



Blakeney Area Historical Society Electronic Newsletter

May 2025

“Studying the History of Blakeney Haven and its Hinterland”



Winston Churchill, dressed in his customary black siren suit, visited Blakeney in 1941. He had come to inspect the Scottish Regiment which was billeted at White Friars on Back Lane. He is seen here patting Sandy, Air Commodore Brackley's dog. Later Sandy sadly died when he accidentally stepped on a mine on the Blakeney marshes.

Air Commodore Brackley, known to all as “Brackles”, lived at the Old Rectory. He was quite a character and well deserves an article to himself – watch this space.

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.



BAHS Events

BAHS lecture Programme

The April lecture on Margery Kempe was 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 7.30pm and 2.30pm for us oldies).

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

BAHS 2025 Summer Outing – Wednesday 11th June



You are invited to join this year's Summer Outing on 11th June to Norwich's historic centre.

We meet at 11.00am and Jonathan Hooton will give us a tour (approx. 1 ½ hours) around Tombland and the Cathedral Close. Lunch is booked for 1.00pm at the Maids Head Hotel.

Jonathan is an accomplished Norwich city guide, author of many local Norfolk history articles and books, and is also organiser of the BAHS lecture programme.

A tour starting outside the Erpingham Gate which will take us around what is left of the old Anglo-Saxon market place heading south towards the Ethelbert Gate. We will then enter the Cathedral Close and make a leisurely perambulation of the upper part of the Close before returning to Tombland via the Erpingham Gate, ending at the Maid's Head. This should take about an hour.

Cost £6 plus lunch payable on the day – cash or card.

Click tiny.cc/9eng001 for a sample menu for the Maids Head, and we will circulate the actual menu in mid-May for you be able to pre-order what you would like.

For further details, or to book a place, please contact the BAHS Secretary on 07774 950154 or secretary@bahs.uk

Other Events

Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group

NAHRG Norfolk Landscape History Day : 26 July 2025

This year's Norfolk History Day will take the form of a Norfolk landscape history conference as a tribute to the popular UEA landscape historian, Tom Williamson. It will take place on Saturday 26 July 2025 in the Thomas Paine Lecture Theatre at the UEA.

The speakers will be:

James Albone (Historic England)

Louise Crawley (UEA)

Jonathan Finch (York University)

Richard Hoggett (Freelance Heritage Consultant)

Nicola Whyte (Exeter University)

Booking details will follow.

Priority and a discount will be given to NAHRG members but non-members will also be welcome.

Meetings take place in the Thomas Paine Lecture Theatre at the UEA at 14:30

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).

Norfolk Heritage Centre

Norfolk Heritage Centre is on the second floor of the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library in The Forum, Norwich.

We hold the most comprehensive collection of published material telling the story of Norfolk and its people. Nearly all of our collections are searchable on the libraries catalogue.

We have:

- More than half a million printed volumes, maps, newspapers and photographs
- PCs and free internet access
- Access to the most popular Norfolk Record Office archives
- Microform readers and reader-printers
- Free access to Norfolk Library and Information Service's online subscriptions, including Find My Past and the British Newspaper Archive

Norfolk Records Office

The summer events programme is available from norfolkrecordofficeblog.org

Lifting The Lid On The Parish Chest



Friday 13 June, 11:00-12:30

In person

Pay what you can (£2.50 per person suggested).

Join NRO for their new series of events where we will uncover documents on a particular topic. Each session will explain how to use the searchroom and online catalogue to find those documents before talking through some examples and then giving you a chance to explore documents connected to the topic in more detail. This session we explore documents you expect to find in the parish chest.

Discover what comprises the parish chest, find out how to access this material and how it can help in your research.

Refreshments included.

To book a place and make a donation click here: tiny.cc/3ece001

Centre of East Anglian Studies



The last of the Spring 2025 Seminar series will be held on

Thursday, 8 May, 18:30

at Thomas Paine Study Centre 0.1, University of East Anglia (next to the NAHRG venue).

Wensum Lodge

Susan Steward

Free entry. All welcome.

For more on CEAS events, see: <https://ceasuea.org.uk/>

Norfolk County Council

Historic Norfolk Map Image Viewer

Interactive Map Image Viewer

View some of the historical maps of the Norfolk area held in the Archive Centre at County Hall including those of Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Thetford and Kings Lynn. Zoom and pan into and around the maps allowing you to see the fine detail of these hand-crafted maps.

The selection is a bit thin for Glaven Valley sites though it does include the Enclosure map of 1824 which covered the newly reclaimed land upstream of the new sluice in Cley, land that was divided up between Cley and Wiveton parishes. Notice in the detail reproduced here that Newgate Green is referred to as The Fairstead. JWT is John Winn Thomlinson of Cley Hall, whose father Robert Thomlinson had been Rector of the parish until his death in 1801.

There is also the Tithe map covering Cley Town, though without the accompanying schedule it's not much use.

Try it <http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapimageviewer/>

Obituary of David Mayes, 1941-2025



David Mayes aged 70, outside Letheringsett Church following the funeral service for the Hon. Beryl Cozens-Hardy (1911-2011), to whom he and his wife Stella were devoted. Beryl gave wholehearted support to David in all his restoration projects at Letheringsett photo Margaret Bird 2011



Letheringsett Hall, close to David and Stella's home [photo Margaret Bird 2002]

David Mayes, a highly talented gardener and water-engineering enthusiast, died in hospital on 14 February 2025. One of his major contributions was to restore Letheringsett Mill to water power 1982–84.

David spent his earliest years at Kelling before moving to Letheringsett, his home for the rest of his life. He was fascinated by local history and made and collected records associated with the village and with the Cozens-Hardy family for whom he worked for 55 years. Several years before his death he lodged his archive of papers in the BAHS History Centre.

David lived for the great majority of his adult life in Hall Cottages, overlooking Letheringsett Church and Hall. He began work on the Hall estate as a boy of fifteen. In later life he worked for the Hon. Beryl Cozens-Hardy after she returned to Letheringsett to live at The Glebe.

Many people will have appreciated the quality of David's work on open days under the National Gardens Scheme. With Beryl's encouragement he laboured tirelessly to ensure that when the public explored the grounds of the Hall, The Glebe and his own cottage all the gardens were looking their best. Each property was bordered by the fast-flowing Glaven.

With his interest in water power and his extensive knowledge of the village's former maltings and brewery David attracted the notice of the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society (NIAS), who found Letheringsett a fascinating subject for their research. He was also an invaluable source of information for the historian Margaret Bird, who describes him as one of the four most important people behind her work on the Mary Hardy diaries and associated volumes.

David was married to Stella from 1963 until her death in 2011. He leaves three children Paula, Steven and Sarah, seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

This is a brief resume of the full obituary to David Mayes by the historian Margaret Bird to appear in the next issue of *The Glaven Historian*.

VE-Day Celebrations 2025 in Blakeney and Cley

including photos of BAHS poster exhibition of local wartime history, a street party in Cley, and of Churchill's wartime visit to Blakeney.

