



# CENTRE OF EAST ANGLIAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2006



Vic Morgan

**Having handed over to Vic Morgan, the new Director of CEAS, Carole Rawcliffe reflects on the past year:**

When I took over the Directorship of the Centre from Steve Cherry in August 2005, I was well aware that the year ahead would prove quite a challenge. Succeeding such an efficient and popular character as Steve was in itself pretty daunting. The prospect of coping without a CEAS secretary, of managing a greatly reduced budget and of easing the Centre into a new Faculty of Arts and Humanities seemed no less problematic. Despite some initial difficulties as we settled down to a different routine, the transition has, in fact, gone remarkably smoothly, thanks to the sterling assistance offered by administrative staff, History postgraduates, colleagues and friends. It is a particular pleasure for me to thank the support staff of the new Faculty. Between them they not only ensured that last year's Newsletter was distributed in record time, but also contributed in no small measure to the great success of this year's lecture and seminar programme advertised in it. The capacity audience for the Roger Virgoe Memorial lecture given by Professor Barrie Dobson in November was, in fact, a foretaste of things to come. The February day school and the winter lecture series were equally well attended, each event illustrating the wide appeal that medieval and early modern history continue to enjoy throughout the region. On the strength of this remarkable show of enthusiasm, the School of History and CEAS will be mounting a two day conference next Easter on Urban Mentalities: *Becoming a Town Dweller in the Medieval and Early Modern periods*. Associate Members will be cordially welcome.

I am also delighted to announce that, following on from the publication of *The History of Norwich* (now in paperback), we have taken further steps to consolidate our links with the city. Mrs Jackie Watson, the widow of the former Lord Mayor, Harry Watson, the City Council and the Norwich Heritage and Economic Regeneration Trust (HEART) have together endowed a five-year postgraduate bursary for research into the history and landscape of Norwich. At the time of writing, we are about to choose the first recipient of this generous award from a number of excellent applicants. The study of our fine city clearly attracts some of our very best graduates.

The future for CEAS is therefore looking bright, not least on the publication front. At the close of 2005 the proceedings of the conference organised by Christopher Harper-Bill on *Medieval East Anglia* were published under his editorship by Boydell and Brewer (see review p. 6). Next year Mark Bailey's *Medieval Suffolk*, the first volume in the Suffolk History series, funded by the Ann Ashard Webb bequest, will appear in print. You can read about our many other activities in the following pages, which John Barney has edited. It simply remains for me to thank him and all our other Associate Members for their continued commitment to the Centre. I hope that Vic will enjoy his term as Director as much as I have done.

**Vic Morgan writes:** I do not think that the young man who in 1973 was beguiled into returning from a job at the Johns Hopkins University in the United States to become a humble Research Associate in the Centre of East Anglian Studies ever aspired to the elevated heights of its Directorship—and as it has taken a winding way over some thirty-three years to get there the absence of that aspiration was probably a good thing! In that period CEAS has undergone a number of fundamental changes and as we contemplate the further changes

required by more recent alterations in circumstances it is worth reminding ourselves that modifications in the nature of the Centre are nothing new.

At one time, when it housed the Norwich Survey, the Centre occupied the whole of Earlham Hall. At one time it embraced a multitude of disciplines and for a long period two of its Directors were environmentalists and some of its earliest publications were in the areas of spatial and social geography. At one time it encompassed teaching and pioneered the teaching of Landscape History at undergraduate level and introduced the first part-time MA programme into the University together with evening teaching. In the late 60s and early 70s it provided the model for regional studies centres in a number of other universities. For most of its history it was a 'free floating' research unit directly answerable to Senate. Furthermore, it had, and in this respect it retains, a unique constitutional status within the University with a substantial lay presence representing the interests of the region on its overseeing Committee.

It is also unusual in that it depends heavily on the support of its subscribing friends in the region. Since the creation of the School of History the Centre has been a research unit within the School with an interest primarily in history. From its inception the Centre has always had a remit to provide 'outreach' into the region and for many of its local supporters this is the facet of the Centre with which they are most familiar. For a long time the University put its money where its public relations rhetoric was and helped to finance these activities. Latterly, this support has been withdrawn as part of cost-cutting exercises. Despite this, many of us are determined to continue the types of activity that are so enthusiastically supported by such large numbers from throughout the region. The irony is that, if anything, under the able guidance of my immediate predecessors as Director, the involvement with activities such as the winter lecture series, the members' day workshops and the summer field days has actually increased.

With a proper sense of where we have come from and what we have achieved we can again set about plotting a new course. Detailed proposals for a comprehensive new strategy for the next five-to-seven years will be laid before the Centre's Committee this autumn. Already a number of developments are underway. Once the strategy has been approved I will set out its elements in greater detail. However, a facet of the strategy that will be of considerable interest to the readers of this newsletter is that I envisage that for those who wish to engage further there will be an enhanced role for the lay supporters of the Centre, both in terms of their support for it, and for its provision of an enriched programme of activities to meet their interests.

Finally, there would have been no CEAS without the vision, inspiration and sheer hard work of one man: Hassell Smith, its first Director. As many of you will know Hassell has been seriously ill over the last few months. Among other things this wrecked the boating trip planned to celebrate his eightieth birthday. Thankfully, he is now in the process of recovery and plans to be back at work on the Stiffkey Project by the end of September. We have also started work on a new joint research project based on the rich documentation for the material culture of the Townshend family. So, if any of you of maturing years were beginning to think of easing off, be warned, that is not the ethos of CEAS! Rather, a sprightly ingenuity in response to changing circumstances and decades more work are in prospect. Your continued support of the enterprise is much appreciated by everyone who has the continuing vision to see the importance of the Centre in the life of not only the University but also of the region within which the Centre has become an integral part in the nearly forty years of its existence.

# CURRENT RESEARCH

In October 2005 a research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust started work in the Centre of East Anglian Studies.

With Professor Carole Rawcliffe as project manager, David King has been working as a research fellow on a catalogue of all medieval stained glass in Norfolk. A three-pronged approach has been adopted, aiming at a website, a volume of the international series on glass *Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi*, and a popular book. In January, Claire Daunton joined the team as a Ph.D. student working on the patronage and iconography of Norfolk glass. A busy year has also seen the publication of David King's *Corpus* volume, *The Medieval Stained Glass of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich*, published in June by Oxford University Press on behalf of the British Academy. David has been concentrating on some major collections of glass which include work by the same workshop as that which produced

most of the windows at Mancroft, most notably at East Harling church, where the figure of Anne Harling has emerged as an important patroness, but also at St Peter Hungate, Norwich, where the Paston family were patrons, and Stody, where Ralph Lampet, connected with both the Pastons and Sir John Fastolf, gave some of the glass. It is hoped that the first catalogue entries will be placed on the CVMA website this autumn ([www.cvma.ac.uk](http://www.cvma.ac.uk)), where hundreds of photographs of Norfolk glass are already available. Claire has been concentrating on a group of churches in West Norfolk, where Outwell is proving to be a site with interesting and unusual glass and much else besides. David has given a number of lectures on his work during the year and has written articles on Anne Harling and the glass at Wiggshall St Mary Magdalen. Anyone who knows of medieval glass in private collections in Norfolk is invited to contact David at the Centre ([d.king@uea.ac.uk](mailto:d.king@uea.ac.uk)).

## Norwich St Peter Mancroft: from Toppes Window c.1450-1455



Annunciation



Nativity

**David King, *The Medieval Stained Glass of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi, Great Britain, Volume V* (Oxford, 2006).**

The publication of this volume has been long-awaited with eager anticipation and impatience in equal measure. We are not disappointed. It is in every way a weighty and comprehensive study, which has demanded of its author a detailed knowledge of sources now scattered around the globe. He has been persistent in the physical pursuit of the glass, its patrons and artists, and in documenting the vibrant political and economic environment that nurtured both. This examination of the spectacular fifteenth-century Norwich School window panels that miraculously survive in a city-centre parish church is enriched by the context in which the author has set it. St Peter Mancroft was always a prestigious church, and by the late Middle Ages it attracted lavish investment in every aspect of its liturgical activity. King's meticulous study of its glass reveals to us the upwardly mobile and successful ruling elite of Norwich who worshipped there, in all the complexities of their political alliances, as well as their spiritual aspirations.

A treasure-trove for the art historian and iconographer, this book will also delight and inform those who want to know more about Norwich in the late medieval period. We learn, for example, about its status as an international depot for the import and export of fine goods and about the manufacturers and merchants who dealt in them, often travelling widely as they did so. The layout of the book is very user-friendly for the specialist and general scholar alike, offering a complete catalogue of the glass and six invaluable appendices. There is also a full and sequential account of the original windows and their placement.

One rarely encounters such accomplished interdisciplinarity in this field (or any other), and even less often sees it put to such telling effect. Given his background as both an art historian and the member of a prominent family of Norwich glaziers, the author was, indeed, uniquely qualified to undertake a project on this scale. It is hard to imagine that anyone else could have completed it with such engaging style. David King is to be congratulated (along with his glazier forebears), and his book commended to a wide readership.

Carole Hill

# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENTS

Tom Williamson, one of our most popular speakers, will be giving this year's Sutermeister Lecture at UEA at 7 p.m. on Thursday 9 November. His topic, 'Re-Thinking the Medieval East Anglian Landscape', will appeal to readers of this Newsletter, and accords perfectly with Helen's interest in her adopted county. Tom writes:

East Anglia was the most densely settled and economically precocious region of medieval England. It also had a range of distinctive landscapes which differed, in a number of important respects, from those of the more familiar Midland districts of England. This lecture will examine the reasons for medieval East Anglia's distinctive character: it will look at the development of rural settlement, the character of the region's field systems, and the extent and exploitation of woods, heaths and fens. It will also consider what, if anything, the medieval landscape inherited from the prehistoric and Roman period. It will suggest that East Anglia's personality arose primarily from environmental factors – from soils, topography, and its location with regard to the rest of England, and Europe – rather than being, in any simple or direct way, the consequence of cultural or 'ethnic' factors.

**During the second weekend in July this year, the University of East Anglia played host to *Collective Memory and the Uses of the Past*, an interdisciplinary conference organised by Andy Wood and Nicola Whyte. Simon Sandall reports on an extremely successful and lively event which saw members of CEAS rubbing shoulders with scholars from around the globe:**

The conference was part of an ongoing project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Board (see *CEAS Newsletter*, 2004), much of which involves work on the region. The gathering produced some stimulating debate on subjects ranging from medieval East Anglia's extraordinarily rich spiritual and material culture to a starkly contemporary discussion of history and memory in Palestine and Israel. Through such diversity, this conference drew together the regional and the global, emphasising the presence of the past in all our communities. Barbara Misztal provided an invigorating overview of the sociologies of memory, while Ignacio Fernandes de Mata demonstrated the human cost of human conflict, in a powerful contribution on the logic of violence in the Spanish Civil War. Plenary sessions by Dave Rollison, Tom Williamson and Alun Howkins provided an earthy reminder of the practical and material nature of our subject in complementary discussions of landscape, collective memory and the fight for customary rights.

A central theme of this diverse collection of papers and speakers was the recognition that an interest in memory studies represents common ground for any field of thought concerned with issues of collective and individual identity. The wide ranging international appeal of this area of study was evident in representation from institutions in Spain, Mexico, Dubai, Sweden, Australia, France, Italy, Canada and the United States. It was indeed appropriate that this meeting, inviting such strong inter-departmental participation, should take place at the UEA during the initial year of its newly formed Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Contributors included Sarah Salih and Becky Pinner from Literature and Creative Writing, who spoke, respectively, on Julian of Norwich and the cult of St Edmund. Alongside Carole Rawcliffe and David King, of the School of History, and Nicola Pratt of Political, Social and International Studies, the department of Film and Television Studies was very well represented by, amongst others, Peter Kramer and Andrew Higson. The conference embraced a range of issues, spanning both the local and the geographically distant across a long chronological period, from the ancient world to the present day. It also encompassed both theoretical and practical applications, and thus initiated a dialogue between disciplines which seem, too often, to remain oblivious of each other. That this symposium generated such genuine interdisciplinarity seemed entirely appropriate for a university whose motto (drawn from Norwich itself) encourages both students and associates to 'do different'.

**The Virtual Norfolk website, which makes freely available a large amount of archival material relating to pre-modern Norwich and Norfolk, will shortly be re-launched. Mark Knights reports:**

The revised version of the site, which has attracted interest from scholars around the world, will add new material, particularly images, and also allow users to save their favourite or most-used pages. The project will also have a new server – the machine that generates the site – to ensure greater reliability and speed of access. When the old server ceased functioning recently we had pleas for its resurrection from as far away as Miami! The site will retain its former address [<http://virtualnorfolk.uea.ac.uk/>] and the update will go live shortly after the start of the academic year.

Prior to the re-launch there were already two thousand or so documents available, covering topics such as C15th popular piety, early drama, the stranger community, Kett's rebellion, the civil war, the eighteenth century, health and welfare, a Norfolk tour, and transatlantic links. The new site will include a large number of images – photographs of churches, reproductions of some manuscripts and portraits of people mentioned in the documents – as well as maps, including one which shows the changing topography of the city over time. The ability to save a page as a favourite will make it easier for users to return quickly to what they were last working on, and for teachers to mark pages that they want their students to look at.

The project was the result of a three year grant from the Joint Information Systems Committee, which is now also funding another exciting web-based project in the School of History – to create a collaborative forum for research into early modern texts. This new project is national in scope, but it will of course also include local authors and their texts. The project is still in a development stage but anyone interested can find more details at the project website [<http://www.earlymoderntexts.org/>].

**Steve Cherry, our former director, has published essays comparing East Anglian hospitals with those in South Yorkshire (Routledge 2006) and on Health care in Rural Russia (University of Bergen 2006) He is also joint editor of *Health and Medicine in Rural Europe (1850-1945)* published by the University of Valencia Press.**

This impressive work comprises edited versions of papers originally given at Colloquia in held at UEA in 2003 and Valencia in 2004 and sponsored by the Wellcome Trust. These brought together scholars with shared interests but different approaches from the faculties of History, Medicine, Nursing and Public Health.

The sixteen contributions to the new book range over all these disciplines, geographically from Norway and Russia to Majorca, and in time from the eighteenth century to the recent past. Two of the contributors are Norwegian but the majority are from Spain or the UK including four associated with UEA. Three of the essays are concerned primarily with East Anglia and so merit mention here. Steve himself contributes two, the general introductory essay and *General Practitioners, Hospitals and Medical Services in Rural England: The East Anglian Region, 1800-1948*, while Bruce Lindsay offers *Care in an English Provincial Children's Hospital, c. 1850-1930*, a study of the history of the Jenny Lind hospital in Norwich. Both these essays were prefigured in part by lectures given to CEAS Associates in 2004.

Tom Williamson writes on the intriguing subject of *The Disappearance of Malaria from the East Anglian Fens* giving a succinct account of the draining of that area from the seventeenth century onward. He is critical of the old theory that the drainage itself offers a sufficient explanation by transforming the wetland habitat of the mosquitoes. Changes in farming, notably with claying of the soil and the expansion of arable cultivation at the expense of livestock and pasture were also significant. Deeper 'V' shaped drains and the lowering of water levels in ditches were less accommodating to mosquitoes and the increasing separation of livestock from humans also may have reduced opportunities for the transmission of malaria. Whether such changes outweigh the possibility that the East Anglian version of malaria simply mutated itself away remains unclear.



# ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' OUTING

Those planning summer outings pray above all that the season will live up to its name, and – remarkably – so it did on Saturday 17th June. Some thirty CEAS members, most travelling by coach but some independently, went to Walsingham. Many visit that town, but without knowledgeable and experienced guides the incredible depth and contrast that the place contains is not easily uncovered. We were extremely fortunate in having CEAS member Scilla Landale, who is a Blue Badge guide there, assisted by two colleagues Dominique Smalley and Carolyn Wright, to reveal to us the many hidden and fascinating aspects of Walsingham's past, and to take us down unpromising alleyways through overgrown gardens to find unsuspected treasures.

The headline story of Walsingham is well known (I quote from Scilla Landale's guide *Walk Around and Discover Walsingham*; Guided Tours of Walsingham Publications 1992 ISBN 0 9519418 0 1):

In 1061 Richeldis de Faverches, the Lady of the Manor, had visions of Our Lady who showed her the house in Nazareth where the Annunciation took place. Obeying the Virgin's command, Richeldis built a replica of the Holy House in Walsingham. In c1153 The Augustinian Canons established a Priory adjacent to the Holy House, and in 1347 a small Franciscan Friary was built on the edge of the village. Walsingham became the Premier Shrine to Our Lady in England, and indeed is still known as 'England's Nazareth'.

The east gable end is one of the few visible remaining features of St Augustines Priory, but rising out of a well kept lawn on a summer's afternoon it is powerfully evocative of the faith that drew so many medieval pilgrims to Walsingham, and of the thriving town to which it gave rise; no fewer than 21 hostels at one time apparently. That faith, though no longer so demanding of the brewing and boarding trade, still continues to produce modern pilgrims full of fervour judging by the evidence of the outdoor Catholic service being held within the ruins of the Priory as we passed by. Just beyond the end of the Priory, through a Norman arch, lie two wells (and a later bath) that were the site at which legend says the house was originally constructed. Miraculously, according to the legend, it was moved overnight further up the slope and later embodied (so it is now believed) in a chapel adjacent to the priory church.

The Reformation destroyed much of

the ostentatious expression of faith of medieval Walsingham, but a resurgence of belief from the late 19th century onwards led to the building in the 1930s of an Anglican shrine and a Roman Catholic shrine at the 14th century Slipper Chapel, used as a cow shed in the 19th century! Modern Walsingham is a glorious blend of the old and the sensitive modern. Modernity was not always added sensitively in earlier centuries. Close examination of some of the buildings reveals a crude covering of medieval frontages by 18th and 19th century brick, though the result has been the preservation of much that would otherwise have disappeared.



St Augustine's Priory – east gable end

We were fortunate to be allowed to tour the Sue Ryder House, opposite the Gatehouse. It is about to be sold and it is unclear how much of its remarkable rabbit-warren character, the results of piecemeal change throughout the centuries, will be maintained: almost certainly not the steep stairways, abrupt turns and sudden plunges down, including that to the Martyrs' cellar where Nicholas Mileham and George Gysborough were held before being toured round North Norfolk and then hung, drawn and quartered in the Martyr's field on the edge of the village for alleged conspiracy in the events leading up to the closure of the monasteries. Remarkable too was the internal evidence of how the later brick frontage that we see today had just been 'slapped' onto the lath and plaster wood-framed original structure.

The Friary on the edge of the town is now a gaunt ruin that cannot be closely or easily approached (we were guided to the best viewing spot through a jungle of an unkempt domestic garden) for the usual Health and Safety reasons, yet it conveys again just how prominent and important

a place Walsingham once was. Henry III and Edward III both visited it many times and granted it privileges and favours. The contrast with the quiet parochial presence of the modern day is unsettling.

The Assize Court, part of the Shirehall remains pretty much as it was from 1778 until 1971. Our guide, Scilla Landale, performed a formidable inquisitorial role, with CEAS associates cast in the remaining parts from Chief Magistrate and local landowner (which Dr Morgan played with considerable aplomb – and with all the questionable sentencing decisions said to be so characteristic of the judiciary today!), while others were cast as jurymen and (unhistorically) jurywomen. A couple of poor souls found themselves in the dock contemplating seven years transportation – if only they had not stolen that duck!

Walsingham has exercised a powerful attraction to a broad range of faiths. John Wesley, who visited in 1781, inspired the building of a fine Methodist chapel built in 1794. The gallery still has its original box pews with a complex set of divisions and gates for worshippers to negotiate, but the Victorian refurbished ground floor seemed, as our guide remarked, to have absorbed some of the high church influence of the other communities. The Orthodox churches also have a place in Walsingham. The first chapel was included in the Anglican Shrine in the 1930s and used by the internees from the internment camp near Fakenham during the second world war. Subsequently those links have been renewed with the opening of contacts between East and West following Glasnost. Look out for the Russian Orthodox Chapel in Walsingham's former railway station!

Acquaintance with the broad shape of the medieval religious events that define the essence of Walsingham had not prepared most of us for impression that the House of Correction, built in 1787 (based on the specifications by the prison reformer John Howard) would make on us. Although vacated in 1861 when its prisoners were removed to Norwich, the grim simplicity of its design and structure, and the sense that the still unaltered fittings gave of an immediacy that could be literally touched was immensely powerful (all the doors and grills are original – and, because of the lack of glazing and the free flow of air, rust and rot are almost completely absent). Some were brave enough to enter the cells and close the door, but quickly emerged looking rather pale. The one padded cell out of the eight (walled lined with wood and a cover over the grill that could shut out all the natural light) was too oppressive for anyone to try. For many of the group this was the aspect of Walsingham that left the most powerful impression.

But it was the parish church of St

# ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' DAY

Mary's towards the end of the visit that gave a surprising uplift to the spirits. The church interior was largely destroyed by fire in 1961, yet the renewal of the church has resulted in a building reflecting so much light that it warmed and inspired. This is underpinned by the most remarkable East window, which has managed – by using medieval motifs – to summarise and encapsulate the whole history and essence of Walsingham.

We ended our visit where most pilgrims used to begin it, at the Slipper Chapel, with the sounds of devotions reminding us yet again of the essence of Walsingham. Let us have more visits like this people said on the trip home. Yes, but where?

Michael Salt



Day school audience

**Janka Rodziewicz, one of our research postgraduates (who is herself working on law and order in medieval Yarmouth) attended this year's Day School and clearly enjoyed the lively mix of papers. She reports:**

The Associate Members' Day School held in February demonstrated that CEAS is still vibrantly active, despite recent reorganisation and budget cuts. Associates turned out *en masse* to lend their support and to hear about research currently being undertaken by staff, students and friends. Four papers covered a wide span of regional history from the Conquest to the early seventeenth century. There was an interesting mix of contributions from relative newcomers and old hands. Carole Rawcliffe, the Director, opened the proceedings with a short talk about the changes that had occurred as a result of Faculty reorganisation. Despite these challenges, there can be little doubt that CEAS continues to flourish, as our capacity audience revealed.

Dr Lucy Marten began proceedings with a lecture about her research into Domesday Book and the evidence it provides for participation in post-Conquest rebellion. Her paper on *The Value of Rebellion: A New Interpretation of the Domesday Survey* challenged many preconceived ideas about Domesday Book and the nature of the Norman Conquest. She argued that, far from being an offshoot, or junior relative, of Domesday Book as we know it today, 'Little Domesday' was initially a prototype for the entire project. It was only upon the realisation of how mammoth such a painstaking task would be that the less detailed approach of Great Domesday was eventually adopted. Lucy then explained how information about changes in landholding could help us to discover who had participated in uprisings

after 1066. The confiscation of property from pre-Conquest Anglo-Saxon landowners was thus not necessarily a result of the 1066 Conquest but of subsequent protest by disgruntled natives.

David King, senior research assistant on the Leverhulme Trust funded project into stained glass in medieval Norfolk, then spoke about *Norfolk Stained Glass in Context: The Patronage of Ann Harling*. He explained how stained glass is able to give a very personal insight into the hopes and fears of patrons, and demonstrated the historical value of this often-neglected medium, not least in the study of medieval women. His beautifully illustrated talk examined the political and spiritual aspirations of Ann Harling through the stained glass she commissioned for her parish church. Ann's deep regret about her lack of children is, for example, apparent from her choice of subject matter, such as the Holy Family, the Annunciation and the Infancy of Christ. Her affiliation to the Yorkist cause was, on the other hand, a matter of temporal pride, although – like all survivors of the Wars of the Roses – she was judicious in her use of political propaganda.

Dr Carole Hill's paper on *Julian and her Sisters: The Female Recluses of Medieval Norwich* brought the discussion nearer home. Carole breathed fresh life into 'Julian studies' by challenging her audience to re-examine their perception of marginality in the medieval world. She suggested that the liminality of an anchorhold lies very much in the eye of the twenty-first century beholder. Why did so many medieval women choose this vocation? And why were they so popular with patrons? Their appeal was not simply due to widespread fear of sudden death, but also to snobbery, as benefactors of lower social status sought to ape their social superiors. Situated in the heart of a bustling and prosperous city,

Julian's anchorhold mattered greatly to the mercantile elite of Norwich, not least because of its accessibility. Carole made the important point that the vocation of an anchoress might not have been as liminal and solitary as we imagine. Certainly, the support given by late medieval citizens to the female recluses in their midst reflects the diversity of Norwich's spiritual life.

Professor Hassell Smith's engaging talk about *Life in the Jacobethan Aristocratic Household* offered us a glimpse into the organisation of four great households that were miniature cities in themselves. They varied in wealth and social status, but each fulfilled many roles for its resident family as well as the local populace. These remarkably sophisticated and adaptable establishments were centres for estate management, boarding houses for far-flung relatives and headquarters for regional administration when their owners served as Justices of the Peace or sheriffs. They offered education, culture, patronage and mediation between locality, Court and parliament. They might also be engaged in the struggle between Protestantism and Catholicism, and played a crucial part in the dissemination of news. Most servants came from the surrounding area, and depended upon patronage (while also, in many cases, acquiring considerable influence themselves). Pay may have been relatively low, but there were spectacular opportunities for gain, not least through tips, gifts and testamentary bequests from grateful employers. Tudor and Jacobean households were thus far more than elegant homes for important families, being essential components in the life of regional society



# REVIEW

**Medieval East Anglia**, ed. Christopher Harper-Bill (Boydell and Brewer 2005), 341 pp + xiv + figures and plates, £45. ISBN 184383 151 1

This volume represents the majority of the papers given at the conference held in CEAS in September 2003. The essays presented here are arranged into five sections: the Landscape; the Urban Scene; Government and Politics; Religion; and Literary Culture. All the essays in this volume are of a very high standard and all add to our understanding of medieval East Anglia. Indeed, this volume shows CEAS at its best, encouraging high quality, inter-disciplinary study of this region undertaken within a broader geographical framework. Even the seemingly most focused of the studies collected in this volume has an importance that reaches out beyond the bounds of East Anglia; Sandy Heslop's study of Swaffham parish church perfectly exemplifies this point. In his article, Heslop examines in detail the written sources and architectural evidence from Swaffham to show how a mid-fifteenth-century community could gather together to rebuild its parish church. At least forty of its leading families were able to leave their imprint on the fabric of the church as they employed their own designers and masons to build their portion of the church. And yet this is much more than the story of one Norfolk parish church because Heslop uses Swaffham to show that our current definition of Perpendicular architecture (inherited from an early nineteenth-century classification) is too narrow and nationalistic to be a useful construct. His argument makes one wonder whether it is time to rethink our classification of late-Gothic architecture in England. Heslop's success in making the particular significant to a wider debate is a quality evident in the essays on the landscape. Tom Williamson offers a soil-rooted explanation as to why the East Anglian medieval land usage differed from the 'text-book norm' to be found in the midlands. Medieval men and women were pragmatists, responding in their farming practices and rural settlement patterns to the realities of the soil with which they worked. Robert Liddiard makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing discussion about the impact of the Norman Conquest by pointing out that castle sites (sitting in designed landscapes and proclaiming the wealth and status of their owners) were often pre-determined by the existence of Old English manor houses and by the legal rights of the English landholders who survived the Conquest. Philippa Maddern's contribution to this section of the book examines the evidence for the ways in which late-medieval East Anglians perceived the changing landscape. She argues that descriptions of a changing landscape are to be found in the mass of legal and administrative documents and not in the works of contemporary commentators.

The Urban contributions to this volume are also written with an eye to wider historiographical debates than those focused on the communities under discussion. Brian Ayres demonstrates how urban archaeology in Norwich can add nuance to our understanding of the way in which this urban society and economy changed over time. Elizabeth Rutledge, in an important contribution to our understanding of the occupational picture of late thirteenth-century Norwich, shows how the term *clericus* had come to mean a person who earned his living through his administrative ability. Penny Dunn, in the first study of its kind, shows how the unique survival of the urban cartulary (known from its creation in the 1390s as the Norwich Domesday Book) allows us to see how the city authorities in Norwich put the city on a sound financial footing. The men who came up with and executed the plan to buy up, amongst other things, the market place (men who actually deserve the title of 'city fathers') are identified by Dunn. As an exercise in unveiling urban planning in detail, Dunn's essay is of the first importance in English urban studies. Kate Parker's essay on Lynn also has relevance beyond the confines of East Anglia. Parker shows how

the authorities at Lynn, in an attempt to remove themselves from the malign influence of the bishop of Norwich, Henry Despenser (1370-1406), involved themselves in national politics to the near financial ruin of the borough. In a fascinating study, Parker gives for the first time a full picture of the causes of the unrest at Lynn in the first decades of the fifteenth century. Carole Rawcliffe's essay entitled '*Health and Safety at Work*' argues that late medieval men and women took their work and living environments very seriously in an attempt to stave off death and disease. Far from leaving filth to build up unchecked in the streets, as previous generations of historians thought, men and women in the late middle ages took measures to improve their environments. If Augustine's City of God remained an illusory paradigm, it at least provided an ideal for which urban communities might strive.

The section of this book that deals with Government and Administration returns us to a national perspective. James Campbell's article on hundreds and leets is predicated on his long-held belief that the late Old English kingdom constituted a powerful state that was capable of imposing its administrative solutions on the newly absorbed parts of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. East Anglia was a relatively recent acquisition of the self-styled kings of the English, and yet even here, Campbell argues, the West Saxon administrators were able to impose administrative structures over pre-existing *regiones*. Lucy Marten shows how Domesday Book can be used to show the impact of the rebellion of 1075, which had much of its focus in East Anglia. Marten argues, moreover, that the rebellion was not just confined to the Bretons who are singled out in the sources for special opprobrium. Colin Richmond's paper takes us to the East Anglia of the fifteenth century and in particular to the entourage of William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk. Two of the earl's men, Thomas Tuddenham and John Heydon, are examined in detail, and Richmond adds to our debt to him by supplying the text of Roger Virgoe's unpublished lecture on the Heydon family.

The articles organised under the title of 'Religion' in this volume include Sandy Heslop's already-discussed piece on Swaffham. Terrie Colk's article on the Augustinian canons argues that far from existing in a middle world between the monastic rule and the secular life of the parish priest, the canons saw themselves as monks following a monastic rule who provided an essential service to the communities in which they worked. Equally providing an essential service was St Margaret of Antioch, widely revered as the patron of safe childbirth. Carole Hill shows how ubiquitous was her cult in Norwich and takes us through the surviving images of St Margaret in the city. The four articles under the heading 'Literary Culture' bring this volume to a close. Andrea Oliver reintroduces us to Henry Despenser who, she argues, is likely to have been the inspiration behind the version of the *Sege off Melayne* which survives to us from the late fourteenth century. Theresa Coletti examines another text of East Anglian provenance: the Digby manuscript 133 which contains the religious play *Mary Magdalene*. Penny Granger, through an examination of the N-Town Play, shows how audiences received the religious material embedded in medieval religious plays. And Sarah Salih's article examines the accounts of two very different Lynn travellers to Rome, Margery Kempe, the well-known visionary, and John Capgrave, an Augustinian friar of Lynn who was a near contemporary of Margery's. Their contrasting accounts of their respective journeys to Rome allow Salih to draw interesting comparisons between these two authors writing from very 'different cultural positions'. For the history of medieval East Anglia this is an invaluable book. Embedded in its text are a multitude of approaches to the past all of which have one thing in common: a determination to place the East Anglian past within the wider context.

Stephen Church



## Record Societies

Both the books reviewed on this page were published by East Anglian record societies, charities which publish annually limited editions of printed volumes of local records, normally manuscripts, relating to their counties, accompanied by scholarly introductions. Subscribing members receive a copy of the annual publication without charge. No doubt many CEAS associates are also members of one or another of the county record societies but normally it is possible for non-members to buy copies of record society publications direct from the society. The addresses for membership enquiries or the purchase of publications are:

### Suffolk Records Society

#### Secretary

Gwyn Thomas

Suffolk Record Office, 77 Raingate Street  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2AR

### Norfolk Record Society

#### Secretary

Alan Metters

29 Cintra Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4AE

***Stutter's Casebook: A Junior Hospital Doctor, 1839-1841*, eds E.E. Cockayne and H.J. Stow (Suffolk Records Society xlviii, 2005) 178 pp + xliii + 32 illustrations. ISBN 184383 113 8**

Stutter's Casebook is an intriguing, if sometimes frustrating, book that provides a glimpse into the practice of a junior hospital apothecary/doctor in Bury St. Edmunds general hospital, Suffolk, in the mid-nineteenth century. The editors have used the notes made by William Stutter, a young resident house apothecary, during the period 1839 to 1841, having translated them from Latin. This enables a wider readership to discover the medicinal preparations and practices that were standard at a time before anaesthesia, antisepsis and antibiotics. The two editors are themselves former medical men – Cockayne was a house surgeon and Stow a pharmacist – and the information they provide is both factual and detailed. On the other hand, they offer little in the way of academic argument, social comment or historiography. There is, moreover, a degree of repetition in the section containing biographies of those doctors and nurses mentioned in the introduction.

However, the introduction is clear and concise, and summarises the social and medical background of nineteenth-century hospital doctors. It documents other ancillary staff, although more detailed evidence about doctors, surgeons and apothecaries in general would have been beneficial. Because of the painstaking editorial work in translating Stutter's records, we can explore the apothecary's mindset as well

as the pharmaceutical world of preparation and practice. Backed up by appendices on diseases, physical treatment, and drugs and chemicals, this book is straightforward and accessible. Whilst not innovative in content, taken as a whole it is very informative and revealing; the reader even learns that beer and meat were prescribed alongside sarsaparilla and an application of leeches (possibly for rheumatism). Conversely, from Stutter's notes we can see that sometimes no case histories were actually written down, and that diagnoses often went unrecorded. Perhaps this was because Stutter was overworked, or perhaps the diagnosis in question seemed obvious to him, if not the modern reader. Fortunately, the editors have attempted to second-guess what has been omitted. The editorial decision to cross reference patients in the appendices by means of Stutter's old casebook page numbers rather than the newer pagination is however frustrating. (The provision of two indices, one of people and places and one general and medical, does help ameliorate this.) The appendices are well laid out, and explain the treatments given to patients, from dry cupping to blistering plasters to vapour baths, the last of which became very popular during the nineteenth century.

The intention of the editors was threefold. The first was to provide an edited text that would act as a 'Rosetta stone' for those attempting to read other such documents. The second was to throw light on commonly employed treatments in a provincial hospital. Lastly, through a study of patient records (with all their omissions) and hospital minutes, they hoped to glean an impression of life in one such provincial general hospital. Bearing in mind the limitations of the source, they have succeeded in putting together an erudite study, blighted only by the complexities of cross-referencing. This is a book to be consulted periodically rather than to be devoured from cover to cover, although it is, nevertheless, an effortless read.

Mary Devonshire

***John Buxton Norfolk Gentleman and Architect*, ed. Alan Mackley (Norfolk Record Society lxi, 2005) 216 pp + xiv + 8 illustrations. ISBN 095382 987 1**

Celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary, the Norfolk Record Society has published as its annual volume the 152 letters John Buxton (1685-1731) wrote to his son in the 1720's. Buxton, no connection of the Buxtons of brewing and anti-slavery fame, was a member of an old South Norfolk landed family. Well connected to other gentry families in East Anglia, he derived an income of around £1,200 from his 4,400 acre estates at Tibbenham, the family's principal seat, and at Rushford, near Thetford. He was a remarkable country gentleman quite defying the Squire Western stereotype of the early Georgian landowner, soaked in

liquor, passionate only about his horses and hounds.

John Buxton was educated at Bury St. Edmunds Grammar School, Clare Hall, and possibly at the Inns of Court. He read French and Italian besides Greek and Latin. He possessed a first rate library and was interested, not in religion and politics, although he dutifully served as justice of the peace and as deputy lieutenant, but in architecture. Three Norfolk houses are testimony to his "fine genius and very curious designs" as a contemporary described him. He provided designs for Bixley Hall (demolished in the early twentieth century) and built for himself Earsham Hall in 1712 and, between 1727 and 1729, Shadwell Lodge, the modest precursor of the present Shadwell Park. The letters reveal the great care he took in remodelling Tibbenham in the mid-1720s and the siting and construction of Shadwell, intended to be a healthier retreat for his young family than Tibbenham mired in the heavy clays of South Norfolk.

But there is much more than a concern for building in the letters. They reveal the enormous interest he took in Robert's education and those of his other three sons. Although the schooling of his daughters was probably more cursory, he was very affectionate about all his eight surviving children. There are two wonderful vignettes: one of his children, down to a three year old, planting acorns with him; one of the assistance his young wife had from them when she was laid up in child birth. Unsurprisingly, there is a great preoccupation with health. Five generations of the Buxton family were remarkably short-lived. His father died at thirty-two; his grandfather at twenty-nine, leaving seven children. Death and ill-health stalk the correspondence, a vivid glimpse from one gentry family of the demographic crisis of the 1650-1730 period.

Buxton was well travelled in England (he never made a Grand Tour), visiting London and Bath and, when he had the opportunity, numerous new built country houses. Bristol, reckoned by Bristolians to be England's second city, "did not answer expectations". Endearingly, he continued, "I think Norwich twice as large and ten times a finer town". The letters are a delight. They reveal the life of an early Enlightenment gentleman, perhaps somewhat unexpectedly tucked away in deepest, remote South Norfolk. As the editor concludes the letters are a reminder that the early eighteenth century squire could be a man of deep learning, wide interests and great affection.

Alan Mackley edits the letters with great skill and produces a helpful and well researched introduction. He also provides five appendices: a catalogue of Robert Buxton's books; a calculation of his father's wealth and income in 1710; and three accounts of country house tours. The volume is well-illustrated, its jacket a welcome innovation in the Society's series.

Richard Wilson

# EVENTS

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## Helen Sutermeister Memorial Lecture 2006

Thursday 9 November at 7pm (Lecture Theatre 2 (opposite the Library)). All welcome.

Dr Tom Williamson, UEA, *Re-Thinking the Medieval East Anglian Landscape*

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## CEAS and SCHOOL OF HISTORY (HIS) Winter Lecture Series 2007

Thursdays 15 February, 22 February, 1 March and 8 March at 7 pm in Lecture Theatre 2.

Subjects and speakers will be publicised nearer the time.

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## CEAS Associate Members' Day School 2007

Saturday 24 February starting at 10.00 at UEA.

Subjects, speakers and location will be publicised nearer the time.

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## CEAS Seminar Programme 2006-7

The seminar will meet on Thursdays at 6.15 in the landscape room (4.35) in the School of History (floor 4 of the Arts Building – first entrance off the walkway from the car park). All welcome including Associates.

26 October	Janka Rodziewicz, HIS postgraduate	<i>Policing Great Yarmouth in the late fourteenth century</i>
23 November	Simon Sandall and Fiona Williamson, HIS postgraduates	<i>Perceptions of Space and Power in Seventeenth-Century England: A Comparative Discussion of Norfolk and the Forest of Dean</i>
7 December	Dominic Summers, WAM postgraduate	<i>Grand Community Projects: Norfolk Church Towers in the Late Middle Ages</i>
25 January	Dr Vic Morgan, HIS	<i>The Origins of Guild Day in Norwich</i>
8 February	David King, HIS	<i>Fifteenth-Century Stained Glass and The N-Town Cycle</i>
15 March	Dr John Alban, Norfolk County Archivist	<i>Attack and Defence on the East Anglian Coast in the 1380s</i>

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## CEAS and School of History Conference to be held at UEA, 29-31 March 2007

**Urban Mentalities: Becoming a Town Dweller in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods**

(Details of programme and associated events will be publicised nearer the time)

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## Lectures in Suffolk in conjunction with the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History

Saturdays at 2.30 pm at The Barn, Haughley Park. £2.00 for non-members.

11 November	Ian Tyers – University of Sheffield	<i>Dendrochronology</i>
9 December	Richard Glass – West Suffolk College	<i>Nineteenth century Suffolk agriculture</i>
13 January	David Sherlock – retired Inspector of Ancient Monuments	<i>Suffolk Church Chests</i>
10 February	Dr Rhodri Gardner – Suffolk Archaeological Service	<i>Ipswich Waterfront</i>
10 March	Timothy Easton – architectural historian	<i>Sixteenth and seventeenth century portals</i>

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## Keeping in touch ...

First, you with us:

Within the next six weeks some of the pages on the CEAS website will be revamped. We will try to ensure that the introductory page will carry late-breaking news regarding events ("Yes, as of 5pm this evening the lecture will take place despite the six-foot snowdrifts ..."). Go to: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/Centre of East Anglian Studies/> (and why not add it to your "Favourites" in your web browser). In addition, the new pages will provide email contacts for specific purposes such as enrolment for conferences.

For email and telephone information about lectures and conferences (not research seminars) you can also contact Shawn Alexander on 01603-592286; [s.alexander@uea.ac.uk](mailto:s.alexander@uea.ac.uk). For ongoing contact and messages, and the purchase of CEAS publications, during normal office hours you can contact Melanie Watling on 01603-593521; [m.watling@uea.ac.uk](mailto:m.watling@uea.ac.uk).

Second, us with you:

If you would like to receive reminders about imminent events, or warnings about last minute changes ("there are six-feet deep snowdrifts, tonight's lecture is cancelled ...") please let us have your email address. Simply send an email with "CENTRE OF EAST ANGLIAN STUDIES reminders" in the header (the "To" line), to [victor.morgan@uea.ac.uk](mailto:victor.morgan@uea.ac.uk). (Please do not use this address for other inquiries.) Unless you apply for this service we will not contact you in this way.



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