

## EXCURSIONS 1993

### *Report and notes on some findings*

17 April. Timothy Easton, Edward Martin, Philip Aitkens, Peter Northeast and Stephen Podd

*Domestic architecture over seven centuries: Bedfield and Worlingworth*

*Bedfield, St Nicholas's Church* (by kind permission of Revd J.D. Mincher). Isolated aisleless church standing beside Hall. Not mentioned in Domesday Book, but named shortly afterwards in Robert Malet's foundation charter to Eye Priory (c. 1086–1105/6). Nave has Norman coursed-flint walling and early 12th-century N. door. Changes in walling indicate walls of nave later heightened to accommodate larger windows. Norman walling also apparent in parts of chancel; lines on walls indicate that it has been lengthened and broadened. Tower with Perpendicular W. window seems to date from late 15th century: bequest by William Folkard of Bedfield 'to the emendation of the tower' in 1470 seems to confirm this, but above projecting stair turret on S. side is stone bearing arms of Ufford family (recorded in that position by D.E. Davy, 1839). Carving matches that on font inside church, which bears impaled arms of William de Ufford, 2nd Earl of Suffolk (c. 1339–82) and his wife Isabella Beauchamp (mar. c. 1376, d. 1416) (arms on font are actually blundered – fess on Beauchamp arms is omitted – but correctly shown on almost identical font in Parham Church). If in original position, stone on tower should indicate much of tower standing by 1416 (Uffords patrons of Eye Priory, which held manor of Bedfield, therefore also, in a sense, patrons of Bedfield). Possibly earlier tower extensively remodelled in later 15th century. Porch with crown-post roof dates from 14th century.

Within church: base of Early Tudor painted screen survives. Stylistically dated to mid 15th century by Pevsner and others, but names painted below figures seem to commemorate early-16th-century group of wealthy Bedfield farmers: Robert Denny (will 1533, proved 1535), John Mayewe (will 1534, proved 1537) and John Elyse (will 1528; left 26s.8d. to gilding of candlebeam and 40s. to table of Our Lady's altar; also requested burial in church and for 'gravestone to be laid over me with a remembrance of mine name' – marble floor-stone near font with brass indent may be his). Elizabeth Keryche also made bequest, 6s.8d., 'to painting the candlebeam' (will 1522, proved 1527) – her name may be on one of uncleaned panels. Wooden font cover with Tuscan columns and ingenious method of opening is 17th-century, as is Holy Table, pulpit, chest by N. door and pews at rear of church. Chair in chancel bears painted shield with arms of Thomas Rous, Rector of Bedfield 1662–90. Floor-stones commemorate Thomas Dunston (d.1657) and Lionel Girling (d.1692), both of Bedfield Hall, and Mary Raymond (d.1668), daughter Lydia (d.1685) and son-in-law John Jeffrey (d.1684).

Chancel restored by J.K. Colling 1870, painted texts added by J. and J. King of Norwich. Amusing account of service in church in 1860 published in *East Anglian Miscellany* 1945 (no. 11,323).

*Bedfield Hall* (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs T. Easton). Moated site close to church linked with manor held by Eye Priory. Surviving house is mid-15th-century, enlarged and modernised in late 16th and 17th centuries by addition of two wings. Tenants from late 15th century were Nicholl family (see *Visitation of Suffolk 1561*, Nicholls of Tannington), sub-let by them to Robert Keriche in 1528. Keriches remained at Hall through several changes of ownership following suppression of Eye Priory. Thomas Dunston (probably descendant of William Dunston, parson of Bedfield c. 1528–1559) became first owner-occupier of Hall in early 17th century. Made decorative improvements (paint and enriched plaster ceilings) to parlour and chambers above. During 1630s and 1640s he appears to have moved to Worlingworth (probably Chandos Farm) and Hall tenanted by a Mrs Acton. In later 1640s Dunston returned to Bedfield and died there

1657. Probably in this second occupation he built new kitchen wing – again original paint and plaster decoration survives. In kitchen chamber and attic above are two *scaglioli* fireplaces – possibly earliest surviving in England (see Easton 1986). Number of references to room usage and furnishings survive in wills and inventories for both Keriches and Dunstons and it is hoped to present more detailed account of interior use of Hall and Chandos Farm at a later date.

*Poplar Farm, Bedfield Long Green* (by kind permission of Mr D. Jones). Situated on widest part of former Long Green, appears to have been copyhold tenement called *Roterys*. John Elyse (commemorated on screen in church) held bond tenement called *Rotters* (possibly also called *Wythes*); presented at manor court 1512 and 1521 for not keeping tenement in good repair; ordered 1527 to rebuild collapsed building on his bond tenement; 1528 had still not rebuilt house (*domus*); 1531 son John had not sufficiently repaired tenement; 1532 ordered to newly rebuild house ‘called an incetthowse’ (? a term for a bond dwelling) on tenement called *Wythes* within two years. House on *Wythes* rebuilt by 1555, when John Elyse willed that wife should ‘have her mansion and dwelling . . . in the parlour with the parlour solar’ either in his tenement at the Church bridge or at his tenement *Wythes*.

Existing house small mid-16th-century building of probable lobby-entrance form – relatively early date for this type of house (see Martin 1991 for another possible early example) as plan-form not adopted to any large degree until early 17th century. Shows some non-standard features: two rooms on ground floor, but three on upper level. Two principal rooms on first floor had deep-silled oriel windows to both back and front – another unusual feature. Implies small but expensive house of some novelty, meant to be admired externally from both back and front. Unlike most contemporary Bedfield houses, which were thatched, this was tiled from start. One of fireplace lintels is re-used embattled beam of 15th-century date. Design of chimney later altered to give additional upper flues, possibly when attic floors added in 1570s. Beside house is 16th-century barn, used partly for crop storage and partly as stable.

*Lane between Long Green and Hungers Green, Monk Soham*. Broad green lane has succession of broad ridges along it, at right-angles to long axis of lane. Although superficially resembling ridge-and-furrow, ridges are clearly related to lane, following its curves, and are not cut-off relics of medieval field. Possibly drainage works (lane on heavy wet clay) and could be related to provision of spring flush of grass, similar to water-meadow. Lane narrows as crosses boundary into Monk Soham, then widens out into Hungers Green. No houses now on green, but pottery scatters indicate at least two sites on W. side and surviving boundaries suggest another two on E. side. Green narrows again towards junction with road through Monk Soham, where guildhall stood until demolished twenty years ago.

Although providing route between two greens, lane was in individual ownership. Was ‘severall way’ of Sir William Denny (of Beccles and Norwich), 1635 and may be same as *Myces Lane*, recorded 1516. John Mayewe, who in 1534 made bequest to repair of ‘slowghes in Mysys Lane’, may have been regular (and long-suffering) user of this lane as he also made bequests to guildhall at Monk Soham and to steeple of church there. Name may commemorate Mey family, attested in Bedfield in 15th century.

*Paradise Farm, Worlingworth* (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs G. Kench). Situated on E. side of former Great Green (portion of green ditch has been incorporated into garden and transformed into ornamental canal, 19th century). Probably site of customary tenement occupied by John Dowsing in early 14th century.

Attached at right-angles to 19th-century brick house is earlier timber-framed range. Latter incorporates small raised-aisled hall, perhaps dating from mid 15th century. Most of solar bay survives with original coupled-rafter hipped roof; solar extended in 16th century. Upper part of hall only ever ceiled at collar-level, so giving good impression of central truss: arcade posts and

arched braces still present, but upper king-post and ridge-piece missing. Medieval rafters intact, but now obscured by plaster. Part of one hall window survives, unusually close to moulded dias-beam – implying internal jetty forming canopy over fixed bench and table. Unexplained constructional feature, different to other raised-aisled halls, is that bridging beam carrying arcade-posts is supported on buttress-shafted wall-posts with moulded caps; more normal to find pair of heavy supporting braces instead of ornamental caps – perhaps another pointer to relatively late date of this raised-aisled hall.

12 June. Edward Martin, Philip Aitkens, Timothy Easton and Birkin Haward

Early-18th-century gardens (and estates of Sir Thomas Gresham): Combs and Ringshall

Combs, St Mary's Church (by kind permission of Revd P.H. Miller). Large church lying remote from village, but forming small group with Combs Hall on side of N.-facing slope. Main structure of church (Fig.57) appears to date from early 14th century: substantial six-bay arcade, buttressed outer walls of aisles, large E. window of intersecting tracery, and Y-tracery of two-light window of S. aisle. Arcade, built of hard coarse-grained yellow-brown stone, is accomplished masonry work of its time, although detailing of plain octagonal piers, square bases, simple double chamfered arches is only enriched by boldly-moulded capitals (see Fig.58). Sequence of mouldings can be found in a number of churches, mainly 14th-century, in Suffolk and elsewhere (Haward 1993). Arches at W. end partially submerged by buttresses of tower that was later added (or enlarged). Surviving moulded surround to W. door into church from tower and adjacent holy water stoup (on outer side – not now visible, but recorded by Munro Cautley) indicate original principal entrance at W. end – rarity in Suffolk.

Present tower appears to have been started in second half of 14th century. N. and S. openings through base of tower provided because position hard against W. boundary of churchyard left

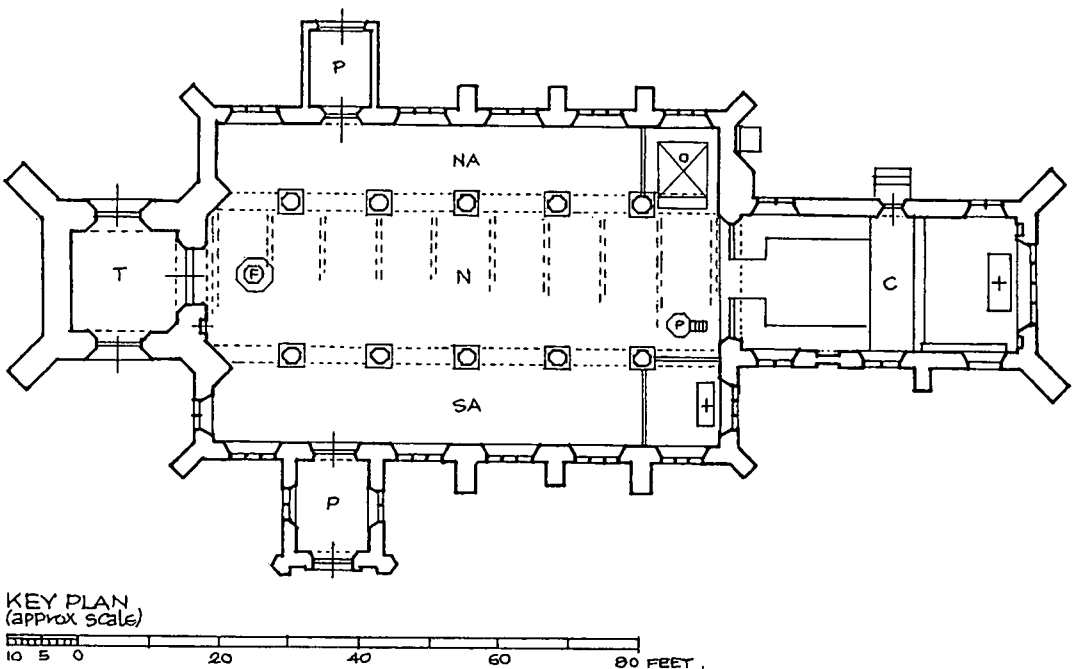


FIG. 57 – St Mary's church, Combs: plan (drawn by Birkin Haward).



insufficient room for processions to circulate around church. Above arches of openings are stones bearing arms of Ufford family, Earls of Suffolk. Uffords inherited share of manor of Combs in early 14th century, becoming sole lords by middle of century; last earl died 1382 and his countess 1416. Tower however probably not completed until mid 15th century.

Mid-14th-century works in chancel include: S. and N. ogee-arched windows (some still retain fragments of contemporary high-quality stained glass), sedilia and niches (much restored in 19th century). Works may have been linked to lengthening of chancel. Also of this date, timber porch on N. side – may have originated as temporary measure erected when tower (and W. entrance) being rebuilt.

In 15th century, new works to aisles and clerestoreys, partly documented in will bequests: John Hasard 1447 'to the new aisle'; Edward Dryver 1449 'to the making of an *eel*'; John Adgor 1452 'to the work of a new window above *le Ele* of the Holy Trinity'; Nicholas Rodys and Simon Turnour 1472 'to the east window of the south side'). Bequests and stylistic considerations, principally greater angularity of containing arches and tracery details on S. side (comparative examples at Blythburgh and Wangford), suggest upgrading of N. aisle undertaken first and S. later. Evidence that windows of both aisles filled with contemporary stained glass, mainly from Norwich workshops. Much remains in S. Aisle: includes scenes of Seven Acts of Mercy and from Life of St Margaret of Antioch. Sir John Blois's 17th-century *Church Notes*, quoted by D.E. Davy, record lost heraldic glass, mainly with arms of Willoughby family of Parham (successors to Uffords as lords of manor) – latest recorded shield had Willoughby impaling Jenny, commemorating Sir Christopher Willoughby (1453–1498) and wife Margaret Jenny (d.1515). Margaret seems to have retained life interest in Combs (? could Margaret window be connected with her) and her younger son, Robert Willoughby, was Rector of Combs 1500–24.

Nave roof, with nine bays of king-post trusses, dates from early 18th century, as does plaster eaves cornice. Tiebeams, kingposts and struts of roof all have applied yellow ochre, however principal rafters reused from a 15th-century roof, contemporary with revamped clerestoreys. Pair of rafters next to tower has traces of medieval red paint, but none of others show any sign of it. Some white paint on both old and new timbers, suggesting that 18th-century roof had whitened timbers in plane of roof and yellow ones in trusses. Surviving blocks for fixing of bosses at tops of westernmost rafters show present roof pitch close to that of original. Slots for archbraces in lower half of principals show design of roof similar to that of aisles. Seems original roof had no tiebeams, collars, or upper bracing. Nave at Haughley has archbraced trusses similar to ones at Combs, but alternating with tiebeam trusses, which made roof strong, as opposed to one at Combs which appears to have been inherently weak, perhaps explaining why it had to be rebuilt.

Fine brick porch on S. side built by 1531, when Thomas Tastard requested burial 'within the new porch of the south part of the church'. Entrance to porch rebuilt using high-quality rubbed bricks, late 17th century, most probably by William Bridgeman (c. 1646–99), who acquired Hall 1687 and probably regarded this as his entrance to church. Porch now used as vestry.

Church damaged by great explosion at Prentice and Co. gun-cotton works in Stowmarket, 1871; extensive restoration work carried out by Herbert John Green of London and Norwich, 1885–86: included new chancel roof and repairs to sedilia. Surviving stained glass restored and reset, 1952.

*Combs Hall Garden* (by kind permission of Dr and Mrs A.F. Wankowski and Mid Suffolk District Council). Extensive earthwork remains of formal garden created between 1710 and 1731 by Orlando Bridgeman of Combs Hall (Tory M.P. for Ipswich, 1714–15). Grand house that he built adjacent to church demolished, 1756, and garden in decline since then, if not before. Detailed survey of garden remains will be undertaken by Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, Spring 1994. Fuller account of garden, incorporating results of this survey, will be published in a future edition of *Proceedings*.

*Ringshall Grange* (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs C.D.D. Gilmour). Moated former Rectory (17th-century, with two-storey extension by R.M. Phipson, F.R.I.B.A., 1878/9) with earthworks of relatively small garden of early-to-mid 18th-century date. Church living acquired by Peppen family, 1659, when George Peppen succeeded father-in-law William Keble as Rector (Keble actually bequeathed advowson to his daughter Susann Peppen). George (d.1684) succeeded in living by son James (d.1705), grandson William (d.1741) and great-grandson William (d.1789). Last-named William married, 1743, daughter of his neighbour, Sir William Barker Bt of Ringshall Hall.

Principal element in design of 18th-century garden is straight, slightly-raised, walkway that runs between N. edge of moat and S. side of hazel nuttury. At W. end, walkway leads to level lawned area bounded on W. side (at right-angles to walkway) by 50m long linear pond or canal. At W. end, walkway terminates at another, but smaller, linear pond (approx. 25m long), again placed at right-angles to walkway. Earthen mound adjacent to pond must have been prospect mount – from it view northwards across valley to Ringshall Hall (family home of last Mrs Peppen). Mound may once have had small summerhouse or similar structure on summit as adjoining field is recorded as *Belvedere Field*, 1827.

*Ringshall Hall Barn* (by kind permission of Mr A.P. Bjornson). Manor acquired 1524–48 by rich Norfolk-born merchant, Sir Richard Gresham of London. Became head of group of Gresham manors, including Combs and Battisford, in that area. Gresham mentions house at Ringshall in will, 1549. His son, Sir Thomas Gresham (1519–79) ‘the great financier’, began building *Burse* or Royal Exchange, London, in June 1566; in August 1566 wrote letter from his ‘howse at Rinxall (whereat I make all provision for my timber for the Burse)’ (Burgon 1839, 109–10). Tradition traceable back to 17th century states wooden framework of Exchange made nearby on Battisford Tye (*ibid.*, 111–12).

At entrance to Hall grounds is 16th-century brick building, parallel to road and resembling small barn; ? a parallel for brick guard (?) building at entrance to forecourt at Crow’s Hall, Debenham (see Excursion Notes, 1992). Long clay-lump cattle-shed flanks S. side of drive to house; mid/late 19th-century (post 1838) – interesting feature is curved wall at W. end. Hall Barn lies behind cattle-shed, also parallel to drive.

Barn is substantial timber-framed building on contemporary brick plinth; used as barn until recently, but close inspection during recent renovation showed it was originally more complex service building. Measures 22m × 6.75m (72ft × 24ft) with seven bay divisions. Two western bays, double-storeyed, separated from rest, with access through two-centred arched door on ground floor. Lower room possibly stable: evidence for hay-rack trenches and drain off N.W. corner. Room over perhaps used as lodging. Remainder of building entered through one of two opposed doorways. Evidence indicates single-bay ground-floor room at eastern end (? for administrative use by bailiff). Main section of building (four central bays) open to ridge and included open-sided upper ‘gallery’ over ‘administrative’ room. Placement of windows instructive: two-bay chamber over stable has three windows at first-floor level, but at opposite end three windows light eastern upper bay, supplemented by another two in front of gallery, even though no proper upper room at this end. Another window in this bay is over, and part of, front doorway: may indicate screened stair for access to gallery. Care taken in even distribution of three large and matching windows along N. wall of open part of building – sills start at 6ft above ground level and shaped mullions terminate under middle rail of building. Similar arrangement found on S. wall, although windows differ in width. In gallery area emphasis on lighting at high level, elsewhere in open part lighting at mid height. Most window mullions have rebates for glass, but none ever actually secured in place. Evidence suggests walls plastered over, internally and externally.

Although carpentry not elaborate, was expensive building with degree of ostentation in elevations. As constructional evidence points to date in second half of 16th century, possible that

building was erected by Gresham in connection with work he was doing here to prepare timber for Royal Exchange.

Building modified not long after built by insertion of upper floor in middle section, and by addition of chimney – using similar bricks to those in plinths. Ridge-piece cut to accommodate chimney, indicating secondary feature. Upper floor later removed when building converted into barn.

Externally, some similarity with manor-court-halls, especially position relative to main house and use of display windows; however most extant examples have court room on upper floor, absent here. Clearly still much to be learned about ancilliary service buildings on substantial manor sites; it is hoped to discuss this most interesting building more fully in the future, when other comparable buildings have been examined. (Thanks due to architects Gorniak and McKechnie for displaying measured drawings at visit).

3 July. Mark Barnard

*Mills in West Suffolk*

*Drinkstone Mills* (by kind permission of Miss W. Clover). One of most important windmill sites in country, with two windmills and intact outbuildings, well illustrating history of small-scale country milling in its final days. Long-term future of mills uncertain. Suffolk Mills Group volunteers have carried out essential maintenance work since mid-1970s.

*Post mill*: oldest of seven surviving Suffolk post mills, bearing date 1689. Mill body (or buck) extended at both head and tail from original square box-like structure. Roundhouse and fantail (for turning mill into wind), later additions. Cramped interior with two pairs of millstones, driven direct from gearwheels mounted on massive windshaft carrying sails. Worked until early 1970s.

*Engine mill*: within octagonal tower of smock windmill, built in late 18th century on top of sixteen-sided horse mill. Windmill gutted c. 1915; re-fitted as animal feed mill, with two pairs of stones powered by steam engine. Present Ruston oil engine, in working order, installed 1932.

*Stanton Post Mill* (by kind permission of Mrs A. Duke). Bears date 1751 but not shown on 1799 Enclosure map, so evidently moved here later, perhaps during 1820s. Became dilapidated after ceasing work in 1920; repair work in late 1930s promoted by S.P.A.B. Restored, 1985–92, by Richard Duke (d. April 1993). Buck extended at tail; much of original framing intact. Two pairs of millstones, side by side in head, driven from below; third pair in tail removed 1939, but drive still in place.

*Thelnetham Tower Mill* (Thelnetham Mill Trust). Built 1819, on site of post mill removed to Diss. Work recorded in diary of local carpenter Thomas King, who notes it was 'begun in July' and 'set to work on Christmas Day Dec. 25 1819 Thos King there'. Modernised 1832, when cloth-spread sails replaced by wide automatic patent shuttered sails, mounted on cast iron windshaft inscribed 'J. AICKMAN. LYNN. 1832'. Fantail also fitted at this time; colouring probably celebrates one of Victoria's Jubilees. Mill stopped work c. 1924; derelict by 1970s. Carefully restored by volunteers, 1980–86; now grinds regularly for visitors. Two pairs of wind-driven millstones and third pair, formerly engine-driven, on ground floor. Surrounding land formerly fen, held by parish, explaining unusual position of mill house, short distance away on fen edge.

*Pakenham Watermill* (Suffolk Building Preservation Trust). Impressive mill on small spring-fed tributary of river Black Bourn. Probably a Domesday mill site; foundations of Tudor mill found during restoration and preserved in basement. Datestone 1814 marks rebuilding of smaller mill, common occurrence at this time. One bay of earlier structure survives at house end. Ceased commercial work 1974, when still using water power: last Suffolk mill to do so. House-conversion averted after public enquiry. Acquired by S.B.P.T. for preservation, 1978; subsequently fully restored. Machinery includes three pairs of millstones driven by cast iron breast-shot waterwheel.

Also fine Blackstone oil engine and Tattershall 'Midget' roller mill – both later introductions in vain attempt to compete with large roller mills in production of fine white flour. Now grinds once more by water power fairly regularly.

24 July. Birkin Haward, John Mitchell and Simon Cotton  
Walberswick, Wenhaston and Bramfield Churches

(by kind permission of Revd Canon J.E. Murrell)

In Middle Ages, churches built and rebuilt for various reasons: old church collapsed; benefactors gave means; space needed for chantries; object of pride for local community; competition with neighbouring parishes. Cost difficult to assess: new chancel at Adderbury (Oxon.) cost £399 5s. 4d. in 1408–18. Building could take around twenty years for reasonably sized tower (Helmingsham contract, 1487, implies at least ten years for 60ft tower); around a century for whole building, as at Walberswick.

*Walberswick, St Andrew's Church*, as seen today, result of a century's reconstruction from 1420, followed by drastic shearing, 1696, in time of Edward Collins and John Taylor, churchwardens, following decline in population and prosperity. Only proud tower, S. porch and part of S. aisle remain in use today.

Building campaign commenced c. 1426, when very detailed contract (printed in full in Chitty 1950, 169–70 and Lewis 1947) made in form of indenture between Thomas Bangot, Thomas Wolfard, William Ambryngale and Thomas Pellyng, representing town of Walberswick, and Richard Russell of Dunwich and Adam Powle of Blythburgh, masons. Bangot himself made bequest of £1 to new (*sic*) tower in will, 1432 (N.C.C., 32 Surflete). Lower parts at least of tower at Kessingland probably a slightly later work of same masons (see Chitty 1950, 164).

No clear date for commencement of work on nave (mentioned in will, 1470), but S. aisle called 'new' in will, 1473 (John Stevenson, N.C.C., 43 Hubert), while chancel and new N. aisle mentioned in wills, 1500 onwards (e.g. 1500, John Almyngham, S.R.O.I., IC/AA2/4/67; 1507, John Blythburgh, N.C.C., 122 Multon; S.R.O.I., IC/AA2/7/62; 1512, Robert Poty, N.C.C., 17 Fetyplace). Wills clearly show parishioners wished to emulate various features of neighbouring churches, not just tower; thus in 1474 Margaret Boty (S.R.O.I., IC/AA2/2/308) wanted to have image of Our Lady of Pity painted, like that at Southwold; and in 1527 Alice Berly (S.R.O.I., IC/AA2/10/8) made bequest for sepulchre like that at Wrentham.

Evidence from churchwardens' accounts (available 1450–99), together with that from wills, records fitting of eight gilded vanes to steeple, 1450, giving approximate completion date, but with continuing work on bells (hallowed 1470). Payment to 'William Alkoc off blybur ffor Sant Johnnys tabernakyll v noblys' recorded, 1472. At this time regular purchases of stone, flint and other materials testify to continuing building. Work on porch first mentioned 1483 (by which time S. aisle presumably largely finished), with several entries relating to work up to 1486. Henry Pays, mason, was paid for sixteen yards of battlements to aisle, 1496, while new rood screen mentioned, 1498–99, a time when wills show work proceeding on chancel.

Birkin Haward (Haward 1993, 364) sees construction of nave beginning in period 1430–40, with Richard Russell (M.P. for Dunwich, probably d. c. 1441) and Adam Powle of Blythburgh responsible for this too. Design features in common with Blythburgh and Southwold – hall-church plan with aisles to within one bay of E. end, common pier design, continuous clerestory, stair turrets at W. ends of both aisles, similar moulded arcade pier designs characteristic of first quarter of 15th century and out of date by 1450s (see Blythburgh chancel) – also suggest common authorship. Seems that further building was intermittent process which went on throughout second half of century, probably under direction of mason Henry Pays from at least 1473 until 1500, involving much work to aisles, sanctuary and new S. porch.

One little feature is superaltar mensa set into present altar; another example can be seen in Norfolk, set into step of font at Salthouse. Priest often owned these; thus Henry Lessingham,



clerk, of Crostwright and Honing, left his nephew John a superaltar in will, 1497 (N.C.C., 46 Multon).

*Wenhaston, St Peter's Church:* earlier building (with Norman windows surviving in S. wall) given facelift perhaps commencing in late 14th century with new tower. Campaign did not run to clerestory; to supply extra light, window added at clerestory level towards E. end of nave to light rood. Porch and S. doorway part of this reconstruction, as was Seven Sacrament font, whose panels, recorded by Davy, lost in 19th century. Dr John Mitchell of U.E.A. spoke at length on wonderful Doom painting.

*Bramfield, St Andrew's Church.* Interest centred upon screen. Simon Cotton gave general introductory talk on Suffolk screens, whilst John Mitchell focused on the paintings, revealing many insights into late-medieval panel-paintings. He also surprised members with unsuspected information about wall painting in niche on N. wall, which features cross and four angels of Passion, following Judith Middleton-Stewart's discovery of will referring to 'the Good Roode and his Aungells in Bramfield church'.

29 September. *Norman Scarfe, Canon J.A. Fitch, Philip Aitkens, Adrian Gibson, David Stening (Essex County Council), Judith Plowiez and Beryl Wilkens*

*Barnardiston, Kedington, Wixoe and Birdbrook (Essex)*

*Barnardiston, All Saints' Church* (by kind permission of Revd J.J. Cooper). First ever S.I.A.H. visit. Approached from small green, where Sir Albert Richardson's council housing includes single house with gambrel-roof (i.e. hipped like horse's hind leg). Moat on N. side of churchyard perhaps marks medieval rectory-site. Barnardiston not named in Domesday Book, when two settlements here (one with mill) called Chilbourn – *Cileburna* – probably meaning 'stream in a gully' (cf Chilgrove, Sussex) which exactly describes tributary cutting through this parish. Father Cooper kindly supplied from Report of Charity Commissioners a record of indenture, 26 Nov. 1747, referring to 'rector of the parish of Chilbourn, otherwise Barnardiston'.

Much thin red (? Roman) tile used in quoins of chancel and square-built external rood-stair turret. Tall late-Perp. N. porch is church's most striking feature. Thomas Lyus's watercolour drawing, Jun. 1786 (Pl. XIV), proof that porch's height original. Within porch, signs of later low porch-roof crudely inserted and cutting into 14th-century carved canopy stonework over door briefly raised question whether tall Perp. building rose to present height in Victorian times: Lyus's drawing settles matter. Old graffiti in 14th-century stonework of doorway: delightful small wicket leads through medieval door. Interior beautifully cared for: no outstanding feature, just very agreeable remains of old glass and windows, Stuart communion rails beyond remains of Perp. screen; Stuart pulpit and hour-glass stand in nave. Good modern replacement roofing: tie-beams and false hammer-beams. Graffito of simple tall postmill in S.W. chancel windowsill. On opposite jambs of W. bell-chamber window, John Hempstead twice carved his name, 1659. Bells: 1 and 2 by distinguished Colchester founder Miles Graye; 3 and 5 medieval, inviting prayers of Mary Magdalene and All Saints; 4 by Henry Pleasant, 1692. (A bell at St Nicholas's, Ipswich, records: 'Hy Pleasant have at last Made as good as can be cast'.)

*Kedington, Church of SS Peter and Paul* (by kind permission of Revd P. Edwards). Visit celebrates Kedington's courageous campaign to restore one of Suffolk's best churches. External fabric of tower freshly restored: its last big restoration, in 1920, for £974, was by Detmar Blow, who knew Ruskin and did much work in this neighbourhood. External flint-and-brick patterning on Kedington tower suggests complete medieval scheme of decorative flushwork now lost. Five bells include three, of 1673, by John Darbie, Miles Graye's successor. Chancel found sheeted off and E. wall undergoing active restoration. Norman Scarfe drew attention to Pevsner's assertion that nave 13th-century, like chancel; and raised question Birkin Haward posed (Haward 1993), where



PLATE XIV – Barnardiston church: from a watercolour drawing by Thomas Lyus, June 1786.

he argues that cap and base moulds of piers ‘look Perpendicular, and late at that!’. This argument is not easily resolved. Anglo-Saxon stone crucifix in (temp.) sheeted-off chancel recovered *c.* 1860 from beneath nave floor – presumably lying there since Reformation. Roman building material and ‘foundation wall’ revealed in 1933 excavation no longer thought by professionals to imply Roman precursor of church on this site – merely abundant availability of such material for church footings: could have been brought from any of three inferred villa-sites close by, or even from large Roman settlement at Wixoe. Section of ‘mosaic paving’ on outer face of nave described by Pevsner is only small patch of re-used *opus signinum* set at about eye-level in S. aisle wall.

From spectacular three-decker pulpit, with sounding-board and wig-pole (to relieve Georgian clergy of wigs in hot weather) and (now) empty hour-glass stand, Norman Scarfe outlined connexions of Barnardiston family with this church. These very fully discussed by Richard Almack in Vol. IV of *Proceedings* (for decade 1864–74). First of their memorials here, tomb-chest in S.E. corner of nave. Panelled with simple little Tuscan Doric columns, commemorates Thomas Barnardiston and Elisabeth (Newport) his wife: one of her eyes retains its enamel. She augmented his endowment of a chantry here, ‘and besydis buylt Church Roif new & covy’d it with lede’, and d. 1526. Remains of decorative flushwork on tower (better seen on W. side), line of earlier steep roof and lead strips of Elisabeth Barnardiston’s bequest shown on Thomas Lyus’s drawing, 1786 (Pl. XV). So are two tall dormer-skylights inserted possibly in 17th century to illuminate nave – especially, perhaps, three-decker pulpit, from which for thirty-four years Samuel Fairclough’s

powerful utterance of the Puritan Word was sent reverberating round this church and many neighbouring pulpits of Suffolk and Essex. (Gainsborough's painting of Hadleigh church, *c.* 1747, reveals similar tall skylight above E. end of that nave: at Helmingham, one survives, accommodating a great Tollemache monument, but may originally have lit rood.) At Kedington, these skylights replaced by flat ones, conducive to spreading damp. Did this occur when lead roofs re-cast in churchyard, 1930–33?

Lyus shows vanished 17th-century rectory-house with shaped gable N. of chancel, its site still marked by lines of limes at right angles to great lime avenue leading up to the Barnardistons' Hall (Pl. XVI). Hall apparently pulled down 1785, and rectory probably soon after. Handsome successor stands half-mile to S.E. beside Wixoe Road. More recent rectory conveniently close to church.

Norman Scarfe pointed to effigies and tomb-chest of the Sir Thomas who d.1619, and his wife Elisabeth, at E. end of N. aisle, as key to Kedington's peculiar Puritan fame. (It didn't stop her wearing a very fine dress, and three necklaces under a carefully-purled ruff.) His father d.1551, leaving this son a minor, and ward of great Greek scholar Sir John Cheke (whose pupil Prince Edward sold him Stoke-by-Clare College in 1547). When young Edward VI died, Cheke sent Thomas to Geneva for safety; there brought up under Calvin himself. So Barnardistons got their Puritan bearings, remaining able to temper iconoclastic urges when it came to their family monuments.

Sir Thomas outlived own eldest son (whose coffin protrudes beneath most elaborate monument in church, crowned by piles of skulls and design of two lighted candles bedecked with

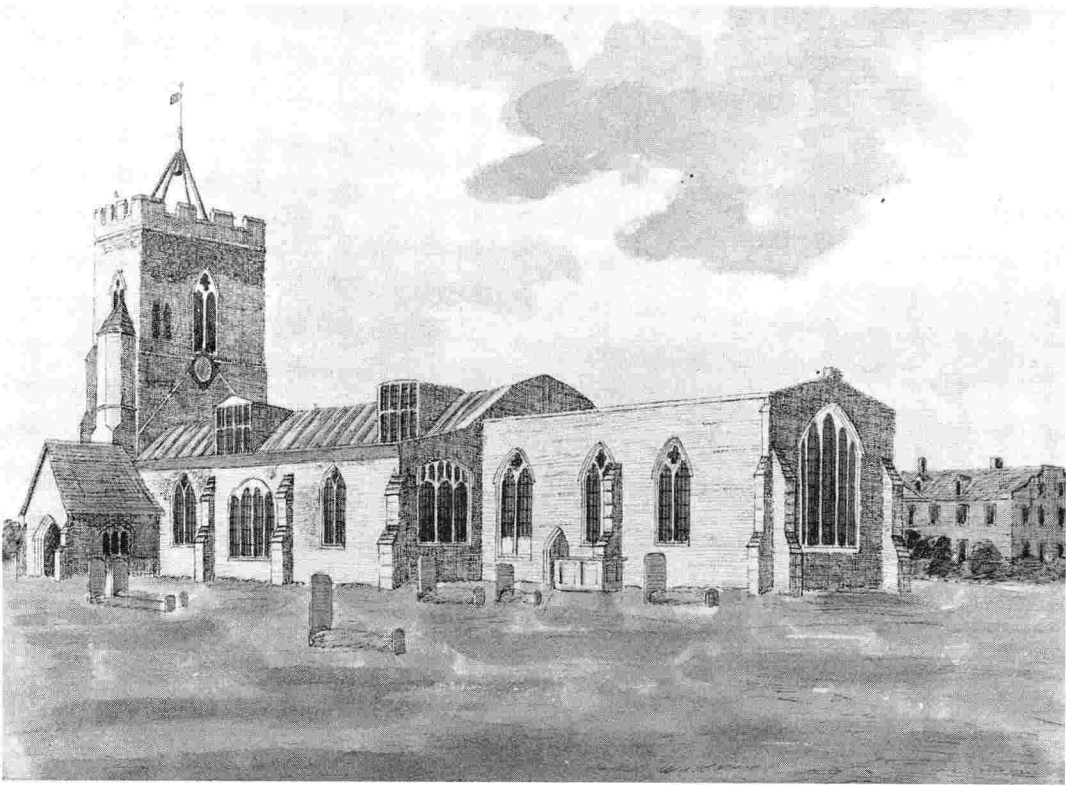


PLATE XV – Kedington church: from a watercolour drawing by Thomas Lyus, June 1786.

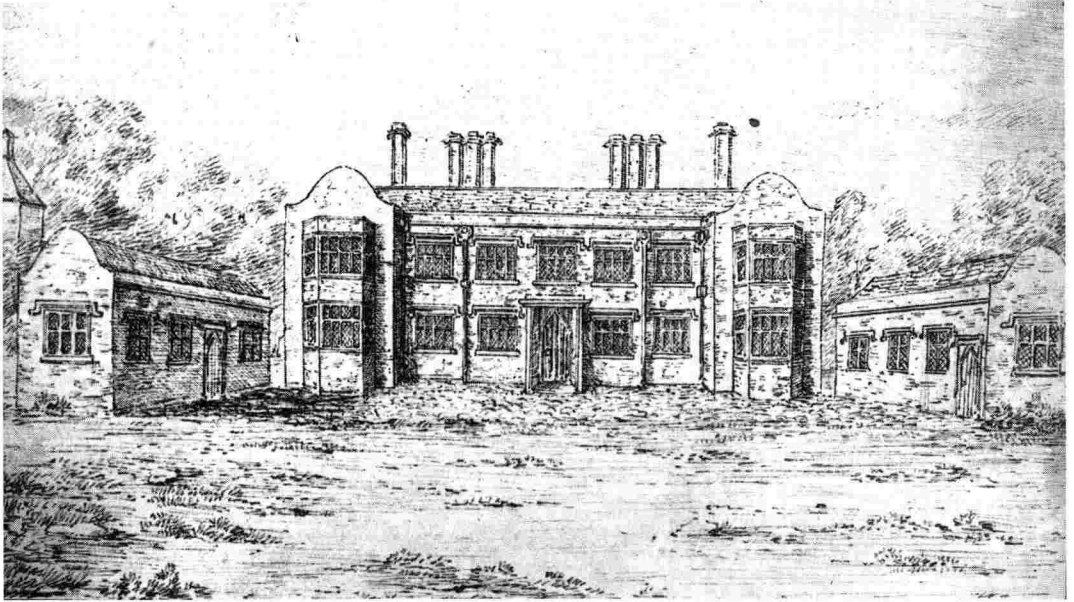


PLATE XVI – Kedington Hall in 1785: from a drawing by Mrs Mills (née Barnardiston).

funeral armour), alongside his adorable daughter Grissel (by a second wife), shown unforgettably kneeling by herself: ‘Too deare to Frenedes, too much of men desier’d, Therefore bereaft vs by vntymely death’. By chance, his neighbour Sir Simonds D’Ewes, then seventeen, present at old man’s funeral here, 1619, ‘in the night, without any manner of solemnity befitting the antiquity of his extraction or the greatness of his estate’ (*Autobiography*, I, 132).

During his lifetime, his more ‘fundamentalist’ grandson, Nathaniel, commemorated on wall of N. aisle, head propped on hand, induced old man to give over to him his church livings to make sure they did not go to moderate bishops’ men. Estate has been reckoned at £4,000 a year (Almack 1874). His contemporary, Revd Mathias Candler, noted his income was ‘£3,000 a year, as is said’: with brothers successful merchants, they were easily richest of Suffolk Parliamentary families. Five times he was elected knight of the shire in Parliament. Samuel Fairclough, rector and family chaplain, wrote: ‘He permitted no known profane person to stand before him . . . He had at one time ten or more such servants of that eminency for piety and sincerity that I never yet saw their like at one time, in any family in the nation . . . truly they made his house a spiritual church and temple’. Letters to Suffolk from Parliament and Committee of Both Kingdoms were addressed to ‘Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston and the rest of the Committees of Suffolk’. He d.1653 in London; 2,000 people met his corpse on its return to Kedington. No burial by night for him! In 1663, monarchy restored, son Thomas created Baronet for ‘the virtues of his ancestors’! Third son, Samuel, 1620–1704, commemorated on chancel S. wall. In January 1642, took part in City procession to petition Parliament, and unimpeachable report goes that Queen saw him from window and exclaimed: ‘See what a handsome round head is there’, so creating name thereafter applied to men of Parliament’s side in Civil War. At Smyrna, agent for Levant Company, 1649–50, he began to build up enormous fortune that enabled him to build Brightwell Hall, between Deben and Orwell estuaries, with famous roof reservoir: all demolished 1753. Represented Suffolk as prominent Whig in Parliaments of Charles II and William III. Monument here refers to his bequest of £50 for adorning this part of chancel by railing-in communion table.

Memorial on opposite wall commemorates first-cousin Thomas, another Smyrna merchant, who travelled to Jerusalem 'and the seven churches of the Lesser Asia', returned to marry a Bury girl, and d.1704. Alone of all this remarkable family, their third son, Nathaniel, produced male Barnardiston descendants that survive into our own day (Almack 1874, 156). *N.S.*

*Birdbrook (Essex), Baythorne Hall* (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Peter Unwin). One of biggest examples of 14th-century group of raised aisled houses in East Anglia. These are clear successors to aisled houses here for rural manor-type sites, and soon after for other social groups. About twenty known survivors, from mid-Essex to Waveney Valley in N. Very wide (27ft) open hall with massive central truss built of embattled low tiebeam. Are both cross-wings with display-braced gables original? – we think so: Wantone family, lords of manor in early 14th century, built also second very expensive house, Tiptofts at Wimbish. (Latter aisled house a little earlier and less advanced. Baythorne demonstrated wide acceptance of raised aisled form by many clients and finest craftsmen, outside epicentre of surviving examples – Fressingfield, N.E. Suffolk (see Dymond and Martin 1989, 132). *P.A.*

*Wixoe, St Leonard's Church* (by kind permission of churchwarden, Mr Julian Watson of Birdbrook Hall). First ever S.I.A.H. visit. Judith Plouviez had mounted small exhibition illustrating richness of Roman and other early archaeology of these lands beside upper Stour. Canon John Fitch outlined his researches into his own family connexions, notably with Wixoe watermill, which presumably descends from the one recorded in Domesday Book. Simple, square-built towerless Norman church also recorded, with its five acres, in 1086. Cult of St Leonard expanded greatly in 12th century with his reputation for securing release of prisoners taken during Crusades. Here dedication presumably dates from time of Capra family: it means 'goat', and later they took name of Chevre. In 1140, Michael Capra and wife Rohesia endowed, and probably founded, priory of Augustinian canons at Mountnessing near Brentwood. Priory adopted name – very oddly – of first prior, Thoby; but Thoby Priory dedicated to St Leonard. In 1195, its prior was demanding of Jeffrey Capra, as lord of Wixoe, a mill in Wixoe parish – again presumably this one recorded in 1086. Capra association with two places in 12th century associated with cult of St Leonard points strongly to that family's promotion of dedication to him, both here and in Mountnessing. Seems not unlikely that Michael Capra had seen service on one of Crusades. Well-lettered headstone on S. side of churchyard commemorates Vladimir Penjakoff 1897–1951. It says nothing of his distinction as soldier in N. Africa, commander of 'Popski's Private Army'. *N.S.*

*Clive Paine,  
Hon. Excursions Secretary*

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## LECTURES

- February 20 At Bury St Edmunds: 'Canal Gardens in 18th-Century Suffolk', by Edward Martin.
- March 6 At Ipswich: 'The Snape Anglo-Saxon Cemetery – the Final Report', by Dr William Filmer-Sankey.
- October 16 At Ipswich: 'Further Light on St Edmund's Relics', by Dr David Hugh Farmer.
- October 30 At Thornham Magna: 'Wymondham in the 17th Century', by Christopher Barringer.
- December 4 At Bury St Edmunds: 'Church Roofs in Medieval West Suffolk', by Philip Aitkens.

## MEMBERS ELECTED DURING 1993

During the year 71 members were elected and, after taking into account resignations and lapsed members, the membership at the end of 1993 stood at 863, a net increase of 17. The total comprised 582 full members, 193 associate members, and 88 institutional members.

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SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1993

1992	EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	1992	INCOME	£	£
£	<i>Proceedings</i>				£	Subscriptions	5,209.35	
4,414.71	Printing		6,109.00		266.55	Tax Refund (Covenants)	260.56	
490.48	Postage		627.14					
50.00	Expenses		40.00		5,378.03			5,469.91
4,955.19			6,776.14			<i>Dividends and Interest</i>		
74.35	Less - Sales	231.14				<i>General Investments</i>		
302.02	Grants	1,103.98			150.12	14% Treasury Stock 98/01	150.12	
(376.37)			1,335.12		687.47	Lloyds Premier Interest Account	380.57	
					7.89	Current Account Interest	16.54	
4,578.82				5,441.02	845.48			547.23
430.99	<i>Newsletters</i>			420.91		<i>Life Membership Investment</i>		
	Including Postage etc.				180.76	9% Treasury Stock '94		180.76
	<i>Subscriptions and Grants</i>					<i>Sales</i>		
131.50	Subscriptions		141.80		18.00	'Dames Alice de Bryene'	5.00	
95.00	Grants		40.00		63.18	Quotation Fee	—	
226.50				181.80	81.18			5.00
	<i>General Expenses</i>				(465.54)	Deficit for the Year (Surplus in 1992)		546.41
24.00	Excursions (less receipts)		60.17					
146.27	Lectures (less receipts)		198.08					
101.32	Printing and Stationery		48.07					
222.51	Office Expenses and Postage		213.06					
100.00	Insurance		150.00					
38.50	Bank Charges		36.20					
1.00	Commission on Stock Purchase		—					
633.60				705.58				
150.00	Purchase of Treasury Stock			—				
<u>£6,019.91</u>			<u>£6,749.31</u>		<u>£6,019.91</u>			<u>£6,749.31</u>

RESEARCH, EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION

1992	EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	1992	INCOME	£	£
£	<i>Publication of 'Suffolk Medieval Church Arcades'</i>				£	Lloyds Premier Interest Account		236.62
					346.38	Publication Profit		—
	Printing	15,150.00			71.00			
	Proof Reading etc.	130.00				<i>Grants</i>		
	Postage and Other Expenses	182.44			1,000.00	British Academy	2,000.00	
				15,462.44		Moncrieff Trust	2,000.00	
						Marc Fitch Fund	1,000.00	
						Suffolk County Council	3,000.00	
						Council for British Archaeology	1,700.00	9,700.00
1,417.38	Surplus for 1992			—		<i>Sales</i>		
						'Suffolk Medieval Church Arcades'		2,832.50
						Deficit for Year		2,693.32
<u>£1,417.38</u>			<u>£15,462.44</u>		<u>£1,417.38</u>			<u>£15,462.44</u>

GWEN DYKE BEQUEST

EXPENDITURE	£	£	INCOME	£	£
Surplus for Year		5,131.95	First Distribution of Proceeds	5,000.00	
		5,131.95	Bank Interest	131.95	
					5,131.95

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 1993

1992 £	ACCUMULATED FUNDS	£	£	1992 £	CURRENT ASSETS	£	£
8,189.10	Balance Brought Forward 1st January 1993		8,829.64	665.00	Cash at Bank		668.08
25.00	Plus Sundry Creditor		10.00		<i>Investments</i>		
150.00	Purchase of Stock		—	1,000.00	14% Treasury Stock 98/01		1,000.00
465.54	Less Deficit (Surplus in 1992)		(546.41)	5,204.64	Lloyds Premier Interest Account		4,665.15
				6,204.64			5,665.15
				1,960.00	<i>Life Membership Fund</i>		
					9% Treasury Stock '94		1,960.00
<u>£8,829.64</u>			<u>£8,293.23</u>	<u>£8,829.64</u>			<u>£8,293.23</u>

RESEARCH, EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION FUND

3,660.81	Balance Brought Forward	5,078.19	5,078.19	Lloyds Premier Interest Account	2,384.87
1,417.38	Less Deficit (Surplus in 1992)	(2,693.32)			
<u>£5,078.19</u>		<u>£2,384.87</u>	<u>£5,078.19</u>		<u>£2,384.87</u>

GWEN DYKE BEQUEST

	Surplus for Year			Lloyds Premier Interest Account	5,131.95

Note: 54 copies (55 copies 1992) *Dame Alice de Bryene* in stock, valued at cost £216 (£220 in 1992)  
426 copies *Suffolk Medieval Church Arcades* in stock, valued at cost £13,019

I have examined the books and accounts of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History and in my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Institute at 31st Dec. 1993 and of the income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.  
(signed) F.G. SUTHERLAND, Honorary Treasurer, D.E. COLYER, S.A.T., Honorary Auditor.



## 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.

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**Articles** and notes on all aspects of Suffolk archaeology and history should be sent to the Hon. Editor, David Allen, 105 Tuddenham Ave, Ipswich, IP4 2HG, from whom copies of *Notes for Contributors* may be obtained. Items for inclusion in the *Newsletter*, published in March and September, should be sent to Edward Martin, Oak Tree Farm, Hitcham, Ipswich, IP7 7LS.

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