



# Blakeney Area Historical Society Electronic Newsletter

## November 2024

Welcome to a revived version of the electronic Newsletter – shorter but hopefully more frequent. We aim to produce this every month throughout the year so it will be more topical if less entertaining. Let's see how it develops. For the moment I will be putting it together, so if you have anything you think might be of historical interest to other members send it to me at [richard.kelham@bahs.uk](mailto:richard.kelham@bahs.uk). As the masthead of the Village Voice used to proclaim, we aim to bring you “all the news that fits”.

**Our next lecture** is on **Tuesday 26 November** in Cley Village Hall, starting at 2.30pm. The talk will be preceded by a brief (the record to beat is 16 minutes) AGM. Society members should have received their papers by now. Only fully paid-up members can vote at the AGM so if your subscription is overdue, Tuesday the 26th will be a good time to fix it as a committee member will be ready and waiting. I understand that we can now take card payments at meetings.

### The remarkable life of Thomas Fowell-Buxton



On the wall in a side-chapel of Norwich Cathedral a modest plaque reads – ‘Remember Thomas Fowell Buxton Bt. Member of Parliament Whose Efforts led to the Emancipation of 700,000 slaves on 1st August 1834.’



These simple words commemorate a towering Norfolk hero whose courage, compassion, bravery and tenacity helped change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. This presentation will bring to life the story behind this inscription. It will look at the life of Buxton himself and the Norfolk and Norwich community that inspired him and supported him through the brutal, decades-long Parliamentary battle that led finally to the end of slavery throughout the British Empire.

Dr Alison Dow was formerly a GP in Mile Cross, Norwich. She was born and brought up in Northern Rhodesia—now Zambia, the country where David Livingstone died and is still revered because of his strong anti-slavery stance. Alison is not the first in her family to undertake research on Africa-related topics—among her relatives she counts some eminent academics specialising in colonial and African history. She is particularly happy to play her part by researching the life of this local historical figure whose role in history has been much overlooked.

*Dr Alison Dow*

**Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 2:30pm at Cley Village Hall**

As usual for the January meeting we have two short talks from members:

Alterations to Blakeney church in the medieval period

*Chris Wheeler*

Recent highlights of Historic England's work in Norfolk

*Sarah Poppy*

## **News from the Norfolk Archaeology and History Research Group NAHRG.**

**NAHRG lecture** : This month's lecture will take place at 2.30 on **Saturday 16 November** in the Thomas Paine Lecture Theatre at the UEA, when the military historian David Flinham will speak on 'The English Civil War Defences of Kings Lynn'.

**NAHRG and NNAS joint lecture** : The intended speaker on 7 **December** accidentally double-booked herself. The talk that afternoon will now feature Michael Lewis of the British Museum speaking on 'Exploring the religious lives of medieval people through archaeological finds from Norfolk'.

**'Broadland: Shaping Marsh and Fen'** is a new landscape history book by our members Tom Williamson and Alison Yardy, the end product of the Broads Hidden Heritage Project, for which NAHRG provided a lot of support and staged the closing conference. Published this month by the University of Hertfordshire at £16.99, you may order a copy for just £15.00 (postage free) from its website [www.herts.ac.uk/uhipress/books-content/broadland](http://www.herts.ac.uk/uhipress/books-content/broadland).

**Oxford Archaeology** and Ørsted will be hosting an information session from 1.00 to 6.30 on **Thursday 21 November** in Cawston Village Hall to disseminate the findings of their two-year archaeological survey of the intended Hornsea 3 cable route from Weybourne to Stoke Holy Cross.

**SHARP bookings** : Booking has opened for the Sedgeford Project's 2025 season of courses and dig volunteering opportunities. Details [www.sharp.org.uk](http://www.sharp.org.uk)

## **Norfolk Record Office**

The winter events programme is available from [norfolkrecordofficeblog.org](http://norfolkrecordofficeblog.org)

## **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. Volunteers are needed to help transfer the transcribed text into a modern and more permanent format. Please contact Andrew for more details if you think you might be interested.

## **Coming up from the British Association for Local History**

These are streamed events available free to BALH members and the BAHS members for £3 if you quote the reference F-23556W. Bookings are open until 5pm on the day of the event.

**"Must we starve" the written testimony of the English and Welsh Victorian Poor: 1834 to 1900.**

Thursday 14 November 2024

**BALH Dymond Lecture 2024: English merchant shipping and early modern maritime communities c1588-c1765**

Thursday 5 December 2024

Details and bookings for all events [www.balh.org.uk/events](http://www.balh.org.uk/events)



## NANMA

For those of you tired of living in the 21st Century check out the website [nanma.co.uk](http://nanma.co.uk) of the Norfolk & Norwich Medieval Association. Yes, you too could relive the C14 – without the squalor and disease though you will have to leave your Rolex and your iPhone at home!

