

## THE 1926 EXCURSIONS.

The active proceedings of our Institute are now so far in excess of its original "Proceedings" that the latter, which should be the greater, can contain but a summary of the less. These began on 18th May when seven villages were examined with more or less thoroughness. Recent excavation, immediately on the north side of *Bricett* Priory church, had revealed the base of an apsidal chapel, as the Hon. General Sec. explained therein; the most interesting and primitive structure of this little-restored fabric was pointed out; and the very curious Trans.-Norman south doorway, which is beautiful and  $7\frac{1}{4}$  by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  feet broad though badly weathered before the modern porch was erected. It was given by the Crown to (SS. Mary Kings and Nicholas) college in Cambridge, who held it till 1921. Some account was offered of both *Wattisham* and *Bildeston* churches in situ, the latter of which proved of much interest in its inaccessible parvis, once the local prison, whereto Members ascended by means of an improvised ladder from the nave; St. Leonards Chapel, in that erstwhile market-town, was glanced at; and a newly discovered cruciferous coffin-lid, of some fourteenth-century ecclesiastic in *Semer* graveyard, examined. At *Lindsey* Castle the earthworks were scaled to the grass-grown keep, where Mr. Redstone expatiated upon the connection of this fortress with the powerful De Cokefeld family and its descent to the eventual heiress Nesta, who founded Kersey Priory. One of her three husbands may have similarly founded the adjacent Chapel of St. James, a gem of EEnglish work, retaining a very considerable proportion of its original structure but now put to the vile uses of cow-sheds. One regrets that our Institute cannot afford to buy such historic sites—the present is known from at least 1200 (a Trans.-Norman pillaster is built into the north-west buttress) to the Dissolution of Chantries in 1549, and for a time belonged to Beverley Abbey in Yorks (F. Fines, 35 Hen. iii, 89-90)—and one yard of soil all round them. A comparison with the smaller but more comprehensible *Milden* Castle, the stronghold of the De Melding lords which was razed in 1153, was followed by an address upon the church of that village by Rector Ford, to whom Members were indebted for much assistance throughout the day. Finally a precipitous declivity led to the old-fashioned village of *Monks' Eleigh*, where Canon the Hon. A. F. Northcote, after generous hospitality, traced the local history from the manor's gift to Canterbury by ealdorman Beorhtnoth of Maldon where he was slain by the Danes in 991, to the time of the Great Rebellion. He completed an exhaustive address with an appeal for assistance in his compilation of indigenous data.

The second Excursion, on 30th June, was generally considered the most instructive of the year, despite its isolated situation and the exigencies of railway-service whereby many Members were disappointed of attendance. Mildenhall is the largest parish in Suffolk and, besides its hamlet of West Row, only Freckenham was also explored. Time did not lag, however, for so full were found *Wamil Hall*, a splendid red-brick house of the late sixteenth century, most kindly thrown open by Col. and Mrs. Swan, and *West Row* that the latter could scarcely be allowed adequate investigation. Here the Hon. General Sec. gave a resumé of the Institute's 1923 discovery of the site of the Anglo-Saxon Councils of Clovesho at the modern Bargate-farm upon the north bank of the River Lark (Suff. Inst. xviii, pp. 91-122 and Church Times, 16th Jan., 1925); followed at some length by the Society's doyen, the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A., of Rampton, who came especially to view the locality. Fortunately the world hereabouts has changed so much less than in our cities that the general consensus of opinion was distinctly in favour of *Clovesho* being no longer an unrecoverable locality, but before the Members' eyes. Diversity was found in the conical Mound known as *Freckenham Castle*, whole masses of whose past have been unearthed during the last few years (since Suff. Inst. xvii, pp. 182-92) to show that here was an actual residence of the Bishops of Rochester and here sojourned William the Conqueror's physician, when on his way to cure the Abbot of Bury, whose successors had frequent bickerings over their Hundred rights in Freckenham. Time would allow of no view of Worlington and its graveyard cross on the way back to *Mildenhall Church* where, after welcome tea in Sir Henry and Lady Bunbury's conterminous garden, the leading features were indicated by Mr. Lee of Mildenhall.

Formerly hardly above the early waters of the river Lark, at the junction of the chalk and alluvium, still stands an ancient building in the corner of a garden upon the south-west skirt of the High Town, which garden pretty surely occupies such manorial premises as Bury Abbey maintained here. The antiquity of the building is undoubted: it consists of four sides of clunch walling, sixteen paces north and south by nine, now roofless and some twelve feet in height; their corners are quined with very much weathered Barnack-stones, and the clunch is so time-worn internally that the Northants shale wherewith they are bordered stands out in rows conspicuously. One may suppose the date of erection to be about 1290: it is certainly before 1400, and slight recent excavation has revealed no relics. The sole aperture is a doorway in the middle of the east wall to garden, which is two feet thick, and this retains but one of its original jamb-stones. The north wall of the adjacent

cottages, forty-four paces to the north of the structure in question, is two and a half feet thick and also of local clunch, as are most of the modern walls thereabouts, though instantly distinguished from old work by their brick-bonding. Certainly no priory existed within the great manor here, nor does Jocelin mention a school, such as our walls are locally said to have contained. But, in the division of Bury convent's property from that of the abbot (erroneously ascribed to the period 1100-1135, when Mildenhall was in the King's hand), it is assigned that "the schools in the manors of Mildenhall and Beccles are to be conferred by those in whose custody the manors are" (Vict. Hist. ii, 307), as stated in an extant thirteenth-century copy, which fact establishes at least the existence here of such a school, controlled at first by the Sacrist and later by the Cellarer of Bury Abbey.

This was the sole unrecorded ancient building, though no small interest was aroused by Vicar Petman's genial guidance from the delightful Market Cross, through the well-carved timbers of the Bank, the Stuart court-yard of the Bell Hotel, and a few of the much older and sedulously preserved houses bordering upon the river here, where died the great and turbulent baron, Geoffrey de Mandeville, from wounds inflicted by King Stephen in September 1144. Another ancient building which, though amply recorded, was known to but few Members is the ruined tower of Buxlow church in *Knoddishall*; and this, with the adjacent fine early-brick Red House where Captain Hawdon did the honours, were the first objects of the Excursion on 15th July. Nothing novel emerged at the beautiful ruins of the Premonstratensian Abbey at *Leiston*, beyond the reconstructed Chapel and ocular confirmation of Sir William Hope's assertion that there had been no removal, as tradition alleged, of its site from EEnglish times, since much of the existing architecture is certainly of that period. Earlier is a great deal of *Theberton* church, especially the (in Suffolk) unique corbel-table of the south chancel-wall; these were indicated by the Hon. General Sec., and Members discovered reinserted from elsewhere in the north vestry wall a quite unrecorded and elaborately traceried canopy and pillastered pedestal of a lost image niche, profusely sculptured soon after 1400. In *Yoxford* church Rector C. H. Raven, one of the main promoters of the present expedition, was entirely at home with every detail of the past and its associations with the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey's relations; and no less so at Cockfield Hall, which was explored at Sir Ralph Blois' invitation. After refreshment in Mrs. Paget Wade's garden, *Bramfield* church was inspected and summarily explained, along with its evanescent fresco and train-band armour; and over *Wenhaston* Grange Members were conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Allden Owles:

here the site is a great deal older than the present exquisite Elizabethan fabric, it commands a grand northward sweep of the Blyth estuary for several miles across to Halesworth. A further unrecorded discovery was effected at *Westhall* church, for in its south wall the Hon. General Sec. found embedded many corbels from a similar corbel-table to that yet remaining at Theberton: undoubtedly Norman work and coeval with this aisle's west doorway, admittedly the most elaborate chevron-moulding in the county, surmounted by a splendid arched arcade. Here, too, was discovered an inscription running along the top of the excellently preserved rood-screen's basal panels; this was tentatively read: "... margarte. uxoris et hijs—Orate p a'ia Thome feltonie / Orate p a'ia Ric" leté ac p bono scipt' Margarite alen vxore sue qui Margarite/...", and was apparently overlooked when the panelled saints here were detailed (Suff. Inst. iv., 448). A long day was brought to its close with an account of *Brampton* church, after Lady Huntingfield's vote of thanks to Mrs. Coney for welcome tea had been unanimously acclaimed.

The fourth Excursion on 3 September scoured the country between the Stour and Orwell rivers, beginning with the fine Tudor Hall at *Erwarton*, of which Rector Utten Todd did the honours, before giving also an account of the church. It is a most remarkable fact that the Institute has never probed the identity of the splendid recumbent Effigies in the aisles, since the very faulty conclusions arrived at in Suff. Inst. ii, 272: much water has London Bridge seen later. *Erwarton* is associated with Wingfield and Framlingham in its possession of beautiful Monuments, though taking precedence to both in respect of their age (cf. Add. MS. 19104-5): but it has been thought that "at one time or another the effigies and tombs have been sadly mixed" (EAQ. ns. iii, 122). There are four tombs, of which (I.) is recessed in the north wall of the north aisle. This contains the Effigy of a Widow, five inches too short for its embrasure, six feet long with the head and body shrouded in a wimple to the sharply pointed feet, resting on a hound or lamb—very similar to that of the countess Aveline of Lancaster in Westminster Abbey of 1273, and Hawys de Mohun at Dunster of 1257: to which period of 1280-90 our effigy is relegated at Suff. Inst. ii, 272—the head resting on a cushion; under a good crocketed Decorated canopy though plainer and likely older than the south canopy here, eight feet long, with large foliated finial and square lateral pinnacles. Stated by Bryant to be Isabel, daughter of Sir Bartholomew d'Avillers, and tentatively by Birch "the Daveller heiress [Isabel, who] carried this property into the Bacon family, as commemorated by the shield in the tower doorway," during 1331; the costume, however, is destitute of distinction and,

apart from the doubtfully connected canopy, might equally appropriately be ascribed to circa 1380.

In the south wall of south aisle are three monuments, of which (II.) the westward, recessed in the wall between window and doorway, is a male Effigy in stone,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, of a knight in chain armour—ring-mail of before 1325 to knees and thence downwards banded-mail of 1325–50—having the legs crossed under a surcoat and the lost hands joined in prayer, bearing on left arm a shield charged with the D'Avillers coat Argent three inescutcheons two and one gules, and lost sword; two angels support the head; and on the feet are spurs, with knee-pieces exactly resembling the Bures brass of 1302 at Acton. Tomb  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet long; its face displays five shields: (1) Hastings quartering Valence; (2) Barry of fourteen, three chaplets . . . ; (3) A cross flory . . . ; (4) Hastings, with a label of three points for difference; and (5) Chequy a fess . . . : probably coeval with the next tomb.\* Stated by a label in loco quo to be Sir Bartholomew d'Avillers, "the reputed founder of this church, who died about 1227, a crusader who twice went to the Holy Land"; with which concurs Bryant in 1912, adding that the feet rest on a lion; though Birch tentatively refers it, more exactly, to "Sir Bartholomew Davillers of temp. Edward I" (EAQ. viii, 104), i.e. he who died on 24th September 1287 (Suff. Gr. Bks. xvi, 19 and 387): which last assignation is certainly correct.

Eastward of the last, recessed in the same wall and outbuilt externally between windows, are (III.) recumbent Effigies of male and female in stone retaining traces of colour, seven feet long by fully five deep; of spurred and straight-legged knight in plate armour of Lancastrian style under leather jupon with six straight taces, horizontal jewelled belt with buckle and tag in front, having misericord sculptured in basal slab on right and the now broken sword on left, his flowing locks confined by a filet; and of lady in tight cote-hardi, and hair-net under a similar filet around head on two cushions. Tomb-face displays five quatrefoils, enclosing as many charged shields: (1) FitzWalter of Cratfield, (2) Scales of Wetherden, (3) Ufford of Ufford quartering Beake for Willoughby of Parham, (4) De Vere of Lavenham and (5) Ufford. Under a "pedimental canopy with irregular crockets of sunflowers and foliage, the arch is cinquefoiled, with a trefoil in the spandril above;

\*I am entirely in accord with the otherwise inadequate account of Edward Blore, when he says that the knight and his lady whom he erroneously dates at about 1480, "unquestionably rested on a tomb which stood originally clear of the walls [as yet does the coeval splendid one of 1469 at Burgate], and was finished both at the sides and ends with the quatrefoil panelling, of which one side now forms the front of the tomb, whilst the other side has been employed to decorate the more ancient monument of the cross-legged knight."

flanked by two pinnacles, and its finial hung round with small shields, the centre one bearing the Daviller arms." The whole is certainly of circa 1410: though stated by the label there to be Sir Robert Bacon and his wife Isabel d'Avillers, parents of Bartholomew and Isabel, who married Sir Oliver Calthorpe; and by Bryant, Sir Bartholomew d'Avillers and wife Joan, circa 1330—here Bryant seems to follow Birch (EAQ. viii, 105) who follows Clarke (Ipswich, 399) but does not name the lady. We cannot, I think, doubt the effigies to actually represent Sir Bartholomew Bacon who died in 1391, and his wife Joan de Heveningham who died in 1435 (IPM. in E.A. Miscell. 5951): the head-files, indicative of peculiar rank or privilege, have not yet been explained.

Again eastward of the last, over the piscina-position of this aisle, is (IV.) a very different kind of monument. This is a narrow slab or shelf, seven feet long, over an empanelling of stone divided by five small fluted pillasters, between which are four blank shields; the whole under a rectangular coat charged with helmet and mantling wreath and the Calthorp crest of Two wild men wreathed about the loins and temples with oak, each bearing a club and flanking a boar's head pierced by a broken spear; displaying Calthorp quartering Bacon, Wythe and St. Omer. This position, if the tomb's original one, indicates erection after the Reformation and must consequently be that of the last local Calthorp, the second Sir Philip who died during 1549; he married Queen Anne Bolyn's aunt, who was daughter of Sir William Bolyn of Blickling Hall in Norfolk. The tombs of the Parkers lords Morley here are later, and need distinct treatment.

At *Harkstead* attention was drawn to the Tudor-brick of the tower, and especially of its parapet, in connection with the church's piteous condition of neglect consequent upon the cession from patronage of Sir John Perient in 1555 (EAQ. viii, 28), well detailed by earl Robert Dudley of Leicester in a letter to Abp. Matthew Parker of Canterbury and olim Dean of Clare-Stoke College (Suff. Inst. ii, 217); also to the representation of a most elaborate elevation of a broadly pointed window having the tracery of six lights incised on one of the south quoins, for this is obviously a tentative plan of the existing west window of the tower wherein are but three lights, which was pretty surely put in by the De Tendrynge patrons soon after 1380, since it is quite early Perp. in style, similar to the stone-sketched six-light. At Holbrook General Hunter Rodwell read a paper on the church by W. D. Caroe, F.S.A., and the Bishop remarked that the question of relaying the loose Brass in its matrix was a matter for the Church Council to decide; though the general opinion of the Members present was that, whenever such matrix were present, Brasses should always be restored to the position.

selected by the deceas'd, and never under any circumstances be relegated to the spurious condition of mere ornaments affixed to walls or pillars as at Yoxford. After greatly admiring the Easter sepulchre recess, now cut to ground for a doorway, and the splendid 1607 effigial tomb of good Judge Clench in the south aisle that he himself erected, Holbrook was left for *Tattingstone*, where canon C. L. B. Elliott, gave a paper on the more recent emendations. At *Capel* the Rev. T. F. Paterson called attention to the church's architectural excellence, especially in reference to the roof and the chancel windows, and there was exhibited a new-discovered and unique piscina of Flamboyant-Dec. style, among the largest in the county. Little that was novel could be said of *Little Wenham* Castle, of which a detailed account from 1262 was offered, excepting that the level of the English basal windows certainly showed that the fortress was at first moated. Miss Crisp, at the invitation of whose family the visit was paid, indicated that the adjacent church was of the same period and quite possibly erected by the same workmen as the Castle. Mr. Paterson further entertained Members to an unusually intimate account of *East Bergholt* village, where Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Harwood proffered tea; and finally Constable's country was visited at Flatford Mill.

The fifth and final Excursion was held at *Clare* on 30th September, when the morning was devoted to a close examination of the Saxon Castle, so deplorably bisected by the railway in 1859 (Act, 23-4 Vict. cap. 163, sect. 24), of which it was found that the triangular buttresses of the Keep, and consequently probably also its curtain wall, were identical with those of Thorpe Morieux nave (certainly erected by either Sir Hugh de Morieux, 1275-97, or Sir Hugh de Morieux, 1297-1313, who held the main Manor there of Thomas de Ardern who held it of Nicholas Kiriell's heirs; i.e. unconnected with the Honour of Clare) and so certainly erected in or just about 1300; and of the great church wherein Canon Vatcher gave an exposition of its details. Members then visited the "Celtic" earthworks that were generally accepted to have been a Saxon cattle-camp, and the delightful old houses of the town under the guidance of Colonel R. C. Bond, D.S.O., including the "Decorated" (Suff. Inst. i, 25) Undercroft Chapel, said to have underlain the original Market Cross and now below a baker's shop. This remarkable subterranean chamber is about twenty feet square with a central octagonal pillar and eight semicircular pillasters rising from the floor with rather indefinitely-moulded capitals, which appear to be poor and late Perp. work of about 1490, whence spring pointed stone-groinings both diagonally across the roof and around the walls; and the latter support the roof, which is lined with certainly Roman bricks. Two indistinct doorways

appear to have been blocked early with rough flints upon respectively the market and church sides, i.e. east and north. Also on the east are two apertures of Tudor-bricks to the market-place, opposite which on the westside is the flight of steps rising to the middle of the now superincumbent house. No early note of such a place is upon record, and it is likely to be the "Morowe Mass Chapel," though neither piscina nor other indications of sacred use remain. Lands and tenements in Clare of unknown foundation were (casually!) "used sometimes for a priest to sing Morowe-Mass, sometimes for the repair of the church, at the will of the inhabitants" (Chantry Certif. xlv, 24). After refreshment in the fine E English Friary at Lady May's invitation, whereof Col. Bond gave an excellent historical resumé, Members went on to *Cavendish* and much admired the chancel erected in 1381 by that chief justice Sir John de Cavendish who was that year slain in the Peasants' Revolt at Lakenheath (Powell, 14). Of it and Over Hall in his own garden a succinct account was given by rector J. D. Barnard, who with Mrs. Barnard entertained Members to tea in the rectory. The season ended, curiously, in the sole extraneous place visited throughout the entire year, Pentlow church in Essex.

I can do no less than congratulate Members upon the ever-rising zeal displayed in our scourings of Old Suffolk. All the Excursions were unusually well-attended, though in exact ratio, be it noted, to the accessibility from our main towns and better in the east than west of the County; thus in July a greater number assisted than had ever before been the case, with the single exception of the visit to Prince Duleep Singh's collections in August 1924 (Suff. Inst. xviii, 242). But the early September locality was exceptionally fascinating and hither came well over 150 Members\* which, as Lord Ullswater, seconded by the Bishop of Suffolk, remarked at East Bergholt, was far in excess of anything previously known since 1849. "By mutual confidence and mutual aid great deeds are done and great discoveries made": also everyone, especially all incumbents, have been most kind throughout the year.

CLAUDE MORLEY,  
Hon. Excurs. Sec.

November 30th, 1926.

\*The actual figures were 157.—C.M.