



Blakeney Area Historical Society Electronic Newsletter

January 2025

Welcome to the third 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. Meanwhile, a **Happy New Year** to you all.

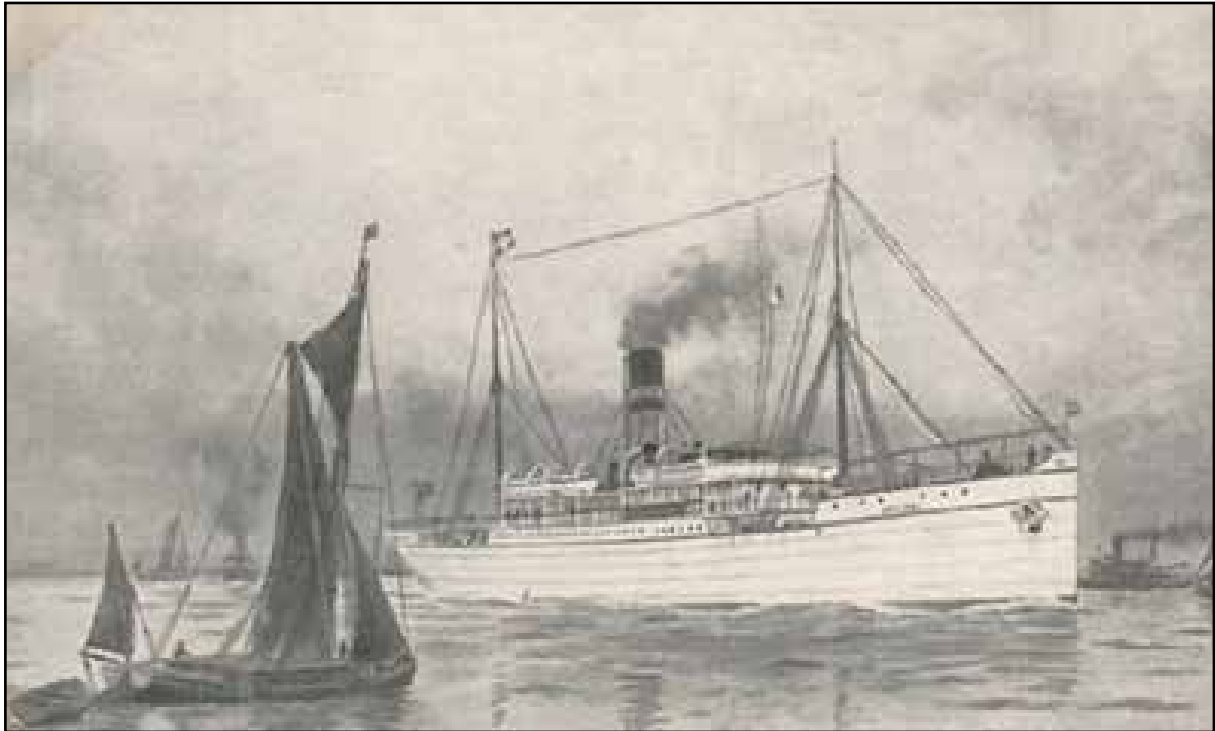
Dr Roger Bland made CBE in the New Year Honours List



Roger has lived in Blakeney since 2017 and is a Licensed Lay Minister; he previously owned a house at Cley next the Sea. He worked at the British Museum, 1979-2015 when he retired as Keeper of the Department of Prehistory, Britain and Europe. He currently chairs the Government's Treasure Valuation Committee which advises the Secretary of State on the value of finds declared Treasure.

As well as being a BAHS committee member and editor of the *Glaven Historian*, Roger is a visiting Professor at the University of Leicester and Senior Fellow of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge. He was seconded to the Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport 1994-2002 to advise on the passage of the Treasure Act 1996, and founded the Portable Antiquities Scheme, a nationwide network of c. 50 staff who record finds made by metal detector users: over one and three-quarter million finds are now recorded on the online database. An expert on Roman coins, he was President of the British Numismatic Society (2011-16) and the Royal Numismatic Society (2018-23). He was awarded the President's Medal of the British Academy, 2016, and has written several books on Roman coins and coin hoards.

From the History Centre: Claxton Scrapbooks



SS Umgeni, the second Bullard & King ship to bear that name.

Death of Benjamin Lincoln of Blakeney in his 82nd year.

“Capt Lincoln was one of the old sea-captains who commenced their career as cabin boys in the ships belonging to Wells, Blakeney & Cley, and rose to the highest position in seamanship. He first of all commanded one of the three-masted sailing ships from the port of London belonging to Bullard & King and John T Rennie. The deceased was in the company of Bullard & King for over 30 years. He has been all over the world but chiefly traded between London and Natal. He had command of the last barque belonging to the firm, the *Isipingo*. He was the central figure in many stirring adventures. He brought many cargoes of coolies from Bombay to Durban. One of his big adventures was bringing home from Durban two of the chief leaders in the ‘Jameson Raid’ (Sir Percy Fitzpatrick & Sir Lionel Phillips) in 1896. The raiders’ presence at Durban was known and it was given out that they were to board one of the big passenger liners at Natal. The two raiders came to Capt Lincoln by night & wanted to charter his ship for the Mauritius. This the Capt refused without first consulting the agent who was Mr Seidle, the father of the S A cricketer. Eventually both raiders sailed with Capt Lincoln on the *Umgeni*. They wanted to land at Cape Town but stipulated that it must be at night. However the Capt got to Cape Town at noon, and refused to delay the voyage for his passengers convenience. He gave up his two saloons to the raiders & was presented with a cheque for £100 when they reached dock.”

A handwritten precis from an article in the Lynn News 3 November 1931

The second SS *Umgeni* (8,149tons) was built in 1938, and in 1957 it was sold to Elder Dempster & Co, renamed *Winneba*. The house in Cley was named after the first *Umgeni*, Capt Lincoln’s vessel, built in 1898 and sunk in 1917. We don’t have an image of this vessel, alas.

Blakeney Area Historical Society Meetings



This month's 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.

Next month's meeting will be on **Tuesday 25th February 2025** at 2:30pm at Cley Village Hall

Excavation of a new Anglo-Saxon site in Norfolk

Lilly Hodges

Further details in the February Newsletter, or on the website www.bahs.uk

The March meeting will be held on **Tuesday 25th March 2025** at 2:30pm at Cley Village Hall

Exploring Norfolk's Deep History Coast

Dr John Davies

News from the Norfolk Archaeology and History Research Group NAHRG.

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

Matthew Williams (Freelance Writer, Researcher and Chartered Geologist)

Saturday 18 January at 2.30pm

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

Philip Woods (UEA Modern History PhD Mature Student)

Saturday 22 February at 2.30pm

Lectures are held in the UEA 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.

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

From the Norfolk News Sat 18 Jan 1896

"BLAKENEY. Ship Sale.— Mr. George S. Andrews of Wells-next-the-Sea offered for sale by public auction on Wednesday morning on Blakeney Quay, the ketch *Heroine* as was then lying at the Quay. The vessel was put with all her spars, sails, ropes, stores, and materials as then from sea. The bidding commenced at £30, and advanced to £50. The auctioneer then declared the reserve to [be] £60, but there was no further offer, and the vessel was consequently withdrawn."

An interesting insight into the value of the vessels that traded out of the Glaven ports – generally a cargo of finest Cley malted barley (other cargoes were available) could be worth considerably more than the vessel carrying it, even allowing for the depressed state of the grain market increasingly affected by imports from the prairies of the US and Canada.

George Samuel Andrews was an auctioneer, valuer and estate agent with offices in Station Road, Wells. He was also "clerk to the charity trustees and harbour commissioners", in addition to which he was "clerk to the permanent lifeboat relief committee". This from the 1896 edition of *Kelly's Directory*.

The ketch *Heroine* was, according to the *Mercantile Navy List*, registered in Lynn but built in 1851 at Burton Stather (on the east bank of the Trent near Scunthorpe), carried the register number 5105, and the international code signal JGHK. The registered tonnage was 49 tons, and the managing owner (in 1894) was John Savory, miller, corn merchant, malster and farmer, of Burnham Overy. Tracking his family line is made more difficult by the fact that there were several people called John Savory in that area in the C19.

The Norwich Society: Talk



'Am I not a Woman and a Sister'

The Norfolk Women Abolitionists.
Dr Alison Dow

Tuesday 14 Jan 2025 at 6:30 pm

The Forum, Norwich, NR2 1TF

Open to all : £4.00 Norwich Society members/£8.00 non-members

This talk will reveal the pre-eminent role played by citizens of Norfolk and Norwich, and specifically by its women in the campaign to Abolish Slavery in the British Empire - the first ever mass campaign for human rights.

“My previous talks have been about one of the main leaders of the Abolitionist movement, Norfolk’s Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton. As I researched the life of this amazing man, I came to realise that there were many Norfolk and Norwich women who also played a powerful role in the movement. Amelia Opie, Harriet Martineau and Elizabeth Fry are the most famous but there were many others. The vital role played by these women in the campaign to abolish slavery is all the more remarkable, because they themselves lacked even the right to vote.”

Alison Dow

Dr Alison Dow, formerly a GP in Mile Cross, Norwich, was born and brought up in Northern Rhodesian and has a special interest in colonial and African history, and is happy to play her part by researching the life of local historical figures whose role in history has been much neglected. She gave us a talk in November on Thomas Fowell-Buxton, another relatively unsung hero of the abolitionist movement. **We are hoping Dr Dow will be able to give this talk to us next year.**

A Quick Guide to Family History Research

For those of you interested in the subject but who were unable to attend the NRO classes the following is intended as a brief overview of the sources most readily available should you wish to explore the history of your own – or indeed anyone else's – family. I'm presently looking into the families of Messrs Page & Turner.

There is clearly a growing interest in family history. The BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are' is on its 21st season while the ITV equivalent, 'DNA Journey', has reached Season 5. Discounting the celebrity prurience there is a genuine interest driven by most people being ignorant of their origins beyond the last two or three generations, yet – with the help of outfits like Ancestry – you can probably drill back to at least the beginning of the C19 without leaving the comfort of your armchair. Beyond that you will probably have to get down and dirty in local county archives tracing your lineage through church registers and the like. Elderly relatives can be a source of useful anecdotes if not always entirely reliable. My own mother used to tell of visiting her grandmother in Avignon. As she was a small child at the time (the old lady died when mother was eight years old) it was no great surprise when my research showed that grandmother Clarissa actually lived in Abingdon! Close, but no cigar. There is a French connection but several generations earlier as they were Huguenots.

If you subscribe to Ancestry or any of the other companies offering similar services you will be encouraged to construct a family tree. This will enable them to bombard you with suggestions of other relatives culled from other members' trees. Some will clearly be nonsense, but some might well expand your tree in more or less interesting directions. Remember, too, that the number of your direct antecedents doubles with each generation so that, after twenty or so generations they will number more than a million, or nearly half the total population of the British Isles. Yes, we are all related!

Local newspapers are a useful source of material for all researchers. The closure of the (analogue) archive at Colindale is being mitigated by a growing number of digitised copies becoming available online (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> – it too is a subscription site). If you're lucky your antecedents will appear – if you're unlucky it will just be in reports of the Police Court.

In feudal times most people were not allowed to move around – good for the genealogists, less good for the gene-pool. Later, the decline of feudalism and the growth of industrialisation saw major population movement particularly from the countryside to the new urban areas. The railways and even the humble bicycle did much to boost exogamy. In the Glaven ports many families established colonies in places like South Shields in connection with the coal trade. For more on migration from the Glaven valley see the article by John Peake in the *Glaven Historian* 7.

If you are serious about tracing your lineage then joining Ancestry or one of its clones is a necessary first step. Through them you will have access to census returns (the 1921 census will cost you extra, the others are included in your subscription), electoral registers, birth, marriage, death register indexes – and sometimes the actual documents – military, prison and workhouse records, and much else besides. It will often give you details of Wills: date and place of death, date of probate, executors and valuation. What it won't give you is the actual text of the will for which you will have to visit your Records office. Chris Barringer used to point out to us – with examples – just what a valuable resource wills and inventories could be to local or family historians.

If your family's roots extend to Scotland then <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> is your friend. It's a pay-as-you-go site so friendship comes at a price. Free resources include the London Gazette (now just plain Gazette <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>) in which your ancestor will feature if they were officers in the military, decorated, bankrupt, etc. Another resource is FreeBMD (<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>) which is an index to birth, marriage, and death records – what we call Hatch, Match, and Dispatch – from 1837 when official registration became mandatory.

Happy hunting!

Norfolk Record Office

The winter events programme is available from norfolkrecordofficeblog.org



Roll of Honour of Norfolk women

By Daryl Long

Norfolk Record Office. In person or online.

Wednesday 29 January, 1pm

Free of charge.

The Roll of Honour of Norfolk Women commemorates 25 women we know of so far who died in uniformed service in World War One. It was created in 2018 originating from the Forum Trust's Somme to Armistice project. For some of those remembered, their connection to Norfolk is not apparent while for others, Norfolk born and bred, their names have, until now, only been remembered by their families.

Refreshments will be available 10 minutes before the talk starts. Feel free to grab yourself a cuppa and settle down for an interesting 45 minutes.

Book in person: tiny.cc/22nyzz

Book online: tiny.cc/m2nyzz

Outrage*us Archives



Norfolk Record Office. In person or 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/15zxzz

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, starting at 10am



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

£25 per person

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



From the *North Norfolk News*, 14 January 1977.

Quite apart from the question 'how did he get it there?' there is also the question of how did the driver get out of the car? Or even, did he? I say 'he' because in 1977 the vast majority of Jaguar drivers were men, and most of them seemed to wear string backed gloves!

From a History Centre scrapbook