

24 July

*Denston church, Hall and Chantry Farm:* The church is evidently a rebuilding for services of new collegiate foundation of 1475. Master and brethren apparently lived in former building W. of church. Present Chantry Farm E. of church, with notable Tudor woodwork, is a post-Reformation parsonage house.

At the Hall, John Bensusan-Butt established the probability that the rear range was the remnant of the large, quadrangular house of Sir John Denston, founder of the chantry; that the present main house was built *c.* 1690 for Sir John Robinson (d. *temp.* Anne), the chief remains being the barley-twist staircase, the black-and-red brickwork and the small-paned windows at rear; and that alterations, mainly in the front of the house, were perhaps paid for by Sir John Griffin Griffin at the time of the Robinson-Clive marriage, 1782.

*Badmond'sfield Hall, Wickhambrook:* Domesday site with own church evidently near front of present house and apparently dedicated to St Edward. Present building presumably Elizabethan. Garderobe survives in upper chamber. Two handsome medieval carved wooden doorways stand within, but whether *in situ* is uncertain. N.S.

11 September

*Mildenhall church:* Dramatic nave, rebuilt 15th century and grafted on to earlier chancel. Remarkable slab in memory of Richard de Wickforde refers to the 'new work' of the chancel (*c.* 1300). 13th-century north chapel with stone vault.

*Mildenhall town and parish:* W. of church, ruins of a large rectangular dovecote with stone nesting-boxes; once belonging to the manor-house, probably medieval.

The River Lark, which was probably canalised in Roman times, now drains a large area of Fenland. Former course of the Little Ouse visible as a 'roddon', a broad bank of silt meandering across the fen. Drainage works of many different dates: for example Baldwin's Lode, a natural watercourse probably deepened in the 11th century; grazing land on the 'skirts' of the fen, improved in the 16th century; network of parallel drains cut by the adventurers in the 17th century; large-scale drains and pumping installations in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, encouraging a change to arable farming. D.P.D.