

N.R.A. COMMITTEE FOR SUFFOLK: *Chairman*, Sir Charles Bunbury, Bt.,
Naunton Hall, Rendlesham, Woodbridge.
Hon. Sec., Leslie Dow, Esq., Newbourne, Woodbridge.

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East Suffolk: *Hon. Sec.*, W. A. Sanford, Esq., County Librarian,
County Hall, Ipswich.

West Suffolk: *Hon. Sec.*, H. J. M. Maltby, Esq., Moyses's Hall
Museum, Bury St. Edmunds.

Ipswich: *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. Clegg, 790 Foxhall Road, Ipswich.

Any members who are interested in this work and who are able to help should communicate with one of the three *local* secretaries, who will supply all information.

L.D.

Stone Coffin at Kettleburgh.—On the 29th of November, 1948, the Rev. Mr. Davis, incumbent of Brandeston and Kettleburgh, reported to the Hon. Financial Secretary, the discovery of a stone coffin in St. Andrew's Church, Kettleburgh.

Work was going on in the Church including the removal of a match-board dado in the nave. This exposed a side of a stone coffin which is built into the South wall of the nave near the return wall of the chancel arch at a height of about two feet from the floor to the top of the coffin lid. The head of the coffin is towards the West.

The coffin is shaped for the shoulders and appears to be of a late type; the ends are flush with the wall with the shoulder part slightly protruding.

The workmen, mistaking the protruding part for old cement repair work, began chipping it away and made an aperture which revealed a cavity within which a skeleton was seen.

A medical practitioner was asked to make an anatomical examination. He reported the bones to be the remains of a male, aged from 20 to 30 years at death, height in life 5 feet 8½ inches.

No remains of clothing or wrappings were apparent.

The aperture was then sealed up.

It appears that about 1450—1500 a window was made above the built-in coffin, the coffin lid forming the inner sill of the new window. From the reveal of the window, and in the thickness of the wall, a vise to the rood loft was made, the coffin lid also forming the bottom step to the vise.

ARTHUR WELFORD.

Graffito at Newbourne Church.—Mr. L. Dow, Hon. Editor of the *Proceedings* of the S.I.A., drew my attention, in March, 1949, to this very interesting scratch drawing on stone of a ship.

It is situated, about 4 ft. 2 ins. above the present floor level, inside the western jamb to the arch of the South porch—which is formed by the ground storey of the tower. The tower itself appears to date from the first half of the 15th century.

From correspondence which Mr. Dow has had with the Rev. J. F. Williams, F.S.A., Rector of Bucklesham in 1924, it is clear that the latter noticed this graffito in that year. Mr. Williams then sent a rubbing of it

to an expert on mediæval ships, the late Mr. Brindley, of St. John's College, Cambridge. Mr. Brindley, being on holiday at the time made only a cursory examination of the rubbing and dated the graffito at c. 1400 ; mentioning that it was rather like a graffito of a ship in the crypt of Doncaster Church. But this date would be earlier than that of the tower of Newbourne Church.

Further rubbings have now been taken, as illustrated at A, and the National Maritime Museum has been approached for an opinion as to date. Mr. Naish, Assistant Director writes, on the 9th April, 1949 ; " As the ship is a three-master, we can say that the date is about 1450 or later. I don't think it is much later and would myself say that between 1450 and 1500 is the closest approximation that we can give to the date of the ship in this interesting scratch drawing."

The view is of the starboard side of the ship from a little forward of the bows ; this is shown clearly in B, where all the irrelevant marks in A have been blacked out. She appears as a sea-going ship of deep draught, with a large forecastle running forward as a beak-head, and an after-stage, and the bulwarks are carefully shown. The upper line of the double lines of the keel is probably a mistake, the lower line being the artists' correction.

She has a short foremast with shrouds, forestay, and lowered yard. A main mast with large topcastle amidships, with shrouds and ratlines, and yard hoisted ; with a topmast and its shrouds, and topsail yard lowered. And a small mizzen mast with a lateen yard. This rig would indicate a date between 1450 and 1500, possibly during the latter half of that period.

Newbourne is situated about five miles from the mouth of the River Deben (now Felixstowe Ferry) and what was, in the 15th and 16th centuries, the busy Port of Gosford. Although quite unsupported by evidence it is permissible to imagine that the drawer of the graffito was a sailor, a Newbourne man, home from a voyage in this his ship, then lying at anchor in the Port.

A. WELFORD.

Excavations of the Abbey Ruins, Bury St. Edmunds.—Investigations which have recently been carried out in the vicinity of the Chancel of the main Abbey Church, Bury St. Edmunds, under the direction of Mr. Norman C. Goldsmith, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and Mr. H. J.-M. Maltby, Curator of Moyses's Hall, have revealed some interesting discoveries. These investigations were commenced on the 13th December, 1948 and were continued for several weeks.

The excavators were fortunate in selecting the position of the first trench, as a masonry wall covered with mediæval plaster was discovered almost immediately. This wall has been traced almost to its foundations, about 14 feet below the ground level, and is without doubt the main west wall of the original crypt. The plaster-work is in excellent condition, and there are faint indications of the original *tempera* paintings. One of the main central piers complete with the springing of the original vault was also found. This early Norman vaulting is probably a semi-circular barrel vault with the piers spaced at regular intervals. Unfortunately the