

**Friends
of the**



Registered Charity
No 288042

Newsletter of the Friends of the Suffolk Record Office

April 2010

FOSRO Purchases

The image shows two pages of handwritten manuscript account books. The left page is dated 1704 and lists various expenses such as land tax, parish rates, and thatching staff. The right page is dated 1702 and lists similar expenses, including land tax, parish rates, and repairs. The handwriting is in cursive and the ink is dark on aged paper.

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Coldham Hall Estate rent book, 1791-1804

SROB/HD3154/13981

The Friends were successful in acquiring a manuscript account book for rents of Coldham Hall estate, ordered and received. The book includes references to *Coldham cum Slymans, the woods, Staningfield Hall, Young Rookwoods, New Hall Farm, Kershall Farm, Fillets Farm, Saxes Farm, Mennow Green*, plus accounts for work and sundries, including sexton's wages, surveyors, churchwardens and poor rates, loads of wood for the poor, bills for thatching, bricks, malt, hops, lime etc, tithes and land taxes. The estate transferred in 1798 to Robert Rookwood esq, second son of the late Sir Thomas Gage, Bart. This lot attracted local media attention as Coldham Hall is the home of supermodel Claudia Schiffer. The Friends therefore had an anxious wait to see if this might push the price yet again beyond their maximum bid, but luckily this did not happen on this occasion and the Friends were able to secure it for £355.75.

Tollemache Ipswich Brewery Ltd, 1896-1959

SROI/HD2697/14952

FOSRO also purchased a minute book for Tollemache's Ipswich Brewery Ltd (Upper Brook Street), for 1896-1919 and a repairs ledger for pubs, brewery and other property including houses and cottages owned by Tollemache Brewery (Upper Brook Street), c1922-1959. The record office does not have much material relating to the brewery so was very keen to secure these volumes. The committee would like to thank Dr Blatchly for his help in securing these archives for £200.



Suffolk Record Office Update

Starters and Leavers

Since the last newsletter we have had several changes in staff at all three branches. Stuart Tyler, the archivist at Bury, left in November to take up a post as Outreach and Communities Officer at Dorset History Centre.

Victoria Goodwin joined the Bury St Edmunds branch in January 2010 as the new branch archivist. Tori has very kindly provided us with a brief resume...

Prior to commencing work in the role of Archivist at Bury St Edmunds Record Office, I was over the border at Cambridgeshire Archives, cataloguing the 'Parish Chest' collections. Before that, I was employed by the Bishopsgate Institute in London to work on the fascinating personal and business collection of an upwardly-mobile Victorian politician, George Howell. Since qualifying as an Archivist in 2006, I have also worked with university archives at Girton College, Cambridge, religious Archives at the Church of England Record Centre and most contrastingly, the business archive at Unilever PLC. I have just moved to Bury St Edmunds and am now happily settled in the town and enjoying life and work here in equal measures!

We were sorry to say goodbye to Angela Haighton, the cataloguing archivist appointed as part of the Cataloguing Backlog project. Angela left in December to take up a post at the University of the West of England at Bristol where she will be working on the Rhodesian Army Archives.

We were fortunate enough to be able to appoint Gemma Field and Emma Roberts as a job-share for the remaining 3 months of the project. A project report will appear in the August newsletter.

We were also very sorry to see Pauline Taylor leave us in October to take up a new post at the St Ives Library in Cambridgeshire. Pauline had worked for Suffolk County Council for a number of years and had been the Public Service Manager at the Ipswich branch since 1996. Pauline's post at Ipswich was filled by Emma Sealy, who was one of the Public Service Managers at the Lowestoft branch. Ruth Silburn, the other Public Service Manager at Lowestoft, has been appointed to work more hours.

We have been given funding to enable us to appoint two Government 'Future Jobs Fund' apprentices for six months. Joshua Watson-Morse is based at the Ipswich branch and will be working in the searchroom while James Bennett is working at the Bury St Edmunds with Jason Siddall as Heritage Information Assistant.



Outreach

The September to December season saw another very busy programme of outreach with 36 talks, 1 walk, 6 courses and 23 'find out about' sessions. Nearly 600 people attended the series of talks, which included:

Anglican Ipswich by Roy Tricker

Henry Crabb Robinson, the Man who Knew Everyone by Peter Hepple

Late Stuart and Georgian Ipswich by Dr Pat Murrell

Abbeygate Street by Clive Paine

The walk around the Victorian backstreets of Lowestoft, led by Ivan Bunn, was very popular. We are offering two walks around Lowestoft and Ipswich this summer. Ivan Bunn will lead the walk around Peto's Lowestoft on Sunday 27 June, whilst Margaret Hancock from the Ipswich Building Society will conduct the walk around the Rose Hill area of Ipswich on Saturday 5 June. This area of Ipswich was developed by the Freehold Land Society from 1850 to 1936. Margaret will be telling walkers how the recently deposited Ipswich Building Society archives can be used in conjunction with other record office sources to research properties in areas of Ipswich, Framlingham, Felixstowe and Lowestoft, developed by the Freehold Land Society.

The programme for April to June includes a number of talks and workshops including :

Suffolk Yeomanry in World War II by Dr Nick Sign

Maps and Mapmaking by Clive Paine

Suffolk's Inns, Taverns and Alehouses (1660-1830) by Dr Pat Murrell

Full details of times, costs and venues are available on the record office website - www.suffolk.gov.uk/sro

We will also be attending various family and local history fairs over the summer. If any Friends would be interested in helping at these events please contact the Secretary for an initial discussion.

Buy A Print

From fans of Suffolk maps to enthusiasts of local towns and villages, there's something for everyone on the new 'Buy a Print' service. 'Buy a Print' is an innovative online service providing a one-stop shop for people to browse and purchase prints from Suffolk Record Office's archives. Prints are available from six categories including:

- country animals
- fruits and flowers
- military prints
- Suffolk churches
- Suffolk maps
- Suffolk towns and villages

Explore the new service by visiting: www.suffolk.gov.uk/BuyAPrint



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2010 AGM

'The fun and importance of manorial records...especially in medieval Suffolk'
by Dr Mark Bailey

We have been very fortunate in securing Dr Mark Bailey to come and speak at the 2010 AGM. Some of you may have seen Mark on the Channel 4 programme *Man on Earth* with Tony Robinson, where they looked at the Walsham le Willows manorial documents to show how the relationship between the lord and serfs changed after the Black Death pandemic. At the AGM Mark will be talking about manorial records and what they can tell us.

The AGM will be held on Friday 24 September 2010 and will start at 6.00pm. The location is yet to be confirmed but will either be the Bury St Edmunds Record Office or an external venue in the Bury area. In order to plan the evening it would be very helpful if you could let the Secretary know if you intend to attend the AGM as early as possible.

Membership and Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions fall due each year on 1st January and must be paid by the end of the calendar year. The minimum subscription is £12 for Individual/Family membership and £20 for Corporate membership. Cheques should be made payable to the *Friends of the Suffolk Record Office* and sent to either the Secretary or the Treasurer, whose address details are above.