

Newsletter of the Friends of the Suffolk Record Office

February 2006

Corder Appeal

I know that you will all be delighted to learn that the Corder MSS have been saved for the county. We are gathering in all those sums which were promised, and anticipate that all the administration involved will soon be completed.

We are most grateful to all those who have helped us to ensure that this collection will remain intact and become available for those who are researching Suffolk history. A very brief first encounter with the collection has convinced me that it contains treasures which will help many of us in our work. I had not realised, for instance, that there would be so much for those working on the history of Suffolk churches before their Victorian restorations. Time will show how much we can learn about the individuals and families we are all interested in.

It will be a little while before the collection has been numbered and is made available to searchers at the Ipswich Branch. Staff hope that this might be completed by the end of March. We are very fortunate that Dr John Blatchly, who knows the collection well, is preparing a guide to it, which will help students who are not familiar with heraldic manuscripts as sources for their research.

Our members and other friends helped most generously to save this important collection. Thank you all very much indeed.

Margaret Statham



MS 81 Confirmation of arms and crest to Thomas Bolton of Woodbridge by William Camden, Clarenceux, 25 August 1610

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Record Office Goods and Services

The core services of the Suffolk Record Office are provided free of charge to both depositors and users. However we try to generate income in a number of ways to support our professional work. These include charging for research, copying, selling publications and other goods. For several years we have managed to hold our prices at the same level, but following a recent review some will increase from 1st April 2006. Over the coming months we will also be developing new talks and workshops and producing more sets of prints to sell aimed at a wider audience.

Membership and Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2006 were due on 1st January. The minimum subscription for Individual or Family membership is £5 and £20 for Corporate membership. Please send subscriptions to the Treasurer or Secretary—address details are on page 6.

Branch News

All three offices have had another busy six months with workshops, talks and Archive Awareness events going on. The Archives Awareness lectures based on the Victorians were given by Clive Paine and were a great success. Details of forthcoming lectures and other record office events can be found on page 5. Regular users of the website may have noticed that the layout and address of the site have changed in recent months. The new website address for the Suffolk Record Office is:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/LocalHistoryAndHeritage/SuffolkRecordOffice

Bury St Edmunds

Bury has appointed two new members of relief staff, Valmay Young and Carol Henwood. The office has supported the Bury Past and Present Society project to digitise the Bury negatives in the Jarman collection. This will make the collection more accessible to customers.

Ipswich

Ipswich has welcomed two new members of staff, David Caruthers and Marian Eggett. They will be working every other Saturday. Dr David Allen retired at the end of 2005 after 36 years at the Suffolk (and previously the East Suffolk) Record Office. David's influence on the office will continue to be felt through his exemplary catalogues of major collections, the largest of which were the Ipswich Borough archives (published by the Suffolk Records Society and supported by the Friends) and the Iveagh manuscripts (purchased after a successful campaign organised by the Friends).

Lowestoft

Much of the work has been geared towards the Sea Heroes and 20th anniversary celebrations — see page 4 for further details. The Sea Heroes project led to the establishment of new working partnerships and a number of new accessions being deposited.



Home Front Heroes

After several months of preparation, research, and workshops with five teachers from Ipswich and Bury schools, the first pilot workshop with students took place in Ipswich Record Office on 18 January. Year 6 students at Handford Hall School spent two weeks in class immersed in learning about the Home Front in Ipswich, focusing on evacuees. As 'expert researchers' the pupils worked in groups with scans of selected records from Ipswich Record Office including log books, maps, Borough Records on evacuation, newspaper articles and police reports. They researched different topics based on the archives in order to make a documentary film. They also learnt WW2 songs and used material from 'The Warble' in a performance to invited guests from two residential homes and relatives of the children, and prepared and served a wartime tea to their guests.

Their two-hour visit to the record office included a tour and the opportunity to look at some Suffolk Record Office treasures, then two group activities. They unraveled the mystery of German language leaflets in the shape of oakleaves found in Westerfield, Tuddenham and Ufford in 1941 and also documented boxes of files on evacuation to decide whether they were 'records or rubbish'. Pupils' evaluation showed they had all enjoyed the activities and learnt new things about the record office and archives. Clifford Road School will be piloting the project on 8 February and incorporating the schools' air raid shelter into their experience.

The three Bury schools involved in the project will be participating in workshops on 27 and 31 January, focusing on the Suffolk Regiment records. They will also be visiting the Suffolk Regiment's display at Moyse's Hall as part of their day out and working with WW2 objects.

Overall 120 pupils will have visited the record offices and 150 participated in the project. Discovery Packs are being developed for Suffolk schools which will be launched at twilight sessions for teachers, there will be two weekend family workshops and two writing competitions will complete the project. One of the most important outcomes of the schools' project will be the relationship developed between the record offices, the teachers and the schools and the pupils' perception that learning with archives is fun!

Lesley Walker, Heritage Learning Officer





Sea Heroes

The SEA HEROES project is all about true local stories of courage and rescue at sea and promoting the fact that great stories can be discovered through the county's unique archive and local studies resources. SEA HEROES has included the production of a ten panel exhibition (with accompanying notes and suitable for touring) alongside a substantial display of original archival material; the production of online study and published educational resource materials for the public and schools (to be further developed in early 2006); the staging of an interactive Family Open Day on Sunday 9th October to officially launch SEA HEROES; the organisation of four pilot workshops for local Middle School Children visiting Lowestoft Record Office and Lowestoft Maritime Museum; the organisation of a half-term storytelling workshop, a "Hurrah for Horatio" Trafalgar Day family history event and a Sunday lunchtime "Meet the Artist" event; a story writing and illustration competition aimed at Middle Schools followed by an exhibition of entries; the planning and co-ordination of the events programme as a whole; the production and distribution of publicity posters and leaflets and a continuing press and promotion campaign. It involved partnership working with Waveney District Council's "Celebrating Historic Lowestoft" as well as the following national campaigns: Sea Britain 2005, Family Learning Week, the Archives Awareness Campaign and "The Big Draw".

The story-writing competition, devised in five categories to encourage all abilities across the Middle school range to participate, attracted 144 entries. The prize-giving ceremony took place on Sunday 4 December on the occasion of the Lowestoft Record Office's 20th anniversary celebrations. Suffolk County Councillors David Thomas and Keith Patience made the presentations to the children.

The SEA HEROES project would not have been possible without the lottery funding obtained through the dedication and vision of FOSRO. Your hard work and support for this project has given Lowestoft Record Office an opportunity to pilot a variety of educational outreach activities and reveal the huge potential of its unique resources to a wider audience of all ages and backgrounds. Thank you for everything you do for the record office and very special thanks for making SEA HEROES possible.

Chloe Veale
Public Service Manager



Celebrating 20 years of Lowestoft Record Office, 1985-2005

Seventy guests attended this enjoyable event held on Sunday 4 December 2005. It was an opportunity for past and present members of Suffolk Record Office staff, councillors, community partners, supporters and friends to meet socially. A commemorative display of

photographs, newspaper cuttings and other historical documentation and ephemera covering the story of the record office in Lowestoft had been organised by the staff.

The day's programme included an illustrated presentation and signing by local author Ian Robb of his new book *Lowestoft—A History & Celebration* and its companion volume, "So you think you know Lowestoft?" published by Ottakar's Bookstore. This was followed by a buffet lunch. Kerry Meal received a special presentation from her colleagues for achieving her twentieth year employed at LRO. The occasion was recorded for all time in this photograph.



Forthcoming Events

Spring Lectures

A series of lectures by Clive Paine to tie in with the BBC series *Who do you think you are*

'Go North You Pauper' – Migration from Suffolk in the 1830s

Saturday 4th February - 2.00pm - Bury St Edmunds

Saturday 18th February - 2.00pm - Ipswich

The Early Sugar Beet industry in West Suffolk

Saturday 18th February - 10.30am - Bury St Edmunds

What did the Industrial Revolution do for Suffolk?

Saturday 18th March - 10.30 am - Bury St Edmunds

"From cottage to Council House: rural housing in Victorian Suffolk"

Saturday 18th March - 2.00pm - Ipswich

Tickets cost £5.00 and must be booked in advance. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served at the lectures. To book contact the appropriate record office: Bury St Edmunds 01284 352352 or Ipswich 01743 584541

Workshops

Family and property history workshops have been planned for each office. For further details see the SRO website or contact the relevant record office.

Family History Fair

The Suffolk Record Office and Suffolk Family History Society are helping BBC Radio Suffolk to plan and run a Family History Fair on Sunday 12th February from 10.00am until 4.00pm at Kesgrave High School. Experts from the region will be available to answer questions, give talks, offer advice and demonstrate websites and sources on microfilm and microfiche, laptop, CD-ROM etc. The record office will have a stand promoting our services, events and goods.

"Bringing Records to Life"

The Bury St Edmunds office will be hosting a Suffolk Local History Council day on 6th July. Local historian Pat Murrell will be lecturing on Cupola House and the Macro family before leading a tour of the Cupola House. For further details contact the Bury St Edmunds record office.



For any queries or comments about the Friends please contact the secretary or treasurer.

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Who do you think you are?

The second BBC series of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' programmes started on 11th January with Jeremy Paxman investigating his family's past. One branch of his family came from Framlingham and part of the programme was filmed in the Ipswich Record Office strong-room and at Framlingham on 1st August. Clive Paine appeared on the programme talking to Jeremy Paxman about his great-great-great grandfather, Thomas Paxman and his family. See page 5 for details of Clive's lectures on the migration of paupers.

Stephen Fry's family history was featured in the programme on 25th January. Stephen Fry's grandfather, Martin Newman (Neumann) left Surany, now in Slovakia, in 1927 to become the agricultural expert at the new sugar beet factory in Bury St Edmunds. Some of the research was carried out by the Bury St Edmunds Record Office.

Local experts Derek Palgrave from the Suffolk Family History Society and Sheila Reed from the Suffolk Record Office were interviewed on BBC Radio Suffolk, where they answered questions and gave advice. See page 5 for details of the Family History fair on 12th February 2006.

Recently purchased manuscripts

'A List of the Poor belonging to the Parish of Ufford . . .'

The Friends recently purchased a small manuscript volume of particular family and local history interest. The description on the title page more or less says it all:

'A List of the Poor belonging to the Parish of Ufford, comprising their Trades or Employments, their Families and their ages, with observations on their relative means of Subsistence, their general character etc. Began in Nov 1836 with a Continuation, shewing the changes, as they arose. Drawn up for the use and guidance of the Rector and Parish officers in their care of their Paupers.'

The book was compiled by the well-known Suffolk antiquary David Elisha Davy, who lived in the parish and was a close friend of the Rector, Charles Brooke. The book lists 583 people, arranged by heads of families (118). Not all lived in Ufford. For those who had moved away, their parish or town of residence is given, and, often, their place of settlement: information of interest to the parish authorities then and to family historians now. Additional information was added to 1849. Here, to whet the appetite, are some typical entries:

Charles Barnard, born 1822: 'at home, shoemaker [like his father Thomas]. Convicted of fruit stealing 1839. Not steady.'

William Cracknell, born 1794: 'A discharged soldier of the 80th Regt of Foot, with a Pension of 9d p. diem. Took an allotment 1835. Drunken and ill-behaved.'

The book is available at the Ipswich Record Office, ref HD2417/14038.