



# BAHS Newsletter

Number 27

[www.history-blakeney-area.org.uk](http://www.history-blakeney-area.org.uk)

July 2009

## Editorial

In something of a break with tradition, we are starting this bumper Newsletter with an Editorial comment. Though the publication of the Glaven Historian has had to be delayed – it is likely to remain a bi-ennial for the foreseeable future – by way of compensation we have expanded the Newsletter to, in this case, 10 pages.

Contributions to future Newsletters will be very welcome, whether it be e-mailed correspondence or a full-blown article. Do you, for instance, have any interesting old photos tucked away?

## Subscription Renewals

Yes, it's that time of year again. Time to whip out your cheque book and renew your subscription to your favourite local history society! Your committee have retained the existing subscription rates for another year.

Remember, you will only be able to participate in the Annual General Meeting, which precedes the 29 September meeting, if your subs are up to date.

Subscription rates are:

Individual members: £10  
Family members: £14  
Corporate members: £25

Please make cheques payable to "Blakeney Area Historical Society" and send them to the Membership Secretary, Shaun Hill, at  
64 Morston Road  
Blakeney  
NR25 7BE



*Cley from the Holt Road, "The Birches" in its original condition is on the right, behind the tree. This was reputed to have been intended to be the Stationmaster's house when the Lynn & Fakenham Railway built their line from Holt to Blakeney. The line was never built though much of the land had been purchased. Another, more plausible, legend has this house built on L&FR land under Adverse Possession (squatters' rights). Note also the undeveloped 'Town House' on the corner of Town Yard.*



*The same view now, showing alterations to 'The Birches' and the old 'Town House' (in the centre of the image).*

# News from the History Centre



It is seven years since the Society opened the door to the History Centre – time for a well earned sabbatical break with no Open Days or exhibition planned for this summer.

Meanwhile all is not lost. The new display board, purchased with a Blakeney Community Grant, is now in place in the north aisle of St Nicholas with an exhibition featuring Blakeney's second church and a selection of early Newsletters, showcasing the activities of the BAHS (see accompanying photograph). These displays will change throughout the year so remember to keep visiting. And of course the History Centre remains open for you to call in and look at new accessions or simply to say hello and renew your subscription for 2009/10.

## Recent Accessions

Books added to the library include *The Country Houses of Norfolk*, *Brackles, Memoirs of a Pioneer of Civil Aviation*, *A Guide to St Nicholas Church, Salthouse* and *The Banville Diaries, Journals of a Norfolk Gamekeeper 1822-44*.

All other accessions are essentially family history orientated and all have been donated. These include a Merry Family Tree, an autobiography and family history of the Chapman family of Cley, the monumental inscriptions of Thornage Churchyard and approximately 400 birth, death and marriage certificates.

The certificates are essentially of the Baker families of Wells and Blakeney and all their various relatives, recording events spread across both county and country.

They are primary sources for family historians and surnames of particular interest will be Baker, Kerrison, Thompson, Forsdick, Bloom, Carroway, Pinchen, Lincoln, Gotts, Dew, Spooner, Ellis, Wells, Turner, Pye, Gooch, Daghish, Wainwright and Beresford.

The certificates will be known as the Anderson Collection and will be filed in two volumes; Volume I covering the years 1837-1909 while Volume 2 will contain the more recent certificates and consequently will have restricted access.

Then David Wright has deposited 2 copies of his book, *The Antisatisfactionist, Richard Wright (1764-1836)*. This is the story of a Blakeney born lad who eventually became a Unitarian Missionary. Richard Wright was contemporary with John Wesley of Methodist fame; also of the generation of the Unitarian preacher and great poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

The book begins with Richard's childhood in Blakeney including brief descriptions of his family life and insights into how the local youth spent their Sundays. The story follows him to Holt when he left school, where he worked for an uncle who met an untimely death by falling from

his horse and on to Field Dalling as an apprentice blacksmith. From there it follows his dissenting ministry, his family life married to Isabella Garland, daughter of a Norwich miller and the departure of his brothers John and Thomas and sister Ann Claxton as they emigrated to Georgetown, Washington, DC in 1817.

Just ten copies of the book are for sale at £13.00 inc. P&P. Order Forms, with SAE, are available on request from the duty volunteer in the History Centre. Finally a copy of the *'Family Tree of Richard Wright'*, compiled in 2006 by Christopher S Miasnik of the USA, has also been donated to the Centre. Here Richard's ancestors have been traced back to Thomas Wright, born c1600, Weasenham, Norfolk. There are detailed links to many Norfolk families but of particular interest are the local families of Browne and Crofts. These relate to the ledger slabs in St Nicholas, Blakeney for both families and in St Mary the Virgin, Wiveton for the Crofts.

## Roots and Branches

The following list represents the main surnames currently being researched; **Jary/Fox** of Stiffkey and Blakeney **Drinkwater** of Cley with connections to the **Ramms** and **Bretts Dunn** of Sheringham and Blakeney with **Johnson** and **Alcock** connections **Broughton** of Morston and Blakeney with **Gravelin** and **Bishop** connections **Starling** of Blakeney, particularly descendants of **Bodham Butcher Starling Wright** of Blakeney with **Browne** and **Croft** connections **Sparham** of Blakeney **Chapman/Moy/Lewis** of Cley and Salthouse with **Thompson** connections **Bircham** of Cley

Whilst most enquiries are for details of people, some are for family homes and a few are for a 'feel of the place' where ancestors once lived. For instance, the Bircham



family would dearly love to know where 'Furncliff' or 'Ferncliff' is or was in Cley. This was the name of their family home early in the twentieth century and having left Cley, it became the middle name for some. Can someone in Cley provide an answer please?

If you are interested in any of the above families and would like to look at their trees or communicate with potential cousins then visit the History Centre where you will be able to find out more and get full contact details.

*Pam Peake*

## Family Portraits

How many times have we all looked at treasured family photographs, not recognizing the relatives and just wishing that someone had taken time to write names or put a date on the back? Well this was almost the situation for the Thompsons when a cousin passed a copy of the wedding photograph to another. She believed that it was her grandmother Rosina standing next to the bride who was her sister. Apart from that only the names of the bride and groom – the cousins Mary Ann Thompson and Robert James Thompson – were known.

A quick check of the parish registers and purchase of the marriage certificate established that the couple married in

Blakeney, 16th September 1906.

The location of the family home was noted from the 1901 census as a cottage in the yard behind the Anchor Gift Shop. Comparison of the flint work surrounding the window, together with the down pipe featured in the photograph confirmed that this was indeed the backdrop to the wedding photograph.

A year later and everyone is now identified. The parents of the bride, Thomas Loads and Margaret Thompson are on the left with their niece Annie May Thompson (Aunt Nan) and her daughter at the end of the row. Aunt Nan was the only one in the family to ever wear glasses. Kathleen Lewis, sister of the groom, is with her husband Alfred at the far right. George Thomas Thompson (1820-1912) grandfather of the bride, whose life as a mariner featured in Glaven Historian No.7, is seated on the right. Next to him is Harriet, his granddaughter with her two children.

Have you a story to share?

*Jean Thompson*

## Maps at the History Centre

Can anyone resist the lure of maps? There are maps of all sorts, sizes and varieties, old maps and new, large scale and small. Even a brief look

at one can tell us all sorts of interesting things. A map makes sense of things that seem a little hard to grasp when we read about them, suddenly the relationship between places is laid out in front of us, and all is made plain.

How many people are aware of the vast wealth of maps available at the History Centre? I was quite astonished when I went along to have a proper look the other month. I knew that there were some maps in there but had no idea of the scope or quantity of them.

Does your interest lie in family, house or village history? Do you seek information on field boundaries or surveys of Blakeney Harbour? Are you wondering how the village in which you live has developed over the years? Do you need to know where the railways used to run, or perhaps even more fascinating, where they might have run had some of the more ambitious plans ever got off the drawing board? If any of these subjects or a host of others seem tempting then this is the place to visit.

The earliest map of the area is a copy of the Haven Map of 1586, then there is a tracing of a Blakeney Parish survey dated 1769, as well as Faden's Map of Norfolk 1797 and Bryant's 1826. There is a copy of Leak's survey of Blakeney Harbour, including various updates, and also a sea chart for this area. There are early Ordnance Survey maps and much more up to date ones, maps of sewage plans, maps of all the local villages plus other Norfolk villages, maps showing the whole of the coast, maps showing individual houses and maps showing wide areas at one glance.

There can be few subjects of interest to the amateur historian which will not benefit from a closer study of one or more of these maps. I urge you to go along to the History Centre and make use of, or at least have a look at, some of them. Just remember to book the large table well in advance as you will need plenty of room to enjoy them.

*Hilary Randell*

# Glimpses of Mussel Fishing

Living on the Point in the mid-1950's has left me with abiding memories of men bent over working the mussel lays or standing by their boats at the edge of the Pit waiting for the tide to rise so that they could drift up closer to home. In rain, sleet and snow they would be arranged as isolated dots like gulls strung out along a wall.

Not all of these men were strongly built, some were small and wiry with ages masked by their weather beaten complexions, but some must have been in their 60s or even 70s. A consequence of this hard life, working in thigh boots and salt-impregnated clothes, was the sight in the village of old men with sticks bent double with arthritis, unable to stand upright.

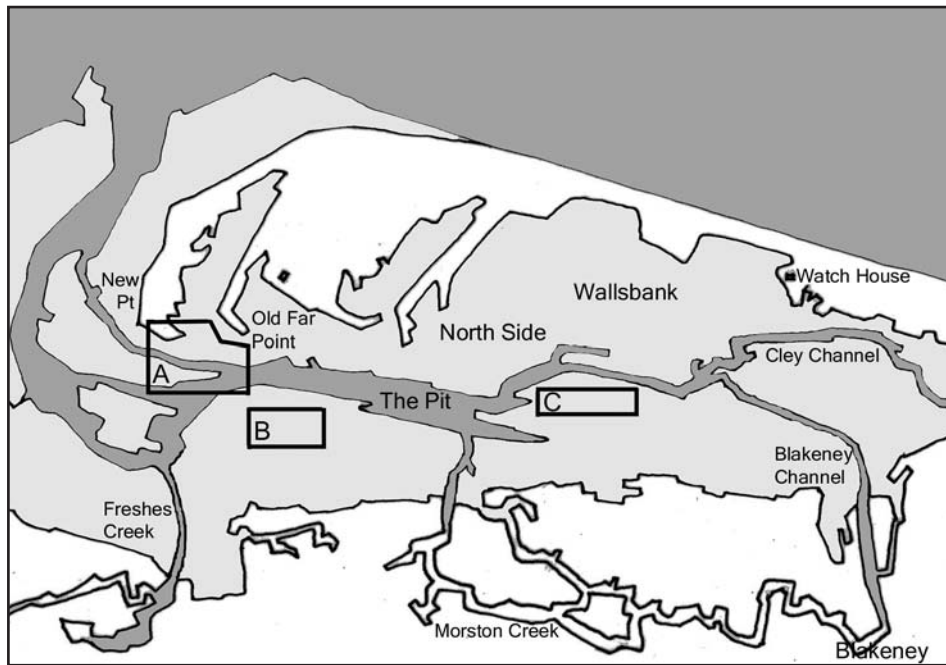
As a young graduate I was in awe of these men, yet constantly being surprised by them. One day in mid-winter while waiting for the tide in the pouring rain, standing by my boat, one fisherman walked across to me. The opening remark was – "You must read a lot" – he must have been aware that I was living on the Point by myself. Together we discussed the relative merits of various authors until the tide rose and we could drift up to the Carnser. Nobody seeing us would have imagined the topic of conversation between two bedraggled figures, yet I will always remember that his favourite author was Thackeray!

John Peake

**The contributions that follow are the recollections of Mary Ferroussat and the evidence her father Sammy Long gave to a Public Enquiry of his recollections and those of his father, George Long, on mussel fishing in the harbour.**

**Together they provide a record a life that has left Blakeney.**

Prior to the outbreak of World War II there were probably more than 30 families who made a liv-



**Sketch map of Blakeney Harbour showing approximate positions of the mussel lays in the 1950s. Note: this map reflects the harbour as it is now, but there have been major changes since the 1950s, for example, there is a new Far Point, and in the 1950s the main channel went through the middle of the Simpool lays. Key: A = "Simpool"; B = "Morston Strand" and C = "Scaup Run".**

ing by 'working the Harbour'. This number, however, was less than the workforce prior to World War 1, when there was still work to be had with coastal trading and fishing vessels.

After 1945 there were no longer many young men willing to attend to the heavy, cold work of cultivating, sorting and cleaning mussels for sale. They could dig lugworms for 10 pence a hundred – 2 shillings then and considered it a worthwhile 'fill in' job. They even staged a strike for more money – 2 shillings and sixpence or 12.5 pence.

Blakeney Harbour has for a long time been a 'free harbour' with no dues paid for moorings or for 'mussel lays' – these were the individual plots of stony ground chosen by the various fishermen on which they cultivated mussels – *Mytilus edulis*. The lays were marked by piles or rows of big stones or a dug bank and were inherited and passed down through families, only occasionally being sold. Here the beds of mussels were held together with fine byssal threads produced by the animals (often called 'the beard'). Some years sand would cover the lays killing the mussels,

or the tide would find a new channel after a storm and barnacles would suddenly be a menace.

The majority of the lays were just above low tide mark and could be worked as soon as they were exposed. Others were in the main channel and always covered with water of varying depths and consequently these had to be worked with a 'whim'. This was a very long-handled rake to which was attached a net so that the mussels could be lifted aboard a boat, called a canoe. The length of the handle of a whim was a personal matter, some being 20 feet long. Nearly all were made from ash which could 'whip' under a weight without breaking. The iron bar of the rake usually had 7 to 9 teeth and the size of the net often went with the strength and height of the fisherman. It is only in the Blakeney Harbour that it is known as a 'whim'; at Wells it is known a 'lab-rake' and at Brancaster it is a 'dydlerake'.

The design of the heavy flat-bottomed boat used by the fishermen varies slightly along the coast. At Blakeney they were 16 feet long with a 4 foot wide flat bottom and were known as 'canoes', along the coast it



***The Carnser sometime between 1880 and 1905 showing, in the foreground, two canoes with their wooden peg rowlocks and a heavy oar with a leather sleeve. In the background is the fair. This was long before the Blakeney Hotel was built.***

changes to 'flats' or 'punts'. They were made by local carpenters or the fishermen themselves using larch, if possible, for the 5 side planks with elm for the base. They were clinker built with oak knees. The vestigial transom stern was wedged upwards before the sides went on to give it the ability to float off mud or sand in a flowing tide when loaded to the gun'l (gunwales) with up to a ton of mussels. Then the gun'l would be just above the water line and the fisherman needed considerable skill and care as the canoe could be easily swamped.

The rowlocks were wooden pegs and the long heavy oars had a leather sleeve where they will be in contact with the rowlocks. This reduces both noise and wear-and-tear. Like a coracle, the central seat was important as here the fisherman sits and keeps the boat balanced in very shallow water.

The fishermen used to go out on the last of the tide and 'catch the first' to return home, allowing

the tide to lift them over the sandbanks. They would use an oar to keep the boat in mid-channel relying on the tide to sweep them to their moorings with as little labour as possible. Then after a hard day's work they had to unload the canoe so that the mussels would keep fresh.

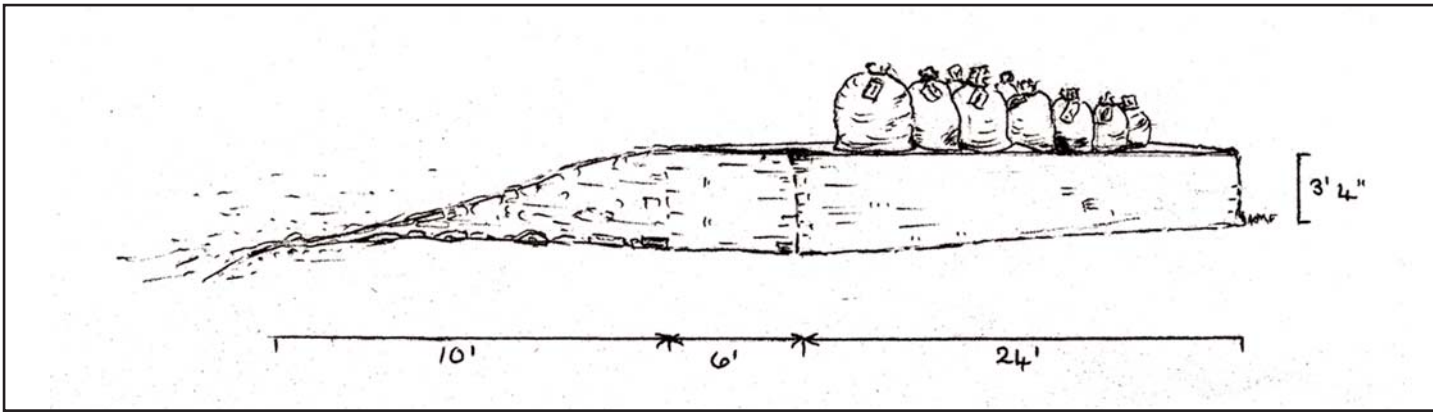
People did not want to buy mussels covered in barnacles or with other detritus attached. So all the mussels had to be cleaned, sorted and placed in sacks before being sent to market, undersized mussels being returned to the lays.

During the late 1950's and even before WWII there was a great deal of talk of the purity of water needed for mussels as there had been problems with food poisoning in some areas around the coast. Blakeney Harbour was tested and found to be one of the purest areas in the British Isles. Nevertheless, someone, who had never understood the basic needs of mussels, decreed that the mussels had to be placed above a row

of concrete markers on the Carnser while they were sorted. The markers were well above the high tide mark of neap tides and to add insult to injury they were set in like posts to the detriment of any boat's sides or keels.

After all these troubles the fishermen revolted, moving their sorting areas down to the New Cut and the markers were forgotten. The texture of New Cut was not at all to the fishermen's liking as it was too soft and muddy for easy work. The sacks of mussels had to be carried, rowed, put on bicycles or wheelbarrows to get them onto the ramp ready for collection by a lorry and often the driver did not have the patience to wait. Eventually the industry died at Blakeney, fortunately it still survives further west along the coast.

*Mary Ferroussat*



**Sketch of the 'mussel ramp' or 'grandstand' built to replace the wooden ramp destroyed in the 1953 flood.**



**All that remains of an era: the loading ramp on the Carnser now covered with Sueda bushes.**

**Selection from the evidence given by Samuel Daniel ('Sammy') Long in 1966.**

I am 71 years of age and have been concerned in mussel fishing in Blakeney Harbour for as long as I can remember. Relying on what my father, who was also a mussel fisherman, told me, my recollection goes back over the past 106 years during which, the cultivation of the beds in the Harbour has always been in the hands of a small number of families.

The natural mussel sets in Blakeney Harbour were not large enough to supply the needs of the

families drawing on them to stock their beds, and therefore those with small boats – crab boats and smacks – powered by oars and sails, obtained small mussels from the scaulps at Boston, Lynn and Hunstanton. Boston and Lynn used to grant these boats a licence for the month of March for 12/6, Hunstanton charged 6d a bushel, and mussels could be obtained from 'The Ridge' all the year round, weather permitting. Smacks could handle a cargo of 200-400 bushels, according to size, small boats – crab boats – 40 bushels.

One or two canoes were gener-

ally taken aboard the larger boats to help handle the smaller mussels more easily. At low water some scaulps were dry, others were well covered and a whim ... was used.

Skippers had to be directed to scaulps by Fishery Bailiffs – sometimes unprofitable ones – sometimes being forced to return to Blakeney Harbour with no load. Adverse weather conditions often made it impossible to return to Harbour for up to three weeks, and a load might have to be returned to the scaulp to save it dying in the holds.

On return to Blakeney



**Sammy Long washing a net of mussels in the creek.**

Harbour the mussels were spread out on to lays of the fisherman's choice – clean stony ground. The fishermen did not claim the ground but the mussels on it. Therefore they claimed the area of mussels on their lay and marked it with stones and stone banks. These old banks are still to be found in the Harbour. They did not claim the ground itself as hereditary, but inherited the right to use it. Cockles are also sometimes grown on the lays, and in 1910 George Long in the 'Harvest

Home' brought a load from Snettisham to the 'Scaulp Run', and these subsequently set all over the Harbour.

The main lays in 1910 were located in Morston Creek, Stiffkey Creek, Freshes Creek, Backwater Creek, Cley Channel, and all the way from Blakeney West Muds to Morston Creek, as well as the Channel at Wallsbank, and on the north and south sides of the Pit.

The mussels are left to grow 2-3 years and then brought by canoe to the Carnser where they

are thrown overboard below high-water mark in heaps. These heaps are then hand-picked. The largest for selling are washed and sacked, and the smaller returned to the lays to grow. Stones, shells and debris were used to build up the Carnser.

Winkles are encouraged on the lays to eat the seaweed, but much has to be pulled by hand, kelp' and 'broadleaf' being the fastest growers.

Watch has to be kept that the lays are not silted up by the big tides, or mussels torn up by boat propellers. Walking over the beds can be very damaging.

Some of the families operating lays just prior to the First World War were: 4 of Long; 2 of Baines; 1 of Bambridge and the following Starling, Spooner, Holliday, Mitchell, Johnson, Sands, Oliver, Wells and Loades.

The mussels were hauled to Holt Station by a two-horse trailer for sale in Norwich Market.

25 smacks (used to) operate from Blakeney Harbour in the summer dredging for oysters at sea, employing over 100 men.

*Sammy Long*

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## **Glaven Historian No.12**

Planning for the next issue of the Glaven Historian is well advanced with many authors researching and writing their papers, a few have even been submitted. It will include an eclectic selection with something of interest to everybody who loves the area.

There will papers on Cley, Blakeney and Morston, and inland to Field Dalling. Subjects will range from Blakeney golf course to postboxes, the history of the Cley Estate from the time of the Inclosure, church glass to a wartime census of Blakeney, history through local postcards and even more.

Don't miss it and if you would like to contribute to the following issue or have ideas please contact me (01263 740388).

*John Peake*

## A summer view from your Chairman

This is the time of the year when we look back at the achievements of the past year and start preparing reports for the AGM.

The History Centre's Open Day in St Nicholas Church during August was a resounding success and set the year off to a flying start. Our monthly lecture series again displayed a diverse range of subjects and ended with a virtuoso performance of medieval music.

There have however been downsides, as highlighted in my March letter. We have been forced to move the GH to a biennial publication because of the paucity of contributions, nevertheless any fears for the journal should be allayed by the note in this newsletter. This has meant that subscriptions can remain constant for the immediate future.

One response to my March letter was that I had not given any reason for cancelling the Annual Summer Lecture. The income from the last summer meeting (2008), despite the excellent lecture, did not cover the expenses incurred, similarly the rise in fees for the UEA Autumn Courses have in the past proved prohibitive.

There is a more serious underlying factor and here I return to a theme that has been repeated in different guises many times. This is the lack of members willing to be involved in the organisation of the Society's activities. The effects are seen in the absence of a summer meeting; the Events Organiser could not guarantee being in Blakeney during the summer and nobody was willing to step into his shoes for this event. Similarly for the past few years we have been organising our own courses, but we need a volunteer to do it. I could expand this list, but the message should be clear.

Your committee, dogged by the attributes of age, has had the

most difficult year that I can recall. When the AGM papers are distributed you will find nomination forms for the Management Committee, don't be modest, volunteer (or find somebody else who is willing). Your Society needs you, now!

*Peter Wordingham*

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## Norfolk Archaeology from the Air

*Talk by Derek Edwards,  
24 February 2009*

A full house had assembled in the Harbour Room to hear Derek Edwards and I cannot imagine that any were disappointed. His story started with the Montgolfier brothers' first balloon in 1782 and the first manned flight in November 1783 followed in the 1840's by the invention of photography. Within fifteen years of that Nadar was photographing Paris from a balloon. An 1897 photo by Arthur Coe of Norwich was long thought to be the earliest British aerial photograph but some examples by a Mr Shadbolt, depicting the Crystal Palace and surrounding area, and dating from 1884, have now come to light.

Mr Edwards then showed us a selection of the thousands of photographs that have been taken (mostly by him) of Norfolk's archaeological and historical past. Some were of recognisable relics – henges, barrows etc. that are visible from ground level but many were of features that are known only through minor undulations and crop marks that can be seen only from the air and only in the right conditions. Photographers of cropmarks like cereals it seems but lucerne is even better and sugarbeet shows nothing at all.

Of the henges which Mr Edwards showed, the one at Arminghall, first seen from the air in 1929, proved when excavated to be between four and five thousand years old. Within two circular ditches had stood eight massive oak posts planted in carefully

dug sockets six to ten feet deep. Moving on to barrows, which date mostly from c.3000 – 1500BC, we were told that by 1975 196 had been discovered in the county and the success of aerial observation and photography is shown by the fact that that figure now stands at well over one thousand! We were shown fascinating examples of long barrows, round barrows, ring ditches and cursus monuments and causeways. Where in other parts of the country stone was often used in construction, in East Anglia only timber was available but the evidence is still there.

Norfolk has good examples of forts and defensive enclosures right up to the coming of the Romans. Evidence from the one built on the shore at Holkham but now well back from the sea can even be interpreted to show that construction stopped when the Iceni went off to fire Colchester and London and was then promptly destroyed by the avenging Romans.

Evidence of Roman activity has been found right across Norfolk. We were shown probable temples, villas and encampments. The major settlements like Caistor St Edmund stand out clearly but cropmarks it seems even show the sites of temporary marching camps. The precision of Roman geometry with straight lines and beautifully rounded corners was very clear but the Roman camps and towns here had three straight lines and one delicately curved one. This is peculiar to East Anglia. 'When in Rome...' they say but 'when in Norfolk do different'

*Frank Hawes*

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## Feedback

***The photograph of Cley High Street published in NL26 elicited this e-mailed response from Judy Carter (née Bishop) which I have quoted more-or-less verbatim along with a further e-mail from Judy who has kindly allowed this correspondence to be reproduced here:***



"I'm sure that by now you've got a lot more information on the two photos you published in your recent newsletter.

However, to give you my memories, my sister and I lived with my parents in The Anchorage, opposite the current art gallery [the house directly facing down New Road for those unfamiliar with Cley housenames], from 1956 until we left home. My father, Ben Bishop, lived there until 1998 when he went into care and the house had to be sold. I left home around 1970 so remember the shop as a bakers in the 1950s and 60s. It was owned by George Holmes who baked his bread in ovens at Cley Hall (where he also used to cook turkeys at Christmas for the locals).

Mrs Holmes used to serve in the shop and I seem to remember Rosie Bishop – who died only recently – also serving in the shop on occasions.

At that time, there were two shops on that corner: the bakers was in the larger of the two and Diana Allen (?Allan) had a hair-dressing business in the other. Relating personal notable dates to that time, I know for certain that the hairdressers was still there in 1965 but when George Hopkins opened the butchers, I can't say.

My father sold his own grown fruit, flowers and veg from the front doorstep of The Anchorage and it is a shame that on the photo, his car is not where he always parked it – at the bottom of Wright's Yard. Dad was also a bait digger and we sold lug worms from the house as well.

I went away to work but returned home some years ago (the Bishops have been in Cley/Blakeney since 1670) and now live on Back Lane in Blakeney. If you have any questions about Cley during the time in point, do let me know. My sister worked for some years in the Post Office in Cley when Alec Stangroom ran it so has a good knowledge of the village and its residents at the time."

#### **My reply:**

"Thanks very much for your e-mail – contrary to your expecta-



***From left to right: Billy High (the cobbler), Mrs Quinney with Jane Ratcliffe, Mrs High, Marjorie Bishop (my stepmother), ?Freda Lubbock, Mary Newton, Lottie Bishop (Rah's wife), ?, ?Mrs Mann. This was taken outside The Anchorage, I think in Nov 1975, and was presumably the start of a WI or Mother's Union outing.***

tion I have not been inundated – indeed yours is the only response I've had, and all the more welcome for that! You have provided me with precisely the information I was hoping for.

I do remember your father and his charming wife, Marjorie. When the Hopkins had the two shops knocked into one they whitewashed the windows of what had been the hairdressing salon; when Terry Johnson turned the place into the Old Butchers Gallery and bookshop he cleaned off the windows and there was a faint trace of lettering on the glass which did indeed proclaim it as a hairdressing salon

#### **Next one from Judy:**

"Sorry for the delay in replying to you but I've been searching through my Dad's papers - particularly those relating to the sale of The Anchorage.

I can remember that the deeds of the house had details of previous owners and I'm sure I copied these down but unfortunately I

can't find that particular piece of paper at the moment.

I was hoping that there might have been some mention of a Mr Mackerel/Mackrell as a previous owner – although from memory I can't remember any name like that. I do know that Stratton Long owned the house at one time and if my memory serves me correctly, it was from him that Dad bought it in 1955/6.

My sister seems to think that the name originated due to mackerel being sold from there at one time but again, this could just be a myth.

Yes, George Holmes baked his bread in the out buildings of Cley Hall where Miss Hudson used to live (and made the most amazing sweets!)."

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# Autumn/Winter Programme 2009/10

## Events

All the following meetings are in the Harbour Room at the British Legion Hall in the High Street, Blakeney starting at 7.30 pm

Entrance: £2 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments.

**Tuesday  
September 29**      **Wall Paintings in Churches:** recently Matthew has been managing the restoration of an important series of wall paintings. He will draw on this experience in this lecture.  
*Matthew Champion*  
**A short AGM will precede this meeting.**

**Tuesday  
October 27**      **The Civil War and Kings Lynn:** this lecture will draw on personal research to explore the effects of the Civil War in some areas of Norfolk.  
*Susan Yaxley*

**Tuesday  
November 24**      **Coke of Holkham:** a celebration of this great Norfolk agriculturalist by his biographer.  
*Susanna Wade Martins*

**Tuesday  
December 15**      **Christmas Mardle:** a mixture of exhibits about local villages and families, seasonal festivities and a short talk; details will be displayed on posters and in the Glaven Valley Newsletter.

**Tuesday  
January 26**      **Members Night:** an entertaining series of short talks by members; details will be announced in the next newsletter.

**Note: there will be no Summer Lecture this year.**

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## History Centre Diary

**Open:** first and last Tuesday in every month, 10am till noon. Other times by arrangement.

**Members' Sessions** on Monday afternoons start again October 5th and then November 2nd, December 7th and then February 1st: 2pm till 4pm.

Remember there is a £1.00 entrance fee to cover all costs.

**A Walk through Old Blakeney:** unfortunately this has had to be deferred until 2010 because of ill health.

**For more information:** [www.history-blakeney-area.org.uk](http://www.history-blakeney-area.org.uk)

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## Officer and Committee Members Contacts (Officers \*)

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