

## THE 1927 EXCURSIONS.

1927 seemed a pleasant continuation of the previous years in its five full day Excursions, at none of which did the muster fall short or, at the least, far short of a hundred; excepting only the final one, when a peculiarly moist atmosphere and a knowledge of the unusually oleaginous conditions of the bye-lanes to be traversed went far to deter all but ardent members. The only other slight inclemency we endured, in the course of the wettest summer to which the mind of man runneth not to the contrary, justified the selection of a town for examination on May 12th. Here at *Beccles*, in north-east Suffolk, we were very heartily welcomed by the newly nascent local Historical Society, a truly virile body with which we shall do well to keep in close touch; and prototype, let us hope, of such in all our larger places. Unusually full of fine old MSS, missals, houses, chapels, and monasteries, though the vestiges of the last are lost, is this market town, whose annals go back to the reign of King Eadwig, barely under a millennium ago; especial treats being furnished by the good copy of Edward VI's Prayer-book, and the north-west vaults of St. Michael's Church, whose detached tower of 1515-47 was popular as ever. Lieut.-Col. Baker balanced, in an excellent exposition of the groined Chamber below the north house of the New Market Place, the locally rancorous opinions respecting its lay or religious uses, respecting which the presence of a distinct piscina seems to lean strongly in favour of its identity with that Chapel of SS. Mary and Michael for the maintenance of which royal licence was accorded in 1513 to feoffees to acquire land (State Papers, 5 Hen. viii., 4918). It was rediscovered in 1925; and in it was found a large portion of a Roman mill-stone, similar to but smaller in diameter than the only other Suffolk example, in *Herringfleet* Priory, where it was obviously brought from Burgh Castle, since its strata is that quarried on the Rhine (E.A.Misc., 1927). Sir John Leman was lord mayor of London in 1616, and his 1631 will provided a School in Ballygate here; a later erection for a similar purpose upon the same site, with his coat above the main doorway, was examined, and the personal touch was given in the exhibition by Mrs. Robert Naunton Leman, widow of the last male representative of the family, whose death during the present year the County deplored, of the original Sir John's (1) Arms in book-plates displaying Azure a fess between three dolphins embowed argent, impaled with those of his wife; (2) another similar Coat, in oils framed; (3) a fine plated Salver of later date, similarly emblazoned; and (4) the lord mayor's personal Ring and Seal, all much admired. Rose Hall, with which

the Roos of Hamlake family were unconnected, *Barsham* church and the little-known Blennerhasset's hall in Barsham marshes, closed an extensive day's work.

The majority of members had a long preliminary drive on 9th June, and enjoyed the novel feature of councillor Cordy Wolton's "stirrup-cup" at Lavenham Hall, whence the initial visit carried our thoughts back to one among the earliest of definite Suffolk records at the retired home of the Lady *Ælflæd*, widow of Eldorman Beorhtnoth who fell in the Battle of Maldon during 992; from her the village is known as *Ælflæd's tun*, corrupted into *Alpheton*, where her moat is still conspicuous just north of the isolated Hall and church. Another church erected in massive early Dec. style by the Lady Joan FitzWalter, who died in 1325, at *Shimpling*, was duly examined; as also were Chadacre Hall and the fine panelling in Rivetts Hall, half a mile west of it. The largest Mammellated Stone of the County, that upon *Hartest Green*, is known to have been sleighed there from its original position in Hawkedon and there erected as a memorial of the Peace of Utrecht in 1713; it is seventy-four inches long by sixty broad and thirty-eight in height (cf. E.A. Queries, iii., 238, etc.). but the adjacent Early English lancet is supposed to be part of a former Sacristy, though its new head leaves a Saxon origin possible. Several such problems cropped up, among them the unexplained sculptures in the south-east angle of the *Somerton* nave, where the south chapel was generally allowed to be a Tudor imitation of work three hundred years older.

Thurstanton Hall in *Hawkedon*, "decidedly the best timbered herringbone-brick-work house in Suffolk" (Rev. E. Farrer), was hospitably thrown open by Bernard Gaussen, Esq., and an account of its Napoleonic and other treasures was read by Col. R. C. Bond; the date of the structure is approximately given us by the carved staircase inscription: "Pray for the welfare of master Doctor Pellis," who was bishop Nix of Norwich's commissary in 1530. After Lord Ullswater had proposed and Mr. Bunnell Burton seconded thanks for so instructive a visit, Hawkedon church was examined; and, though no tomb of Doyle's Sir Nigel was found (cf. Kirby 1764 and the Loring pedigree, Add MS. in B.M. 19140); the floor-brass was definitely ascribed, for the first time, to that William Coggeshall, who died in 1518 lord of the main Hawkedon manor and almost certainly rebuilder of the present fabric wherein it rests, in distinctly poor but most picturesque early Tudor style (E.A. Misc. 1927, No. 7480). The Rev. B. P. Oakes produced the parish's copy of Rotherham's now rare History of the village, and added that in or about 1907 a valuable Cressener Cup the Cresseners were mesne-lords of a second manor here from

1250 to 1548) of some eight inches in height and of pre-Platemark date, was sold through a Cardiff dealer for no less than six thousand pounds by "either the Teysell of Infnell family, who married the last of the Cressener family" (see Soc. Protect. Anc. Build. Report, 1926, p. 28, Fig.)

At *Brockley*, members still found the most complete Village Cross (Gage, Thingoe, 1838, 364) in the county; and satisfied themselves that the tower's flint-inscription commemorates as its erector that "Ricard/us/copp/ying [blank shield]/ U" who was associated with Brockley Hall manor in 1485-1509 (E.A.Q. i., 100) and built it in 1503 (E.A.Misc. 7430).

Hard upon this south-west Suffolk visit followed one to Mid-Suffolk on 4th July, when "a party of almost a hundred and fifty in about forty private motor-cars," the local Press reported though perhaps with some excess, assembled at *Stowmarket* church. The Rev. J. Wood, R.D., ably outlined the fabric's history; and that of both the church and graveyard Cross of just about 1400 (E.A.D. Times, 15, vi., 1927) was explained at *Onehouse*, wherein is a peculiarly early and hitherto undescribed font:—On a plain and squared plaster pedestal, doubtless of brick, is a splendid Saxon or Danish bowl of black rock—perhaps the Tournai marble, of St. Peter's font in Ipswich—square at base and thence bulging out somewhat irregularly all round with a mutilated human bust, presumably originally that of Christ Crucified for yet visible are wide spread arms now retaining distinct hand and fingers on only the west side, at each corner, whence runs a drain to an external pond; this bowl is not quite true externally, but twenty-eight inches east and west by twenty-seven north and south, and thirteen inches high. Its sculpture is unique in Suffolk, most closely resembles that at *Boulge*, has been termed Trans.-Norman by the Parkers in 1855 though pretty surely two centuries older. Squire Petteward having expressed his pleasure at welcoming members, they passed on to the minute shrine on *Shelland Green*, one of the six English churches dedicated to King Charles the First, martyr. This seems to be explained by the vehement loyalty of the local patron Croypley family; and few of our magnificent fabrics arouse keener interest than was evinced in the curious little donative. On the same Green is *Rockylls Hall*, now a small farmhouse still broadly moated, but in the twelfth century the home of one of Haughley Honour's proudest feudatories, described by the Rev. Edmund Farrer, F.S.A. At *Buxhall* the Rev. H. C. Hill's unusually intimate and detailed address was fully appreciated in all its forms; here his extensive collection of Roman remains from Hitcham (cf. Proc. 1926, p. 87) was on view; and at *Rattlesden* the name Orwell

for that branch of the River Gipping that flows through the village, was generally accepted because in 1277 the only main-manorial meadowland was termed "in Arewellemede" (Proc. xi., 269), and the nave door-handle has been fashioned from an anchor here unearthed. Inspections of Gedding Hall, where an excellent tea was provided by our host, Mr. Aldous, its church and that of *Felsham* closed a sultry expedition.

So popular was the Lavenham initial welcome in June that our President renewed it on 26th August at *Hengrave* Hall, where his daughter-in-law the Hon. Mrs. J. A. H. Wood, did the honours on account of his generally-deplored mourning. Hard as it was to tear ourselves away from the treasurers of that Hall and Church, the one at *Risby* was described to scheduled time and the end of the Black Ditches on *Risby Poors Heath* duly passed en route for *Cavenham*. Little mediæval opulence is shown by these north-west Suffolk fanes, though at *Cavenham*, then impropriated to *Clare-Stoke Priory*, "in a window west of the priest's door [i.e., the confessional orifice], are some remains of stained glass, with an inscription which has been read: 'Priez por Adam la Vicar Ec . . .'" (Proc. iv., 368); because this is obviously early Dec. glass and retains a lower coeval circle of silver-stain, we may safely identify it with that "Adam, vicar of *Cavenham* church," who levied a fine in 1318 (Suff. Feet Fines, 11 Edw. ii., 4); he doubtless saw the now lost galilee with parvise abutting on the present tower's western face, and a good deal more of the EEngl. dogs-tooth work that we see confined to the nave's external north-west angle. Halts at both *Tuddenham* and *Barton Mills*, where no vestige of the Priest's College is now known to persist, preceded tea at *Icklingham*, most kindly spread by the late Lord Iveagh, F.S.A., for which due recognition was made by both Lord Ullswater and Brig.-Gen. Massy-Lloyd, O.B.E.

The second innovation in this year's customs was inaugurated by Miss Nina Layard's delightful post-bohea précis of her discovery, just across the River Lark in *Cavenham*, of "Bronze Crowns and a Bronze Head-dress from a Roman site" (Antiq. Journ. v., 1926, pp. 258-65), which demonstrated, as could no other subject so effectually, that the Saxons of the fifth century by no means invariably shunned places previously occupied by those Romans whom they are generally believed to have detested; for that *Icklingham* had a considerable population in that century is proved by the adjacent coeval Burial Ground by the Lark in *West Stow*, as well as by parts of *All Saints'* church here. This, along with *St. James'*, was fully explored, and the absence of seats was found to show to advantage its archaic points of interest, especially the splendid scroll-work of the circa 1480 chest, with its intricate trick-

lock, and the early tiles which were formerly considered Roman. At *Eriswell* the day, a very full day, was ended by passing in review the church, whose association with the Herts Priory of Royston forms one of our future problems to be unravelled; its foundertomb, pretty surely the 1296 one of Sir Ralph the last of the De Rochester manorial lords here; its three or four stone coffins, which should be better preserved and not left to elemental inclemencies; and finally the ruins of the delightful little Coclesworth Chapel in the north part of Eriswell. Since then the Rector has been so good as to give me a circa 1725 sketch of such ruins as then remained, taken from the south (which wall is now all white-brick and inscribed "T.P. 1754"); it shows the body of the chapel roofless with no distinction between chancel and nave, the east gable-end upstanding and east angles buttressed; just west of them is a late Perp. double-light extending to near ground, further west the lower two-thirds (wall-plate obviously lost) of three high pseudo-clerestory lancets, likely Norman, of which the westmost is over a round-headed and quite likely Norman doorway; tower at west end square, narrow and broadly buttressed only at west angles in three tiers obliquely, with a cornice or double string-course both below and above the south belfry-lancet, ending with a tri-merloned south battlement having a pinnacle at west end; this plan is interesting from the fact that the existing ruin bears no visible feature older than 1400.

The fifth and final Excursion was the most varied of the year, embracing a Liberty, monasteries, genealogies, a manorial caput, an address on Old Tracks, and luncheon in beautiful grounds, besides the usual concomitant churches which are now almost our sole mediæval survivals. At *Melton* Mr. V. B. Redstone, F.S.A., repeated his lecture of September, 1925, on the Court of St. Etheldreda's Liberty, the residence of whose seneschal is asserted to have been upon the site of the old prison here for over six centuries. At *Ufford* the rector, in the absence of the Rev. R. W. Maitland, author of "The Story of Ufford," which is one of this year's outstanding topographical books, gave a comprehensive history of the church, with details of its De Ufford earls of Suffolk and their descendants, the Willoughbys of Parham and Eresby; and a few novel details of *Pettistree* church were brought forward in loco. The advowson was appurtenant upon Bing Manor and appropriated in 1413 by Campsey Nunnery. Far more was seen to remain yet standing than members previously knew of the 1195 Nunnery in the marshes of *Campsey*, whose historical details were outlined, and a good deal of time expended in examining both the conventional buildings and nuns' residence, which seems little altered since its renovation at the monastery's Dissolution; the former showed that very few

visible emendations had been carried out in the structure since its original erection in early EEngl. style (curiously, no Trans.-Norman work has survived) ; and the latter that its site was peculiarly low upon the river Deben's edge, so low that the adjacent mere has obviously silted up rather than lowered the Norman height of its waters. Unfortunately Lord Ullswater was away from home and unable to welcome members at Campsea High House, whose delightful park with its varied and exotic animals and splendid trees was admired no less than the drive through *Rendlesham* Park, punctuated at both entrance and exit by lodges built by Lord Rendlesham with translated portions of the EEngl. sections of *Butley* Priory ; these, it is to be hoped, will be sedulously conserved and not mistaken for fakes, which view their unnatural site is apt to promote. Naunton Hall in this village was examined somewhat closely with the aid of notes compiled by the Rector, who proffered an illuminating account of the church from so remote a period as the first Saxon flickerings of Christianity in King Raedwald of East Engle's reign of the seventh century, adding that the inarched recumbent effigy of the north choir wall was ascribable to that rector John Caperson, whose 1375 will directs burial in this chancel before the Image of a certain saint whose tabernacle is bequeathed forty shillings ; and for the erection of a Boundary Cross at the division of the King's Highway between Tunstall and Rendlesham (at the first of the two above lodges) is bequeathed ten shillings.

In the drawing-room of *Boulge* Hall the Icklingham precedent of an after-tea paper was followed by Mr. Redstone's theories respecting the numerous Trackways, and their names, across the wild and uninhabited Sandlings between the Deben and the sea-coast at Orford and Bawdsey, itself a place of no small importance in the fourteenth century with a governing community and considerable ship-building yard at the mouth of the river Deben, then termed Gosford Haven. Though Boulge church is mainly rebuilt in modern times it is famous as the last resting-place of Old Fitz, as we Suffolkers may affectionately designate the learned translator of Omar Kháyyám's fine Rubáiyát, and the possession of one of the earliest Suffolk fonts. It is in the tower-base and of splendid Norman or earlier black stone, having the square bowl thirty-one inches in diameter by eleven high ; its sides and upper surface are blank, but a gaping mouth like that of a gargoyle is under each corner (cp. Onehouse), and the basal five inches below the above eleven are doubly bevelled to the massive circular shaft, fourteen inches high by no less than fifty-five inches in circumference, which rises from a square base, very nearly as broad as the bowl and sculptured with the usual early-Norman cushion-moulding (of Alpheton and Homersfield, etc.) without step ; the whole is en-

tirely distinct from that at Ipswich St. Peter's, though the stone seems identical if one's memory serves aright, for such objects are not sufficiently portable to compare inter se!

Here the Season ended for, though the Hon. General Secretary was empowered to communicate with the October Congress held by Churchmen in Ipswich, no need arose to give that Congress an excursion, though not a few of our members materially assisted in the collection of objects interesting to it in that town.

CLAUDE MORLEY,  
*Hon. Excursion Director.*

GRAVES LOMBARD,  
*Hon. Excursion Director.*

November 30th, 1927.