

A few of the party visited the little Museum, and others the large Parish Church of St. Peter and Paul, where they were received by the Vicar, the Rev. G. C. Danvers, M.C., who had served as Battalion Padre to the 2nd Bn. the Suffolk Regiment from 1916 to 1918. The Vicar had several brass rubbings to show. Interest was shown in the extensive repairs which were going on in the Church, the roof having been badly damaged by ravages of the death-watch beetle.

W. M. LUMMIS (Excursion Director).

BARHAM, SHRUBLAND PARK, CODDENHAM.

FRIDAY, JULY 20TH, 1934.

The rendezvous was Barham Church, situated on the ridge 1 mile east of the Ipswich-Norwich main road, and overlooking the Gipping Valley. After an opening prayer by the Rector, the Rev. L. B. C. Newell, the Excursion Director referred in his remarks to the origin of the name. Anciently it was "Bergham"—the place of barrows. It thus preserves an old Saxon word. An old manuscript copied by the Rev. John Longe commenting on this, points out that there are two barrows near here—one on the Coddenham Road, and "the other a little farther on in the same field by the Beacon road's side."

A few years ago three skeletons were found lying face downward in the Chapelfields adjoining, or close to Barham Church. There is a tradition that a battle between Saxons and Danes was fought on this site.

The Church (St. Mary) is an ancient one, mainly of the Decorated period, but underwent extensive restoration by the Dowager Lady Middleton in 1865. Some seats belong to the 14th century, the modern ones being copies of these. A most unusual feature is the raised side-chapel on the north, containing the Shrubland pew. The church contains monuments of the Booth, Southwell, Bacon and Middleton families, and five hatchments of the Middletons. That of Edward Bacon, 3rd son of the Great Lord Keeper, and his wife Hellen, who bore him 19 children, was of special interest. It is situated in the centre of what is now the vestry. The window in this Dormitory or Chapel (says Davey in 1827) bears a great resemblance to one in the Nave of Henley Church, and both were probably built by Sir Philip Booth of Shrubland, Knt.

Extracts from the Registers were read referring to some of the Rectors of the 17th century. William Kirby, the eminent naturalist (born at Witnesham, 1759) was Curate at Barham under Rev. Nicholas Bacon, whom he succeeded as Rector, dying in 1850, having been Rector 68 years. There is a window to his memory put up by Anna, Lady Middleton.

BARHAM HALL.

By the courtesy of Sir Anthony Compton-Thornhill, Bt., the party was permitted to walk through the drive of Barham Hall, and thus view from both sides the old Tudor wall. (The old Hall has been demolished). In the wall, opposite the Church, is an interesting blocked-up gateway, surmounted by the Southwell arms (Argent, 3 cinquefoils, gules, each charged with 6 annulets, or). Robert Southwell, who was King's Attorney for Augmentations, purchased Barham Hall of Henry VIII. He died Sept. 27th, 1554, and lies buried in the Chancel of Barham Church. His son, John Southwell, was "one of the Gent. yt waited upon Sr. Nic. Bacon, Lo: Keeper of the Great Seal of Eliz." Owner of Barham Hall and property in Norfolk, this he left to his son Robert, who sold a great part of it, leaving the remainder to his son John, who sold still more of the estate, his brother Thomas, who in 1655 sold it to John Lambe, and he in turn to Dr. Wood, Bishop of Lichfield, who was the owner in 1690.

The Rev. E. Farrer, speaking of the Southwells, pointed out that John Southwell had a great deal to do with the dissolution of the monasteries and was thereby much enriched. Lord Keeper Bacon was at the time Master of the Wards and Liveries. John Southwell, who was "his right hand man" thus obtained the manor of Barham from Ely Priory.

"BARHAM MANOR."

The present house (so-called) is a farm-house having gables of Flemish design, which the party was permitted to inspect through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony White. Despite restoration, the house and garden proved of interest. Mr. Farrer gave it as his opinion that its date was not earlier than 1620.

SHRUBLAND PARK.

The long procession of motor cars then turned back to the main road, and entered Shrubland Park by the Barham Lodge. By kind permission of Capt. the Hon. J. St. V. B. Saumarez, the site of the Old Hall, the Pleasure Gardens and the Tower were visited. At the Old Hall the party was welcomed by Mrs. Wilby, and the old Tudor Chapel which adjoins the house, and was at the time used as a garage, was inspected. The boundary between Barham and Coddendam passes between the house and the Chapel. The mural decorations (Booth arms and Catherine wheels) are similar to those in Barham and Henley churches; but some are of modern date. The Director read Mr. Evelyn White's paper on the Old Hall which was read to the Society at its last visit in 1920. He stated that the Catherine wheels were probably a punning allusion to Catherine, daughter of Philip Oake, who married one of the Booths. Her son, Sir Philip Booth, High Sheriff in 1507, built the Chapel just within the boundary of Barham.

"THE TOWER."

An interesting hunting-box of flint and stone, standing on a prominent part of the Shrubland ridge, is occupied on the ground floor by

Mr. Scott, head gamekeeper on the estate. From its summit an extensive view of the valley of the Gipping is obtained, and the spire of Great Finborough Church can be plainly seen. Two small swivel cannon (numbered 1 and 2) are mounted on its lead-covered roof. The upper storey, now unoccupied, is of quaint shape and has curious fixtures.

BAYLHAM HOUSE.

By kind permission of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. W. T. Bromfield this house, which stands on the Coddenham bank of the Gipping, was next visited. Here lived William Dowsing, Iconoclast, from 1626 to 1637. His signature appears in Church Rates (1634-1635) in Coddenham Church—documents which were later inspected. He married 1st Thamar, daughter of John Lea, of Coddenham, and six of his children were baptized there. Edward Ives lived here in 1642.

Attention was drawn to the discovery of Roman remains in the adjoining fields (The Pole or Pool Fields). Some of these finds were made in 1823 and were noted in the "Gentleman's Magazine." A fine specimen of a speculum found near here was presented by Sir William Middleton, Bart., to the British Museum in 1838. Photographs of this were shown. Mr. Guy Maynard, who has recently been engaged in excavation work here, produced an interesting drawing of Hamlet Watling illustrating Roman finds in this district. The site of the old Roman road which crossed the Gipping by a ford is marked by two stunted trees near Baylham House.

BEACON HILL, CODDENHAM.

An old Roman look-out station near the Needham Lodge entrance to Shrubland Park, overlooking the Needham-Coddenham Road, and in communication with another Roman station at Cousins Hill and the Creting Hills opposite. The Rev. H. Copinger Hill considered that a Roman road from Combretonium (Brettenham) passed by here and on to Coddenham, and thence to Dunwich. The Rev. H. A. Harris gave his opinion that this strategic spot selected by the Romans was probably of importance in days before the Roman invasion.

Since our visit, the chalk pit where we "appreciated the situation" has this year (1935) been the scene of a fatal accident, a workman engaged in excavating chalk having been buried by a fall of several tons of it.

Attention was drawn to the old Roman causeway below the pit, which led to the now disused bridle-way known as Pipp's Lane.

Bridgeplace Farm at the four crossroads is a modern building; but stands on the site of a former house once owned by the famous Richard Hakluyt, when Rector of Wetheringsett.

CHOPPING'S HILL, CODDENHAM.

A most interesting place was Chopping's Hill Farm, which Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Haywood, kindly allowed us to look over. In the paddock were to be seen some huge ice-borne boulders. Anciently known as Thedwards, it was once owned by the Crane and Choppynne families.

Mr. Haywood has restored many features of this very early Tudor house, and interest was evinced in the smoke-blackened rafters, the king-posts, and the strange indecipherable inscription in Gothic characters on the beam above the old chimney-hearth. The building, indeed, has been transformed within the last decade.

THE CROWN INN, CODDENHAM.

A hot summer day had caused all to be gasping for tea, so that we were quite ready to sit down for welcome refreshment in the rooms of the Crown Inn. This interesting house was built about 1550 by a member of the Woodhouse family, who formerly owned Crowfield Hall. He was of "knight's degree" and used the house as a winter residence and dower-house. About the reign of James I it was licensed with the sign of the "Gryffon." A list of the known landlords was posted up for all to see. Throughout the 17th and first half of the 18th century the family of Cooper appear to have had charge of the inn. The house contains an excellent oak ceiling, a very fine back-door, and an immense old-fashioned fireplace with jacks, spit, etc.

THE POST OFFICE, CODDENHAM.

Formerly the "Live and Let Live Inn," the present Post Office, is a picturesque gabled building, and was restored to something of its original appearance in 1929. During restoration two fine mullion windows were discovered and are now exposed. At the same time the old houses adjoining were also restored by the late Lady de Saumarez. It is conjectured that these houses formed the Guildhouse of St. Mary Magdalene in the Middle Ages.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CODDENHAM.

At the fine Parish Church of St. Mary we were welcomed by the Rector—the Rev. Goodwin Purcell—who this year (1935) has resigned the living and gone to Cressage, Shropshire. A full description of the Church was written by the late Rector (the Rev. Walter Wyles) and was published in the Proceedings of this Society in 1920. Little, therefore remains to be added here, except to point out alterations that have since taken place. The Old Shrubland Pew has been removed and transformed into a Lady Chapel, the oak pannelling, with its quaint carved Scriptural scenes, now lining the wall. An empty tomb with altar slab was then discovered. During his incumbency Mr. Purcell has restored the Bacon and Longe hatchments, and these now hang on the walls of the clerestory and aisles. Unfortunately the Royal Arms of George I (omitted in the list in Mr. H. Munro Cautley's book) were found to be too dilapidated to be put up again.

Photographs of former incumbents (the Rev. Nicholas Bacon and his wife—taken from the originals in wax—and the Rev. John Longe and Robert Longe) have been placed in the Vestry. Here, too, are the arms of Montague Bacon in wood. Davy's engraving of Coddendam Church, and two photographs of the interior taken prior to the 1886 restoration, may be seen at the west end of the Church.

The painted screen panels described by the Rev. W. W. Lillie, were inspected, as was also the Coddendam Parish Records, mainly in Candler's handwriting, and William Dowsing's, signature.

Opposite the Church is an old house formerly known as Jourdaines, and now as Manor Farm. This was the residence of Lt.-Col. John Daines, Surgeon, and a Parliamentarian officer of some repute, who served at Marston Moor, was instrumental in effecting the capture of Lincoln, and as a Major of Horse was present at the Siege of Colchester.

STONEWALL FARM, HEMINGSTONE.

On the homeward route the remnant of the excursion was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Southgate to their interesting old house which contains a very fine early king-post with moulded cap and base. Here the Rev. E. Farrer discoursed on the Cantrell family and their residence, formerly known as Stonehall.

The President, Sir John Wood, Bt., expressed his appreciation of a very interesting day.

W. M. LUMMIS (Excursion Director).