



Blakeney Area Historical Society Electronic Newsletter

December 2024

Welcome to the second edition of the new style electronic Newsletter. We are hoping to be able to produce this every month throughout the year, though that might entail a bit of overlap between issues.

Our next lecture meeting will be the traditional January format of two short talks by members. It will be held on **Tuesday 28th January 2025** at 2:30pm at Cley Village Hall (NR25 7RJ).



Recent highlights of Historic England's work in Norfolk

Sarah Poppy

Alterations to Blakeney church in the medieval period

Chris Wheeler

Traditionally, the first meeting of the year gives a platform to members of BAHS to talk about their work. January 2025 is no exception and Sarah Poppy, a member of the BAHS committee and a Senior Policy Advisor to Historic England, is a speaker.

Sarah, who has already made valuable contributions to the work of BAHS will talk about recent highlights from the work of Historic England in Norfolk. The second speaker is Chris Wheeler who will analyse alterations to Blakeney Church in the medieval period, with a particular focus on the mystery of the East Tower.

News from the Norfolk Archaeology and History Research Group NAHRG.

NAHRG lecture : Saturday 18 January 2025 at 2.30pm

The Man Who Dragged Norwich into the 20th Century : Arthur Collins, City Engineer

Matthew Williams (Freelance Writer, Researcher and Chartered Geologist)

Saturday 22 February at 2.30pm

It's All Too Beautiful : Mod Youth Culture in Norwich and Norfolk

Philip Woods (UEA Modern History PhD Mature Student)

Lectures are held in the Thomas Paine Centre which 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 behind 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).

The Thomas Paine Centre is marked 52 on the maps around the site. The West Car Park is marked as P3.

A downloadable version of the campus map is available on request.

SHARP bookings : Booking has opened for the Sedgeford Project's 2025 season of courses and dig volunteering opportunities. Details www.sharp.org.uk

Norfolk Record Office

The winter events programme is available from norfolkrecordofficeblog.org

Introduction to Family History

Tuesday 14 January, 2pm

Free of charge

Join us online to find out how to get started on tracing your family history. Topics and documents include tips on collecting materials and memories within your immediate family, how to use census records, civil registration, and parish registers to trace your ancestors.

Want to take your family history further? See our advance workshops below. Participants will receive a code for £2 off our advanced family history workshops.

This session lasts for 1 hour.

Book at tiny.cc/38cvzz

Advanced Family History – Part 1

Thursday 16 January, 10am

£10 per person*#

If you have started your research independently or joined us on our introduction to family history online previously and want to take your research a step further, this session is for you. Including a mixture of practical activities and demonstrations we show you how to use documents needed for delving deeper into your family history. There will also be original records be on display to a some of the topics taught. This session will show you how to use electoral registers, marriage licence bonds and tithe documents. Staff are also happy to take questions on where to go next in research into your own ancestors.

Look out for Advanced family history- part 2 in the afternoon.

*Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation supporters can enjoy our research workshops for free. For more information and to join visit NorAH.

#Introduction to family history participants can use their voucher code for £2 off this session.

This session lasts for 2 hours.

Parson Woodforde and his diary: a new website of interest to local historians launched in March 2024

The Parson Woodforde Society's redesigned website is a valuable resource, writes BAHS member Margaret Bird, the President and Acting Chairman of the Society. The greatly enlarged website was launched in March 2024:

<https://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk>



The Revd James Woodforde (1740–1803) by his nephew Samuel Woodforde, RA [courtesy Weston Longville Church PCC. photo Kiffy Stainer-Hutchins

The famous diarist, the Revd James Woodforde, lived for 27 years at Weston Longville, twelve miles northwest of Norwich. He toured around the county, including visits to Holt and Burnham Market, and wrote his daily entries for 43 years. With an extensive circle of friends and acquaintances he conjures up his world vividly.



The Georgian box pew in the south aisle of Weston Longville Church as used by the Custance family of Weston House. Unlike Blakeney, Cley and the other villages of the Glaven valley Weston was an estate village dominated by the squire photo Margaret Bird 2011

Indexes to a treasure trove of research

The Parson Woodforde Society celebrates his life and times. We have scanned and uploaded all 207 of our Journals published since our foundation in 1968; more will follow as they are issued. Importantly, you can not only download all these editions for free but also the index, divided into five categories, which accompanies them.

Between 1978 and 2016 we published the full text of his extraordinary diary in seventeen volumes. The index to this voluminous work is available for download for free from the website: a treasure trove for family and local historians. You can find details on how to buy printed copies of individual diary volumes and our other publications using the website's Publications page.



The pre-1801 Royal Arms from Woodforde's time displayed in Weston Church. Only 15 per cent of churches now retain these fine boards which, under a decree from Henry VIII, were once obligatory photo Margaret Bird 2014

Online versions of the full transcription of Woodforde's diary were uploaded in the summer. These are available only to paid-up members of the Society in the password-protected area of the website. However digital membership, giving access to online copies of the Journal, Newsletter and notices, costs only £12.00 a year. Soon members will also have online access to the only full transcription of Woodforde's manuscript in existence. The abridged editions of his diary published in the last hundred years fail to present the complete man and his circle.

An absorbing website for browsing

Do browse this exciting new site with its mass of colourful images. It contains an attractive 'feature' item, 'Woodforde's world in a dozen objects'. On those pages we examine significant aspects of the diarist's life and times through one artefact such as his longcase clock, the squire's box pew in his parish church, or the fine Royal Arms of George III's reign also in the church:

<https://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk/features>

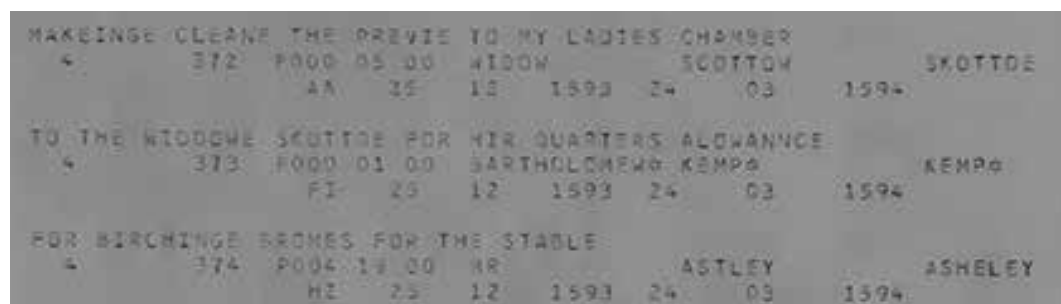
A friendly, convivial Society

You can find out how to join the Society on the Membership page. We hold a 'frolic' each year: a three-day expedition to a part of the country associated with the diarist. In 2025 we shall be based at the University of Bath, and in 2026 at King's Lynn.

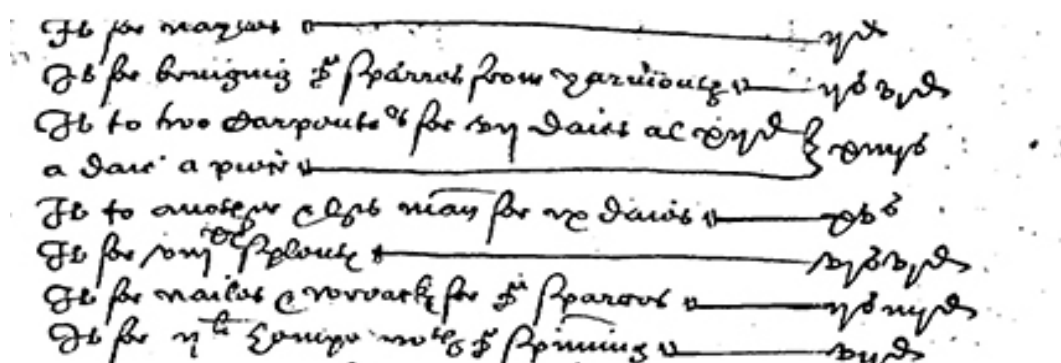
We welcome new members and their contributions to the Journal, which is published three times a year.

Reconstructing a Lost Norfolk Historical Database

We've been contacted by Neil How, an academic organising a project to reconstruct the c.1570-1600 accounts database of Sir Nathaniel Bacon of Stiffkey, which was created by members of the Centre for East Anglian Studies in the 1980s. Recently rediscovered, it was stored in a format that is no longer readable but luckily a printed copy survives, a tiny scrap of which is shown below, along with a sample of the original – showing just how indebted we are to the CEAS. Volunteers are needed to help transfer the transcribed text into a modern and more permanent format. Please contact mr.neil.how@gmail.com for more details if you think you might be interested.



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BAHS AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held before the November lecture – it didn't delay proceedings by more than a quarter of an hour. The usual business of agreeing the Minutes of the last AGM, adopting the Accounts, and the report of the Management – fortunately non-contentious – were swiftly dealt with. Then came the re-election of the Committee who are, for another year:

Chairman:	Diana Cooke	chair@bahs.uk
Secretary:	Andrew Otterburn (acting)	secretary@bahs.uk
Treasurer:	Andrew Otterburn	treasurer@bahs.uk
Membership Secretary:	Bridget Candy	membership@bahs.uk
Lecture Programme:	Jonathan Hooton	lecture.programme@bahs.uk
Website:	Sarah Poppy (acting)	sarah.poppy@bahs.uk
Equipment at lectures:	Andrew Otterburn (acting)	
Publicity:	Caroline Holland	caroline.holland@bahs.uk
Publications:	Richard Kelham	richard.kelham@bahs.uk
Glaven Historian editor:	Roger Bland	editor@bahs.uk
Sales Organiser:	Jan Semple	jan.semple@bahs.uk
History Centre:	Diana Cooke, Bridget Candy, Sarah Poppy	

The Committee is always looking for new members, though they unaccountably missed the opportunity to lock the hall doors and hold the audience hostage until one or more 'voluntered' to join. Apparently we have subsequently had a volunteer and, assuming we don't scare her off in the meantime, more will be revealed in the January Newsletter.

The committee agreed from January to revert to pre-COVID charges for meetings of £3 for members and £6 for non-members.

We are conscious that many older members do not like to go out at night – the reason we moved all the talks to the afternoon slot. We also realise that this could be a problem for younger members who still have to work. We need to encourage younger members to take a more active role and so are considering moving some talks back to their old evening slot. This would only apply to those months with light evenings of course.

Another aspect is that some potential lecturers can only do evenings. Likewise some can only do afternoons. Would changing times be confusing?

What do you think? Any comments or thoughts on this matter should be sent to the Secretary.

Coming up next from British Association for Local History

Breaking the Mold: Alberta Sturges, The Redefining of an American Heiress in the Gilded Age.

This presentation explores the extraordinary life of Alberta Sturges, ninth Countess of Sandwich, an American heiress during the Gilded Age who defied the typical societal roles expected of women like her.

Event type: Virtual

Tuesday 21st January 2025 7:00pm Details and Booking <https://come.ac/zo5K5>

Finding Historic Perth

This event is run by BALH in partnership with the Historic Towns Trust, part of a series of evening lectures in 2025.

Event type: Virtual

Tuesday 28th January 2025 7:00pm Details and Booking <https://come.ac/7ZU93>

Outrage*us Archives



Norfolk Record Office. In person and online
Wednesday 22 January, 6pm
Pay what you can (£2.50 per person suggested).

Ever wondered when the first swear word came into use? How did the church and parish impose their sense of morality on the general population? Which insults were common in 17th century Norfolk? Join us for an evening where we uncover some documents that look towards answering some of these questions. Beware, they are much earlier than you may think!

A really informal evening, we are sure you will enjoy.

For those attending in person, refreshments will be available on the evening, and there will be a chance to look at some of the documents after the talk.

Book in person space: tiny.cc/l5zxzz

Book online space: tiny.cc/56zxzz

Uncover the Past: Poor Relief – From Parish Responsibility to the Union Workhouse

In person event
Wednesdays 29 January, 5 February, 12 February, 10am
£25 per person*

This course looks at the history of poor relief, focusing on the old poor law system, the introduction of workhouses and the end of the workhouse system in Norfolk. Each session will include an introduction to the topic, a practical exercise and a chance to look at a range of related original documents. The sessions are:

- Parish poor relief
- The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act and the creation and running of workhouses
- Life in the workhouse and the end of the workhouse system

*Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation supporters can enjoy our research workshops for free. For more information and to join visit NorAH.

3 weeks of 90 minute sessions.

Book here: tiny.cc/f6zxzz

Stiffkey with Cockthorpe : A story of Norfolk people



This book, written by the Stiffkey Local History Group and published by Poppyland Press in 2013, has long been out of print. Although Abe Books advertised one recently for £33 few copies have ever reached the second-hand market. The good news is that a new edition, with minor amendments, has just been published by the History Group. So if you want one for yourself, or to give as a Christmas present, now is your chance.

The book is a substantial one, with 192 pages and copious illustrations, many in colour. It sets out the history of Stiffkey and Cockthorpe from earliest times to the present and speculates on what the future might hold. Chapters taking the story up to 1600 are followed by chapters on farming, on village life from 1830 and on the role of the marsh in the village economy. Cockthorpe has its own chapter.

For such a small rural village Stiffkey has had some remarkable residents, including author Henry Williamson, architect Sir Bernard Feilden, singer Dennis Lotis, conservationist Lord Buxton, the notorious Harold Davidson and explorer, spy and naturalist Colonel Bailey. Stiffkey was also the home of Nathaniel Bacon, who built the Old Hall and whose archive of letters fills seven published volumes. Cockthorpe was the early home of Admiral of the Fleet, Cloudesley Shovell.

All these have their place but the book also contains a picture gallery of residents largely unknown beyond their local area, modern representatives of the village communities who have been living here for a millennium and more.

***The book costs £16 and can be obtained from Geraldine Green.
Phone 01328 830245 for details.***