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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS 2015

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ROB ATKINS graduated in 1989 from Birmingham University with a degree in Economic and Social History. He has spent the last thirteen years as a Project Officer for Oxford Archaeology East based at Bar Hill, Cambridge. Rob has authored or co-authored four monographs and sixteen articles in various archaeological journals. Email: robert.atkins@oxfordarch.co.uk

JAMES BETTLEY is the author of the revised two-volume edition of the *Pevsner Architectural Guide to Suffolk*. He worked at the Royal Institute of British Architects and was Head of Collection Development at the National Art Library at the Victoria & Albert Museum before undertaking the Pevsner work. His revision of the *Essex* guide was published in 2007, and he is now working on Hertfordshire. He is also chairman of the Chelmsford Diocesan Committee for the Care of Churches. Email: jamesbettley@btinternet.com

MICHAEL LEACH is a retired GP with a lifelong interest in history. Formerly honorary secretary, index and deputy newsletter editor for Essex Society for Archaeology and History, as well as a member of the research committee of Essex Gardens Trust, he has written widely on many aspects of local history.

MARK LOCKETT fell in love with history at the age of four when his parents took him to Pevensey Castle in Sussex. His research interests now include bibliography, the genesis and development of antiquarian scholarship and what used to be called the Puritan Revolution. He lives in the Stour Valley.

EDWARD MARTIN worked as an archaeologist with Suffolk County Council for many years and has written and lectured widely on the archaeology and history of Suffolk. He is a vice-president and a past chairman of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. Email: edward.martin8@btinternet.com

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STANLEY WEST began his career at Ipswich Museum and excavated at West Stow with Basil Brown in 1948. From 1965 to 1972 he directed the excavations at West Stow, and he was the first County Archaeologist for Suffolk, from 1974 to 1991 when he retired.

JOHN BLATCHLY, MBE, MA, HONLITTD, FSA,
HONORARY WOLSEY PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UCS
(1932–2015)



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JOHN BLATCHLY, who died aged 82 in August 2015 after a sudden deterioration of health, was a man of exceptional vision who had a genius for getting things done. He was one of those rare people who not only seem to relish chairing committees, but who are also absolutely the right choice to do so. He was for twenty-six years President of our Institute, President of the Suffolk Records Society for nearly half the Society's existence to 2013, was involved in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust almost from its foundation in 1973 (for many years as Vice-President), and from 1993 was Chairman of the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust. This by no means exhausts his contribution to the preservation of East Anglia's historic heritage, which it is safe to say no one individual has ever equalled.

John was an adopted son of Suffolk, having been a pupil at Sutton Grammar School, Surrey, and he read chemistry at Christ's College, Cambridge. His doctorate also came from the University of Cambridge, and was undertaken while he was teaching at the King's School, Bruton, and later he taught at Eastbourne and Charterhouse, where the family connection happily continues through his son Mark. The influence of inspired teachers at school had nurtured his lasting enthusiasm for both science and music (for he was a talented instrumentalist), yet there was also a third strand in his remarkable breadth of interest, a passion for history, which led him at first particularly to active membership of the

Monumental Brass Society. It was in this connection that I first met him soon after his arrival at Headmaster of Ipswich School in 1972, when we collaborated in finishing the mammoth listing of all Suffolk brasses and brass indents sponsored by the MBS, which revised the earlier national survey made by Mill Stephenson. Straight away on arrival, he involved himself in county archaeological and historical circles, and his talent for leadership was welcomed and soon put to good use. It was a natural recognition of his energies that he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1975, and there have been further signs of public esteem: his Doctorate of Letters from the University of East Anglia in 1993, a tribute to his benevolent involvement in its work, his MBE in 2007, and an honour which I think particularly pleased him, his Honorary Wolsey Professorship at University College Suffolk (2014), a mark of gratitude for the way in which he encouraged the teaching of history to flourish in a university setting in the county. The Wolsey Lectures which he founded will continue as a very appropriate memorial to him at UCS.

John's years of achievement at Ipswich School, both as Headmaster and in retirement as Archivist, together with his contribution to education as an inspector at Headmasters' Conference schools and as treasurer of the HMC for several years, will be celebrated in other circles, but it is appropriate for us to note *A Famous Antient Seed-plot of Learning* (2003), his superb and artfully-illustrated history of the School, in all its centuries of ups and downs, and the way that in his return of the seventeenth-century Town Library to its natural home the Headmaster's study, the books were meticulously arranged in their original shelf-order according to the painted design uniting the fore-edges of the collection. That restoration is an example of the rare powers of scientific analysis and deduction which John brought to his historical study. Another ability, which is not as common as it might be among historians, was his zest for collaboration. Over the years, he and I found topics which fascinated us both, and to which we brought different enthusiasms and skills, resulting in a run of historical articles from 1978 onwards. The last of these collaborations was conceived as a few paragraphs for one of his inimitable East Anglian Daily Times series 'It happened when', but characteristically for him, after many a cheerful conversation by email exchange, it ended up as a book of more than 100 pages, *Miracles in Lady Lane: the Ipswich Shrine at the Westgate* (2013). Its final handsome form owed much to another fruitful collaboration, with Martin Sanford, which brought him great satisfaction in later years, and produced *inter alia* his charming and learned *Isaac Johnson of Woodbridge: Georgian Surveyor and Artist* (2014). That was a tribute to another of his talents as an antiquary: a keen eye and the discriminating instinct of a collector. The lovely house to which he and Pam retired in central Ipswich was a treasure-house of beautiful things.

Where John found neglect or the possibility of ruin or dispersal, he galvanised campaigns to put things right; so we have the ancient Ipswich Town Library lovingly restored, the surplus medieval churches of the borough still cared for and serving their community in various helpful ways, the ancient Ipswich peal of St Lawrence bells brought to national attention and fully functional once more, the magnificent collection of manuscripts from Elveden Hall preserved for the county, Cardinal Wolsey fittingly remembered in his home town with a magnificent statue (eighteen months from inauguration of the scheme to fully-funded completion), and much more. But above all I remember a kind, witty and generous friend, shrewd in his judgements of people and slow to anger, while unfailingly generous and hospitable: a Renaissance Man who gave an example of how it was possible to make the world a better and more beautiful place. He was tremendous fun to be with, because of his zest for life. I suspect that words he chose to adorn the statue of Cardinal Wolsey apply to himself rather more accurately than to that pleasure-loving Prince of the Church: 'A teacher who believed that pleasure should mingle with study so that the child may think learning an

amusement rather than a toil'. Not long before his death, he wrote to me 'I wake daily to the thrill of another day of interest and discovery, and long may that continue.' It is a fine epitaph. Our deep sympathy goes out to Pam and to their children Janet and Mark; and all of us who knew him share keenly in their loss.

Diarmaid MacCulloch.