

EXCURSIONS 2002

Report and notes on some findings

27 April. *Judith Middleton-Stewart and Clive Paine*
Westhorpe and Cotton

Westhorpe, St Margaret's Church (by kind permission of the Revd Martin Clarke). Following the 154th Annual General Meeting held in the church, Clive Paine spoke about St Margaret's. There was a church here at the time of Domesday; a tiny fragment of Norman zig-zag decoration was re-used in the jamb of the south doorway.

In 1403 Sir William Elmham bequeathed £80 to the 'steeple and chapel where my father and mother [Henry, d. c. 1370, and Elizabeth, née Lackford] and grandfather [Bartholomew, d. c. 1330] are buried'. One of these lords of Westhorpe lies under the 14th-century arched tomb recess in the south aisle. In 1419 Elizabeth, widow of Sir William, requested that the chapel of St James, the two aisles and the tower be completed at her expense, and gave £40 for casting the bells. Both Elizabeth and Sir William were buried in Bury Abbey. These bequests explain why the aisles have Decorated arcades, doors, east and west windows, with Perpendicular windows in the side walls.

In 1472 Hugh King asked to be buried 'before the south door', which may indicate that the porch had not been added. Whenever it was constructed in the 15th century, its east wall overlapped an aisle window. Evidence from wills shows that there were chapels of St James, which was bequeathed vestments and candlesticks by Elizabeth Elmham in 1419, and St Mary, which was paved in 1412. The chapel of St James, associated with the Elmhams, was probably within the fine 14th-century painted parclose screen in the south aisle.

The brick north chapel was built by Maurice Barrow, lord here 1613–65, whose father William (d. 1613) and two wives have a monument in the chancel. The chapel, with brick octagonal corner turrets and classical and gothic windows, was described in Maurice Barrow's will of 1665 as 'a vault I lately built at the end of the north side of Westhorpe church, for myself and Mary Lady Pointz my wife'. He bequeathed £500 for 'finishing of the vault and the erecting of an iron gate for its preservation'. The elaborate white marble monument is still protected by its iron 'gate'. The floor of the chapel has 17th-century coloured floral floor slabs, similar to those around the tomb of Sir Thomas Cullum (d. 1664) of Hawstead made by the Italian Jacinthe de Coucy in 1675.

The chancel arch capitals are cut back for the rood screen, and there are mortices in the piers. The stair turret, with embattled top, was inserted into the south-east corner of the north aisle. Davy records the lower portion of the screen *in situ* in 1831, but members of the Institute found it removed and stored in the Barrow chapel. Now the repainted panels, made into a reredos in the early 20th century, hang in the south chapel.

Among the monumental inscriptions recorded by Henry Chitting c. 1620 was one covering the 'bowells of the French Quene Mary, wife of Charles Brandon D. of Suff.' and her hatchment, with the arms of England and France, hanging over the manorial pew in the chancel (MacCulloch 1978, 120).

Although the church appears to be unrestored, with areas of painted decoration on the piers and walls, sensitive restoration has been undertaken. In 1896 the chancel was restored, the work including the rebuilding of the east window, a new roof and communion rails. The nave and aisles were repaired by William Weir in 1912, including the 15th-century roof with tie beams and arched braces, the 14th-century parclose and the 15th- and 17th-century panels of the pulpit.

Westhorpe Hall (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Barker). The house was built *c.* 1525–32 by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, for himself and his wife Mary, sister of Henry VIII and widow of Louis XII of France. The building was mainly financed from Mary's French revenues, and was intended to reflect Brandon's status as rival to the Duke of Norfolk in East Anglia. Mary died here in June 1533, the French income ceased, and Brandon was in debt to the Crown. The manor and house were taken over by royal trustees in 1535. The following year Henry moved Brandon to Lincolnshire.

In 1538 an inventory of the building was made, in which 'all the wyndowes of the said place ben att this present well glased, and all the walls of the same of bricke and imbateled, leyed over with playster cheker wise white and blake, and all the housses covered with tyle, the gatehowsse and the towers covered with leade'.¹ The 1538 inventory records a moated house, of brick decorated with terracotta panels, built round an open courtyard 126 feet square. The main range of the house lay at the eastern side of the site and was approached from the west, over an arched bridge, the lower parts of which survive, leading to a central brick gatehouse with battlements and turrets three storeys high, flanked by three rooms, terminating in corner towers.

A feature of the plan, also found at Hengrave (built 1525–38), was an internal corridor with windows on to the courtyard. On the south side were four main rooms, linking at the east end with the service rooms at the lower end of the Hall. The east range contained the Hall, measuring 69ft x 40ft, with a bay window towards the courtyard, service rooms and five other rooms over which were the Great Chamber, with a bay window east and west, and the Dining Chamber, both of which overlooked the garden to the east. A tower and chapel (in which Mary lay in state from 25 June until 21 July 1533) formed the north-eastern corner. The present buildings along the eastern edge of the moat are on the site of the kitchen, boiling house, pastry house, scalding house and wet and dry larders.

Tom Martin recorded the demolition of the house *c.* 1765:

... Mr Sheppard Frere and I went to see the dismal ruins of Westhorpe Hall . . . The workmen are now pulling it down as fast as may be, in a very careless and injudicious manner. The coping bricks, battlements, and many other ornamental pieces are made of earth and burnt hard, and are as fresh as when first built . . . There was a monstrous figure of Hercules, sitting cross-leg'ed with a club and lyon beside him, but all shattered to pieces, and the painted glass is likely to share the same fate.²

Cotton, St Andrew's Church (by kind permission of the Revd Robin Jack). The early history of Cotton church is not easy to unravel. This is sad, as St. Andrew's has been truly a sumptuous building, both in size and in the quality of its architecture and decoration. A church stood in Cotton in 1086, but ignorance of its more recent past may in part be due to the fact that the parish of *c.* 2,000 acres seems to have been composed of two manors. The manor of Cotton Briseworth with the ancient site of Cotton Hall (now a farmhouse) lay to the south of the church and by the 15th century was in the hands of William de Wingfield (IPM 6 Hen. V, 20) and later William de la Pole; and there is a legend that William's son, John de la Pole, the second Duke of Suffolk, was christened in the church. The manor of Cotton Champaignes *alias* Hempnall lay north-east of the church, but this, too, by the early 15th century, was held by Isabella, Countess of Suffolk (IQD.8 Hen. IV, 6), William de la Pole's mother, although the Hempnall family had held it one hundred years previously. None of this information, however, has any bearing on the early 14th-century building which includes the tower, chancel and nave, up to but not including the 15th-century clerestory or the double hammerbeam roof.

When one approaches the church from the road, the chancel's east window immediately

shows an opulent display of 13th-century curvilinear tracery of five lights supporting bowed and cusped triangles surmounted by a central light with ogee detail. Crocketed pinnacles and empty niches stand at either corner of the east end, and a string-course runs below the east window and wraps itself around the whole of the building. The chancel has a second string-course which runs over the tops of the windows, all of which have finials, and along the walls. This is expensive masonry. A walk around the outside of the church from south-east to south-west shows ogee window tracery, probably of around 1325, in various assorted compositions. The east window of the south aisle is particularly fine reticulation with a repetitive depth of mouldings which suggest that this special window may have been a personal bequest to light the south aisle chapel where prayers for the donor may have been said. The east window of the north aisle is reminiscent of the Norwich Cathedral cloisters of 1324, but here the traceried head is an elongated hexagon and, again, this window with its unique shape must have been a specific gift for lighting the north aisle chapel (there is some original glass left in this window). The north chancel wall is rendered and has one complete traceried window; but there is evidence at both lower sill and string-course levels of another two that have been blocked up.

The main entrance to the church is through the south porch which is contemporary with the nave and chancel. It has a flushwork façade, and this is repeated between the Perpendicular clerestory windows which date from the 1470s. The south door is the most complete early 14th-century door in the county, with three orders of shafts and intricate foliate carving – and some of the original paintwork. The nave arcade has moulded capitals and low bases, typical of the period (Haward 1993, 204–05). The string-course runs around the nave and is incorporated in the design of a low tomb lying at the east end of the north aisle. If the identity of the tomb's incumbent was known, it might reveal the patron of the 14th-century building. The chancel arch bears the scars of the rood screen's removal (John Grene made a bequest to 'the new candlebeam' in 1485); and in the sanctuary a fine, but damaged, curvilinear piscina and sedilia remain.

In the roof, the double hammerbeams alternate with arch-braced trusses (Thomas Cook in 1471 bequeathed a close called Garlekis for the repair and building of the new roof). The hammerbeam braces are carved with bold flowers and foliage, and the contemporary celure, having lost its paint, is plain in comparison. At the west end there are a couple of 15th-century pews which repay close inspection (Richard Thurbern in 1477 left money for new benches). The west window is of an original and unusual design of three lower lights with intersecting over-arches. These support reticulation which is reminiscent of tracery motifs in the great east window of St Mary's, Mildenhall, and it is interesting to note that both benefices were in the gift of the abbey at Bury St Edmunds. Below the west window there is no exit to the tower. In fact, the tower can only be accessed from its vast arch which faces out towards the churchyard rather than in towards the nave. Is it possible that perhaps a wayside altar – or cross – was placed here for passing pilgrims *en route* to St Edmund at Bury? Or did the builders really get the plans the wrong way round?

25 May. Clive Paine

Barrow and Ousden

Barrow, *All Saints' Church* (by kind permission of the Revd Peter Macleod-Miller). There was a church here at the time of Domesday. The nave is Norman, with one window open and another blocked in the north wall. The latter, discovered in 1852, has paintings of two musicians in the jambs. The chancel and tower are Early English, and there are a Decorated south aisle and porch with quatrefoil windows.

The chancel has three stepped lancets under one arch, side windows with plate tracery, and contemporary piscina and sedilia. It contains several monuments to the Heigham family, lords here 1540–1694, including an altar tomb with brasses for Sir Clement (d.

1570), lawyer, M.P., Speaker of the Commons, and a supporter of Queen Mary in 1553. His monument, like many others, was resited within the chancel during the 1849 restoration. There is a monument to the Revd George Ashby, rector 1744–1808, Suffolk antiquary, whose collections are part of the Iveagh MSS in Ipswich Record Office. The monument, now on the north wall, was originally on the south, and was erected by Thomas Lyus his amanuensis.

The dado of the screen was incorporated into the pulpit, reading desk and stalls in the 1852 restoration. A bequest in 1440 mentions three candles 'to burn on feast days on the great candlebeam in the nave'.

The nave has a Norman north wall with a Decorated door, Perpendicular windows and a Decorated arcade to the south aisle. The font has eight coats of arms, including Despenser, lords here 1385–1540, probably for Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Gloucester and wife of Lord Hugh Despenser (d. 1391).

The Decorated south aisle has plate tracery windows to the east and south, and a lancet to the west. The east end is spectacular, with a double-arched single piscina in the east wall, an arched tomb recess and sedilia to the south. There is a vault beneath the east end; its ventilation shaft can be seen outside. The tomb may have been for Katherine (d. 1318), widow of William Gifford, who as Katherine Passelow inherited the manor and advowson; or for their son Hugh Gifford, priest here 1305–25 on the presentation of his mother.

One of the benches is carved 'Jhon Pycke knyht'; a William Prykke, smith, gave 7s. to repair the aisle in 1508. There was a brass to the Revd John Crosyer, rector 1559–70, portions of which are in the British Museum. He gave thirteen acres of land for the relief of the poor and the repair of the church and highways. The matrix of the brass is in the chancel floor.

The unbuttressed tower has an Early English west door, wide lancets and a tall, partly blocked, tower arch as wide as the tower. An internal staircase was added in the south-west corner. Scars in the top of the tower arch show where the rope for the sanctus bell was pulled from the west end of the nave. Bequests were made for the 'great bell' in 1503 and 1508.

The chancel was restored in 1849, the work including the rebuilding of the chancel arch, a new roof and vestry. The restoration of the nave and aisles in 1852 included new roofs, pews and floors.

In 1506 there were guilds of the Sepulchre, Resurrection and St John the Baptist, although only St Mary was listed in the 1524 Subsidy return.

Ousden, St Peter's Church (by kind permission of the Revd Ian Finn). A church here was recorded in Domesday. The present building consists of a Norman nave and central tower, 18th-century chancel and family chapel. The survival of a central Norman tower is rare in Suffolk. There are shafts at each corner of the belfry stage, which also has large windows with roll mouldings. There are smaller Norman windows in the first, and later windows in the ground floor levels. The internal tower arches, to chancel and nave, have roll mouldings and carved capitals on the western faces. The lighting in the tower was improved by the insertion of an Early English lancet to the north and a Decorated window to the south. High up in the south wall is a smaller window which may have given light to the rood, if it stood here rather than in the nave.

The Norman nave was enlarged by 20ft by John Clarke of Newmarket in 1862. The join with the new Decorated-style extension is conveniently marked by a drain pipe between the porch and the westernmost window. There are Norman doors to the north and south, and a window to the south. The south door, now blocked and turned into a window, has three rows of star decoration on the lintel, and the tympanum is decorated in a scale-like

lozenge pattern. The north door is unusual and seems to be Transitional, with a pointed arch and Norman shafts, one of which has an Early English capital.

To the south of the chancel arch is a Transitional arched recess, probably for a nave altar. The adjoining window of *c.* 1300 has internal shafts and a hood mould. Over the chancel arch are the Royal Arms of George I, although it is probable that they were originally for William and Mary.

The nave contains monuments to successive manorial families. In the north-east corner with a skeleton 'memento mori' is Laetitia Moseley (d. 1619), whose family were lords here 1567–1800. Her inscription concludes: '... Three tymes fyve years a virgin's lyfe she tried, Three tymes ten years a wife, and then she dyed.' On the south wall is the hatchment of Thomas Ireland, who owned the estate until 1863. The arched recess contains the monument to Algernon Henry Mackworth Praed (d. 1952), the last owner of the Ousden Estate.

The chancel was rebuilt in red brick by the Revd Richard Bethell, rector 1729–69. The Commandment and Creed boards probably date from this rebuilding, but the Early English-style windows date from the 1862 restoration. The 17th-century communion rails were three-sided, as Davy recorded in 1831. The chancel was beautifully refurbished in 1997.

The 18th-century family chapel to the north of the nave is entered through a 'classical' Norman arch. The earlier square headed windows were replaced in Decorated style in 1862. There are monuments to the Moseley and Ireland families, the earliest of which is 1752, and there is heraldic glass for the Irelands in the north window.

There was a bequest in 1458 of 6s. 8d. to the 'fabric of a porch'. This was rebuilt by Crickmay and Son of Weymouth in 1905.

8 June. John Fairclough and Mike Hardy

The Thornham Estate (by kind permission of Lord and Lady Henniker). Members enjoyed coffee in the Forge Café before meeting in the Thornham Field Centre, where they were introduced to the Thornham Estate Research Project: an attempt to understand the history of the landscape which is now the Thornham Estate and its neighbours. This is very much a work in progress as the Research Group try to assess the evidence on the ground and in the large collections of written records. It is a mixture of continuity and change, for some of the lanes and some field boundaries seem really ancient, as they predate the Roman road that is now the A140. The group will be recording significant changes affecting the landscape in the immediate future as the estate removes from cultivation some of the land it currently farms as arable, and reduces the emphasis on shooting. Extensive field walking and metal detecting involves a number of people supporting the indefatigable efforts of the core team of Mike Hardy and Tony Greenacre. Mike has been mapping the concentrations of finds from different periods; these distributions are significant because some of the group can confirm that there are large areas between them which produce very little or, in some memorably boring stretches, absolutely no material when walked under the same conditions. A significant Roman site was always expected near Stoke Ash White Horse, where Hamlet Watling recorded finds in the 19th century. This has been amply confirmed by Mike who reports that, with some areas still to search, the concentration of material extends over about twice the total area of Roman finds at Scole. Over thirty years ago Leo Rivet argued about the corrections to the text of the Roman route guide, the Antonine Itinerary, that would place Villa Faustini at Stoke Ash or Scole. However, there is a good case for these two settlements actually being small trading towns at either side of the Estate of Faustinus. Sadly none of the known sites in the surrounding area looks like the large country house that might have been the centre of such an estate, but they show the more typical distribution of a series of farms about half a mile apart, suggesting that the whole

area was being managed for agriculture by farmers who were probably at some stage tenants of Faustinus. They were using Roman pottery but presumably living in timber-framed buildings with thatched roofs using their own traditional technology, as there is no evidence of Roman ceramic building materials, except for a surprisingly small number of tile fragments from near the river in the Stoke Ash town site.

A really surprising amount of prehistoric material has been found. On clay lands, where it might not have been expected, areas repeatedly produce large quantities of Iron Age pottery. It is not immediately obvious, but on closer study certainly significant, that Thornham is close to the head of the River Waveney, and the areas of wet land here are the sources of streams feeding it and its tributary the Dove flowing through Eye. This area had plenty of water and also easy access to the Waveney which would always have been navigable by small boats, so that an agricultural surplus could be exported and other goods imported. The presence of numerous Neolithic flint tools and notable amounts of Bronze Age pottery and metalwork in a number of places argues for continuity of occupation. Although it will take more work to determine the details, it seems that even here in High Suffolk, as in much of East Anglia, most of the land has been farmed systematically from the New Stone Age to the present day. There are also some palaeolithic flints so even very early people came this way, but perhaps that is not so surprising as it is not far from the classic site at Hoxne. Given the number of apparent Bronze Age burials recorded in the 19th century in the Dove valley, the strange route of the main road north of the White Horse which until the late 19th century followed the curve that is now Chapel Lane may be an example of a Roman road deviating round a conspicuous barrow. Actual evidence is still lacking, and this is one of several instances where a small excavation might answer a significant question. In terms of continuity there is evidence of Early Saxon activity and in some locations, including ones near the churches at Thornham Parva and Stoke Ash, concentrations of over twenty sherds of Middle Saxon Ipswich Type ware. Domesday Book lists a number of separate holdings and this seems to be reflected in the number of substantial moated sites that have been identified. These need to be properly recorded and it should be possible to relate them to documented medieval holdings. Gradually many of the holdings came into the hands of the families of Briseworth and then Wiseman, and passed to the Bokenham owners of the Thornham Hall estate.

Nobody has yet explained why for a brief period Thornham Magna was called Pelecock or Pilecock. This name does not appear in Domesday or at the end of the Middle Ages, but is used in a number of documents of Eye Priory. Eye was established as a new town with castle and market by William Malet after the Norman Conquest, and his son Robert Malet gave much of our land to the priory he founded there. Apparently Thornham already had a hermitage which was an outpost of St Edmund's Abbey at Bury – Thornham Parva church was originally dedicated to St Edmund and has the remains of wall paintings of his life – but the hermit's chapel had what may be an even earlier dedication to St Eadburga, probably the 8th-century abbess of Minster in Thanet after St Mildred. It was transferred with considerable property from Bury Abbey to Eye Priory in the 13th century for an annual rent, initially of two large candles but later two swans. The site of this chapel once occupied by the monk Vitalis may be marked by Chapel Farm which is not far from Grims Ditch. It was certainly not the ornamental folly in the Park which was constructed after 1851 from Gothic tracery removed, along with the original font, from Thornham Magna church when it was given a Victorian facelift.

After the introductory talk, members walked along footpaths, on the line of substantial trackways, around the edge of the medieval 'Mill Green', where groups of medieval pottery on small plots indicate the small holdings of artisans living round the green, while some holdings are marked by standing houses of various ages. At the top of the Green is what appears to be part of the missing west-east Roman link road between Pakenham/ Ixworth

(and Icklingham beyond that) and Wenhaston; part of it is called Clay Street, and the line runs through Street Farm. If this is so, there is an interesting contrast between this less important road going out of use as a through route while the A140 stayed open as the main road from south to north. Beside it are remains of substantial earthworks which appear to enclose a more recent occupation site cut through by the modern lane and obscured by overgrown woodland. Returning to the village, members observed the open parkland in front of the Hall, and comparison with the map of 1765 published in the *Newsletter* showed that the road used to cross it and run north of the church; part of this can be seen as an earthwork visible from the modern road, just one indication of changes to expand the parkland. In the church the Henniker family monuments and the Victorian alterations, including furnishings from the Great Exhibition of 1851, were inspected. Attention was drawn to the high quality medieval stonework of the Perpendicular porch with the arms of the Hemenhales, whose main property was in Cotton, as noted on the excursion of 27 April.

The park, the roads surrounding it and the access roads through it, have clearly been replanned more than once. It is less easy to determine the order of these changes, and members were invited to puzzle over some of the clues during the afternoon, when they walked through areas of managed woodland. It is clear that specimen ornamental trees have been planted, but some areas have been managed as productive coppiced woodland, some presumably held deer at one time, and some have been managed to provide cover for pheasants. In due course more clues will emerge from careful inspection of the surviving earthworks. Members noted the remains of a massive moat marking the original site of Thornham Hall. They visited the folly which incorporates stone tracery almost certainly removed from the church in 1851, the pets' cemetery and the walled garden which had been tended by nine gardeners in the 19th century. The walk continued to pick up the line of How Lane which is almost certainly the Grims Ditch noted by Norman Scarfe in a medieval document and surviving as a field name on 19th-century maps. This feature continues as a hollow way past Thornham Parva church, which members visited noting its series of medieval wall paintings featuring the lives of St Edmund, King and Martyr, to whom it was originally dedicated, and of the Virgin Mary, its present dedication. They pondered the problem of dating the stonework of the church, some of which allegedly predates the Norman Conquest. Attention was drawn to a field near the church which has been highly productive of material dating from prehistoric to medieval times. It may be significant that this is the focus of a number of long trackways crossing the countryside which do not relate to the Roman road and so may well be earlier.

The buildings where our members met are part of the Model Farm built in the mid-19th century when the estate was at its most prosperous, comprising over 30,000 acres of productive land. Members speculated as to how much future archaeologists, if such exist in the distant future, might detect of Lord Henniker's more recent innovations here, converting farm buildings into the Field Studies Centre for environmental education, others into workshops and the blacksmith's forge into a tea room, and opening up marked walks through the estate for the public. Do people drop small coins beside 'Pay and Display' machines? If so, might they enter the record as shrines for ritual deposition of 5p. pieces?

*20 July. Edward Martin, Pat Murrell, Clive Paine and Brian Seward
Monewden and Playford*

Monewden, St Mary's Church (by kind permission of the Revd Betty Mockford). A church here is recorded in Domesday. The present building has a Norman nave, a chancel of c. 1300, a Decorated tower and 16th-century brick porch.

Davy noted in 1827 that the nave and chancel were 'under one roof' and that there 'is a very little distinction between nave and chancel'. It was not until 1906, when the roofs were renewed, that the wooden chancel arch on stone corbels was erected. There are Norman windows in the south and north nave walls, the latter altered to a pointed arch. The remaining windows and doors are Decorated. The eastern pair of windows have low sills for sedilia, indicating nave altars. That on the south has a shaft that possibly served as the pedestal for a statue. That on the north has the doorway to the rood stairs in the eastern jamb, with the door hinges *in situ*.

Davy recorded 'small remains of the painted screen', the position of which, with its loft and candlebeam, can be traced by a series of slots and scars in the walls. In 1474 13s. 4d. was left for the 'new beam' to be made; this was followed by bequests of £1 13s. 8d. in 1483 and £5 in 1487 for the candlebeam. On the nave side of the screen, below the loft, a niche survives to either side. The font stands on a raised plinth, with a trefoil-headed panelled stem; each side of the bowl has a shield suspended from a rosette.

The chancel east and south-west windows date from *c.* 1300; the two within the sanctuary and the south door are Decorated. The south-east window has particularly fine mouldings, with sedilia below and adjacent piscina. A bequest of £2 was made for the making of the tabernacle of St Mary (the patron saint) in 1471, and another for painting it in 1482.

On either side of the communion table, in the east wall, are brasses to the Reve family. To the left, reset from the nave floor, is an inscription for William and Rose Reve of Monewden Hall, 'whom Suffolk soil did maintain and chefly cherish'. William died in 1587 and Rose bore ten sons and five daughters, 'wherof the Lord had taken fower and eleven he left alive'. To the right is a figure and inscription for their son the Revd Thomas Reve, Fellow of Caius, who died aged thirty-five while studying for his D.D. He endowed an annual sermon at Monewden on 3 September, the anniversary of his death, in 1595.

The Decorated tower has a west window, lancets and belfry windows of that period. The west door is deeply moulded, square headed, with blank shields in the spandrels. There is flushwork decoration around the base, on the faces of the buttresses, and on the elaborate parapet. There were bequests for leading the tower in 1455 and for the bells in 1459. Perhaps the west door and parapet were part of a 15th-century alteration.

The 16th-century brick porch has three niches over the entrance, and a king-post roof inside.

Playford. Previous visits were made by the Institute in 1931 and 1983. The parish is made up of three distinct landscapes: the southernmost part in the Sandlings retains small remnants of a once extensive heath, while in the north on heavier land are more ancient field systems that contained strips until the early 1800s. Dividing the parish east-west is the River Fynn whose valley, now with restored water meadows, has been designated a Special Landscape Area. An extensive warren, a large alder carr and a mere add to the diversity. The site of the deserted medieval village of Nekemere (the Domesday Necchmar) was discovered in the 1970s close to Lux Farm. The parish formed part of the Bristol Estate until the death of the 4th Marquis in 1951. It had been in that family for 600 years, passing three times through the female line: from three generations of Felbriggs starting with Sir George in the late 14th century, through three generations of Sampsons, followed by the Feltons of Shotley. In 1719, on the death of Sir Compton Felton, the estate passed to John, 1st Earl of Bristol, who some years earlier had married Sir Compton's niece.

St Mary's Church (by kind permission of the Revd Pauline Stentiford). After the Conquest, all Church property in Playford was given by Robert Malet to his Benedictine priory at Eye. Monastic candidates were presented to the living up to 1247, after which, following a disagreement, the Priory appointed secular chaplains whom they could control at will. At

the suppression in 1537, rights of presentation passed to laymen, and it was not until 1774 that the Church 'tightened up' and proper institutions began. Playford thus became a perpetual curacy, which was converted to a vicarage in 1881.

The church consists of medieval nave, south porch tower and Victorian chancel. Its oldest feature is a blocked north doorway of *c.* 1300 with one surviving well-preserved corbel face. A fine chancel arch dates from *c.* 1370 and there are nicely traceried Perpendicular south and west windows. When Gough visited in the late 18th century, he saw a Felbrigg tomb in the north-west corner of the nave, but this fell into decay. The splendid brass of Sir George (d. 1400), a descendant of the Bigods, later became vandalised and in 1846 was inserted into the north wall of the chancel. Its legend in Anglo-Norman French read: 'Sir George Felbrigg, knight, founded this chapel to the glory of God and of the Holy Mother. Pray for his soul to God that He may have mercy . . .'. At one time, 'in a window of the church was his portraiture and that of his lady Margaret and the arms of Felbrigg impaling Aspoll'. Now only a small remnant of that glass remains. A mutilated slab east of the font probably once bore the brass of Thomas (d. 1439) and Margery Sampson. In the chancel are numerous ledger slabs to the Feltons, mainly the family of Henry, 2nd baronet. Davy saw deal box pews, Commandment boards on the north wall and the Lord's Prayer on the south. The communion table was railed in on three sides and the dilapidated chancel shored up with large brick buttresses. In 1859 the singing gallery was taken down.

The south porch tower, one of only twenty-two in Suffolk, was built by the generosity of Sir George and Margery (d. 1409) his second wife, who left 5 marks for its 'making'. A

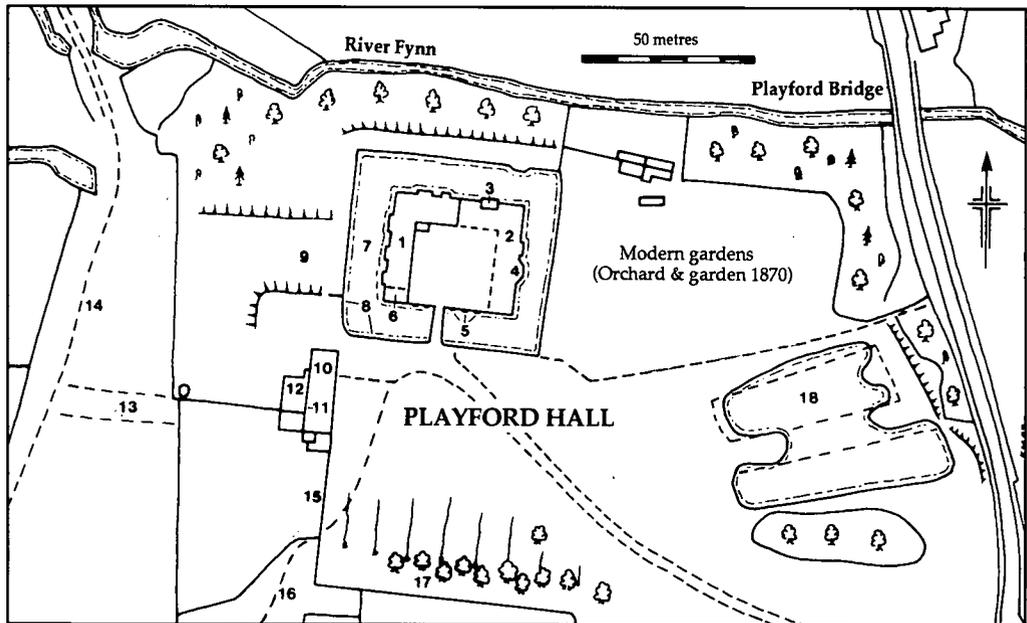


FIG. 99 – Playford Hall: 1. Remains of 16th-century house; 2. demolished section of house; 3. shed built into hall fireplace; 4. base of bay window; 5. bases of piers supporting 18th-century iron 'palisade'; 6. end remodelled in early 18th century; 7. moat; 8. brick revetment to moat; 9. terraces on site of farm buildings demolished 1846–70; 10. 16th-century brick barn/stable; 11. early 18th-century blocked door; 12. 19th-century gardener's cottage; 13. earthwork of road; 14. course of old road, diverted 1708; 15. 16th-century brick wall; 16. line of 'cartway' 1870; 17. lime avenue; 18. fishponds (19th-century outline shown by dashed line).

superb entrance arch contains in its spandrels two hanging shields: the rampant lion of Sir George to the west and the arms of Margery (Felbrigg impaling the Aspoll chevron) to the east. Above is a fine empty canopied niche. Two medieval bells by Brayser of Norwich (three in the Return of 1553) are probably contemporary with the tower.

The chancel was rebuilt in Early English style in 1873–74 by the Marquis of Bristol, with R.M. Phipson as architect. In 1874 the deal pews were removed, in 1875 a new pulpit was installed, and in 1883 a new organ. In 1894 a new font was placed on the original base, and for Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 a new open trussed nave roof replaced the former whitewashed plaster ceiling. An exquisite communion cup of 1619, willed by Elizabeth Felton in 1639, was displayed to members, together with two fine Charles I pewter flagons. Two '17th-century' chairs were found to be late Victorian.

Thomas Clarkson (1760–1846, the slave trade abolitionist), who lived at the Hall from 1816 until his death, is buried in the churchyard. Insufficient credit has been given to Clarkson for his life's work; it was he who initiated the task, produced the evidence and provided the much needed momentum while Wilberforce fought for the cause in Parliament. At the foot of the hill by the church lived Sir George Biddell Airy (1801–92), 7th Astronomer Royal for forty-six years from 1835 to 1881, who today might also be called Government Chief Scientist.

Playford Hall (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs R.D. Innes) (Fig.99). The Hall is an L-shaped red-brick building that rises dramatically from the water of two arms of a rectangular moat that appears to have been laid out with geometric precision. The approach to the house is via a brick bridge across the centre of the southern arm of the moat. Tradition has it that the Hall was built by Sir Anthony Felton, K.B. (d. 1613) and that the dates 1589 and 1595 were somewhere on it, though neither has been seen recently.³ There is also a tradition, recorded by the Revd E.J. Moor of Great Bealings in 1849, that the existing house is only half of a once U-shaped house:

July 1847 Mrs Clarkson of Playford Hall informed me that a few years ago she was told by an aged man in Playford, named Hustleton (now dead), that when he was a boy he used to play in the courtyard of the Hall, which then had a chapel attached to it on the east of the present dining-room completing the other side, at right angles to which chapel was the east side corresponding with the present west, so that the present moat washed three sides of the Hall . . . Old Hustleton remembered the chapel and its being taken down, and on the wall (now adjoining the present north side, then probably built of the old materials of the chapel) there was fixed in a kind of niche a marble image of a cherub on his knees, as if in the act of unfolding some drapery, which figure still remains on the said wall, and was perhaps part of a marble monument in the chapel to some of the Felbriggs or Feltons. The last occupiers of the Feltons were two maiden ladies, who were succeeded at the Hall by a tenant that was a schoolmaster. After his time it was reduced to its present condition of a farmhouse, and occupied by a Mr Cutting. After him came Thomas Clarkson.⁴

'Old Hustleton' was probably Joseph Hustleton, baptised at Playford in March 1738, buried there February 1817, aged eighty.⁵ The Clarksons came to Playford in 1816, so the conversation with Hustleton must have been soon after their arrival. His memory would suggest that the partial demolition took place around 1750.

For such an important house there is surprisingly little direct documentary or cartographic evidence.⁶ The earliest reasonably detailed map is dated 1870.⁷ Henry Davy made a pencil sketch of the front of the Hall in 1841, which is very similar to an engraving

of the same date by Dilwyn Sims (Fig. 100). Davy also did a watercolour view of the north-west corner of the house in 1850 (Fig. 101).⁸

The manor of Playford was inherited by the Feltons of Shotley through marriage with the heiress of the Sampsons in the late 15th century. The Sampsons of Brettenham, in turn, had inherited from the Felbriggs of Playford in the early 15th century. Sir George Felbrigg (d. 1400), whose brass is in the church, had acquired Playford by 1384. The Feltons were certainly living in Playford by 1578, when Thomas Felton made his will there. But where in Playford he lived is uncertain. Despite suggestions by 19th-century antiquarians that the hall may have contained remains of a mansion built by Sir George Felbrigg (Clarke 1830, 363; Hervey 1864, 18), there is nothing now visible that is of that date. Thomas was Sir Anthony's father and it is under him that the family rose to new heights: he was Sheriff of Suffolk in 1597, knighted in 1603 and in the 1590s married into the nobility, his wife being a daughter of Lord Grey de Groby. He therefore had good reasons to want a new and impressive house. His son Henry continued the family's rise by being created a baronet in 1620.

The roof of the west wing is a 12-bay construction (numbered from south–north) with tenoned purlins that could well date from *c.* 1590. The roof of the shorter north range is similar, but has undergone later repairs. It is slightly higher than the west roof and has been built partly over it, suggesting that the west roof was already in place when it was built. At the east end of the north range there is clear evidence, in the form of sawn-off



FIG. 100 – Playford Hall and Thomas Clarkson, by Dilwyn Sims, 1841.

purlins, that the building has been truncated. Interestingly, these stumps of purlins are moulded and have been painted with yellow ochre, in contrast to the plain, uncoloured, purlins elsewhere in the two roofs. This suggests that the demolished part of the Hall was of a higher status than the existing part. This is well constructed with substantial internal timbers, but very plain. The only decorated room is at first-floor level at the northern end of the west wing. This has a decorated plaster frieze of probable 17th-century date around the top of the walls, which probably topped wooden panelling.

The surviving part of the building, after use as a farmhouse in the 18th and 19th centuries, was restored (and re-gentrified) in 1871 by Richard Makilwaine Phipson, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A. (1827–84), who is best known for his numerous church restorations (he was diocesan surveyor from 1871) (Brown, Haward and Kindred 1991, 157). The chimneys with double or triple octagonal shafts and moulded caps and bases date from this time. Among the other works carried out was the construction of a new dining room out of what had been a large kitchen. The changes were remembered in 1912 by Herman Biddell (1832–1917) of Hill Farm, Playford:

From the original kitchen a large piece of the south end was cut off to increase the accommodation for the domestics to make compensation for the rooms sacrificed for the new kitchen. On the east side some four or five feet was detached to make a passage to the entrance hall. These curtailments still leave a fine dining room but the great height of the abandoned kitchen made it necessary to insert 4 feet of false ceiling under the floor above. There again the enormous chimney with the open space required for the cooking range had to be reduced . . . so large was it [the chimney] that there was ample space for a most handsome fireplace and not only that but also a good large window to match the one on the right hand side so giving sufficient light to the present dining room.⁹

In another account, written in 1915, Biddell put the ceiling gap at 3 feet and added that the room had been 'handsomely panelled out with modern oak'.¹⁰

This makes it clear that what survives is the former service accommodation of the 16th-century Hall, with a large kitchen dominating the west wing, with a large external chimney stack that projects into the moat. On the north side the lower part of the wall of the demolished section still stands beside the moat and there is another chimney-like projection there (see 3 on the plan). On the other side of the wall there is indeed a recess suggestive of a fireplace, now covered by a shed built against the wall. The position of this, a little to the east of the centre-point of the building, suggests that it is the hall fireplace, with (as expected) the low end of the hall to the west and the high end to the east. This would also suggest that Old Hustleton was wrong in saying that there was a chapel adjoining what was then the dining room (now the drawing room). Presumably what he saw was an empty hall that he took to be a chapel. Above the hall there was probably a great chamber and the yellow-painted purlins would have been in the roof above this chamber. The marble image mentioned by Moor is attached to the wall to the east of the fireplace, but is now very eroded and is probably not in its original position. It is perhaps of late 17th- or early 18th-century date.

The east wing of the building has two projections on it: one is either a chimney or a garderobe tower (similar to one on the north side), but the other has splayed sides that suggest a large and ornamental window overlooking the moat (and probable gardens to the east, where there is the fine modern garden of the present owners). The likelihood is that this served a fine parlour. All of this could be the work of Sir Anthony Felton and the precise modelling of the moat around three sides of the building suggests that the moat is contemporary with the building. Numerous brick fragments, some of 16th-century type,

observed in trenches recently dug for drainage works at the base of the slope to the south of the house could indicate that the bricks for the house were fired here. It is just possible that the two fishponds to the east (now combined into a lake) originated in clay pits dug for the brick-making.

Also contemporary with the Hall is a brick-walled barn (now a stable; 10 on the plan) that lies on the west edge of a forecourt on the south side of the moat. This has a similar tenoned-purlin roof to the Hall. In a lean-to at the rear is a section of wall-plate carved with a trailing-leaf design of *c.* 1600 that probably came from the demolished part of the Hall. The gardener's cottage also attached to the rear is probably the work of Phipson in 1871. Extending up the slope from the barn is a brick wall of a similar date that further defines the west edge of the forecourt. On the west side of the barn there is a large ornamental doorway, now blocked, of *c.* 1700. This aligns with the earthwork of an east–west roadway (13 on the plan) in the adjacent field, which joins up with the course of a former highway, aligned north–south (14 on the plan), that was diverted in 1708 at the request of Sir Thomas Felton.¹¹ This suggests that at that time the entrance to the site was from the west, not the east, as today.

The terraces on the west side of the moat (9 on the plan) were the site of farm buildings. They are shown on the small-scale Ordnance Survey 'old edition' map of 1838 and on a proposed railway line plan of 1846.¹² They are not shown on the map of 1870, which suggests that they were removed in the run-up to the restoration of 1871. In 1912 Herman Biddell remembered that:

The buildings came almost to the west edge of the moat and what are now the well kept lawns and tennis courts, the clumps of laurels and yew hedges cover the site of the stable and cattle yards, the barns, sheds and granaries . . . the massive



FIG. 101 – Playford Hall from the north-west, by Henry Davy, 1850 (B.L. Add. MS 19,178, vol. 3, 88, by permission of the British Library).

structure which now represents the coach house, stables and under-groom's residence was the capacious barn . . .

It is likely that the present very flat terraces are the result of landscaping for tennis courts, but part of their shape may be due to the layout of these buildings. The positioning of farm buildings to the side of a 16th-century house is unusual and it is possible that they were moved here from the forecourt area around 1708 when the public road was closed. Another possibility is that the position of these farm buildings indicates a 90-degree change in the orientation of the whole site when the new Hall was built *c.* 1590. On most medieval moated sites the access to the house is through a forecourt that is flanked by the farm buildings. At Playford such a layout would have given an easy entry to the house from the old western highway. There is therefore a possibility that there was a medieval hall here on an earlier moated island, but facing west rather than south. After *c.* 1590 the access to the site was perhaps from the south-west, more or less on the line of the old cartway (16 on the plan) as the steep slope (and soft ground at the base of the slope) to the south would have prevented a direct approach from that direction.

The various works of *c.* 1700 were part of a remodelling of the house and grounds carried out by Sir Thomas Felton, 4th baronet, who had succeeded to the estate on the death of his brother in 1695. In 1721 his son-in-law, John Hervey, 1st Earl of Bristol, referred to the 'very new piazza' with a flat lead roof that he had built in front of the house. The term piazza was sometimes applied (erroneously) to a colonnade or covered galley surrounding an open square, and hence to a single colonnade in front of a building, and this seems to be the sense here. Hervey also refers to a 'new pallizade' with rails set up by Sir Thomas, which was probably an iron fence, supported by brick piers, that ran along the south wall of the moated island. This is confirmed by a letter written by Sir George Biddell Airy, who remembered that 'Old Branson, who lived at the little farm on the Butts Road, spoke of the Hall as he remembered it, as the sides of a hollow square, where a colonnade occupied the south side (the bridge side), of which the column bases seem to be visible'. 'Old Branson' was William Branson (b. *c.* 1742, d. 1818 aged seventy-six), a contemporary of Old Hustleton. Along the south wall there are indeed the bases of pilasters, at 3m intervals, built of gauged brick with moulded limestone bases. Sir Thomas also repaired the bridge, making it 'very tite & strong'. The south end of the west wing was also rebuilt at about this time. Instead of the plain English bond of the original brickwork, this was done in Flemish bond, with burnt headers, creating a chequer pattern. Rendered block quoins and broad bands at 1st- and 2nd-floor level were added, as were brick parapets on the sides and a parapet gable on the front. New large windows with heads of gauged brickwork and rendered keystones complete the ensemble of features that are typical of *c.* 1700. It is very likely that the south end of the east wing was similarly rebuilt, giving a whole new and fashionable façade to the Hall. As an important courtier (he was Comptroller of the Household to Queen Anne) and with an aristocratic wife (Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Suffolk), Sir Thomas had good reasons to want his house to look fashionable.

Sir Thomas died in 1709 and was succeeded by his brother Sir Compton Felton, 5th baronet. Sir Compton was childless and seems to have taken little interest in Playford. After his death in 1719, at his house in Ipswich, his widow Elizabeth retained a life interest in the property. The house was in her care in August 1721 when it was badly damaged by a storm. On 16 August John Hervey wrote to his wife Elizabeth (the heiress to the Playford estate) about 'part of Playford House being blown down & 12 workmen putt into it by Lady Felton to repair it' (Hervey 1894, II, 156 no. 617). A few days later he reported that he had been told 'to expect to see more ruin than could be imagind after all your father laid out there' (*Ibid.*, 161–62 no. 621). He finally visited Playford and reported (23 August) on what he saw:

The melancholly scene I saw yesterday at Playford . . . the roof of the house being open in four places, in the repairing wherof I found the workmen were prepar'd to persuade me to consent that instead of the brick lucums¹³ which are fallen, and others taken down that would have done so too, they might have putt wooden ones in their places, saying the old walls would not bear the weight of new brick ones; but as I knew the cheapness of wood ones was their chief reason in favour of their lady,¹⁴ so I told them I would agree to nothing on the part of mine¹⁵ till I had stated the matter of fact to her, and receiv'd her desires concerning it; in the mean time, I told them, every one knew that the house must be kept up & continued in the condition they found it, fair usage excepted; but that is so farr from having been its case that I never saw any place half so much impaired in double the time they have had it. For beside the four breaches in the roof of the old part of the house, the very new piazza built in front of it by your dear father lett in wett so fast upon us (the morning proving rainy) that we could not stand shelterd in any one part of it; the roof of that was laid so flatt, that tho' tis leaded it does as I have told you. Then the new pallizade, which was sett up too by him, is fallen down the length of a whole raile together, & there they lye rotting against the ground. The bridge over the moate, that was made very tite & strong by him, is now in so crazy a condition that it is not very safe to pass upon it. The woods are rather more mallihackd and ruind than the Mansion-house, even to the impossibility of furnishing a load of timber to repair only a tenant's barn, the very venerable old trees that stood on the side-hill in the park being all croppd also, now wearing nothing but short bobs instead of their venerable long perruques left on them by your ancestors (Hervey 1894, II, 165 no. 623).

In an earlier letter Hervey had noted that he believed Lady Felton was already 'weary' of Playford, and on 25 August he reported that her lawyer had offered to sell her rights in the property to him and his wife, but he received these overtures

with coldness . . . seeing £500 will not putt it into the condition they found it at your dear father's death, and such she is oblig'd to leave it at her own; besides, I told him Sir C. Felton had so intangled it by his lease of it to Legatt with the Parke and other lands, that I questiond whether she could during her life make us a title, were we agreed upon the terms, and they never so easy (Hervey 1894, II, 158 no. 619, and 167–68 no. 625).

Yet in June 1722, the Earl and Countess of Bristol obtained a loan of £2,500, with another £1,000 in 1723, secured on the Playford estate, with no mention of Lady Felton and her rights in the property.¹⁶ This suggests that they had indeed bought her out. Lady Felton's rights would anyway have come to an end with her death in 1734. At present it is an open question as to how much of the house survived the damage of 1721. The Hall is not marked on John Kirby's *Map of Suffolk*, 1736, yet it is on Emanuel Bowen's *Map* of 1755, which marks the 'E. of Bristol' as the owner, but is absent from Joseph Hodskinson's *Map* of 1783. It may be that poor-quality repairs were done in 1721 (as Hervey suggests) and that by about 1750 the Hall was again in poor condition and that is when it was partly demolished.

28 September. Leigh Alston and Clive Paine
Yaxley

Bull's Hall (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Paul Geelmuyden). Bull's Hall occupies the site of the medieval manor of 'Boles' or 'Bolyshalle' (mentioned in a deed of 1403 quoted

by Copinger (1909, 253); and see the 1450 will of Simon Blyawnt in *Northeast* 2001, 400). The existing timber-framed farmhouse dates from *c.* 1580, but members keenly debated the evidence for an earlier moat. The house now incorporates a two-storeyed outbuilding of the mid-17th century, originally detached, that formerly possessed a large gable chimney and probably served as a kitchen or bakehouse. The property was owned by the Buxton family of yeoman farmers during the 17th century, and can be associated with good inventories of 1661 and 1686.

The house reflects the typical internal layout of the period, with a central hall flanked by a cross-passage and twin service rooms on one side and a brick chimney stack and parlour on the other. The parlour could be entered both from the hall and by a separate external door, opening into the corner of the room against the chimney. Parlour entrances of this kind were common in north-central Suffolk during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, before being superceded by the more familiar lobby entrance. They may be associated with the semi-independent occupation of parlours by widows and other family members, or with the downgrading of cross-passages to tradesmen's entrances. At its parlour gable the building was fashionably end-jettied towards the nearby main road (now the A140), and enhanced this display with exposed framing above the jetty while preferring external render on all other walls. A number of good features survive within, including original fireplaces, 'diamond' window mullions of exceptionally heavy section, a service chamber stair of solid treads, and a fine clasped-purlin roof with queen struts beneath its collars.

St Mary's Church (by kind permission of the Revd David Claydon). A church here is recorded in Domesday. The nave has a Decorated arcade to the south aisle; the tower is also Decorated. The nave was heightened and re-roofed and the clerestory added in the 15th century; the earlier roof line can be seen over the tower arch. The Decorated chancel was rebuilt and heightened in 1868. Perpendicular windows were inserted into existing openings in nave and aisle, which retain round shafts and bases of the Decorated period. The south porch was built before 1421, the magnificent north porch probably financed by John Herberd *alias* Yaxley (d. 1459).

The 15th-century screen was described by Davy in 1844 as remaining '... perfect, even the folding gates are still in their place'. A photograph taken before the major restoration of 1868 shows the tympanum boarded over, with the Royal Arms of James II and the Ten Commandments, and quotations from Matthew 19 v. 17 and John 2 v. 2, all erected in compliance with Elizabeth's Injunctions of 1561. All of this was removed in 1868.

The screen is finely and elaborately decorated in gesso patterns, both on the mullions and around the female saints painted in the Flemish style on the dado. Over the chancel arch are large areas of a Doom painting discovered in 1868. Over the apex of the arch is a three-light window, also discovered in 1868, which was originally above the chancel roof line. The rood figures on the rood beam, the stumps of which can be seen on either side, were fixed with a brace into the top of the window. The eastern light would have made the figures stand out in silhouette. The 15th-century arch braced roof has a deep cornice with angels, battlements and cresting, and a painted canopy of honour over the rood. What an awe-inspiring sight the east end of the nave must have been before the Reformation.

The pulpit with tester is dated 1635 and has the initials of Thomas Dade and Thomas Fulcher, the churchwardens, and the inscription 'Necessite is laid upon me, yea woe is me if I preach not the Gospel'. The pulpit was lowered and the reading desk detached in 1868; part of the latter survives in the present smaller desk.

The benches are by Frost of Watton in 1868; one of them has a brass plate commemorating the anonymous gift of a new stove in 1874. John Blatchly's church guide (1987) reveals the donor to be Elizabeth Pretty, whose portrait is on the brass plate.

The former roof line of the chancel (rebuilt and heightened, as already stated, in 1868) can be seen above the chancel arch. The Perpendicular east window was retained, but all the rest, including the walls, windows, flying buttresses, roof and furnishings, are Victorian. In the north wall is a 14th-century arched tomb-recess with the figure of a priest in alb and chasuble on a tomb chest with quatrefoil panels. This could have served as the Easter Sepulchre.

The medieval glass was arranged by the Revd William Sewell, 1886–87. He was rector from 1861 to 1896, and was also responsible for the major restoration of 1868. The glass was set into the east window and the screen under the tower. The leading was carried out by Mr Burroughs of Eye, and includes a portrait of Sewell in the capital P of 'P[ar]ochia' (see Harris 1931, 96 and Woodforde 1931).

The south aisle is Decorated, with the earlier pre-aisle Early English south nave door re-used. Perpendicular windows were inserted into the Decorated openings. The east and south-east windows retain the earlier round shafts, bases and capitals, which could distinguish a chapel at the east end of the aisle, perhaps for the Yaxley family.

Until 1868 a wooden monument, surrounded by painted shields, stood in front of the south-east window. It was for William Yaxley (d. 1588) and his wife Eva (née Bedingfield, d. 1631). Most of the monument survives, the main structure being incorporated into vestment cupboards in the south porch vestry (see Felgate 1971).

The wood and ironwork with birds and strapwork on the upper part of the south door may be 14th-century. Over the door hangs the 15th-century sexton's wheel, the only other example of which is at Long Stratton (Norfolk). The wheel was a device for determining which of the six feasts of Mary was to be used as the starting-point for a year-long fast of one day each week. There was a south porch here by 1421, when Thomas Cok requested to be buried before it. The porch fell down in 1599 and was rebuilt only in 1854 by John Johnson of Bury St Edmunds.

The early Decorated tower has a large ogee crocketed niche in the west wall, ogee-headed lancets on the ground floor to north and south, trefoil-headed lancets on the first floor and two-light windows in the belfry. The buttresses have flushwork panels and stone tracery.

The 15th-century two-storey north porch was described by Pevsner as 'extremely ornate . . . one of the most swagger in Suffolk'. The front has rows of crowned ICs and Ms, for Jesus Christ and Mary; there are blank shields set in trailing foliage and seated figures on the parapet. There are eight niches on the front and buttresses, the central one between the two first-floor windows is tiny and double-tiered – perhaps for a Virgin below and the Dove above. In the spandrels of the door are, to the left, a man with a chopper fighting what appears to be a wyvern and, to the right, a wild man with a club fighting a lion which is biting his arm. These animals are mirrored in the bases of the adjacent niches, with two wyverns and imps to the left, and three lions in a row, two facing in the same direction, to the right.

Inside, the groined roof has a mutilated Annunciation scene in the centre, surrounded by the signs of the Four Evangelists and, against the walls, four adoring angels with censers. In 1459 John Herberd *alias* Yaxley, founder of the Yaxley family, requested to be buried in the north porch 'with a stone over my grave and the remainder of the porch to be pammented at my cost'. It was usual for the person who financed a porch to be buried within it; John may therefore have been the donor. His grave stone, minus its brasses, was removed in 1868 by the restoring rector William Sewell. Both men are commemorated in the porch windows, which include the initials of Jesus and Mary.

*Clive Paine,
Hon. Excursions Secretary*

NOTES

- 1 P.R.O., SC12/37/16, mm 6–8.
- 2 Bodl., MS Top. Suffolk b2, f. 318.
- 3 The dates are mentioned as 'believed to be' in the *Listed Buildings* notes; the 1589 date is mentioned in Hervey 1864, 18.
- 4 Original in D.E. Davy, 'Collections for the History of Suffolk', B.L. Add. MSS 19,077–19,113; transcript printed in a note on Playford in *E. Anglian Misc.* 1909, 18.
- 5 Research by Brian Seward.
- 6 There is very little on Playford in the archives of the Hervey family of Ickworth, who inherited the property in the 18th century.
- 7 Quarter Sessions Order Plan 1870: E. White, 'Plan for proposed alteration of the public foot-path through the meadows at Playford', 1870. The Playford tithe map is mostly blank, with a note reading 'Lands of the Most Noble Marquis of Bristol the tithes of which are merged' (S.R.O.I., FDA 196/A1/1b).
- 8 B.L., Add. MS 19,178, vol. 3, 88 and 89.
- 9 S.R.O.I., qS Playford 9: H. Biddell, 'Thomas Clarkson and Playford Hall', 1912.
- 10 Private possession: H. Biddell, 'Playford Hall – as it was and as it is', 1915.
- 11 S.R.O.B., HA 507/8/759; P.R.O., C 202/95/5: 7 Anne, Mich.
- 12 S.R.O.I., 150/2/5.75A.
- 13 Lucarne, 'a skylight, a dormer or garret window'.
- 14 Sir Compton's widow.
- 15 His wife Elizabeth, Sir Thomas Felton's daughter and heiress.
- 16 S.R.O.B., HA 507/2/462.

REFERENCES

- Brown, C., Haward, B. and Kindred, R., 1991. *Dictionary of Architects of Suffolk Buildings 1800–1914*. Ipswich.
- Clarke, G.R., 1830. *The History and Description of the Town and Borough of Ipswich*. Ipswich and London.
- Copinger, W.A., 1909. *The Manors of Suffolk*, III. Manchester.
- Felgate, T.M., 1971. 'Heraldic Carvings in Yaxley Church', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, xxxii, 84–87.
- Harris, H.A., 1931. 'Stained Glass in the East Window of Yaxley Church', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, XXI, 95–97.
- Haward, B., 1993. *Suffolk Medieval Church Arcades 1150–1550*. Hitcham.
- Hervey, A., 1864. 'Playford and the Feltons', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, IV, 14–64.
- Hervey, S.H.A. (ed.), 1894. *Letter-Books of John Hervey, First Earl of Bristol*, II. Wells.
- MacCulloch, D.N.J. (ed.), 1978. 'Henry Chitting's Suffolk Collections', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, XXXIV, 103–28.
- Northeast, P. (ed.), 2001. *Wills of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury 1439–1474: Wills from the Register 'Baldwyne' Part I: 1439–1441*, Suffolk Records Soc., XLIV. Woodbridge.
- Woodforde, C., 1931. 'The Medieval Glass in Yaxley Church', *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, XXI, 91–95.

Abbreviations

- | | |
|----------|--|
| B.L. | British Library. |
| Bodl. | Bodleian Library, Oxford. |
| P.R.O. | Public Record Office. |
| S.R.O.B. | Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds Branch. |
| S.R.O.I. | Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch. |

LECTURES

- March 2 At Henley: 'Constable's *Risen Christ* Altarpiece and the Suffolk Years', by Anne Lyles.
- March 16 At Bury St Edmunds: 'Colonel Robert Rushbrooke (1779–1845), M.P., Antiquary and Amateur Architect', by Dr Charles Tracy.
- October 12 At Bury St Edmunds: 'Palaeolithic Migration into East Anglia – 500,000 Years or More', by Dr John Wymer, President of S.I.A.H.
- November 9 At Bury St Edmunds. 'Machinery, Medicine and Maltings: the Garretts of Leiston', by Stephen Mael.
- November 30 At Henley. 'The Collegiate Church of St Andrew at Wingfield: Architecture and Dynastic Pretension in Fifteenth-Century England', by Dr John Goodall.
- December 14 At Henley: 'Hands-on Archaeology', led by John Fairclough, Mike Hardy, John Newman, John Wymer, Bob Carr, Jane Carr, Gilbert Burroughs and Jezz Meredith.

MEMBERS ELECTED DURING 2002

During the year 45 members were elected and, after taking into account resignations and lapsed members, the membership at the end of 2002 stood at 864, a net increase of 13. The total comprised 590 full members, 193 associate members, and 81 institutions and societies.

Allen, Mrs J., Bell House, Quay Street, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2NV.
 Arnold, Mrs J., 77 High Street, Needham Market, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 8AN.
 Burnett, Mr D.S., 157 Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 1JU.
 Coleman, Mr A.E., 22 Princes Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 7QY.
 Cook, Ms P.L., 18 Clarkson Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2JD.
 Cooke, Mr & Mrs K.C., 5 Sandy Close, Trimley St Martin, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 0UJ.
 Farmer, Mr R.J., c/o RSPB North Wales Office, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW.
 Fletcher, Mr K.J., & Gardiner, Ms S., 5 Victoria Terrace, East Runtton, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9NY.
 Garrod, Mr S., 29 Foxhall Fields, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6QY.
 Hallam, Mr H.A.N., MA, FSA, 1 Longmarsh Close, Reydon, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6RS.
 Hannah, Ms F.M., & Bradford, Mr S.R., 3 Turn Lane, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AR.
 Harber, Mrs P.B., Hill's Farm, Bury Road, Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 4PJ.
 Harris, Mrs J.O., 24 Ellis Street, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 5HP.
 Harrison, Mrs C.A., Wood House, Bull's Cross Wood, Groton, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 5PS.
 Harrup, Mr V.J., 13 Beaconsfield Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1EQ.
 Henderson, Mr & Mrs W.E.J., 48 High Street, Ixworth, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 2HJ.
 Hunt, Mrs P., 34 Maltward Avenue, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3QX.
 Kennedy, Mrs O., 31 Through Duncans, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4EA.
 Kirk, Messrs. D. & J., Church Farm, Church Road, Old Newton, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4PH.
 Kirkham, Ms A., 31 Silver Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 4TT.
 Lawford, Mr & Mrs T., 47 Constable Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 2UZ.
 Ledger, Mr P.C.W., 15 Woodstone Avenue, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 5TE.
 Lovejoy, Mr A.A., 28 Pembroke Road, Framlingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 9HA.
 Parsons, Dr D.N., School of English Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD.
 Prentice, Mr A.J., Strawberry Hill, Loudham Lane, Lower Ufford, Woodbridge, IP13 6ED.
 Richards, Mrs S., 4 Bennett Avenue, Elmswell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 9EF.
 Rossi, Mr & Mrs A., The Old Chapel, The Street, Wellingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 2TH.
 Sadler, Ms S. & T., 6 Broughton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3QR.
 Savill, Sheila, 54 Oak Village, London, NW5 4QL.
 Spring, Ms J.V., 38 Clinton Street, Orange, NSW 2800, Australia.
 Symes, Mr & Mrs J.A., Hill Farm, Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4PH.
 Wallace, Mr & Mrs J., Sun Cottage, Water Lane, Cavendish, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 8AH.
 Ward, Mr N., 67 Monmouth Close, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8RS.
 Ware, Mr C.D., Copper Beech Cottage, Bedfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 7EB.
 Wiseman, Mrs V.F., Old School House, Preston St Mary, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 9NF.

ACCOUNTS

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

The Council presents their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2002.

The Council is elected at the annual general meeting.

The current members of the Council are shown on page 372. At the previous A.G.M., on 22 April 2002 Mrs J. Carr and Mrs N.R. Evans retired and Mr R.W. Malster and Dr S.J. Plunkett were elected.

Objects

The objects of the Institute shall be for the advancement of the education of the public:

- a) to collect and publish information on the Archaeology and History of the County of Suffolk.
- b) to oppose and prevent, as far as may be practicable, any injuries with which ancient monuments of every description within the County of Suffolk may from time to time be threatened and to collect accurate drawings, plans and descriptions thereof, and
- c) to promote interest in local Archaeological and Historical matters.

Reserve Policy

The reserves of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History are in a form available for instant use should the occasion arise. The Institute is committed to the education of the public. The calls upon funds may be sudden and it may not be possible to mount an appeal at short notice, where a considerable amount of local money is needed to trigger funds from central bodies. The Trustees consider that the level of reserves should be in the region of two years' income, currently running at £14,000 per annum. The trustees will review the policy each year.

Review

Apart from the publication of the *Proceedings* Volume XL Part 2 and two *Newsletters*, the Institute's publications have continued to sell well. There were also during the year the usual excursions and lectures.

Signed for and on behalf of the Council on 22nd March 2003

A.B. Parry

Hon. Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

I report on the accounts of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History for the year ended 31 December 2002, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act
 have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D. FRANKLIN, Chartered Accountant,

on behalf of BAKER TILLY, Chartered Accountants, Friar's Courtyard, 30 Princes Street, Ipswich, IP1 1RJ
22 March 2003

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

	Note	2002 £	2001 £
Incoming resources	2		
Membership income		8,392	8,745
Voluntary income		2,340	2,176
Gross income from publications		962	1,779
Income from investments		2,319	2,647
Total incoming resources		<u>14,013</u>	<u>15,347</u>
Resources expended	3		
Charitable support expenditure			
- General		(3,568)	(3,442)
- <i>Proceedings</i> publication		(7,116)	(7,674)
- Other		(1,652)	(2,420)
Total resources expended		<u>(12,336)</u>	<u>(13,536)</u>
Net incoming resources		1,677	1,811
Accumulated funds brought forward		38,661	36,850
Accumulated funds carried forward		<u>40,338</u>	<u>38,661</u>

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

	Note	2002		2001	
		£	£	£	£
Investments	5		8,147		8,147
Current assets					
Cash at bank – Current Account		2,637		1,043	
– Deposit Account		29,786		29,578	
		<u>32,423</u>		<u>30,621</u>	
Less: Subscriptions in advance		(192)		(107)	
Other creditors		(40)		–	
		<u>(232)</u>		<u>(107)</u>	
Net current assets			32,191		30,514
Net assets			<u>40,338</u>		<u>38,661</u>
Represented by					
<i>Unrestricted funds:</i>					
Gwen Dyke Bequest	4		10,168		9,588
Research, Excavation and Publication fund	4		18,016		17,957
Accumulated fund	4		12,154		11,116
			<u>40,338</u>		<u>38,661</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 22 March 2003

A.B. Parry
Hon. Treasurer

ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

1. Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Standard of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities, except that investments are stated at cost rather than market value.

2. Incoming resources

	Gwen Dyke Bequest	Research, Excavation and Publication fund	Accumulated fund	Total 2002	Total 2001
	£	£	£	£	£
Membership income					
Subscriptions	-	-	8,392	8,392	8,745
Voluntary income					
Grants	-	-	1,840	1,840	2,094
Donations	-	-	-	-	82
Sponsorship	-	500	-	500	-
	-	500	1,840	2,340	2,176
Gross income from publications					
<i>Proceedings sales</i>	-	-	123	123	287
<i>Roof Carvings</i>	-	347	-	347	606
<i>Suffolk Arcades</i>	-	315	-	315	279
<i>Hawes</i>	-	65	-	65	323
<i>Dovecotes</i>	-	74	-	74	237
<i>Dame Alice</i>	-	-	-	-	47
Others	-	38	-	38	-
	-	839	123	962	1,779
Income from investments					
Interest on investments	500	-	180	680	680
Bank interest	80	372	258	710	1,130
Income tax recovered	-	-	929	929	837
	580	372	1,367	2,319	2,647
Total incoming resources	580	1,711	11,722	14,013	15,347

3. Resources expended

	Gwen Dyke Bequest	Research, Excavation and Publication fund	Accumulated fund	Total 2002	Total 2001
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure – General					
Newsletters, including postage	-	-	1,638	1,638	1,820
Excursions	-	-	325	325	355
Lectures	-	-	690	690	516
Printing and stationery	-	-	157	157	55
Office expenses and postage	-	-	331	331	207
Insurance	-	-	138	138	-
Independent examiners fee	-	-	200	200	194
Subscriptions	-	-	89	89	181
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	114
	-	-	3,568	3,568	3,442
Expenditure – Proceedings					
Printing and postage	-	-	7,116	7,116	7,674
Other expenditure					
Postage and packaging	-	20	-	20	120
Membership application forms	-	714	-	714	-
Field group	-	500	-	500	-
Marlerhaley Boards	-	318	-	318	-
Grant	-	100	-	100	-
Index to volume 39	-	-	-	-	1,120
Bibliography of articles	-	-	-	-	500
Photography – Walton Old Hall	-	-	-	-	580
Internet costs	-	-	-	-	100
	-	1,652	-	1,652	2,420
Total resources expended	-	1,652	10,684	12,336	13,536
4. Movement on funds					
Opening balance	9,588	17,957	11,116	38,661	36,850
Incoming resources	580	1,711	11,722	14,013	15,347
	10,168	19,668	22,838	52,674	52,197
Resources expended	-	1,652	10,684	12,336	13,536
Closing balance	10,168	18,016	12,154	40,338	38,661

Gwen Dyke Bequest

The Gwen Dyke Bequest fund is used to assist in the study of records, and the publication of research arising from such study.

		2002	397
5. Investments	Market value	Cost 2002	Cost 2001
	£	£	£
8% Treasury Stock, 2003 £2,256.48 Nominal	2,298	2,184	2,184
8% Treasury Stock, 2009 £6,244.78 Nominal	7,593	5,963	5,963
	<u>9,891</u>	<u>8,147</u>	<u>8,147</u>

6. Summary of net assets by funds	Gwen Dyke Bequest	Research, Excavation and Publication fund	Accumulated fund	Total 2002	Total 2001
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments	5,963	-	2,184	8,147	8,147
Net current assets	4,205	18,016	9,970	32,191	30,514
	<u>10,168</u>	<u>18,016</u>	<u>12,154</u>	<u>40,338</u>	<u>38,661</u>

7. Trustees

No member of the council received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2001: Nil)

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

Membership. – Application forms for membership are obtainable from the Hon. Membership Secretary, Dr J.O. Martin, Oak Tree Farm, Hitcham, Ipswich, IP7 7LS. Present members are urged to support the Institute by enrolling new members.

Subscriptions. – The annual subscription is £12.50 for an ordinary member due in advance on 1 January. The joint subscription for a husband and wife is £15. Full-time students under 25 are entitled to pay at the student rate of £8. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Financial Secretary, A.B. Parry, 23 Vermont Crescent, Ipswich, IP4 2ST.

Privileges. – The annual subscription entitles members to a copy of the Institute's journal, the *Proceedings*, which contains articles by national and local scholars on the archaeology and history of Suffolk. They will also receive the twice-yearly *Newsletter*, giving details of forthcoming events, short notes and book reviews. The Institute organises a number of excursions in the summer to places of interest in and around Suffolk. In the winter it has a programme of lectures, held alternately at Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Members may also use and borrow books from the Institute's Library, housed in the Suffolk Record Office, Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds. Finally, members who wish to take an active part in archaeological fieldwork may join the Institute's Field Group, which has close links with the County Archaeological Service and local museums. Enquiries respecting the Field Group should be addressed to the Hon. Field Group Secretary, M.J. Hardy, 29 High Road, Wortwell, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 0HG.

Publications. – Indexes of the articles in past volumes of the *Proceedings* are to be found in volumes X (1900), XXIV (1948) and XXX (1966). Back numbers of *Proceedings* are available from Mr J. Fairclough, 56 Orford Street, Ipswich, IP1 3PE, at £10 per Part to members, £12 to non-members (volumes XXXVIII and XXXIX), and £2.50 per Part to members, £3.50 to non-members (earlier volumes), plus postage.

Articles and notes on all aspects of Suffolk archaeology and history should be sent to the Hon. Editor, Dr David Allen, 105 Tuddenham Avenue, Ipswich, IP4 2HG, from whom copies of Notes for Contributors may be obtained. Items (including books for review) for inclusion in the *Newsletter*, published in March and September, should be sent to Dr J. Middleton-Stewart, St Peter's House, Spexhall, Halesworth, IP19 0RG.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
A CONTEXT FOR SITOMAGUS: ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN THE SUFFOLK MID-COASTAL AREA, <i>by Robert Steerwood</i>	253
THE BOUNDS OF STOKE AND THE HAMLETS OF IPSWICH, <i>by John Fairclough</i>	262
A LEISTON DOCUMENT FROM GLASTONBURY, <i>by Julian Luxford</i>	278
A NEW SUFFOLK LEPER CHAPEL? THE LEPERS OF WENTFORD AND THE CHAPEL OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, CHILTON <i>by Max Satchell</i>	289
GLAZED RED POTTERY AND KILN WASTE FROM SUTTON HEATH, SUFFOLK, <i>by Sue Anderson</i>	301
COLONEL ROBERT RUSHBROOKE M.P., J.P (1779–1845): GRAND TOURIST, CONNOISSEUR, COLLECTOR, AMATEUR ARCHITECT AND WOOD CARVER <i>by Charles Tracy</i>	306
SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS:—	
A Copper-Alloy <i>Lar</i> Fragment Lost in a Medieval Pit at Preston St Mary, <i>by Judith Plouviez</i>	331
A Gold Bracteate or Uniface from Martlesham, <i>by John Newman and D.M. Metcalf</i>	334
ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 2002:—	
Individual finds and discoveries	337
Field surveys	347
Archaeological excavations	349
Church recording	368
BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES 2002	371

If undelivered, please return to:

DR J.O. MARTIN, OAK TREE FARM, HITCHAM, SUFFOLK, IP7 7LS