

EXCURSIONS 2005

Reports and notes on some findings

23 April. John Blatchly and Peter Northeast. Elmswell and Gipping

To launch the Institute's publication *Decoding Flint Flushwork in Suffolk and Norfolk Churches*, by John Blatchly and Peter Northeast, the post-157th AGM excursion consisted of a detailed examination of the incomparable displays at Elmswell, and, after lunch, at Gipping. The authors briefly introduced the book, mentioning a number of interesting discoveries made since it had gone to press. The most significant of these was at New Buckenham St Martin, thanks to Dr Paul Cattermole. A set of five devices previously unnoticed at the east end of the south chancel aisle, taken with those on buttresses at Quidenham and Old Buckenham churches showed that each of these churches had received its share of devices when Old Buckenham priory church was demolished at the Dissolution. By incorporating these 'souvenirs' as opportunity arose, the three churches preserved their severed links with the priory. Flushwork devices, therefore, were sufficiently valued, both intrinsically and by association, to be moved and reused.

Elmswell, St John the Evangelist.

John Hedge of Bury, not only one of Margery Walter's executors but donor of the font, must also have given some or all of the cost of the south porch, for opposite the **I** to the left of the entrance a modern stone replaces one on which Tom Martin recorded an **H**. Since William Moundevyle was rector from 1488-1503 the panel commemorating him seems to have been a later insertion.

Gipping St. Nicholas.

Here Professor Colin Richmond gave an illuminating and entertaining account of the Tyrells, principally Sir James whose marriage to Anne Arundell of Lanherne seems to be celebrated in the whole decorative scheme of the chapel. The device AMLA carved obliquely in rustic Lombardics on six south buttresses was persuasively interpreted by Norman Scarfe as 'Anne Morley Lanherne Arundell'. Her mother was a Morley.

19 May, 26 May and 9 June. Pat Murrell and Philip Aitkens

Cupola House, Traverse, Bury St. Edmunds

This was the SIA's first return visit to Cupola House since Samuel Tymms took a group there on the society's behalf and wrote up his findings in the *Proceedings* for 1863. Consequently, it was always going to be popular - and so it proved. Three separate excursions had to be arranged to accommodate all who applied. Each excursion involved two slide-illustrated lectures given in the Education Room, Moyse's Hall, followed by a conducted tour of Cupola.

Pat Murrell spoke first outlining Cupola's history from when it was built in the seventeenth century for the Macros, wealthy apothecaries, through to its present ownership by two brothers, Alan and Paul Romaine, young local businessmen. In addition to revising and correcting some of Tymms' observations, she provided a synopsis of some of the new material that has come to light - particularly with regard to the Macro era. A series of fascinating unpublished letters written by Susan and Thomas Macro, junior, from their Great Market home between 1713 and 1718 (deposited in Sheffield Archive Office by their owner, the late David Wilson), and a manuscript inventory listing some of the furnishings in 1750 when the property passed out of the Macro family (located in the Brotherton Library, Leeds), were among the more exciting, out-of-county finds. Towards the end of her talk Pat explained that, sadly, by the 1990s Greene King's ownership of Cupola had led to this fine Grade I property appearing on English Heritage's 'at risk' register. Offered for sale with this regrettable rating, it was purchased in November 2002 by the Romaines. Working in close association with English Heritage and St Edmundsbury's conservation department, matters were turned around.

Privately financing a year-long programme of renovation, restoration and refurbishment, their million pounds plus investment in the property, coupled to Paul Romaine's high regard for the building and determination to see it regain its former splendour, resulted in Cupola's removal from the 'at risk' listing in July 2003. Although it reopened as a bar and restaurant the following November, work on the upper floors continued well into 2004. It was during the initial rescue phase, while the building was totally closed to the public, that Philip Aitkens was commissioned by the Romaines in his capacity as an historic buildings consultant, to make an extensive survey of the premises.

In the second lecture, Philip outlined his findings on the fabric of the building. He explained that he and the various specialists in historic paint, fabric and wallpaper finishes who worked with him on the project, had welcomed the chance to investigate at length what they, and others, consider to be one of Bury St Edmund's foremost examples of late Stuart domestic architecture. Cupola not only retains virtually all of its original exuberant Baroque-style exterior features visible on the 1700 painting of the Great Market on display in Moyses's Hall (which was once probably famed as part of Cupola's original interior decor), but also most of its internal layout as the Macros knew it. He spoke of the minute fragmentary details uncovered while renovation progressed. Conducting the subsequent site tour in the afternoon, he commended the manner in which the Romaines had had these recorded and then carefully preserved behind protective 'cosmetic' plaster-boarding. Attention was also drawn to the greater enhancement of other more substantial, permanently visible features. As, for example, the grotesquemasks that form the brackets to the newel posts on the imposing seventeenth-century staircase ascended by Celia Fiennes when she visited and described the property in 1698. Stripped of their dark Victorian varnish, these, together with the external, richly carved decorations (*palerae* beneath the eaves), have been highlighted in gold - befitting Cupola's flamboyant architecture.

The Romaines permitted members full access to the upper floors and the crowning glory, the cupola itself - all of which are generally out of bounds to the public. In conjunction with Paul Romaine, Pat Murrell had set-up a special exhibition on the second floor documenting the building's history. This now forms part of a permanent display at the attic level, alongside another explaining the work of the late Stuart apothecary.

Some of the furnishings commented upon by Tymms in 1863 have long since disappeared - such as the various seventeenth-century tapestries. Others have found new homes, like the 1700 oil painting of the view of Bury from the Vinefields (currently with St Edmundsbury Museum Service), or 'the curious representation' of the interior of St Mary's church painted in the latter part of Queen Anne's reign (now in St Mary's church). In their place members encountered a thoroughly modern interior which, while respecting Cupola's heritage, nevertheless fixes the building's present decor firmly in the twenty-first century. This is something that Thomas Macro, junior, would probably have approved of. When he finished his house in 1693 (the date on the weathervane atop the cupola), he did so in what he then considered fashionable and appropriate to his socioeconomic status as a wealthy apothecary and prominent member of the town's governing body; so it is with the Romaines today, Cupola having to serve commercial purposes. That said, in 2005 members could not fail to note that the original oak-panelled rear parlour 'rediscovered' in 1906 and lovingly re-waxed in 2003, continues to hold its own amid the Romaines' stark minimalist style.

Members were pleased to learn that the Romaines' efforts had been formally acknowledged with an award from the Bury Society in 2004. At the end of each excursion those present expressed that their thanks be recorded to both brothers for allowing access, and to Paul Romaine in particular for the interest he has shown in the building's history. Thanks were also given to the excursion leaders for giving up not one but three days to enable as many members as possible to visit this architectural gem. (A leaflet about Cupola commissioned by Paul Romaine and written by Pat Murrell is available on the premises for a donation of £1 to the NSPCC.)

2 July. Philip Aitkens, Michael Allen, Edward Martin and Clive Paine
 Mendham: the Church and Middleton Hall
 Mendham, Church (Rev David Finch)

In his will c. 942-51 Bishop Theodred of London mentions 'the minster' and the 'community at Mendham church'. This minster status is reflected in Domesday Book when two churches, one of which was Withersdale and three portions of half another church, are recorded with an endowment of 83 acres. The income from the parish church of All Saints was eventually divided between the Cluniac Priory of Mendham (c. 1150) and the Austin Canons of Holy Trinity in Ipswich (1227).

The minster may have had a central tower. For example, the footprint of the central tower survives from the earlier minster at Long Melford. Although Mendham was thoroughly restored in the 1860s and 1880s, evidence may still survive for the tower. At the west end of the nave are two buttresses, now incorporated into the side walls of the present tower. This may indicate no more than that the Decorated tower was added to the existing nave, as occurred in many churches. However, with a minster site, it may be evidence for an earlier central tower being replaced by a new Decorated tower. A parallel for this sequence can be seen at Lackford church. The Perpendicular wooden chancel arch, contemporary with the nave roof and clerestory, may indicate the remodelling of the former east wall of the central tower.

In the external south wall of the aisle, to the east of the porch, is a cluster of ?Norman round shafts embedded in the wall. Other, larger, pieces of reused window tracery can be seen in the east walls of the aisles and the south side of the chancel. There is a string-course around the north aisle.

The church has a Decorated chancel, south aisle and tower, a later and slightly narrower north aisle, a Perpendicular clerestory and south porch, to which a bequest of £1 6s 8d was made in 1417.

In the pre-Reformation period there were altars and images for All Saints and St Nicholas, and images of Our Lady of Pity and St Andrew. A new candlebeam received five bequests 1452-59, totaling £3 3s 4d. The canopy of honour has colour on the main roof beams and the brattishing on either side. The chancel arch is a wooden arch-braced structure, contemporary with the Perpendicular nave roof, similar to that at Ilketshall St John. There are a fine set of brasses and monuments to the Freston family of Wichingdon in Needham. One, in the sanctuary, traces their descent from 1557 to 1692. The seventeenth-century communion rails were described by Davy, in 1839, as enclosing the table.

There was a chapel of St Mary on the east side of the churchyard, to which bequests were made 1417-80. The income at its abolition in 1547 was £6. William Cootes the priest, aged 40, was described as 'of small learning'.

The entire church, with the exception of the chancel, was restored in 1867. Richard Phipson of Ipswich was the architect, the work being carried out by Grimwood, builders, of Weybread. The nave roof was restored and those of the aisles replaced. The nave roof has wooden corbel angels, carved by Robert Godbold of Harleston, Norfolk, which hold emblems of the Passion. *The Ipswich Journal* (25 January 1888) reported that 'In place of the large, high-backed pews, oak benches have been substituted. . . The poppy heads are all exquisitely carved, not two alike. On some. . . are texts of scripture on scrolls'. One poppy head, on the south side has 'Lord save me or I Perish', another 'Jesu Mercy'; on the north side 'Lord have mercy on us' and 'We praise Thee O God'. There are smaller benches for the Sunday School children in the north aisle.

In 1868 the chancel was described as 'in a very delapidated and unsafe state, the walls are tied up in several directions by large iron rods'; inside were 'large unsightly old-fashioned pews'. The chancel was rebuilt c. 1880 by the Adair family of Flixton Hall, the lay rectors of the living. The choir benches have the arms and motto of the Adair, Freston and Rant families. The bust of Lord Waveney is carved as a poppy head on the southern choir bench.

Middleton Hall, Mendham (by kind permission of Michael and Lesley Allen).

The focus of this visit was an exploration of the architectural, archaeological and documentary evidence that Michael Allen had researched and commissioned to try and explain why the existing 16th-century timber-framed house does not match its depiction in two early-18th-century documents. One is a vignette on an undated map that shows the west elevation of a two-storeyed red-brick building with an embattled parapet and two chimneys; a projecting two-story porch with an arched door and a two-light arched upper window separates two bays (with rectangular windows) to the left from three similar bays to the right (Figs 58 and 59).¹ In the foreground there is an embattled brick wall, roughly the same length as the house, with an off-centre arched gateway; the embattled gate is further embellished by two projecting pinnacles and similar pinnacles embellish the ends of the wall, with an additional intermediate one to the right of the gate. To the left of the gate an ordinary wooden field gate is shown. The second is a sketch, dated 1724, which shows the same view in slightly more detail (Fig 60).² This suggests that the bay on the extreme right is, in fact, a projecting wing and that the windows have central vertical divisions and transoms separating the upper thirds. There are also short pinnacles arising from the corner battlements of the tower, from the corners of the wing, and from the corners and gables of the main range. The longer pinnacles on the foreground wall have bulbous heads with short terminal spikes. The major difference, however, is that this sketch has an additional 'ghost' bay, uncoloured, on the left side, balancing the number of bays either side of the porch, and the foreground wall has a similar, uncoloured, balancing extension on its left end. The general style of the structures suggests a late 16th or early 17th-century date, but perhaps with later cross-casement windows. Nothing that matches with the elevation or the wall survives today.

The map bears the inscription 'The Manor house and Farm of Stephen Gardner Esq. lying in Mendham and Homersfield'. Stephen Gardiner (c.1667-1727), Recorder of Norwich, inherited Middleton Hall from his father in 1714. His son, another Stephen, sold the Hall to the Rev. Thomas Whitaker (c.1689-1738) in 1730. Whitaker was appointed Vicar of Fressingfield in 1724 and in 1725 entered into an agreement with John Redgrave of Ixworth, builder and undertaker, to take down the vicarage house at Fressingfield and build a new one (for £51 10s).³ He appears to have rented Middleton Hall at this time, for the above sketch is entitled 'The Manor House of the Rev. Tho. Whitaker, MA, BD, Mendham, Suffolk 1724'.

Middleton Hall takes its name from its medieval owners, who held it as a sub-manor or free tenement of the larger Mendham manor belonging to the baronial de Huntingfeld family, the founders of Mendham Priory. The Middletons probably came to Mendham around 1340 from Hardwick in Norfolk, though a Richard de Middleton was holding land in adjacent Homersfield around 1289.⁴ The last of the family, Thomas, died in 1504 and the estate passed, probably through a sale around 1515, from his heirs to Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey (later Duke of Norfolk).

Around 1526, Howard fell in love with Elizabeth Holland and she became his openly acknowledged mistress after his separation from his wife in 1533. Despite being described by the highly aggrieved duchess as 'that harlot Besse' who had been a 'washer' in her nursery and was 'but a churl's daughter and of no gentle blood', Holland belonged to a gentry family from Lincolnshire.⁵ Her father Thomas was comptroller of the household and treasurer to Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond (Howard's son-in-law) and Elizabeth was one of Anne Boleyn's ladies in 1533.⁶ When Howard was arrested and sent to the Tower in December 1546, the king's investigators sped up to his new palace at Kenninghall in Norfolk to take charge. There, at daybreak, they found the duchess of Richmond (his daughter) and Elizabeth Holland 'only just risen'. The investigators also sent 'trusty servants' to Howard's other houses, 'not forgetting Elizabeth Holland's house, newly made, in Suffolk, which is thought to be well furnished'.⁷ Later documents make it clear that this house was Middleton Hall.

With her lover imprisoned, Elizabeth lost no time in finding a new mate: by March 1547 she had married Henry Reppes, a Norfolk gentleman. Unfortunately, she died in childbirth in May 1548. Henry inherited Middleton Hall and remarried, by 1551, Ann Woodhouse, widow of Thomas Woodhouse and daughter and heiress of John Wootton of West Harling in Norfolk. Henry died childless in February 1558 and Anne inherited a life interest in Middleton Hall. In September 1558

she remarried Bassingbourne Gawdy, a young lawyer from nearby Redenhall. The couple's main residence was at Anne's major inheritance, Berdwell Hall in West Harling, where, in 1573, they had '32 chambers, of which 28 were bedrooms'. Middleton Hall, with 16 or 17 rooms containing bedding was clearly smaller, but still quite substantial and, importantly, seemingly larger than it is now.⁸ In 1577 Gawdy had licence from the heir in remainder to fell four oaks in the grounds of his 'newe mansion called Middleton Hall', which may indicate building or repair.⁹

Anne died in 1587 and Middleton Hall reverted to Henry Reppes's heirs. In June 1587 there was an agreement between Gawdy and John Reppes which refers to 'the highe howses with the garden and orchard' and 'the barns and the lowe howses with the rooms and chambers', also an obligation 'to begin reparacon during this his tyme'.¹⁰ Among the heirs was Henry Reppes's nephew, Sir Henry Woodhouse of Waxham in Norfolk, and there is a note in August 1587 that Sir Henry was 'mynded to lye heare all this winter'.¹¹

Despite his knightly status, Sir Henry had very insecure finances, which probably accounts for his desire to use Middleton Hall. Sir Henry's first wife, Anne Bacon, died in 1585 and he married secondly, before May 1595, Cecily, daughter of Thomas Gresham of Titsey, Sussex. A fine plaster ceiling in the present dining room bears the impaled arms of Woodhouse and Gresham, indicating that it was created for them. This ceiling has strong stylistic links with ceilings in Tannington Hall and The Clock House at Little Stonham. When the Woodhouses left Mendham is uncertain, but the house had passed to the Herne family of London by 1609 and then to Stephen Baxter before 1628. Baxter came from a gentry family seated at Fornsett in Norfolk and was succeeded around 1634 by his son Stephen, who recorded the family's pedigree at the Herald's Visitation in 1664 and was taxed on 13 hearths in Mendham in 1674. On his death in 1696 he left his estate to his son-in-laws, Francis Gardiner, linen-draper of Norwich (d. 1714), and Edward Eyre, gent. of Lammas, Norfolk (d. 1710). They in turn left it to Francis's son, Stephen Gardiner, who commissioned the map.

Fitting the building sequence into this complex history is not easy, but the north-south wing, containing the present drawing room and small sitting room, has a queenpost roof and probably dates from the early-to-mid 16th century and may well have been built for Elizabeth Holland (Fig. 61).¹² The east-west four-bay range, also with a queenpost roof and containing the present buttery and dining room, was added in the last quarter of the 16th century and was given a brick-nogged south elevation. It is this range that contains the fine plaster ceiling, in what was probably a great parlour beneath a great chamber. Around 1900, when the Revd Edmund Farrer visited, this room was being used as a dairy and larder and he reported that 'a few years ago the farmer who resided here stored in one of the chambers above the dairy some corn, the weight of which caused the ceiling to fall in. It has, however, been restored, and when I last saw it only the shield of arms was wanting, and this we hope will again be replaced'.¹³ The recovered fragments of the shield were in fact reset into a thick plaster backing which was too heavy for the ceiling, and this is now affixed to a wall of the room. The ceiling has two moulded cross beams with a running design of vine leaves, grapes, acorns etc, between an interlocking geometric pattern of narrow moulded ribs with quatrefoil bosses at the intersections of the ribs and fleurs at their terminals. Interspersed within this pattern are moulded roses, Gresham grasshoppers, pairs of pistols, powder flasks, helmets etc. Along the top of the walls is a plaster frieze with Roman emperors' heads in profile and cupid figures.

Also in the late 16th century, but probably in a different building phase, the southern half of the west front of the north-south wing was underbuilt in brick and given a decorative red and black diaper pattern. A diagonal brick buttress (with indications of a former pinnacle) was also added at the south-west corner. The bricks used for this wall and the buttress are large (averaging 250x125x60mm) and contrast with the smaller bricks used in the bricknogging of the south elevation (averaging 215x100x50mm). Contemporary with this walling is a wooden window (now removed and stored in the barn) that has a central cavetto-moulded mullion that is grooved for glazing; it was painted white inside and out.

The west wall and the buttress with its pinnacle seem to be an echo of what is shown in the pictures. A possible explanation is that this walling formed the east side of a small south-facing courtyard, with

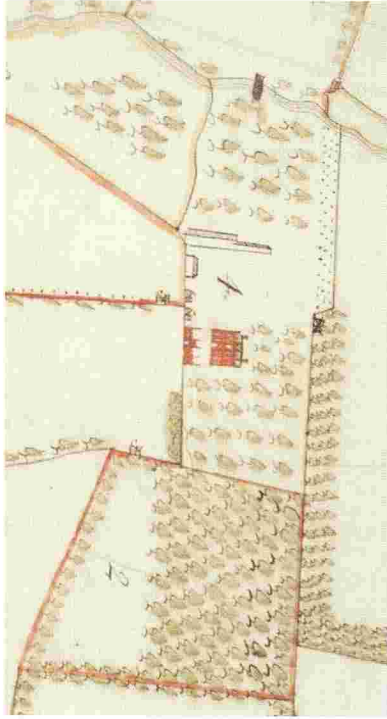


FIG. 58 – Part of an early 18th-century map of Middleton Hall made for Stephen Gardner. Reproduced by kind permission of Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich branch (ref. SRO(I) HA 226/1378/15).

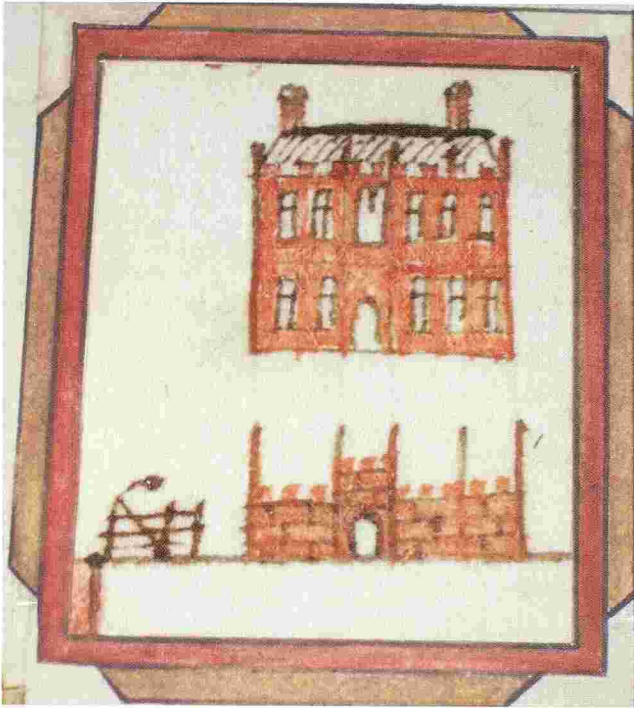


FIG. 59 – The vignette of the house on the early 18th-century map. Reproduced by kind permission of Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich branch (ref. SRO(I) HA 226/1378/15).

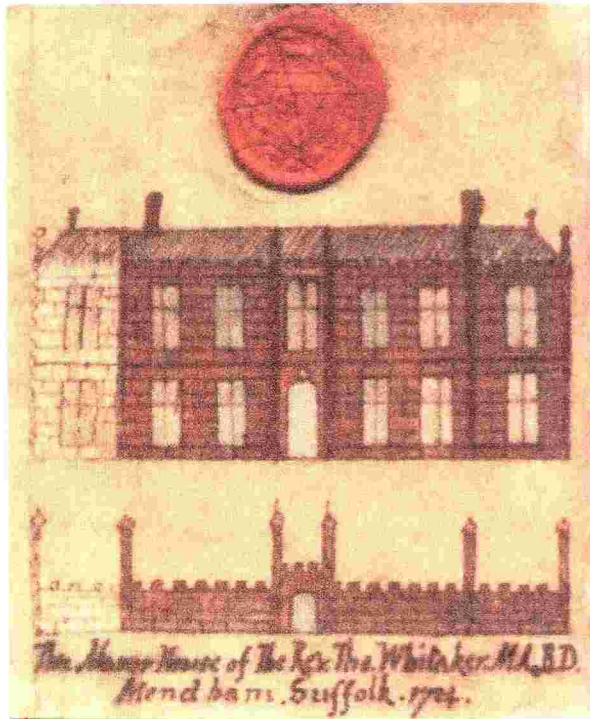


FIG. 60 – Sketch of ‘The Manor House of the Rev. Tho. Whitaker, MA, BD, Mendham, Suffolk 1724’. Reproduced by kind permission of Mr Roger Peggs on behalf of the Whitaker family.

now demolished ranges on its north and west side. The west side of that west range could be what was shown in the pictures. If true, it implies that the house was twice its existing size and had significant west (?entrance) and south (garden) elevations.

In order to investigate this theory a geophysical survey was carried out on the land to the west of the house.¹⁴ Linear high resistance anomalies were detected which were suggestive of the missing western range. Subsequent trial trenching across the putative wall lines failed to find any substantial brick foundations, though there was a certain amount of late medieval/Tudor brick rubble. What were found were shallow trenches (between 0.55m and 1.2m wide and 0.055 and 1.4m deep) with clay fills containing chalk fragments and brick rubble.¹⁵ These could be foundation trenches (possibly truncated by later landscaping) but if so they suggest that they were intended for timber-framed walls. The brick walling seen in the pictures would then have to have been a secondary decorative cladding, similar to that still existing on the west side of the house. A trench excavated in the likely location of the brick wall to the west of the house located a shallow area of compacted clay (4-6mm thick) with brick rubble and chalk at its eastern end which could be a yard surface, or just conceivably, the remains of a foundation trench.

An existing brick wall attached to the south-east corner of the house is Tudor in date and is also ornamented with a diaper pattern (but different in pattern to that on the west wall of the house and made of the smaller bricks used for the bricknogging). The pattern is apparent on both sides of the wall (though now covered by sheds on the north side) suggesting that it was a freestanding garden wall. There are still traces of original red paint (ruddle) on the wall and it contains a number of plaster-lined rectangular recesses that may have been intended as bee-holes (recesses for straw bee hives or skeps). This wall was later raised (using larger bricks similar to those of the west wall) and given an embattled top reminiscent of those portrayed in the drawings (a third enlargement of the wall has subsequently infilled the battlements). There is an opening, probably original, through the wall a short

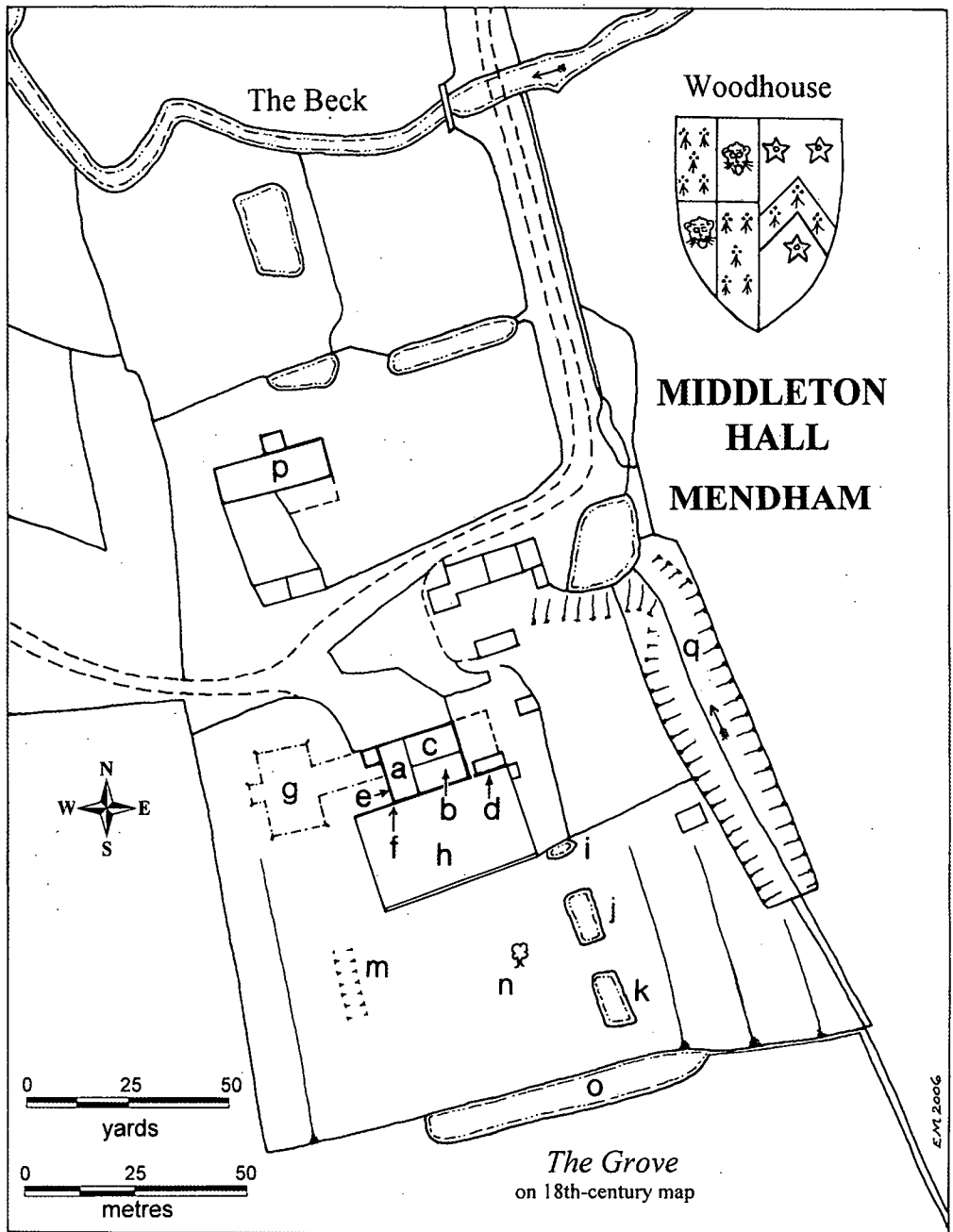


FIG. 61 – Map of Middleton Hall, Mendham. The lettered items are: (a) the north-south wing of mid-16th century date. (b) the east-west (south) range of late 16-century date containing the plaster ceiling; (c) the north range of early 18th century date; (d) the Tudor garden wall with bee-boles, (e) late 16th-century brick west wall with a diaper pattern; (f) the brick corner buttress; (g) the possible missing west range, based on the slight archaeological remains (h) garden; (i-k) flight of three ponds; (m) depression; (n) former orchard, one tree surviving; (o) linear pond, possibly an early 18th-century canal, (p) 16th century barn, (q) channel cut by a small watercourse running down the slope.

distance away from the corner of the house and the pointing and paint on the brick wall is better preserved in the short stretch of walling to the west of the opening. Mortises in the south face of the south-east corner-post of the south range indicate that there was some form of projecting structure (?garderobe tower or gallery) at the east end of the great parlour and this may have been responsible for protecting this section of the brick wall.

To sum up, the lost western range may have been contemporary with the existing west wing and could have been part of Elizabeth Holland's house. The addition of the east range could have been by Bassingbourn and Anne Gawdy, as perhaps was the attached garden wall. The brick cladding of the west ranges and the embattling of the garden wall could have been a second stage of work by the Gawdys, or perhaps more likely by Sir Henry Woodhouse, at the same time as he commissioned the plaster ceiling.

The existing north range of the house dates from around 1730, but has walls made of at least three types of bricks, some very likely from an earlier building and its roof contains second-hand timbers, very probably from the demolished west wing. The heavily-framed cross-casement windows are of a type current for several decades around 1700. As noted, there is documentary evidence of the Rev. Thomas Whitaker undertaking rebuilding at Fressingfield around this time and it is likely that he was behind the rebuilding at Mendham as well. The plainness of the work suggests that it was intended for a tenant farmer, rather than for his own use. The 'ghost' additions to the 1724 sketch could however be interpreted as an earlier plan by Whitaker to keep the whole mansion and to make it more acceptable to 18th-century taste by making its façade more symmetrical.

A final consideration is the garden area to the south of the house. This has a smallish level area immediately in front of the house, but then rises (after a boundary ditch) to a larger upper platform. This is approximately square and the 18th-century map shows it as filled with regularly-spaced trees suggestive of an orchard (and an old apple tree still survives there). The east side is defined by a flight of three ponds shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map (of which only two survive). These ponds align with the end of the garden wall, suggesting that they might be contemporary. At an equal distance on the west side there is a depression that may have been a matching feature; this aligns approximately with the lost west wing. The south side of this area is bounded by a long canal-like feature, which is shown on the 18th-century map merely as a boundary between the orchard and a more wooded area to the south. The garden wall, the orchard and the ponds may well be the rare remains of a Tudor garden, though the canal could be an early 18th-century addition by Stephen Gardiner. The 18th-century map shows a more densely wooded area to the south of the 'canal', numbered '2' and named as *The Grove*. The area to the north of the main house site, bordering The Beck is also shown as having a light covering of trees on the 18th-century map, perhaps indicating another orchard.

*23 July. Mike Hardy and John Fairclough.
Stoke Ash excavation.*

About 60 members gathered to view the work on a site beside the A140 main road from Ipswich to Norwich, which follows the line of the Roman road from *Combrelovium* (Baylham Mill, Coddtenham) to *Venta Icenorum* (Caistor by Norwich). The site is close to this road at the point where it crosses a stream that feeds via the Dove through Eye into the River Waveney, so it would have been possible to transport heavy goods by water in small boats. The probability that there was a loading point here is supported by the finding of numerous fragments of amphorae (the large jars used to ship wine, oil and fish sauce) as well as samian and other fine wares that had perhaps been broken during the transfer. At least two distinct phases of activity (so far only characterised as "early" and "late") have been identified within the Roman period, separated by a heavily cobbled surface. Another surface might be the edge of the Roman main road, although as much of the stone has been robbed out only further excavation will reveal the answer. Members were shown some of the evidence for bronze working on the site and for the butchering of carcasses, revealed by cuts on many of the animal bones. A selection of finds was on display including some of the large fragments of pottery that enable us to

reconstruct the shape of several flagons and jars. There were also photographs of coins and other metal finds. The site is within the area of an extensive settlement, presumably a Roman market town, revealed by field walking and metal detecting. Large pieces of Roman pottery were recovered from a pit on the other side of the road by Hamlet Watling in the 19th century and more recently finds have been recorded from the bed of the stream. The town seems to have extended from north of the White Horse to south of Stoke Ash church and some distance along the road to Thornham Magna, suggesting that it had a population considerably larger than the 3,000 estimated for the similar Roman town at Scole. Some members took the opportunity to join the excavation and worked alongside the regular team of Thornham Research Group members. They also benefited from the advice and guidance of John Newman from the SCC Archaeological Service who joined us for the day. Some observed the uncovering of the "find of the day", a delicate little bronze scoop probably used to extract ear wax. Members also took the opportunity to discuss the site with Mike Hardy and members of the Research Group at such length that some were still engrossed when the site was opened to the public in the afternoon as part of the CBA National Archaeology Week, which attracted about 50 more visitors.

We are grateful to Mr & Mrs Manning of Stoke Hall for permission to excavate and to welcome visitors onto their land.

*20 August. Jane Carr, John Fairclough Tim Pestell, Paul Cattermole
Norwich Castle Museum and Bishop's Palace, Norwich School*

A large group of members were grateful to Dr T. Pestell for a guided tour of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking galleries in the museum, and to the Headmaster at Norwich School for permission to visit the buildings adjacent to the cathedral in which Norman and later remains are preserved. A lively exposition on the latter by Dr P. Cattermole was much appreciated.

Norwich Castle Museum The archaeological collections in the museum, and the Keep itself, illustrate the rich cultural heritage of Norfolk. Visiting the newly refurbished Anglo-Saxon and Viking galleries the eye was drawn to the colourful and exciting banners which marked each new phase (Migration Period, An Age of Kings, Vikings etc) and members were able to look in depth at the evidence for post-Roman occupation in the county. There was an obvious benefit to be had from recent research into the material remains of these somewhat obscure early cultures, which was manifest in the articulate and questioning, labels amongst the displays. In addition to describing the objects Dr Pestell also demanded some thought from visitors by posing questions and suggesting possibilities. Thus there was the late 8th century Larling whalebone plaque with a panel showing Romulus and Remus, who legend says founded Rome. Similar motifs occur on the coins of King Aethelbert of East Anglia, copying Roman coins. Aethelbert was murdered in 794AD and became a saint. Larling church is dedicated to him, so could the panel belong to an artefact from the church? This was an honest and provocative approach found throughout the exhibition.

Hidden Treasures exhibition

Members then visited this touring exhibition which started in 1994 at the British Museum, and whose final resting place before being disbanded was at Norwich Castle. As a result of changes to Treasure Trove and the inception of the new Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities scheme for finds recording, it was decided that an exhibition would both publicise these changes and celebrate some of Britain's greatest 'treasure' finds. These included old finds such as treasures from Mildenhall, Sutton Hoo and Snettisham, as well as more recent discoveries from Thetford and Hoxne. The exhibition demonstrated the impact that metal-detectorists have made on the sheer number of finds from across the country in recent years, with Norfolk and Suffolk yielding by far the most. The importance of archaeologists and responsible detectorists working together to record artefacts and their context was stressed throughout, a good example of which came from the discovery and excavation of the Late Roman treasure at Hoxne.

The opportunity to see significant discoveries from across the country was appreciated by all, with finds such as the 'Amesbury Archer', the Bronze Age burial of an aristocrat from Europe, wearing gold tress-rings, being sensitively displayed.

Bishop Palace and and Carnary Chapel, Norwich School

The group gathered after lunch and was privileged to be led by Dr Cattermole through rooms of Norwich School in which remains of the Romanesque and Medieval buildings of Bishop's Palace could be traced. These included the square *maison forte* and below it a vaulted under-croft. To the E of this range was Bishop Reynold's chapel of the 17th cent. which reused earlier medieval windows, and is now the school library. To the W of the West Front the Carnary College and Chapel, founded by Bishop Salmon in the early 14th cent. could be seen. Its undercroft was illuminated by unusual, large circular windows. A timber-framed building against the E wall of the chapel contained 14th cent. stone detailing. In addition to the architectural features of interest some unusual views of the N side of the cathedral and chapel could be seen from the School House courtyard.

NOTES

- 1 SRO(I) HA 226/1378/15
- 2 Private papers of the Whitaker family held by Mr Roger Peggs.
- 3 SRO(I) FC 90/C2/1.
- 4 SRO(I) 1538/301/29-31; TNA: CP 25/1/220/78/27 (Feet of Fines 14 Edw. III (1340-1) no. 27): Richard de Middleton v. Alan le Clerk and Alice his wife, in Mendham and *Suthelmham*; SRO(I) HD 1538/210/8.
- 5 *Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII*, vol. 12, London 1890-1, nos. 143 and 252; A.R. Maddison, *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, vol. II, Harleian Soc. vol. LI, London 1903, 504-7.
- 6 *Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII*, vol. 6, London 1882, no. 1164.
- 7 *Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII*, vol. 21 pt. 2, London 1910, no. 548.
- 8 British Library ADD MS 27398.
- 9 British Library Egerton Ch 2713.
- 10 British Library Egerton Ch 2713.
- 11 British Library Egerton Ch 2713.
- 12 The phasing of the building was done by Robert Smith and Philip Aitkens.
- 13 E. Farrer, 'Middleton Hall in Mendham', *East Anglian Miscellany* 1911, p. 85, no. 3485. Farrer also notes that this ceiling had been reproduced in a room at Flixton Hall, 'the seat of the present owner, Sir Frederick Adair, Bt.'. The fine hound-gate at the top of the Middleton Hall staircase was originally in Middleton Hall, but was later taken by the Adairs to Flixton Hall, only to be returned by Ernest Hadingham when the contents of Flixton Hall were sold prior to its demolition in 1953.
- 14 D. Hale, *Land at Middleton Hall, Mendham, Suffolk: Geophysical Surveys*, Archaeological Services University of Durham report no. 1067, Feb. 2004.
- 15 L. Everett, *Middleton Hall, Mendham. MDM 103*, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service report no. 2004/142.

LECTURES AT HAUGHLEY

- March 5 'Keeping your hand in and holding on - the General Practitioner and Cottage Hospitals in Norfolk and Suffolk c.1860-1939', by Dr Steve Cherry
- March 19 'Conflict and Revolt: Developments in the Relationship between Lords and Peasants at the Ely Manor of Brandon in the 14th Century', by Dr Miriam Muller
- October 22 'Bricks, Buildings and Architecture', by Peter Minter
- November 12 'Domesday Suffolk', by Dr Lucy Marten
- December 3 'The Making of the East Anglian Landscape', by Edward Martin

MEMBERS ELECTED DURING 2004

During the year 38 members were elected and, after taking into account resignations and lapsed members, the membership at the end of 2005 stood at 869, a net decrease of 1. The total comprised 597 full members, 193 associate members, and 79 institutions and societies.

ACCOUNTS

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

The Council presents their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2005.

The Council is elected at the annual general meeting.

The current members of the council are shown on page 261. At the previous AGM on 23 April 2005 Mrs KC Brown and Mrs J Carr resigned, and Mr T Easton, Ms S Mael, Mr J Meredith, Mr R Steerwood and Dr J Middleton-Stewart were elected. During the year Mr A Hayward resigned and Mrs E Cockayne was appointed.

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 on the Accumulated Fund should be in the region of two years' income, currently averaging £12,000 per annum. The trustees review the policy each year.

Review

Apart from the publication of the *Proceedings* Volume XL Part IV and two *Newsletters*, the Institutes' publications have continued to sell well. *Decoding Flint Flushwork in Suffolk and Norfolk* by John Blatchley and Peter Northeast will be published in April. There were also during the year the usual excursions and lectures.

Signed for and on behalf of the Council on 11 March 2006

AB Parry

Hon. Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 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 2005, which are set out on pages 276 to 278.

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 our examination, no matter has come to our 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.

C. L. Bassett, Chartered Accountant
on behalf Izod Bassett, Chartered Accountants, 105 High Street, Needham Market, Suffolk, IP6 8DQ
25 April 2006

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

	Note	2005 £	2004 £
Incoming resources	2		
Membership income		8,856	8,435
Voluntary income		2,900	2,400
Gross income from publications		5,663	1,140
Income from investments		2,204	2,085
Total incoming resources		<u>19,623</u>	<u>14,060</u>
Resources expended	3		
Charitable support expenditure			
– General		(2,847)	(3,157)
– Proceedings publication		(9,067)	(8,119)
– Other		(12,151)	(1,870)
Total resources expended		<u>(24,065)</u>	<u>(13,146)</u>
Net incoming resources		4,442	914
Accumulated funds brought forward		49,592	48,678
Accumulated funds carried forward		<u>45,150</u>	<u>49,592</u>

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2005

	Note	2005 £	2004 £
Investments	5	5,964	5,964
Current assets			
Cash at bank – Current Account		824	899
– Deposit Account		36,077	42,911
Debtor		2,400	-
		<u>39,301</u>	<u>43,810</u>
Less: Subscriptions in advance		(115)	(182)
		<u>(115)</u>	<u>(182)</u>
Net current assets		39,186	43,628
Net assets		<u>45,150</u>	<u>49,592</u>
Represented by			
<i>Unrestricted funds:</i>			
Gwen Dyke Bequest	4	10,461	10,844
Research, Excavation and Publication fund	4	21,078	25,644
Accumulated fund	4	13,611	13,104
		<u>45,150</u>	<u>49,592</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 11 March 2006.

A.B. Parry
Hon. Treasurer

The notes on pages 279 to 280 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

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 2005	Total 2004
	£	£	£	£	£
Membership income					
Subscriptions	—	—	8,856	8,856	8,435
Voluntary income					
Grants	—	—	2,400	2,400	2,400
Sponsorship	—	500	—	500	—
	—	500	2,400	2,900	2,400
Gross income from publications					
<i>Proceedings sales</i>	—	—	80	80	120
<i>Decoding Flint Flushwork</i>	—	5,373	—	5,373	—
<i>Suffolk Arcades</i>	—	100	—	100	433
<i>Hawes</i>	—	45	—	45	82
<i>Dovecotes</i>	—	65	—	65	69
<i>Roof Carvings</i>	—	—	—	—	436
	—	5,583	80	5,663	1,140
Income from investments					
Interest on investments	500	—	—	500	500
Bank interest	117	502	445	1,064	948
Income tax recovered	—	—	640	640	637
	617	502	1,085	2,204	2,085
Total incoming resources	617	6,585	12,421	19,623	14,060

3. Resources expended

	Gwen Dyke Bequest	Research, Excavation and Publication fund	Accumulated fund	Total 2005	Total 2004
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure – General					
Newsletters, including postage	-	-	755	755	961
Excursions	-	-	140	140	190
Lectures	-	-	908	908	715
Printing and stationery	-	-	26	26	70
Office expenses and postage	-	-	304	304	104
Insurance	-	-	244	244	240
Independent examiners fee	-	-	247	247	235
Subscriptions	-	-	223	223	462
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-0	180
	-	-	<u>2,847</u>	<u>2,847</u>	<u>3,157</u>
Expenditure – Proceedings					
Printing and postage	-	-	<u>9,067</u>	<u>9,067</u>	<u>8,119</u>
Other expenditure					
Activity Day	-	135	-	135	409
Grant	1,000	400	-	1,400	500
Articles in Newsletter	-	1,064	-	1,064	811
Excavation expenditure	-	-	-	-	150
Cost of index to Volume XL	-	2,336	-	2,336	-
Cost of publication of Decoding Flint Flashwork	-	5,512	-	5,512	-
Selling expenses of Decoding Flint Flashwork	-	499	-	499	-
Brockley Hall investigation	-	704	-	704	-
Field Group	-	100	-	100	412
Matrex Computer Indexing	-	401	-	401	900
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>11,151</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,151</u>	<u>1,870</u>
Total resources expended	<u>1,000</u>	<u>11,151</u>	<u>11,914</u>	<u>24,065</u>	<u>13,146</u>

4. Movement on funds

Opening balance	10,844	25,644	13,104	49,592	48,678
Incoming resources	617	6,585	12,421	19,623	14,060
	<u>11,461</u>	<u>32,229</u>	<u>25,525</u>	<u>69,215</u>	<u>62,738</u>
Resources expended	1,000	11,151	11,914	24,065	13,146
Closing balance	<u>10,461</u>	<u>21,078</u>	<u>13,611</u>	<u>45,150</u>	<u>49,592</u>

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.

5. Investments

	Market value	Cost 2005	Cost 2004
8% Treasury Stock, 2009 £6,244.78 Nominal	£ 7,122	£ 5,964	£ 5,964

6. Summary of net assets by funds

	Gwen Dyke Bequest	Research, Excavation and Publication fund	Accumulated fund	Total 2005	Total 2004
	£	£	£	£	£
Investments	5,964	-	-	5,964	5,964
Net current assets	4,497	21,077	13,612	39,186	43,628
	<u>10,461</u>	<u>21,077</u>	<u>13,612</u>	<u>45,150</u>	<u>49,592</u>

7. Trustees

No member of the council received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2004: 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 at Haughley. 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, Professor Colin Richmond, Flat 3, Sutton House, Quay Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1BX, 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 Mrs. J. Carr, 116 Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2LE.

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