



Blakeney Area Historical Society Electronic Newsletter

April 2025

“Studying the History of Blakeney Haven and its Hinterland”



A tourist charabanc on Blakeney Quay probably just before the first World War. The vehicle was registered in Hastings so is a long way from home – tourists were a tough breed in those days – and no Blakeney Hotel to soothe their weary bodies.

Note the tug Comet tied up at the Quay with an unidentified, Lynn-registered ketch moored ahead of it. This photo raises all sorts of interesting questions, such as “who are the group of men digging in the sand on the left and why are they digging, what make of vehicle – and has it really driven all the way from Hastings”? The charabanc could be an Albion though I won’t stake my life on it.

The BAHS are on Facebook tiny.cc/yfo3001
Follow the BAHS on X (Twitter) x.com/HistoryBAHS
and Instagram [historybahs](https://www.instagram.com/historybahs) for all the news and
to keep up to date.



Blakeney Area Historical Society Meetings

Tuesday 29th April 2025

at 2:30pm at Cley Village Hall, NR25 7RJ

The Real Margery Kempe

Susan Maddock



Margery Kempe of Lynn was an independent-minded woman who provoked extreme reactions in her lifetime (c. 1373-c. 1440) and still does. Her *Book* – the earliest autobiographical text in the English language – records her transformation from a young wife who married for ‘fleshly lusts and inordinate loves’ and gave birth to 14 children into a chaste, but still married, woman given to intense religious devotion. During wide-ranging travels in England and across Europe, she had some intoxicating experiences and made many friends, but was also arrested and imprisoned more than once, shunned or abandoned by fellow travellers, and traumatised by a storm at sea.



A former archivist in the Norfolk Record Office, **Susan Maddock** was responsible for King's Lynn's borough archives for more than 30 years. Now an honorary research fellow at the University of East Anglia, and author of several articles on late medieval Lynn, her research focuses on the social milieu of Margery Kempe's home town, including her family and other connections. In this talk, she explores some of what we know about the historical Margery Kempe in the light of the latest research.



BAHS lecture Programme

The April lecture on Margery Kempe is the final instalment of our 2024-5 season. We start again in September with Ian Hinton speaking to us about “Pilgrim Hostels in Walsingham – the remaining evidence”.

Lectures are held at Cley Village Hall (NR25 7RJ for those who rely on Satnavs) on the last Tuesday of the month. We have decided to revert to evening sessions for September, October, March and April, while retaining afternoon meetings for the darkest part of the year November, January and February. This is to make allowance for the fact that some of our members are still working and may not be able to make afternoon sessions.

Evening lectures start at 19:30, afternoons at 14:30 (that's 7.30 and 2.30 for us oldies).

The full programme will be published on the website www.bahs.uk with a monthly preview in this Newsletter.

Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group

April 26 AGM followed by lecture

Norfolk's Deep History Coast

*John Davies (retired Chief Curator,
Norwich Castle Museum)*

This is probably a repeat of the lecture he gave to us in March so will be handy for anybody disappointed to have missed our version.

Dr Davies (pictured) has written several books on this and other subjects of local historical interest which can be obtained from the publishers, Bittern Books, at <http://come.ac/Gdavj> or from local booksellers.



Meetings take place in the Thomas Paine Lecture Theatre at the UEA at 2.30 pm. There is a hearing loop in the lecture theatre. Refreshments will be available afterwards. Non-members are welcome to try one or two lectures before joining. Directions are below.

The Thomas Paine Centre is on the right towards the end of Chancellor's Drive from the Security Lodge. It is signed as such over the side entrance but the main entrance is styled 'Norwich Business School'. There is a convenient bus stop very close to the Thomas Paine Centre/Norwich Business School block. The West Car Park is right beside and is open on a pay-and-display basis at weekends (£1.00 flat fee). The entrance to it is on the right off Chancellor's Drive, just after the bus shelters (ignore the 'staff only' sign).

V E Day Commemoration

1945-2025

Blakeney Harbour Room Thursday 8th May 5pm-9pm

Bangers 'n' Mash

5pm-7pm

Adults £14.50

Children £7.50

**Booking essential on
07966 494423 by 1st May**

Swing Trio

7pm-9pm

Adults £12.00

Accompanied children free

**Combined adult ticket
with food - £25.00**

Local Stories of World War II

From the BAHS History Centre



**Join Blakeney, Cley & District
Royal British Legion and Blakeney
Area Historical Society to mark
the 80th anniversary of VE Day.**

Come dressed in 1940s clothes.

Bar open all evening.



Further information from Helen Gimson
07966 494423 helen.gimson@btinternet.com

The Snettisham Hoard



‘The Snettisham Hoards’, edited by Julia Farley and Jody Joy, is a research paperback recently published by the British Museum, the first comprehensive account of the discoveries at this Iron Age site (noted in particular for its torcs). Priced at £40.00.

Norfolk Records Office

The NRO blog has a couple of fascinating entries on the restoration of the Salthouse church registers, the oldest volumes of which, together with records from Kelling, the Rector of Salthouse and his churchwarden had buried in Salthouse churchyard for safe keeping at the beginning of WW2. Alas their undertaking was not of ‘archival quality’ which meant that, when exhumed after the war, the registers were “little more than a mass of fungus”. How they were restored is covered in part 1, and what information was to be found within in part 2 of the blog which can be accessed at <http://come.ac/lpMqP>.

Norwich: Culture, Community and Church, 1500-1750 is the subject of an event being staged by the **Norfolk Record Office** on **Friday 9 May** and costing £25.00 (plus an optional £10.00 for lunch). For details and to attend in person, go to tiny.cc/35v8001 or to view online go to tiny.cc/u5v98001

Norwich has a wonderfully rich and diverse history which provides a seemingly inexhaustible supply of stories for historians to tell. On this study day, six leading historians will share their perspectives and research on various aspects of this history.

Carole Rawcliffe, Reid Barbour, and Clare Haynes focus on three quite different individuals – Augustine Steward, Thomas Browne, and Francis Blomefield – whereas Joel Halcomb takes a broad view of the development of non-conformism in early modern Norwich. Rebecca Pinner searches for the mythic origins of Norwich through the figure of Gurgunt, whilst Andy Wood presents two new documents on that most famous of chapters in the history of Norwich, Kett’s Rebellion.

John Darby (c.1553-1608/9) of Bramford, Suffolk, Surveyor, Map-Maker and Artist

Dr Vivienne Aldous recently completed a PhD on the life and work of John Darby. Her thesis takes a biographical approach to assess the importance of family, marriage and networks to explain Darby's social and professional success. She compares him to other Surveyors in the field and explores how they changed perceptions of land ownership and management in the 16th century. References to BAHS and Glaven Historian Journals can be found in the Introduction, as well as in footnotes and the Bibliography. To access the thesis (=320 pages) click on:
<https://ueaeprints.uea.ac.uk/id/eprint/98688/>

BAHS members of old will be familiar with Darby's name because he is now considered to be the artist of the original 1586 Map of Blakeney Haven and Port of Cley. Those not familiar with the Map, can find details on the BAHS website at:
<https://www.bahs.uk/publications/online-publications/1586-map-of-blakeney-haven/>

For BAHS members living near Ipswich, Vivienne is giving a Spring talk on Darby, for the Centre for East Anglian Studies (CEAS) on Thursday, 1st May at 6.30pm. It will take place at the University of Suffolk in the Waterfront Building on Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ. The talk is free to attend but people need to book via Eventbrite at tiny.cc/q5ce001

*Image of the Surveyor from
Godfrey Sayers' version of the
1586 map.*

