 1603, and another 175 in 1635.

Lowestoft’s prosperity increased vastly when granted Port Status in 1679, and from that time on the economy was based on maritime trade. Local merchants owned ships that traded right up the Baltic and into the Mediterranean, with regular voyages to the Continent. In the late 17th century the town had 5 commercial breweries in addition to dozens of small ones. This was way more beer than a community of 1500 could consume, and Lowestoft supplied the North Sea fleets with beer and the famously inedible Lowestoft cheese (also supplied to workhouses later on), said to be so hard it was only any use for making gateposts! The mainstays of the town’s economy were, in order of importance, Maritime Trade, Fishing and associated trades, Agriculture and in the 17th century only, Textiles. Many of the merchants were very rich, being involved in several trades. James Wilde, for instance, had 5 trading vessels and 5 fishing boats. Samuel Pacy left in his will £5,000 in cash alone, at a time when a skilled worker could earn about £10 a year. Most of the superb houses in the High Street date from the late 17th century, although a few are earlier, like No. 36 which dates from 1480. The town had some 20,000 acres of land. 700 acres were in barley and oats, over 100 in turnips, which were introduced by the Dutch and enabled cattle to live through the winter, a fair acreage of

clover for cattle feed and the rest was pasture or domestic occupation.

Some interesting sidelights - women were much more literate than in other parts of the country, because their menfolk were away fishing for months at a time and they had to run things. Lant Horn is split cow's hoof, which is translucent - hence Lantern. Bull meat was not allowed to be sold unless the bull had been baited by dogs, which was thought to make it more tender. Fine leather gloves were often made of dogskin. A chimney sweep was recorded in the town in 1570 and Lowestoft had used coal for many years, there being little wood. Many important Lowestoft families stayed in the town, whereas the English norm was a move after two or three generations. Red herrings were provided free with a toasting fork in hostelrys because, being so salt, they made people thirsty. Beer was drunk in preference to water, which was always contaminated, because the brewing process required boiling, killing germs.

We saw on slides the results of David's mapping with Ivan Bunn, with a town map of 1616 and another of 1725. The amount of work involved was phenomenal but, as David told us, his main interest is in a "three dimensional" reconstruction of the town from the large available corpus of documentation.

Jon Reed

14 Nov. 2002

"The Bayeux Tapestry"

by Mark Mitchels

It is probable that the 70 metre long embroidery, telling the story of the Norman invasion and conquest of England in 1066, was commissioned by William the Conqueror's half brother Odo, bishop of Bayeux. The story of the conquest was told on the tapestry (really an embroidery) with a strong Norman bias or "spin" and Odo himself was given great prominence.

The main part of the tapestry records how Edward the Confessor sent Harold to Normandy and Harold's promise there of allegiance to William, Harold's treacherous acceptance of the crown, and the subsequent invasion and conquest. Wonderfully drawn horses contribute to the battle scenes and elsewhere there are strangely twisted diagrammatic trees. The final part of the story, recording William's coronation, appears to be missing.

Upper and lower borders seem to give a commentary on the scenes below and above but are difficult to interpret. They include animals from Aesop's fables, who appear to be what they are not, and they may be there as a commentary on treachery.

The Bayeux Tapestry is now on display at Bayeux where it is known as Queen Matilda's Tapestry. It was recorded that Matilda had a tapestry of her husband William's coronation in her apartment and it is suspected that this was really the now lost snipped-off last piece of surviving tapestry.

Myra Kestner

28 Nov. 2002

"The Southwold Railway"

by John Bennett and David Lee

John Bennett and David Lee from the Southwold Railway Society combined to give an illustrated talk, using a variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century photos of the trains, the stations, the staff and the travellers. The railway opened in 1879 and closed in 1929, so childhood memories of travel on it remain, and some of these anecdotes were read to the meeting. The morning newspapers were thrown from the train at Blythburgh and once a lion was kept overnight in the Southwold waiting room because the circus was unable to pay cash on delivery.

Before the railway was extended to Southwold, a daily public horse omnibus ran from The Swan in Southwold to Barsharn railway station. Many of the Southwold hotels had their own vehicles meet the trains. The Act to build the Southwold Railway was passed in 1876 and building commenced, linking Halesworth with Wenhaston, Blythburgh, Walberswick and Southwold. Halesworth had been connected to the main railway system since 1854 and goods were transferred there to the smaller gauge Southwold railway.

Today there is little left of the Southwold railway itself, although signs of its past existence can be seen in the landscape. The rails and stations have been removed so, unlike many old railways, it

could not be easily restored. It was never noted for speed, and the journey from Halesworth to Southwold took 37 minutes. An exhibition of Reg Carter's cartoons of the Southwold railway, not all of them flattering, is planned.

Myra Kestner

23 Jan. 2003 **“Deer & Rabbits-a Different Perspective on the East Anglian Landscape”**

by Terry Weatherley

Rabbits were introduced by the Normans and until the eighteenth century the adult animals were called conies and only the young ones were known as rabbits. A warren was originally an area of land granted to a lord, together with the privilege of hunting game, including rabbits and pheasants. The early rabbits did not dig into the ground and in Tudor times men were employed to make holes for them. Later, the meaning of warren changed to describe the holes where the rabbits lived.

In this part of Suffolk, the impact of rabbit warrens on the landscape is easier to find than the remains of deer parks. Rabbits could be kept on poor sandy soil, but as they eat everything they can find, there were problems with soil erosion and distress caused to neighbouring peasant farmers when crops were attacked. If anybody other than the owner of the right of warren killed a rabbit, this was regarded as poaching and it is recorded that fifteenth century canons at Blythburgh Priory were in court charged with hunting the lord's rabbits with greyhounds. The Warren Lodge at Thetford, standing in the middle of what was a 3,000 acre rabbit warren, is now in the care of English Heritage.

Deer in deer parks were very well protected and the parks were surrounded by ditches and fences. Today, there are the remains of a medieval deer park at Henham and the probability that there was one at Somerleyton, before the present ornamental park. Sotterley, despite its circular enclosure, was not a deer park and was first developed as an ornamental park in the eighteenth century.

Myra Kestner

13 Feb. 2003 **“The Archaeological Excavations at Flixton Park Quarry”** by Stuart Boulter
(Suffolk Archaeology)

The archaeological excavations at Flixton Park Quarry began 6 years ago and extension is continuing in advance of enlargement of the quarry. 50 acres have so far been excavated with artefacts from most periods being found, ranging from Palaeolithic axe heads to sardine tins left by First World War soldiers practising trench conditions.

The Neolithic period is well represented by pairs of pits containing pottery sherds, and believed to have a ritual function. A large post hole geometric shape enclosure, carbon dated to 4,500 years ago, is difficult to interpret and alternative theories suggest a stock enclosure, a platform where bodies were laid out or a lunar observatory. Iron Age post holes on the site are similarly difficult to interpret and could be storage granaries, shrines or platforms for laying out the dead.

Two well preserved kilns from the Roman period were found and have been dated to between 90 and 150 AD and 285 to 450 AD. There is also a Roman rubbish pit containing 4 bodies, one at least with knife marks on the throat. Because they were in a rubbish pit they have not, like the bodies in the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, been destroyed by soil acidity.

The Anglo-Saxon period is also well represented. Burial goods, such as spears, beads and brooches were found in the cemetery and there are probably more to be discovered. The nearby settlement, containing the post holes of 20 buildings, both hall type and square, also dates from the sixth to seventh century. The remains of a rectilinear field system have been observed near by.

Myra Kestner

27 Feb. 2003 **“The History of Gorleston”**

by Colin Tooke

The starting point was “forgotten” South Town, where there has been a connecting bridge to Yarmouth since 1427 and before then a ferry. Until 1891, the river was the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk. South Town was originally a mirror image of Yarmouth, with housing in

“rows” which have now disappeared. There was also an exceptionally high windmill, demolished in 1905. Much of South Town was owned by the Paston family.

Horse trams, replaced in 1905 by electric trams, ran from the South Town side of the bridge to Gorleston. On the journey, the trams stopped at the Halfway House, and the whole trip took an hour. Gorleston is older than Yarmouth and began as a small fishing village. In former times, ships sometimes sank within sight of the village and no rescue was possible. A plaque commemorates the house of Captain Manby, the inventor of the rocket mortar which fired a line to these sinking ships.

There were three Gorleston companies of beachmen who watched out for salvage from look-out towers, which were sometimes built on the top of cafes and pubs. The story of the whale, caught by the beachmen was also told. This whale was stuffed with sawdust and exhibited as far away as London.

Gorleston was developed as a seaside resort, quieter than Yarmouth, concentrating on gardens, a bandstand and a promenade. In 1901, the Pavilion Theatre was opened and there were bathing machines on the beach. Belle steamers brought holiday-makers into the harbour and there were also river trips from Yarmouth.

Myra Kestner

13 March 2003

“The Last Kingdom of the Moors”

by Sara and Bill Hudson

Ten years ago, Sara and Bill bought a house in Picena, a village near Granada, in the Alpujarras region where Moorish rule did not end until 1492, much later than the retreat from northern Spain. The house has three storeys, with the ground floor intended for animals, the upper floor for stores and, in between, the living accommodation. Beneath the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the village is in an irrigated valley surrounded by semi-desert. In this green oasis, created by the Moorish irrigation systems, citrus fruits, almonds, walnuts, pomegranates, prickly pears and olives grow.

In 1492, the Moorish ruler was exiled but many Moors continued to live in the region and some hill villages were inhabited only by Moslems. The knowledge of mathematics and medicine introduced by the Moors was, however, forgotten. In 1568, after restrictions such as banning Moslem baths and music, there was an uprising and numbers of Christians were killed. This uprising was followed by a massacre of Moslems, with many of them escaping to Morocco. Later, the empty villages were re-populated by Spaniards moved in from the north.

Moorish influence remains apparent in the whitewashed villages and in the architecture of the towns, with their small windows, intricate patterned decorations and flat roofs. Even some of the old Moorish bath houses survive. It is now, however, the end of an era, with mules giving way to farm machinery, concrete replacing cobbles, and motorways and housing developments being built.

Myra Kestner

27 March 2003

“Covehithe”

by Paul Durbidge

The history of the Covehithe settlement, the recording of the sea encroachment and details of the archaeological finds which came to light as a result of the erosion, were all included in the talk.

The early settlement of Southmere and the medieval “hithe” were situated in an area south of the church and present village. Despite the large church, Covehithe has always had a small population. In 1605 there were only 208 inhabitants.

Every March since the 1970’s, Paul has taken measurements of the sea encroachment. The findings are sent to Cambridge University. During the last 10 years, 207 feet have been lost, but in the previous 10 years the measured loss totalled more than 400 feet. It is estimated that during the 1953 floods, 70 feet were lost in one night. Many members remembered “Four Winds”, a bungalow at the end of the road, now lost to the sea. The lagoons, caused by shingle dredging, are also now disappearing.

The washed up peat blocks, which can be observed in the area, are from the old land-bridge to the continent and sometimes contain bones, such as the wolf bones recently found at Benacre.

A great deal of pre-historic activity has been discovered as a result of the erosion. The finds include flints and barbs from 10,000 years ago as well as the Bronze Age cauldron, arrowheads and cremation pot burial which are now on display at the Lowestoft Museum. Also, from a later period, timber lined well shafts and salt extraction pans have been revealed.

Myra Kestner

10 April 2003 **“Recent Archaeological Excavations in the Lowestoft Area”** by *John Newman*

As John Newman was concerned not to overlap with his colleague from Suffolk Archaeology, Jez Meredith, who will be talking to the Society on 9 October about the current work at Carlton Colville, he extended his talk on “Recent Archaeological Excavations in the Lowestoft Area” to include Sutton Hoo, Snape and Lakenheath, as well as Carlton Colville and Bloodmoor Hill. In doing this, he was able to emphasise the importance of Anglo-Saxon sites in Suffolk and relate finds at Sutton Hoo to similar period excavations in the other different areas.

Sutton Hoo was explained from the field archaeological perspective, with photographs of burials and artefacts as they were uncovered during the more recent excavations. The history of the early Anglo-Saxon kingdoms was introduced and this will be covered in more detail when Sam Newton talks to the Society on 11 September about the Wuffing King Raedwald.

There has been an opportunity to undertake a major area of archaeological excavation at Carlton Colville in advance of the housing and road developments taking place there. Because of the extent of these developments, a detailed study of a large settlement can be made. A sixth century village has been found in Carlton Colville, 400 metres from the earlier excavations at Bloodmoor Hill. During the later Anglo-Saxon period, this village moved to a situation nearer the present church and medieval material has been found in the Chapel Road area. Roman metal was recycled by the early Anglo-Saxons, suggesting that there had also been nearby Roman habitation.

Myra Kestner

24 April 2003 **“Tuns, Tofts and Thorpes -Place Names in East Anglia”** by *Nicholas Groves*

Waves of settlers, travelling from east to west, have left East Anglia with a predominance of Anglo-Saxon place names. To interpret these place names, old documents, often in Old English, need to be consulted and obsolete words understood. Dun, for example, was a hill in Old English and is now found in a changed form in “sand dunes” and “South Downs”. The early spelling of names cannot reliably be found in the Domesday book as they were recorded by French speaking Norman scribes who wrote down what they sometimes misheard.

Interpretations of place names in populist local histories are also often incorrect. Barking had birch trees, not dogs, and Overy is over the water, and not so named because of the sheep kept there. Some place names are open to a variety of interpretations, so that the pool at Walpole could have been named after a wall or a battlefield, or it might have been occupied by Welsh settlers. The names of the Anglo-Saxon hundreds often described their meeting places, frequently at a ford or a cross. There are also clusters of Norse place names in East Anglia, typically ending in “by”, “thorpe”, and “thwaite”.

Many place names have two elements, one describing a physical feature and the other describing the type of settlement. Thus Barton would have been the enclosure or village where Barley was grown. Place names ending with “Ingham”, and possibly starting with a personal name, are likely to have been sub-settlements, as “ing” means “people of”.

Myra Kestner

8 May 2003 **“Norfolk Museum & Archaeology Service – an update on its work”** by *Bill Seaman*

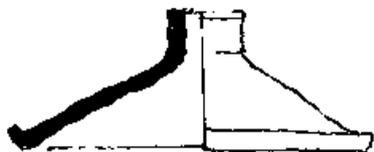
This report will be in next year’s report.

New Finds at Pakefield in 2002-03

Paul Durbidge

A 3rd Century Pottery Lid from Pakefield Suffolk

In early December of 2002 the broken remains of a Romano British pottery lid was recovered with pieces of brick and roofing tile, when reassembled the lid was just under six inches in diameter (drawing approx. ¼ scale) with a shallow upturned lip around the edge and the centre raised to form a cone like profile. At one and a half inches the cone was cut off square and a ¾ of an inch hole was



pushed through the centre to allow for steam to be released while the contents of the pot were being heated. The broken sherds showed the fabric to be a hard and light brown in colour with a thin sandwich of grey in the middle while the underside surfaces showed some soot staining, mica was also visible in the surface clay. Found with the lid was thin buff coloured

body sherd decorated with three small impressed patterns, two of these were ⅜ of an inch wide by an undetermined length and these were angled towards each other. The ends of the stamps were rounded and a clear herringbone pattern can be seen, between the two appears another smaller impressed stamp of a figure eight with the faint impression of a small circle within the shape.

In addition two very abraded greyware body sherds were found along with a body sherd of rouletted ware.

Building Materials

From the same location has come a thick piece of fired clay containing small flints and chalk, the somewhat irregular remains measure 2½ inches by roughly five inches long, one face and one side have been smoothed and two impressed circles have been pushed into the clay when it was wet.

One of the circles is nearly one inch in diameter while the second which is positioned directly behind the first measures nearly ⅝ inch diameter. Also in front of the first circle a peg or small twig has been pushed through the wet clay at an angle of around 45°.

Just what the clay was once part of is unclear but with two smoothed surfaces it is more than just possible it has a connection with either a floor or wall situation.

The Changing Cliff Line at Pakefield Suffolk

As a direct result of surface water, damage to the cliffs to the south of Pontins Holiday Camp has reached an all time high. Shallow streams of water discharging over the top have washed out much of the light and sandy soils leaving a scenario of cavities and irregular shaped holes. Added to this, small streams of liquid clay pouring down parts of the cliff face have added to an already archaic scene. A concrete pill box which was once part of a large wartime complex was for some time quite close to the edge before finally being undercut resulting in it sliding down the face of the fifty foot cliff to the beach below. To one side of the pill box a large area of dark sand capped by five massive irregular cubes of grey boulder clay weighing several tonnes has also slipped downwards and come to rest halfway down the cliff. Further south the destruction of the upper cliff has been aided by water discharging from two six inch plastic pipes which are taking water from the caravan site directly above and at this location were a number of steps formed to give access to the beach below. As a result of this added discharge of water quite a large area of lower cliff including the steps has subsequently gone leaving this part of the beach covered with lumps of clay, hard sand and a sizable amount of vegetation that once grew on the slopes. Adjacent to Heathland Caravan Site two large areas of cliff have been undermined and slipped downwards, again this is the result of more water discharge which in addition has resulted in the destruction of the footpath at the top of the cliff. Further on another substantial set of steps formed from scaffold poles along with wooden treads has been constructed leading holidaymakers down to the beach, here the steps have been well constructed with poles driven into the cliff face and the whole braced against average movement. Unfortunately the relentless movement of both clay and water has resulted in them being slowly distorted to a point

when they are too dangerous to use with many of the poles being severely bent under the weight of material on its way down.

It is often worth looking out for both fossil and archaeological remains amongst the clay and soils that have built up on the beach in such situations and quite near the steps a number of dark grey pot sherds were found amongst a mass of wet clay and equally wet mixed soils. The majority of the pottery was soot stained on the internal surfaces and from their shape it would seem that most had come from cooking pots of Medieval date. The fabrics were noticeably more gritty in texture and far more coarse than sherds recovered in earlier years although mica was still present. The partial remains of two base forms suggest quite large vessels with sagging base profiles, the fabrics being dark reddish brown in colour and of a fairly hard texture, the inner surfaces of one was glazed in a very pitted dark green with soot still visible on the external surfaces. In addition to the body sherds was the greater part of a thick near black coloured strap handle from a large jug and this had been decorated down the centre with a line of stab marks, this probably being done with a small knife.

To the north of Pontins another mixed scatter of pottery was observed along with animal bones and shell on the slopes of the cliff. This was the result of a fall out of material from an irregular shaped pit in the cliff face which first appeared over a year ago. The top of the intrusion is over thirteen feet across narrowing to nearly seven feet with irregular depth in the region of eight feet. The enclosed content contains a mix of soils including clay and traces of carbon and large flints could be seen near the bottom of the infill, it would appear that much of the pit material that has already fallen out suggests the majority is of Medieval or late Medieval date with late date material coming from the upper fill.

The Contents of the Pit

Animal Bones

Three broken leg bones and four broken rib bones from domestic oxen.

Two other rib bones are possibly from pig along with the greater part of a leg bone.

A small jaw bone is probably from a dog and two small leg bones from sheep. There are also over a dozen parts and splinters of animal bone.

Shell

One large whelk shell and eight large oyster shells.

Flint Industry

Two secondary flint flakes were found and both had clear bulbs of percussion with one flake also being trimmed down one side. There was also a white patinated segmental blade and it is likely that these finds link with other Bronze Age material found near by in earlier years.

Lava Stone

A small segment of a hand mill with a grooved working surface and rough hewn underside compares with similar discoveries made near by also in a medieval pit.

Iron Remains

There were several small pieces of iron with the majority heavily corroded but six nails were identifiable, four had flattened heads and measured between 1½ – 1¼ inches in length. Two others measured 3 and 2½ inches respectively and also had flattened heads, all the nails had square shanks and one had been clenched over, a method used when fixing two boards together.

Lead

There was one small strip of molten lead.

Roof Tile

The greater part of a peg or pin tile in a hard orange clay had been cast on grass or straw, the face of the tile was slumped and drag marks are visible after casting. The tile measures nearly seven inches across by four and half with a constant thickness of just over ½ inch, on the underside of the tile are traces of mortar. The impression of two finger marks are visible in the upper face and two quite large grits can be seen in the broken section of the tile.

Brick

Small part of a brick broken in its length 1¾" x 4¼" again it would seem it has been cast on grass or straw and burnt organic remains are visible on the underside end and sides. The upper surface is slumped and the colour varies between cinnamon and dark yellow.

Floor Tile

Small section of floor tile is a very hard material over an inch thick with one edge slightly tapered, the upper surface has traces of dark green cheesy glaze.

The Pottery

Small section of rod handle from a small jug in light buff traces of a yellowish green glaze on the outer surface.

Part lip from a small pouring spout from a grey coarseware jug.

Part of a large rim from a flagon with part of the pouring lip in smooth light brown fabric, spots of greenish glaze beneath the grooved neck. Small section of base from the same vessel.

Two coarseware body sherds in a fine reddish brown fabric with rilling and soot staining on external surfaces.

Three soot stained greyish black body sherds.

Part base from a jug in a hard light brown fabric with internal surfaces coated with a heavy pitted orange green glaze.

Small light brown body sherd decorated with horizontal lines.

Redware

There are over a dozen thick redware body sherds with a cheesy yellowish green glaze on the external surfaces. They are all thought to belong to a large pitcher or jug and this has been decorated with applied nicked strips. On one sherd two horizontal strips have been applied nearly three inches apart while on another sherd the clay strip has been applied vertically. At the time of writing no signs of any rim, handle or base remains have been found belonging to this vessel.

Thickened Rim from Storage Jar

Part of a rim from a small globular lidded storage jar was recovered amongst the pottery and this compares both in type and size with two others found in nearby pits. Formed in a reddish fabric there are splashes of an orange yellowish glaze with copper inclusions on the shoulder as well as inside the rim. The previous examples had shallow looped handles coming off the rim as well as two lifting lugs opposite one another on the waist of the jar.

Shallow Plate

Rim from a shallow plate with the underside showing as a hard unglazed yellow buff. A body sherd from the same vessel shows the inner surface was glazed in a rich orange red glaze through which parallel shallow lines and narrow combing have been cut. The general style and treatment compares with a line cut technique and where these patterns have been cut out a yellow glaze is present.

<p>The writer would like to thank Mr Adrian Charlton and his colleague Simon Brown for the recovering of the Romano British finds and also their contribution in the recovering of the material from the Medieval pit at Pakefield.</p>

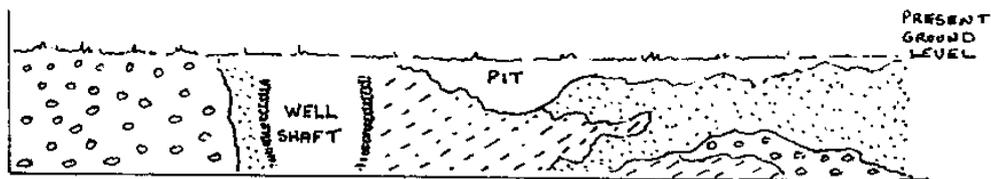
Paul Durbidge April 2003

A Well Shaft at the John Wilde School Lowestoft Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

During the latter part of September 2002 a trench was pulled out across land adjacent to the lower end of the John Wilde School building and for the first time this provided a chance to examine a section cut through the present sloping land surface upon which the school was built. The initial purpose of the trench was to provide footings for the retaining wall and it was dug at right angles to the present school building and extended some 40 feet terminating at the base of an old brick and cobble wall. The west face of the trench revealed a mixture of soils and also sand and it also showed the old land surface in section which followed the irregular slope of the land and this consolidated lower down as a result of water and soil movement over several hundred years.

Twelve feet out is the trench and again in the west face a dark brown sandy soil containing rootlets was visible and cut through this was an intrusion roughly eighteen inches wide and made up of mixed sand.



WEST FACE OF THE TRENCH AT
THE JOHN WILDE SCHOOL
LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK

KEY

○○○ ○○○ ○○○	DARK BROWN SANDY SOIL
●●●	SANDY
//////	DARK BROWN SANDY SOIL WITH CARBON

This was a sand backfill as it terminated against a vertical single brick wall showing in end section and made up of soft reds and four feet further on was another vertical section of red bricks and between the two was an infill containing mixed grey soils with small stones and small pieces of slate. In pulling out the trench the digger had cut through the middle of a relatively modern well shaft and with the two sides now exposed it was noticeable that both gently tapered inwards towards the base. The shaft had been sunk cleanly through the darkened brown soil when it had been constructed and on the outside of the right hand profile there was much evidence of carbon with evidence of more showing under the sand lower down. Mixed brown soils were visible in the entire length of the trench and travelling back at two points it did show the irregular layers followed roughly the slope of the present ground and these noticeably thickened further down the slope. To the right hand side of the shaft there was noticeable thicker concentration of carbon mixed soils and a pronounced slump was visible in section, for the most part this was very irregular but enough to indicate a small pit. Five sherds of pottery along with small bone remains were found in the feature along with a number of fragmentary oyster shells. It would appear that sand lay directly beneath the carbon stained soils but with dense concrete already in the trench it was not possible to test this any further. This latest well shaft is the second to be uncovered at the school and it lies some thirty feet from another shaft uncovered some years earlier and both are totally different in construction as well as date. The recent shaft with its soft red bricks has been laid totally dry with no mortar while the previous one was a more substantial affair being formed of both mortar and flints with the odd occasional brick and a suggested date somewhere around the 16th Century.

The Contents from the Small Pit

Animal Bones

- Small jaw bone from pig.
- Two rabbit bones.
- Rib from sheep.
- A number of splinters from animal bones.
- Three small bird bones.

Pottery

- Middle section of a strap from a jug in a hard grey fabric with a green glaze on most of the surfaces.
- Body sherd in hard grey fabric with the outer irregular surface coated in a rich greenish brown glaze.
- Cambered body sherd probably from a jug with spots of green glaze externally, crude rilling on external surface.
- Body sherd from the shoulder of a small pot in coarse brownish fabric with pitted light brown glaze and soot stained internally
- Small grey body sherd with outer surface heavily soot stained.

Bricks from the Well Shaft

- Soft red bricks measuring $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $4\frac{3}{4}$ " x $9\frac{3}{4}$ ".

From the small amount of pottery that has been recovered it would seem that it is of Medieval to late Medieval date.

Sir James Edward Smith's Contribution to the Study Of Natural History

Jeremy Stone

In the High Street of Lowestoft stands a Georgian style house that is today divided into flats. On the exterior of the building there is a plaque that records that Sir James Edward Smith the founding member of the Linnean Society and Lady Pleasance Smith a benefactor to the poor and friend of Queen Victoria once lived there. The house was the home of Lady Smith, she was the daughter of Robert Reeve, who was a member of an eminent local family. In 1796 Pleasance married Sir James Edward Smith; he was the son of James Smith a wealthy Norwich wool merchant. They were married at St. Margarets Church in Lowestoft and are both interred in the Reeve family tomb in the churchyard at St. Margarets.



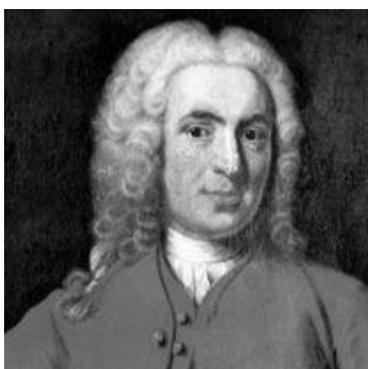
Very few people passing Crown house and seeing the plaque to Sir James Edward Smith, the founding member of the Linnean Society realise who he was and what the Linnean Society was and still is. He was a scientist, collector and author and a contemporary of another great scientist Joseph Banks, who is remembered for accompanying Captain James Cook on his 18th century voyages of discovery. Joseph Banks role in the story of the Linnean Society will be discussed later in this essay. Sir James Edward Smith founded the Linnean Society of London in 1788 and it is the oldest natural history society, it still functions as a leading forum for contemporary discussions on natural history, biology, genetics and the history of plant and animal taxonomy. The society takes its name from the Swedish naturalist, Carl Linnaeus (1707-1776).



I first became aware of the work of Carl Linnaeus and the Linnean Society whilst studying courses on the 16th century Enlightenment and the biology section of the Science Foundation Course with the Open University. Several years later, on seeing the plaque to Sir James Edward Smith and the Linnean Society, the connection between the house and the history of science was established. In order to understand the life and work of Sir James Edward Smith and the Linnean Society, the contribution to biology of Carl Linnaeus needs to be examined.

Carl Linnaeus is seen as the spiritual father of the Linnaean Society and “The father of modern plant and animal classification”. He was born in 1707 at Rashult in Sweden, his father was a Lutheran clergyman. His father invented the name Linnaeus in order to provide a suitable surname for registration at the University of Lund. It was a latinized name based upon the large and ancient tree called *the small leaved linden*. It was known locally as “Linn”, and it grew on the family land and hence provided the family name. Carl Linnaeus used the name until he was ennobled and became Carl von Linné in 1762.

He studied at the Swedish universities of Lund and Uppsala and at the Dutch universities of



Hardewijk and Leiden. Linnaeus was a naturalist, physician and Professor of Medicine at Uppsala University and supervised the botanical gardens there. He headed expeditions in Scandinavia and to Lapland where he discovered over 100 new plant species. Carl Linnaeus was the leading botanist of his age, he published several natural history books, had a large library and a botanical and zoological collection. These later became the property of The Linnean Society of London. He was a great influence on other naturalists and especially Sir James Edward Smith. It is said that on the day Linnaeus died, Sir James aged 18 commenced his botanical studies.

Linnaeus in 1741 became a professor at Uppsala University; his lectures were always popular and crowded with students from other countries. Some twenty-three became professors themselves and spread his ideas. Linnaeus also corresponded with the leading naturalists of Europe, he also practised medicine in Stockholm. He was the Rector of the University of Uppsala until 1772 when his health declined, he died in 1776.

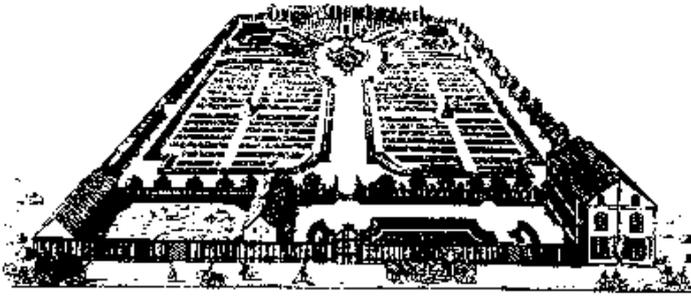


In recognition to Linnaeus’s contribution to the classification of plants and animals, another naturalist called Gronovius re-named a plant after him. It was formerly called *Campanula serpyllifolia* by Caspar Bauhin in 1596, but was changed to *Linnaea borealis* (pictured left) after it had been mentioned in Linnaeus’s journal of his 1732 expedition to Lapland.

Carl Linnaeus’s greatest contribution was to the branch of biology known as taxonomy – the classification of plants and animals. This system is still used today and involves using two names, hence it is known as the Linnaean binomial system. It is important to know that he did not invent the binomial system, the naming of a two word species or for types within a group long pre-dates Linnaeus and occurred in many languages and in vernacular nomenclature. His system of binomial nomenclature was found in his publications which in his time, provided a concise and usable survey of all the world’s known flora and fauna to contemporary and later naturalists. These works helped establish and standardize the consistent binomial nomenclature for the different species that he introduced to the world, firstly with plants in 1753 and then with animals in 1758. Carl Linnaeus’s work entitled “*Species Plantarum*” 10th edition volume 1, 1758 is the internationally accepted starting point for botanical and zoological nomenclature. Scientific names published before this date have no validity, unless adopted by Linnaeus.

In 1735 he published his “*Systema Naturae*”, in this he classified plants on their sexual parts. His method of binomial nomenclature using genus and species names was further expounded in his other works “*Fundamenta Botanica*” and “*Classes plantarum*”. It involved using the flower and number

HORTI UPSALIENSIS PROSPERITAS



View of the Botanic Garden, Uppsala, 1745. Photograph by Todd-White & Son, reproduced by permission of the Council of the Linnean Society, London.

Linnaeus's Botanical garden.

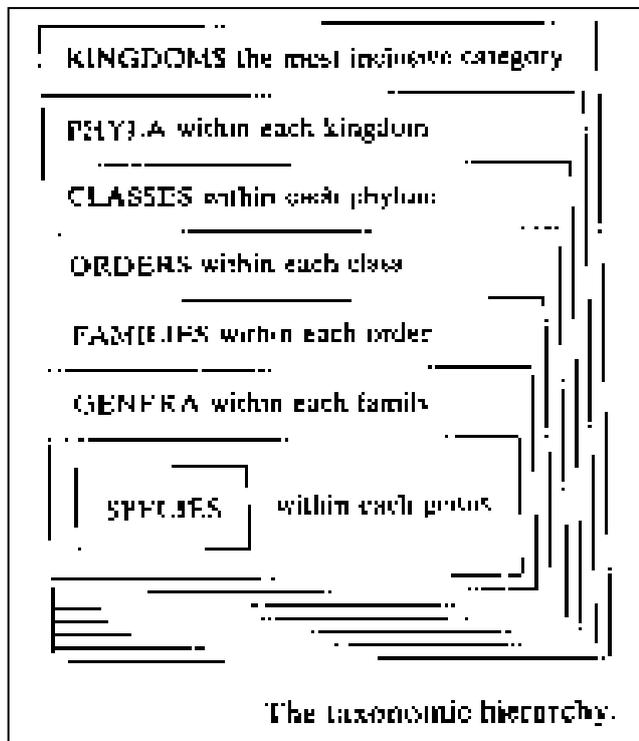
Botanical gardens like collections of flora and fauna provided a healthy interest for people, were a benefit to society and strengthened belief in the works of the creator.

and arrangements of its sexual organs of stamens and pistils to group plants into twenty-four classes which in turn are then divided into orders, genera and species. In his publications his survey numbered about 7,700 species of plants and 4,400 species of animals. When Linnaeus classified animals he used various criteria: Quadrupeds were distinguished by their teeth; birds by their bills and insects by their antennae and wings. The Linnaean binomial system consists of giving a one word name to a genus eg. *Rhododendron* or *Equus* and a two word name to an individual species

within the genus as in *Rhododendron ponticum* for the kind of plant and *Equus caballus* for the type of horse.

Linnaeus's Attempt to Classify Animals.

The diagram on page 24 is not complete, but gives sufficient details that show how Linnaeus attempted to place animals into descending orders of classification CLASS, ORDER, GENUS and SPECIES, this being called part of what is known as the taxonomic hierarchy (see the simplified diagram below, simplified because it has omitted some intermediate categories like subkingdom, subclass, super family etc. for simplicity).



Some of Linnaeus's classification in the diagram on page 24 is questionable from a modern perspective eg. the sloth being wrongly included in the Genus section that rightly links man and the apes. Since this time the science of classifying organisms into taxonomic groups has much improved.

Linnaeus's believed all living things on the planet were the descendants of the plants and animals that contained both the male and female characteristics – a hermaphrodite. The constancy of plant species was maintained by sexual reproduction; hence he identified a plant species like other botanists before him by their sexual organs. Plant species were identified by their fruit or seed and by their flowers – the stamen and pistils. Animals of each species were created as males and females by God which produced fertile offspring, that multiplied over the generations to their present numbers. Since like gave

birth to like, the species had not Changed since creation – Charles Darwin would challenge this view in the next century at a Linnean Society of London meeting.

Sir James Edward Smith was born in Norwich in 1759 and showed an interest in flowers from an early age. As a young man in 1761 he attended Edinburgh University and like Linnaeus studied medicine. Smith studied medicine in order to be able to attend botany lectures, which at the time

could only be attended by medical students. It was here that he met Dr. Hope, Professor of Botany and the first to teach the Linnean system in Scotland. James Edward Smith was 22 years of age and with some friends and Dr. Hope as an honorary member formed a natural history society. They established a collection of Scottish native plants. In 1783, Smith returned to England and continued with his medical studies in London.

He translated Linnaeus's "*Reflections on the study of nature*" (1754) in 1786. These had once been part included in an introduction to the royal collection of natural curiosities, this being the museum of King Adolph Frederic of Sweden. Smith thus introduced Carl Linnaeus's ideas about the study of natural history. Linnaeus's ideas reflected the prevailing view of the time that the study of nature showed mankind the greatness and diversity of God's creation. Nature study was seen as a religious duty for humanity, the greatest achievement of the creation. Mankind was seen as being created to study creation and by studying nature, the belief in the deity was strengthened. He saw the earth as the museum that housed the creator's own collections. The idea of collections was also to show people the diversity of species that had been created. Therefore the collections of King Frederic, Linnaeus's own and Sir James Edward Smith were seen as important to the study of nature and the strengthening of religious belief.



Illustration from Linnaeus's work on the classification of plants in which he used their sexual parts to identify a species.

In 1778 Linnaeus died leaving his collection to his son, also named Carl. He offered the collection to Sir Joseph Banks, but Banks declined the offer but persuaded Smith to purchase it.

The collection consisted of nearly 3,000 books, plants, minerals, insects and manuscripts. It was brought to London in 1784 and displayed in some rooms that Smith had hired in Chelsea. For his efforts in securing the collection he was made a fellow of the Royal Society. In 1785 Smith with the Rev. Dr. Goodenough and Thomas Marsham agreed to form a new society dedicated to natural history. The following year 1786 saw Smith now aged twenty-seven on the "grand tour" of Europe that his father financed. On this trip he visited France and Italy and completed his medical studies in Leyden. In 1788 Smith returned to London, he had by this time become more interested in natural history than medicine. It was in the Marlborough Coffee house in London on 28th February 1788 that the natural history society was formed. It had its first meeting on the 8th April at Smith's London home and took the name of The Linnean Society of London. Smith was appointed its first president and held the position for life.

James Edward Smith's first major book was entitled "*English Botany*" which he started in 1790. It was through this work that he became known to the leading contemporary botanists. His "*Sketch of a tour on the continent*" described his

European travels. Smith also lectured widely and taught Queen Charlotte and the Princesses botany and zoology. He married Pleasance Reeve and moved to Norwich. Crown House or 49 High Street, Lowestoft was her own home.

Smith also helped complete some of the work of John Sibthorp, the Oxford Professor of Botany. Sibthorp had travelled and collected plants in Greece and Asia Minor and was working on the Folio

Class	Order	Genus	Species
Quadrupeds (hairy body, four feet, viviparous)	Anthropomorpha (man-like)	<i>Homo</i>	European Asiatic American African
		<i>Simia</i> (ape)	
		<i>Bradypus</i> (sloth)	
Ferae (wild beasts)		<i>Ursus</i> (bear)	
		<i>Leo</i> (lion)	
		<i>Tigris</i> (tiger)	
		<i>Felis</i> (cat)	lynx
		<i>Mustela</i> (weasel)	
		<i>Lutra</i> (otter)	
		<i>Phoca</i> (seal)	dog
		<i>Canis</i> (dog)	wolf fox
		<i>Mela</i> (badger)	
		<i>Talpa</i> (mole)	
		<i>Erimaceus</i> (hedgehog)	
		<i>Vespertilio</i> (bat)	
		Civica (mice)	
<i>Sciurus</i> (squirrel)			
<i>Castor</i> (beaver)			
<i>Mus</i> (rat)			
<i>Lepus</i> (hare)			
Jumenta (beasts of burden)		<i>Equus</i> (horse)	horse ass wild ass zebra
		<i>Hippopotamus</i>	elephant
		<i>Elephas</i> (elephant)	rhinoceros
		<i>Sus</i> (pig)	
Pecora (cattle)		<i>Camelus</i>	
		<i>Cervus</i> (deer)	
		<i>Capra</i> (goat)	
		<i>Ovis</i> (sheep)	
		<i>Bos</i> (bullock)	
Birds			
Amphibia			
Fish			
Insects			
Worms	Reptilia		
	Testacea	<i>Cochlea</i> (snails)	muschel oyster
		<i>Concha</i> (shell-fish)	
Zooplyta (Animal-plants)		<i>Actinia</i> (star-like)	starfish
		<i>Echinus</i> (sea-urchin)	
		<i>Sepia</i> (cuttlefish)	

entitled "*Flora Graeca*" (1806-1840). On return from his travels, he had started to work on the folio but died. Sir James Edward Smith prepared the work for publication and completed seven and a half volumes by the time that he himself died. It had illustrations by Ferdinand Bauer. At the start of the 19th century, Smith had published the first two volumes of "*Flora Britannica*". It was a comprehensive flora of Britain and was superior to the existing works on the subject. It is still valued today for the identification of plants mentioned in pre-Linnaean literature. He also wrote for Abraham Rees, the editor of the "*Cyclopaedia or Universal Dictionary*". Smith contributed 3,348

items on botany and short biographies on 57 botanists. The health of Smith declined seriously in his last five years, but he still continued to write his last work "*The English Flora*" (4 vols. 1824-1828). This work was a greatly expanded version of his earlier work "*Flora Britannica*". After his death in 1828, Smith's own collections, books and prints including those of Linnaeus (once offered to Sir Joseph Banks for 1,000 guineas) were left with William Drake, the executor of his will. They were to be sold in one lot to a public or corporate body. The Linnean Society eventually purchased the combined collections for £3,150 that incurred a heavy debt for it, not paid off until 1861.

Sir James Edward Smith contributed much to natural history, in his written works and by lecturing and teaching the subject. He was inspired by Linnaeus's earlier work and purchased his collections and library and brought them to this country, thus he benefited British studies in the subject. His greatest achievement was the foundation of The Linnean Society of London. This society still functions as the leading forum for learning and discussion in all aspects of biology. It is based at Burlington House in Piccadilly, London and houses the collections and books of Linnaeus, Smith and other naturalists. At Burlington House there are the portraits of Linnaeus and Smith and also portraits and busts of other great naturalists. The society also publishes its own periodicals and literature and has its own website. It also uses the latest information technology and has its own library, which members can use. The society also has its own coat of arms that were granted in 1802 and a motto, "Naturae Discere Mores" – to learn the ways of nature.

The Linnean Society of London has also been the centre for debate and it was at a meeting on 1st July 1858, that the famous joint paper of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace was read (it is now in the possession of the society). Their radical new ideas concerning evolution were firstly not well received by the society, but later Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection would revolutionize the study of natural history.

The Lowestoft Scene 2002 - 2003

Jeremy Stone

This year I have been asked to write this section of the Annual Report of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society. This was once the task of Mr. Jon Reed, who did an excellent job of collecting information and writing "The Lowestoft Scene". I would also like to thank him for his advice and informative sources from the local press.

This year I hope to have commented on all aspects of local heritage, archaeology and history. The local press have played a very great role in stimulating interest in the past. A fine example of this is the section of the Lowestoft Journal entitled "Days Gone By". In this readers are asked to send in nostalgic photographs and information on Lowestoft. In this part of the local newspaper, there are memories and photographs from the recent past. They concern childhood, schools, teachers, sporting and social clubs, places of work, personal memories, clothing, streets, buildings etc. and also the memories and photographs that recall the town's involvement in both World Wars.

In April 2002 a Neolithic flint axehead was found by Colin Mansbridge walking his dog along the beach at Pakefield. It was found on the tide lines of the beach and had probably been scoured from the cliffs by the sea. The axehead was in very good condition with no abrasion, this indicates that it was not in the sea for very long. It was found in the area of the beach between Cliftonville Road and the eroding cliffs. The axehead is 16 cm. long and would have been attached to a wooden haft and used for chopping and cutting. It was used by the coastal community that would have existed here and is aged between 6,500 and 4,000 years old. Mr. John Davies of Norwich Castle Museum's Archaeology Department described it as "a fine example".

The construction of the new Carlton Colville bypass has revealed archaeological evidence of human habitation. An archaeological team with the chief archaeologist Jezz Meridith, were called in by Persimmon Homes who were building homes in the area. The finds consisted of flint arrowheads and a collared urn and pot said to be between 3,500 and 4,000 years old. Also traces of burnt wooden posts were found on the edges of a ring like structure. There were stains in the soil which indicated

that round huts had been built in the bronze or the iron ages. In addition a rectangular stain of a dwelling was found, this indicates an Anglo-Saxon home. The area was also used for burials but due to the high acidity of the soil, no human bones had survived. Tooth fragments were found and also stains in the soil made by a body and coffin.

In May the last remaining Lowestoft built trawler, the Mincarolo was moored by the South Pier and opened to the public. She is 109 feet long and a sidewinder trawler and was built at Brooke Marine in 1961. After she stopped fishing the vessel was used for supplying North Sea oil and gas platforms. The Mincarolo is preserved and maintained by a crew of volunteers and featured in the television programme "King and Country", which features the artist Ian King who showed viewers how to paint the trawler. In the same month the Lowestoft Journal featured another article on another Lowestoft built trawler – The Suffolk Maid. This vessel eventually ended her days in the U.S. Virgin Islands and is now a wreck and popular with local divers.

In May at the Beaconsfield Club in Surrey Street, there was an auction of china and some pieces of Lowestoft porcelain. Some of these items are rare and made at the Lowestoft factory over 200 years ago. There is a small pug dog, one of only four in existence and made about 1770. It would probably have been sold for about £6,000-8,000. The dog is on a flat base of a scalloped rectangular shape and has a manganese body decoration with a blue collar with an impressed flower at the back. Also there is a rare brown tabby cat on a green mound base which was made about 1785. This is one of only ten in existence, probably fetching between £5,000-6,000. There is also a rare armorial tea bowl and saucer with the crest, arms and motto of the Reverend Robert Potter, who was vicar at Lowestoft in 1789, this was expected to make £2,500. Another piece has the words M E Calder, Norwich 1776. This is an early piece much sought by collectors, it will probably be sold for between £2,500- 3,500. The less rare Lowestoft porcelain would sell for under £100.

Early in May 2002 Lowestoft Museum had an exhibition of the years 1951-53 to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. In it were photographs, advertisements, commemorative souvenirs and newspaper cuttings of the era. The museum also asked the public for their memories of the Festival of Britain 1951, the death of King George VI, the Coronation and the floods of 1953. The public: were also invited to record their memories in the museum's Jubilee book. Also on display were office furniture and equipment of the 1930's - 1950's, that is so different from that of today. There was also an exhibition on the story of H.M.S Lowestoft, seven ships have been named after the town. The museum also had its collection of Lowestoft Porcelain on display.

In May a map of the Parish of Lowestoft in 1618 was available to the public through the Lowestoft Heritage centre in Wilde's Score. It was the work of two local historians, David Butcher and Ivan Bunn. The information to produce this map came from an old manorial roll and when compared with an 1830 found that 25% of the fields in 1618 were still there in 1830. The recently produced map shows the Parish of Lowestoft in the early 17th century with all of its houses and fields. Today most of the land has been developed, but some areas still exist like the South-West field that is now Normanston Park.

In Beccles the church of St. Michael's is in process of being renovated. It is having new timbers in the roof and has exhibited the old timbers damaged by Deathwatch beetle to highlight the church's plight and the need for further funding. The Mayor of Beccles has made the restoration of St. Michael's, the object of this years Mayor's appeal.

In June the Queen's Golden Jubilee was celebrated throughout the area with street parties etc. Two events locally combined contemporary celebration with history. The Lowestoft Poplars School put on a show of events, an assembly in which there was music and mime and talks on the meaning and origin of jubilee, facts about the monarchs of the past, the life and work of the present Queen, the history of the national flag and important changes in the last 50 years.

At the Transport Museum in Carlton Colville some 140 nine and ten year olds sat down to eat Spam, fish paste sandwiches, and jelly & ice cream. They also enjoyed a ride to the museum on a vintage bus.

In June two reports appeared in the Lowestoft Journal concerning boats. One was on the return of the B6 type gunboat to its home. This boat now called "The Defender", formally the "AL Mujahid" was built at Brooke Marine for the Navy of Oman in 1977. It made an appearance at the Fish Fair in the

same month and is supported by local companies and has a volunteer crew, and is in the care of The Lowestoft Maritime Defence Museum. Originally the vessel was the third of four such boats ordered by the Oman government. All the others were eventually broken up and used for parts, but the Sultan was so pleased with this boat that he has given it back to the town as a gift.

The Balmoral moored at the end of Southwold Pier and took fare paying passengers, who enjoyed a hot supper and a jazz band. Its visit coincided with a classic boat rally held at Southwold. It was especially historic in that it was the first time since 1923 that a passenger vessel had tied up there. In 1928 the service to London ceased when the pier was damaged. The Second World War also prevented a return of the service and the pier fell into neglect. The present owner of the pier Mr. Iredale has had the pier repaired and extended to accommodate passenger ships. The pier can now be used for sailing trips and in early October the last working sea going paddle steamer "The Waverley" docked there. This vessel is 73 metres long and 693 tonnes and was first launched in 1946 and is the first paddle steamer in 75 years to tie up at the end of Southwold pier. The passengers on this excursion sailed from Southwold Pier to Tower Bridge London and then returned to Suffolk by coach.

In July 2002 a new book was published entitled "Not yet forgotten". It is about the men whose names appear on the 1914-18 Kessingland war memorial. It is by Neville Skinner and Roger Brown and was written to inform future generations and can be purchased from the Bethal Hall in Kessingland. The authors have researched the memorial's names, most were Kessingland people, many from the old fishing families but some were transient in the village. There were also four men whose names were not recorded on the memorial. The book tells where the men served and were killed. About half of the men were Royal Naval Reserve and mainly fishermen. There are pictures of the men, ships and their medals. The book also tells of Private William Cole, who was the first Kessingland man to die in the war at Ypres in June 1915. Two friends and neighbours Mouse Catchpole and William Tripp, were killed in the same battle along with both their sons.

Extraordinary scenes occurred at Lowestoft's railway station when Bill Haley's Comets arrived to a welcome from fans and the local television cameras, many of the fans were dressed in Teddy boy and Rocker attire. The Comets were then transported to Pontins holiday camp in Pakefield on an old bus from the Transport museum. The Comets were appearing at the camp for a Rock and Roll weekend being held there. They were one of the most influential groups in the mid 1950's and played Pontins again in November – a night that I attended and enjoyed.

July saw the official launch of the Lowestoft Porcelain Trail. A leaflet has been produced showing the important locations around town associated with Lowestoft Porcelain. Much of the work was done by the Jack Rose Old Lowestoft Society. Assistance was given by the Heritage Workshop Centre, The Gunton Woods Trail, Waveney District Council, Lowestoft Record Office, Lowestoft Museum and the new Lowestoft Porcelain company. This project cost £7,000 with a £4,000 grant from the National Lottery. Each place associated with the trail is marked by a porcelain plaque both inside and outside. Lowestoft Porcelain was produced in Bell Lane between 1757–1601. Other locations associated with it are Gunton, Crown Street, St. Margarets Church, the High Street and Oulton Broad.

In July an interesting article appeared in the Lowestoft Journal. It was on Lowestoft's Museum at the Nicholas Everitt Park in Oulton Broad. The museum is connected with the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society and received a Certificate of Registration from the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries. To get this award it had to achieve the approved standards of museum management, collection care and public services and that it is suitable for collections which are part of our heritage and therefore worthy enough to receive support from public sources. This was achieved by Jon Reed who has now retired as the Museum's curator. The Certificate was presented by M.P. Bob Blizzard.

The museum was once the home of Nicholas Everitt a local solicitor and reputed British spy in the 1914-18 War. After his death the house was purchased from the executors by his friend Howard Hollingsworth, who once lived in the building that is now the Briar School on Gunton Cliff – there is also a road in Lowestoft named after him. Howard Hollingsworth was also chairman of the Bourne and Hollingsworth store in London and gave the house to the town in 1928. Everitt's home was known as Broad House and had been built in 1685, but little of this remains and the Gothic windows

were added in the 19th century. The museum contains a large collection of Lowestoft Porcelain, paintings, etc and local archaeological finds.

In August 2002 the Lowestoft Journal had an article on the company that is producing a new type of Lowestoft Porcelain from its premises in London Road South. This is an entirely new company producing porcelain of a new type. This re-birth of the local porcelain industry is due to businessman Peter Knight and ceramic artist Sue Robinson. The workshop has eighteen employees and is taking commissions to manufacture items in this town.

This month saw the last seven trawlers of the Colne fishing fleet stop, they are now idle at Lowestoft Docks. This is the end of 50 years fishing for the last remaining fishing company and the end of fishing from the port of Lowestoft. In 1371 Lowestoft fishermen gained the right to sell fish caught in their own waters. In the mid 19th century Lowestoft was developed as a modern port with railways, this led to a boom in the fishing industry. The industry at its peak ensured that over 1,000 boats entered the ports of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth in 1913. Lowestoft continued as a fishing port long after Great Yarmouth ceased and later became a major port for Plaice. In the 1960's and 1970's there were several companies operating and the town had a huge fishing fleet – now it is all gone. Fish is now brought overland to supply the fish merchants.

The annual air festival provided locals and visitors with a range of different aircraft both modern and those which so distinguished themselves in the Second World War. Another great annual event is the motorcycle cavalcade with around 1,000 Motorcycles, Trikes and Scooters. Each year they raise money for the local hospital and charities and provide a marvellous spectacle. I always try to attend the event because motorbikes are an interest, of mine and nothing pleases me like the sight and sound of classic British machines that are part of the procession. The cavalcade sets off from the Norfolk Showground at Costessy and finishes on the Royal Green where the public can look at them.

The Lowestoft Journal also had stories concerning the First World War. A German naval squadron fired on Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth on Tuesday 25th April 1916. The Journal showed pictures of the damage in Lowestoft from a book published by Crisp & Son of the High Street. In Lowestoft the shelling lasted 20 minutes and killed two men, a woman, a child and injured 21 people.

In August the Lowestoft Journal had an article on the death of the Rt. Rev. Adolph Ulrich aged 93. He was the Bishop of a Czech province and connected with Lowestoft through being a Czech soldier stationed at Pakefield Radar station between 1942-44. He was a friend of a local couple James and Doris Colby and used to worship at the Friends Meeting House in St. George's Road. The Bishop was a frequent guest of the British Embassy and Military Attaché. He spoke at a wreath laying ceremony by the grave of a Czech soldier buried in Normanston Drive cemetery. His last visit was in 1997 aged 88, when he attended the centenary celebrations for the Friends Mission. This coincided with a tour by the grand children of Czech soldiers visiting former army stations and cemeteries. The Bishop was also a personal friend of the two Czech soldiers sent to Prague to kill the Nazi Reinhard Heydrich, unfortunately they were both killed after mortally wounding Heydrich.

In September 2002 the historic chapel in Wrentham was in use again after closure in the 1980's. The chapel was used for the service of marriage for the first time in several years. This United Reform Chapel was a former Congregational Chapel and was built in 1778, the pulpit was once in the Parish Church. Non-conformist chapels are due to the ejection of dissenters from Anglican Parish Churches in 1662.

A book has been published by the Blythburgh Society under the Editor Alan Mackay and contains various subject matter. It is entitled "The Poaching Priors of Blythburgh", its title takes its name from the Canons of Blythburgh who used Lurchers and Greyhounds to poach the Lord of the Manor's rabbits. The idea of this book is from a meeting of local history groups to preserve subject matter of local interest. In addition to the poaching priors other topics are recorded and discussed such as whether Blythburgh had a moat, bad behaviour in Wenhaston, the Bulcamp House of Industry, crime, the railways of Southwold, St. Felix School, the Wenhaston smuggler, Blythburgh Shops in the 1920's, and an eye witness account of the plane crash at Blythburgh in World War II that killed Joe Kennedy, brother of the future American President J.F. Kennedy.

The museum with its collection of ethnic boats closed in the previous year and the boats were taken by ship to Scotland.

From Saturday September 28th until Sunday October 6th 2002, there was an eight day event entitled "Celebrating Historic Lowestoft". The event was a success and transport was provided to take people to different museums and places of interest. It was to raise the profile of the town's heritage by involving them with Lowestoft's historical groups and museums. This was the first annual celebration for people of all ages and financed by European funding, East Coast Fireworks and Waveney District Council and part of the East Coast Festival. A booklet was provided with the Lowestoft Journal of the museums and societies and the work they do. The Lowestoft Heritage Centre run by the Civic Society, with its various research projects and displays, the Museum in Everitt's Park, the Suffolk Family History Society which promotes family and social history, the Transport Museum at Carlton Colville, the Maritime Museum, the Royal Naval Patrol Service Museum and the Lowestoft Cine and Camcorder Club in the Sparrow's Nest Gardens, "The Mincarlo" trawler and two articles on Lowestoft Porcelain and Sir Morton Peto.

In November 2002 some Lowestoft Porcelain was auctioned at Southeby's, a milk jug, two pickle dishes and a three coffee cups which date from 1765-1775. Schoolchildren from the Poplars School were photographed at the Naval Memorial in the Belle Vue Park. They were learning the significance of November 11th from their teacher and Mr. Jock Cheek a former member of the Royal Naval Patrol Service.

A new book has been written by Mr Richard Frost a former Teacher of myself at Roman Hill School. His book is entitled "Southwold in Old Postcards", available from the Orwell Bookshop and to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The authors Search for postcards started in 1999 at sales and auctions and research through the Norfolk Postcard Club, of which he is a member and Lowestoft Library. His book shows roads, streets, shops, people and vehicles and postcards from 1902-1914.

A Lowestoft Journal Reader sent in a picture of an old wherry with a Lowestoft registration LT 1192 or LT 1102? It was photographed moored in the centre of the Rio Guadiana, the river that separates Spain from Portugal.

In the Eastern Daily Press was news of a 1200 year old Anglo-Saxon Canoe. It has been Carbon dated to the Middle Anglo-Saxon period 775-892 A.D. It has been raised for conservation from the lagoon at Dingle Marshes by a team of seven people and weighed about half a ton. It was then taken to the marine conservation laboratory at Bentwaters, to be placed in a 10 x 3 metre glass fibre tank before conservation can start. The canoe had been originally found in fisherman Rodney Collett's nets off Covehithe near Southwold and had been removed to the lagoon at the Dingle Marshes by a marine archaeologist to keep it wet and therefore prevent its disintegration which occurs if such waterlogged wood dries out and to place the canoe in a safer less turbulent environment. The canoe which is the only example of an Anglo-Saxon type ever found will be conserved by first removing the salt, then it will be put in a form of resin that penetrates the wood and replaces the water and thus conserves it. The canoe is 16 feet long and made from oak or elm and would have been used for transportation around the area of Covehithe. In those days water served as a highway and it would have been used on the three Broads that once existed in the area – Covehithe, Benacre and Eastern Broads. These have all been eroded by the sea, hence the canoe was found offshore.

The canoe comes from a region of East Anglia that was developed politically and economically, Edmund would have been King and up to about half the villages in Norfolk and Suffolk have their origins at this time. The major settlements would have been Norwich, Thetford, Dunwich and Stalham. By using computer technology they can work out the speed of the canoe, how far it could travel and the amount of cargo it could carry.

In December a photograph of the stewards and helpers from the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society appeared in the Lowestoft Journal. It was a gathering to celebrate a very successful season at the Lowestoft Museum in the Nicholas Everitt Park. The society also had a Christmas social held at the Masonic Lodge in the Avenue.

A print of an old sketch that is displayed at the Telecom Club in Clapham Road appeared in the Lowestoft Journal, it shows the old shoreline in front of the area where now exists a large traffic roundabout at Battery Green. This old shoreline vanished when the Hamilton Dock was created.

Members of the Lowestoft Royal Anglian and Suffolk Regiment Association who meet at the Homeguard Social Club in St. Peters Street, planted a tree in memory of their fallen comrades in Kensington Gardens.

In the Evening News an article appeared on a boat built in 1930 by J.W. Brooke the Lowestoft boatbuilder. It was a 65 feet long houseboat cruiser called the "Doris". It was at the Excelsior Yard at Oulton Broad being renovated by its owner's. For years it had been on the Waveney at Beccles and had been in a bad condition. In its day the Doris was a luxury cruiser owned by Montague Evans, a well known and wealthy socialite. He paid the sum of £3,960 for her, in today's money this vessel would be around £250,000. It was one of the finest creations of the firm of Brooke and panelled in mahogany, teak and oak with silk curtains, chintz upholstery and axminster carpets. Montague Evans entertained his friends aboard these included Charlie Chaplin and Edward Prince of Wales and Mrs Simpson.

An article in the Lowestoft Journal was on the photographic work of Christopher Wilson. It was a review of a book by Ian Robb that has been published. It is in the series "Britain in Old Photographs" and is published in hardback by Sutton Publishing of Stroud in Gloucestershire and is available at Ottaker's Bookshop. Ian Robb is a member of the Jack Rose Old Lowestoft Society and was helped by the late Trevor Westgate of the Lowestoft Journal and he made contact with Christopher Wilson's daughter. The book took eight years in the making. Christopher Wilson was a photographer's assistant who settled in Lowestoft and had a studio at 91 London Road North and it was damaged by a bomb in 1942. This studio occupied the place where Dorothy Perkins now stands. He produced many pictures of Lowestoft, such as the old swing bridge in 1896, the dining room at Foulshams Hotel in Denmark Road in 1900, a medieval merchant's cellar in the High Street and a three masted ship being towed in 1897. He also did pictures of people, a self-portrait, the Arnold Whist Circle 1906-7 and in the 1890's a picture of Henry Seymour Foster the M.P. for the Northern Division of Suffolk.

In December 2002 the Lowestoft Journal featured an article on the Bally Shoe factory which closed 12 years ago. In its heyday during the 1950's, Bally shoes were modelled by film stars of the time – Valerie Hobson, Lana Morris and Patricia Roe. In 1948 the factory was small, it employed a manager and five women at the Factory Street premises. It increased its workforce to 25 when it became the stitching room for the Norwich factory. In the next few years two other premises in town were added, 144 High Street and another at the old bakehouse. In 1955 the new factory was built and it incorporated the three existing buildings. It was opened in May of that year and within four years was producing 17,000 pairs of shoes a week. Sadly the shoe industry declined and in the 1970's the labour force was reduced from 250 to 185. It employed many people in the town, my brother worked there in the early 1970's. Eventually the industry declined so much that the staff were all made redundant and the factory ceased production in 1990.

The Heritage Centre housed in the old School house in Wilde's Score featured in the news in December. It firstly received an £8,000 grant from the East of England Development Agency for an extension to be added to the existing building. There are plans for a four storey building that will be built by the local firm of Stannard and Moore. It will house archive material, information technology, research offices, and an observation floor. The idea is to create more space for people to do some voluntary research and acquire skills that could help them find employment. The new facilities will also be available for people to research into family histories or placements for GNVQ students who want to gain experience in the field of historical research. The Heritage Centre has also been chosen by the Y.M.C.A. to be the custodian of its minute books that relate to meetings held in Lowestoft during the last 100 years. There are about twenty of these minute books which date back to the start of the 20th century. They were originally found in the Bury St. Edmund's offices.

The Heritage Centre also had a display on how Christmas has changed over the last 80 years. There were three scenes on display 1920, 1940 and 1960. There were toys, dolls and photographs from these times and there was a display of children's annuals from 1939 – The Dandy, The Eagle, Tiger Tim and The Victor.

In January 2003 some information concerning the mystery of the "Lowestoft Wherry" in the Rio Guadiana that I wrote about in November has been solved. The information is from John Wylson of the Excelsior Trust and it reveals the incredible history of this vessel. Its sails are brailed up like a

Thames Barge, but she really is a Rye built Smack dating from 1913 and first known as the Keewaydin LT1192. In 1937 she was sold to Sweden and re-named the Vastanvind. The boat was wrecked in the Canaries, it circumnavigated the world via Australia and became a charter vessel in Greece and was called the Odysseus in 1975. In 1983 she was Bermuda rigged and re-named the Alice A and was rebuilt in Malta, she is owned by someone in Glamorgan.

The Journal also featured some old postcards of the south pier with the original pavilion, the Empire Hotel in Kirkley which stood on the cliff top where St. Mary's School now stands, Bridge Road in Oulton Broad and St. John's Church that stood on the corner of Belvedere Road and London Road South. St John's was demolished for road improvement and flats. Also a picture and article appeared concerning the erosion of Pakefield's cliffs. A Second World War Pill Box that stood on the cliff top has slid down the eroding cliffs to the bottom and is in the sea.

Some information was printed regarding the Silk Cutter's House at the Lowestoft Enterprise Park Development. Recently the building has been renovated after being derelict for many years by Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services. The Silk Cutters House has been converted into rented offices. In the 1930's it was the residence of the Manager and his family of the Hinds and Hardy artificial silk works who had their headquarters in Norwich. The company also had weaving sheds in Great Yarmouth and these places of work were part of the Courtaulds Ltd. At Lowestoft many people, mostly women were employed on weaving and twisting machines. The factory had its own generators to produce electricity, because the town could not supply enough. These were powered with coal sent by sea from Newcastle. This stopped when the factory became connected to the grid system. There was also a railway line to the factories via the South Quay and Kirkley sidings. The factories were closed in the 1950's. Sanyo televisions occupy the twisting factory and the weaving sheds are now industrial units.

In January 2003 it was announced at a committee meeting that two people associated with this society had sadly passed away. They were Iwan Davis a museum steward and Joan Rhodes a society member and both will be greatly missed.

This year the winner of the essay competition was myself, with an essay on Sir James Edward Smith and his contribution to the Study of Natural History. He was the founding member and president for life of the Linnean Society of London – a Natural History Society. His wife owned Crown House in Lowestoft's High Street. They were married at St. Margarets Church and are both interred in St. Margarets Cemetery.

This month's major event was the 50th Anniversary of the 1953 floods. The floods caused about 300 deaths along the East coast and an even greater number on the other side of the North Sea in Holland. The Lowestoft Journal produced a 38 page article with pictures of the event and the Marina Theatre staged an exhibition in conjunction with the Lowestoft Heritage Centre Workshop. There was also on Friday 31st January a Jack Rose Memorial Evening at the theatre to commemorate the floods.

In February 2003 the Lowestoft Journal showed a photograph of the North Beach Bethel that was built in 1902. It was on East Street which was off Beach Road in the Beach Village. This building like the rest of the Beach Village was demolished.

The national auctioneer's and valuers, Warwick and Warwick visited Lowestoft and were looking for old pictures and postcards of the town and local area. In the Lowestoft Journal several such pictures appeared, the opening of the Tram service in 1903, the South Pier and Beach in 1908 and the damage to London Road South after the German naval bombardment of 1916.

The Port of Lowestoft Research Society provided a picture that was shown in the Lowestoft Journal. It was to do with correspondence from readers regarding the Newcastle registered steam ship the "Royal Crown". This ship was attacked by German aircraft in 1940 and beached at Covehithe. It was refloated and repaired but later lost in action. In the photograph two tugs are salvaging the "Royal Crown", they are the "Lowestoft" and the "Ness Point". The tug boat "Ness Point" was later sunk in the harbour by German aircraft. The vessel was raised and repaired and returned to naval duties in 1942.

A slide show on old Lowestoft was shown at the Trinity Methodist Church in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Charity.

In March the Lowestoft Journal featured the visit of Robert Rous, the High Sheriff of Suffolk. He was at the Lifeboat Station to present a picture of Lowestoft's first lifeboat, the "Frances Ann" to members of the present crew. This first lifeboat was named after the daughter of the President of the Humane Society, and was an ancestor of the present High Sheriff. The picture he presented was of the "Frances Ann" taking part in a rescue by going to the aid of the brig "The George" on October 22nd 1820. The "Frances Ann" served Lowestoft from 1807-1850.

In March 2003 pupils at the Poplars School (formerly called Northfields) have been wanting to borrow pictures, documents and information on their school to commemorate its 50th Anniversary. They hope that former pupils and those connected with the school will help them. The Lowestoft Journal showed pictures from fifty years ago, showing the Headmistress, the Mayor and the Member of Parliament and others. The same edition of the newspaper also had a picture of children celebrating the 1935 Silver Jubilee. After holding banners over their heads to form the Union flag on the Denes Oval, they were rewarded with an ice cream.

The Heritage centre in Wilde's Score has produced a new publication on the "Fire of March 10th 1645". This fire destroyed many homes in the High Street and fish curing premises. The publication is by David Butcher and Ivan Bunn. There has also been a series of lectures on historic Lowestoft.

Johnny Johnson an expert in Lowestoft Porcelain, member of this society and helper at the Museum, sadly passed away this month.

An interesting publication for those who enjoy industrial history has been written by Leslie Lardner called "The Smyth's of Peasenhall – a Suffolk Dynasty". It tells the story of Smyth's of Peasenhall who were the manufacturers of agricultural machinery. The company started in 1800 when James Smyth started a wheelwrights workshop in the village. He repaired seed drills etc. and actually improved these machines, this led him to invent what was known as the "Suffolk Drill". In Victorian times Smyth's were successful and expanded, they even had a branch in Paris. Smyth's products were exported all over the world.

After the 1914-18 War the business was successfully run by a Lowestoft businessman, Thomas Henry Thirtle. He came from the house known as "Fernside" in Yarmouth Road and his father was Mayor of Lowestoft for two terms. Sadly in 1969 the company ceased production and their factory at Peasenhall closed. This was due to modern technology and mass production. Copies of this book are available by sending a cheque for 11 pounds (made payable to L.J. Larnder) to L.J. Larnder, Bridgeford, Woodview, Sibton, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 2NH.

The book contains pictures and accounts of those who worked there.

In April 2003 there were several subjects of interest in the local press. One was news of an auction to take place the following month that includes seventy lots of Lowestoft Porcelain. Amongst other items are teapots, sauce boats, coffee cups, saucers, jugs, tea bowls and a mustard pot.

In Kessingland the oldest house which is a Grade II listed building and dates from 1650 is being renovated. The house known as "The Ark" has nearly all its original timber work and its doors have been made to the original style from its own original floor boards. The walls have been constructed using slaked lime putty and horsehair.

This year is the centenary of Lowestoft's electric trams. In 1903 the line was laid between the entrance of the Belle Vue Park in the north to its terminus close to the Tramways Hotel in Pakefield. This line was the third electric tram system in the area. Norwich had the first in 1900 followed by Great Yarmouth in 1902. Electric trams were an example of mass public transport which made travel from the north to the south of the town easier and affordable for most of the people. The Mayor of Lowestoft in 1903 was Lancelot Orde and he was very influential in bringing electric trams to the town. The tram lines were opened and commemorated at the time by the civic leaders of Lowestoft. Lancelot Orde drove the first tram himself and was present for the last tram's journey in 1931. Today all that remains of the network is some track and the terminus tram shed in Rotterdam Road that is now a furniture store.

Lowestoft trams were made from oak, teak, and ash for the framework and the trimmings made from oak, mahogany and birds eye maple. The seats on the lower deck were of pitch pine and a north – American hardwood called sequoia. Single deck trams had a capacity of 38 passengers and a double

decker could carry 48. The top deck of the train was open. Enthusiasts from the East Anglia Transport Museum at Carlton Colville are gradually restoring the last Lowestoft tram and hope to raise the estimated cost of £50,000 to get this last tram known as "Number 14" up and running as a future attraction at the museum.

Edwardian Days Perceived in Postcard Collection

Mike Chester

A few years ago the Museum was most fortunate to be given by the family of the late Frank Secret, a postcard collection formed mainly at the beginning of the 20th century – the "golden" years of the British postcard. The majority illustrate Lowestoft, Gorleston and Great Yarmouth scenically and socially, perhaps reflecting the taste of the recipient.

Miss Louie Aldred – later to become Mrs Ernest Secret and Frank's mother.

The earliest cards were sent to Louie during 1906, sometimes to her home address at Una Terrace, Carlton Road but more often to Grape House, Weybread, near Fressingfield. Louie was a school teacher and three postcards are of the three classes at Weybread Primary School in 1907. The cards from 1906 include St Margaret's Church, Lowestoft; Scotch fishergirls on the Denes, the Lifeboat hero Robert Hook and all-male Tram crews with their Trams – there were no women "clippies" in 1906. On another card of 1906 the sender wryly comments "streets are full of Scotch people now, can hardly move up the Town".

In 1907 about twenty cards were sent to Grape House, Weybread. Views of churches predominate, including Corton, Kersey, St Clement's – Ipswich, Hadleigh, Gorleston, St. Peter & Paul – Brockdish, Debenham Congregational Chapel and a superb view of Blundeston Church. Views of Lowestoft in 1907 include the Yacht Pond, Wellington Esplanade, London Road & South Pier, Belle Vue Park in winter and in summer, Lighthouse and High Street, Sparrow's Nest (several views), Lowestoft Bridge, Trawl Market, Lowestoft Pier & Pier Head, Lowestoft Beach and Claremont Pier – showing a few bathing machines. Other postcards show the massively grand Empire Hotel, built in 1900 and closed in 1914. Subsequently it saw service as St. Luke's Hospital but after a lengthy period of inoccupation, the writer recalls cycling up Marine Parade in 1958 and seeing scaffolding erected around the old building; not for repair and restoration but for – demolition. Several cards show the picturesque Warren Houses, North Denes. During the eighteenth century this was the site of a water-driven mill used for grinding the raw materials used in making Lowestoft China. Sadly the Warren House (or Houses) became a casualty of the Second World War, but survives as a site to visit on the Lowestoft Porcelain Trail. Some engaging social insights are "Fish Gutting on the Denes", "Church Road School, Lowestoft" and the oddly captioned "Last Train to Yarmouth". A view of "Lowestoft, North End" includes an advertisement for "The Hatterie, Victoria Arcade"; reflecting the spirit of optimism at the beginning of the Edwardian age, the Victoria Arcade was opened in 1902.

Local events and catastrophes were a popular subject for the Edwardian postcard and were sometimes produced within hours of the event occurring. One such card shows a dramatically smoky fire entitled "Box factory fire, Lowestoft, 19th September 1907" which was posted to Louie Aldred on 20th September 1907. Shipwrecks were also a frequent postcard theme, these include "The wreck of the CELEBRITY, Lowestoft" posted in January 1908 and one posted on 10th March 1907 shows "Crew of the S.S. Navarra landing at Lowestoft after being run down by a Belgian steamer off Newarp, February 1907".

Some cards of sea-going interest were posted to George Aldred at Barrow-in-Furness and include "Submarine in Lowestoft Harbour" posted in May 1908; "Wreck of the FORNOOT September 1907" and "HMS Barham 1906". Some shipbuilding postcards include "Opening of Chamber's Slip, Lowestoft" posted in September 1910 and an undated "LNER Patent Slipway, Lowestoft".

During 1908 Louie changed her lodgings to c/o Mrs. Martin, Double Street, Framlingham. Double Street joins the High Street to the Badingham Road, halfway between the Market Square and the

Castle. A large number of cards were sent home by Louie, which illustrate Framlingham during the period 1908 to 1910 including "Mill's School" (now Sir Thomas Mill's High School), many interior views of the Church and its famous Tombs and one entitled "Pension Day, 1st January 1909, Framlingham Post Office" showing an ancient gentleman by the door of the Post Office.

Around half a dozen cards were posted to Louie in September and October of 1908 portraying local personalities taking part in the "Gorleston Pageant 1908". Three cards show "the Bishop of Norwich played by the Rev. S.B. Ritsoe"; and another "The Vicar of Gorleston as a Bishop". The sender comments – "this card smells lovely". Presumably this was a scented card, though it has now lost what scent it did have. Other cards show a "Tableaux of King John granting the Charter to Yarmouth in A.D.1208" and the "Vicar of Gorleston as Master of the Knight Templar".

Views of Oulton Broad appear occasionally on cards such as "Fisher Row, Oulton Broad 1904", "Racing on Oulton Broad, 1909" and "Oulton Mill" which includes part of the Mill House. The Mill has long since gone, of course, but the Mill House remains. Yarmouth views of 1908 include "Cow Tower" and "Nelson's Memorial Column" in remote isolation. The recent proposal to move the Column to a more appropriate site prompts the query – will it survive? Other views of Yarmouth include Marine Parade, North Beach and Tower (100 feet high), Britannia Pier and Gardens; the New Britannia Pier and Pavilion appears on a card of 1907. Several views of Yarmouth Market appear from 1906 to 1908, some showing Tramcars. A card of 1909 shows the Wellington Gardens and another of 1907 – Winterton Beach and Lifeboat. Some unusual country scenes are Holly Grove, Neatishead of 1906; the Post Office, Neatishead 1908; the Red Lion at Toft Monks 1907; from 1910 are Belaugh Church and Rushton Hall, near Kettering.

A series of Theatrical cards, some with autographs, portray entertainers appearing in musicals and plays staged at the old Marina Theatre, Lowestoft; then a fairly new attraction having opened in 1901. Several cards are of scenes from "The Belle of New York" 1911; this musical remained popular at least till 1950 when the writer saw it at Butlin's Theatre, Skegness. Other shows appearing on Lowestoft postcards from the Marina Theatre were "Morodora" 1910, "San Joy" 1912 and the "King of Cadonia" 1913.

A few cards portray the Rev. A.B. Tupper-Cary, October 1909", the Rector of Lowestoft then aged forty-four. Tupper – as he was affectionately known – was perhaps the most energetic of Lowestoft's Rectors. His main achievement were the founding of Harvest of the Sea Thanksgiving Service, organising the building of the Church of the Good Shepherd at Oulton Corner in 1903 and in the same year, the restoration and enlargement of St. Peter's Chapel of Ease. Sixty years later St. Peter's succumbed to the demands of the motor car and was reduced to a roundabout. Tupper left Lowestoft in 1910. In 1940 and at the age of 75, Tupper was the Anglican Chaplain at Monte Carlo during the German invasion. Heroically, he accompanied a party of elderly refugees to safety on a gruelling seventeen days journey afloat in an ill-provisioned collier. Tupper died in London aged seventy-seven.

The whole collection amounts to about 1300 cards and continues – albeit spasmodically into the late 1930's and a few are dated during and after the 2nd World War. It is hoped to catalogue all cards of historical interest, a daunting task. Finally, I must acknowledge the help given to me, particularly concerning the Secret family, by Mrs. Jeanne Julings; my reference books were "LOWESTOFT now and then" by Jack Rose & Dean Parkin and "Chronicles of a Suffolk Parish Church" by Hugh D. Lees.