

GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Free to members,
50p where sold

SPRING/
SUMMER 2010

Thanks to Val Huestis' plea in the last newsletter, Peter Coote has volunteered to help with the editing. Peter has brought his technical and artistic skills to bear on this issue and I hope you all enjoy his presentation.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Val for finding the time to produce the newsletter during the past couple of years, despite many more pressing commitments.

In recent issues, Brian Smith has been providing an update on Glemsford's wildlife. As this month's contribution, I have provided a photograph of another species that has recently moved into our village.

On the 19th of August 2009, I came across the Wasp Spider *Argiope bruennichi* on the "Foxearth Meadows", part of which is in Glemsford! Until recently, this Spider has been confined to the southernmost counties of England. However, four years ago, a friend came across one at Dawes Hall, Lamarsh. The following year, another was seen at Cornard Country Park.

Since then, others have been found as far north as Lowestoft. Is this another example of climate change and has our colonist managed to survive the winter?



Robin Ford
Editor



President:
George Grover

Chairman:
Patrick Currie

Treasurer:
Rowland Hill

Secretary:
Margaret King
01787 280996

Transcript of tithe list from Horham



The Customs of the Parish of Horham in the county of Suffolk viz:

Imprimis

Fifteen tithe Cheeses made upon fifteen tithe days brought home to the Parsonage house. Eight upon Lammas day and seven upon Michealmas {sic} day. the first cheese to be made upon the first day of May in every year & so every tenth day after till the fifteen cheeses be made, the said cheeses are to be made one meale flet and one meal unflet of the whole milk & of all their Cowes that day, well salted pressed and handled & so brought home to the Parsonage aforesaid.

[flet = skimmed, meale = amount of milk given by one cow in one day]

2dly

The Calf brought home at seven weeks Old. If there be seventeen Calves the Rector to have two Calves at the same age. The Rector to pay to the owner two pence for every Calf above seventeen to twenty calves. And if there be but seven Calves the Rector to have the seventh Calf brought home at the same age, paying two pence for every calf above seven to ten so to take, so to pay for every greater [XIB] or lesser number above five. And if there be but five calves the fifth calf is to be kept as aforesaid seven weeks, & then sold for the best price, & the Rector to have one moiety of what the Calf is sold for. And what Calves there are under five Calves to pay to the Rector for every Calf twelve pence: all which payments are to be made at the Parsonage house on Lammas day aforesaid. The Sixth Calf is tithable and was Received in the year 1699 by Mr Poke who tooke his tithe in kind of William Cutting who had but six Calves.

3dly Tithe corn at the tenth sheaf

4thly Tithe Lamb brought home

5thly Tithe pig

6thly Tithe Chickens

7thly Tithe Goose fetched home

8thly Tithe wooll fetched home at Clipping

9thly Tithe for the fall of a foal 2 pence

10thly Tithe Honey

11thly Tithe hemp for every pack sowed two pence but for all new hemplands five shillings per acre according to Act of Parliament.

12thly Tithe for every Orchard two pence

13thly Tithe eggs Paid on Good Friday

14thly Tithe for every acre of Bottom Meadow four pence

15thly Tithe for every Acre of Harotland [Hard land or Harolland ?] 2 pence

[Easter Offerings Churching of women and Burials, and the Registering of Names according to the usual Custom]

For feeding of Horses, mares, Geldings & colts for the maintenance of Tillage & husbandry the custom is not to pay any thing, nor for Breeding or Bringing up young Cattle anything; nor anything for tithe wood in regard of the consumption thereof for the Dairys which is spent in the said town and Parish of Horham. But all wood solds off the Premises tho consumed in the parish pays tithe for which I find my predecessors has constantly been paid & for which wood I have been paid. [Besides these customes which were never disputed] a composition for tithe turnips has constantly been paid & likewise tithe hops & Mr Poke has received tithe flax in kind one year and another year according to the Act of Parliament.

Mortuaries are constantly paid

Extraparochial persons pay for Burial 6s 8d. Five Shillings is paid for Banns and marriage [Custom the 14th and 15th are only a provision for such as have a dairy in the Parish of Horham; for if the hay be eaten in the Parish by unprofitable Cattle [that is] when the Rector has neither calf nor cheese, or if the hay be carried out of the Parish then they pay two shillings in the pound according to the Act of Parliament] accordingly I find my predecessors have constantly received and I have received so of Mr Brookes for Butts Meadow and of others for other ground. And this must be very reasonable otherwise it would be worse with my parishioners who pay tithe Calf and Chese than with those who did not.

In search of a Grandfather

I first developed an interest in visiting my Grandfather's grave in France, after becoming totally immersed in family history research a few years ago. My Dad had tried to find out about his Father because he couldn't remember him, as he was only just two years old when his Father died of injuries received in the First World War.



My Dad spent many years visiting Somerset House in London and going around churches and graveyards in Cambridgeshire, where his family came from, and had always wanted to visit his Father's grave. However, circumstances meant that he was unable to do this, so I decided I would go instead. Of course, the popularity of family history researching now, and the ease of using the internet has meant that I have been able to find out a great deal about my ancestors, many going back several hundred years.

However, in the quest to find out about my Grandfather, I had to put quite a lot of effort into this search. His name was Leonard Lantaff Miller, born 6th May, 1888. He lived in Cambridge with his parents and eleven brothers and sisters. He became a compositor when he left school. He married my Grandmother, Kate Emily Harding, born 14th May, 1889 also of Cambridge, on 13th April, 1914. Initially, when war was declared, he had joined the Yorkshire Regiment, but later joined the 13th Battalion, the Kings Liverpool Regiment. I had found his service number, but this was when I hit the proverbial 'brick wall'.

I went on the Commonwealth War Graves site, and eventually found that

he had died in the Australian Hospital in Abbeville, France, and was buried in the Abbeville Cemetery Annexe. However, on visiting the National Archives to have a look at his war-time service record, I was to be disappointed, as his record was one of the many 'burnt ones', unfortunately destroyed during a bombing raid in the Second World War. I then tried the Kings Liverpool Regiment archives, only to be told that their website was closed for refurbishment. Where to try next? I finally got help when I posed a question on the BBC History message board, and several very kind souls pointed me in the right direction. Eventually, after many emails, I was contacted by a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Kings Liverpool Regiment, who was able to tell me where my Grandfather would have been fighting when he was mortally wounded. He also sent me a pencil-drawn sketch of the area, which shows he was fighting around the Canal Du Nord, in the battle for the Hindenburg Line in Northern France, not far from Cambrai.

As I now knew much more of the area, and the circumstances of my Grandfather's demise, the next step would be to go to France and find his grave. Easier said than done. We didn't want to drive ourselves, and I wanted to go on an organised coach trip, so that I would be able to get a lot more information given me of the area. I approached Poppy Tours, but they weren't able to help me, as they said that the cemetery where my Grandfather was buried was too far away from their organised trips.

I was disappointed, but then mentioned this to friends, who very kindly came up with the solution. They would take us, as they knew France well, and like to go several times a year. The trip I had planned was only going to be a two day one, but in the event, this became a five day trip. We set off 1st October, 2009, going through the

Channel Tunnel to Calais and down the coast to Abbeville. We were booked in for two nights at a hotel there. ▶

The next day, we set off to find the cemetery. It was adjoining a French cemetery, where the graves stand tall above the ground. The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery was peaceful, and beautifully kept. It wasn't a huge one, but still there were over a thousand graves there, each of them were of the wounded, who had died in the hospital. The cemeteries all have maps and plans, which show you where a particular grave is. I found my Grandfather's grave myself, towards the rear of the cemetery, overlooking the fields. I felt strange, looking at this grave, knowing that this was my Grandfather's last resting place, but also knowing that he was a stranger. I spent a while just standing there, and reflecting, before we left.

The next day, we travelled north east, visiting several different memorials and looking at cemeteries of the war dead. I found this very interesting and it gave me more of an insight into what had happened and where everything took place. All the cemeteries are well-kept and peaceful, though it is sad that so many of the graves are not named. Finally we reached Belgium, where we had booked into a Chateau for the next two nights. This Chateau had been held in German hands for part of the war, and there were German trenches still in the grounds, and a German dug-out.

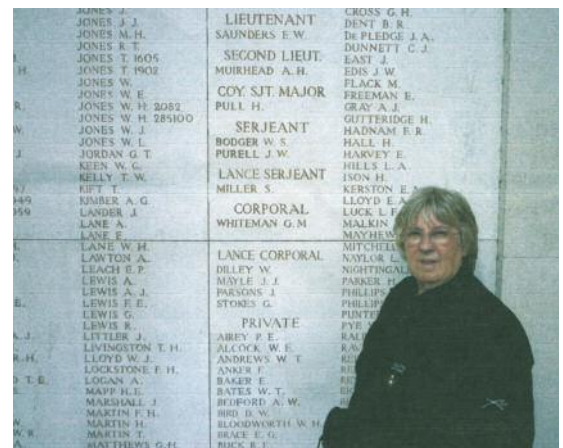


I had made up a posy of silk poppies and a verse on a card, which I placed beneath my Grandfather's headstone.

The next day we spent in Ypres, visiting the Cathedral, and the Flanders Museum which is housed in St. George's Cloth Hall, then we went to the Menin Gate. This is a huge monument, with some 58,000 names engraved on it to the

missing. This monument is one of five which was built to remember those with no known grave. In the evening, we attended the nightly service. At 8pm, the road is closed and the monument is lit up. Four Belgium buglers played the Last Post, and a lone piper played the Lament. It is very moving and there was quite a large crowd there to watch. The service only takes a short while, then the road reopens and the crowd disperses.

My Grandfather's brother, Lance Serjeant Stanley Bertram Miller, lost his life on 31st July 1917 in the Battle of Passchendaele, but has no known grave, so his name is engraved on Panel 50 of the Menin Gate. The next day, it was very wet, and we made our way back home. Luckily for us, during the time we were there, we had fine weather, but you can appreciate how awful conditions were for the soldiers in the First World War. The fields are huge, and fairly flat, and particularly in France, there aren't many communities, just this barren land. It seemed hardly worth fighting over, and definitely not worth the tremendous loss of life.

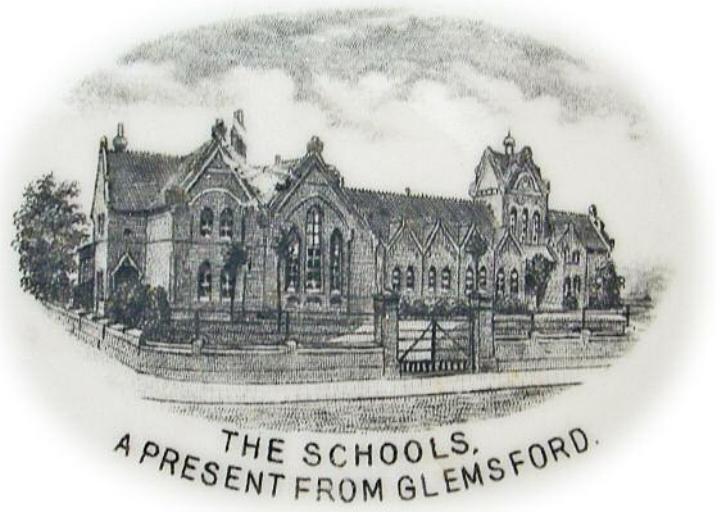


My Great Uncle's name engraved on the Menin Gate, just above and to the left of my picture.

On my return home, I felt pleased to have visited both my Grandfather's grave, and seeing the Menin Gate where Great Uncle Stanley's name is engraved. It now draws a line under their part in my family history, and I can move on. Would I go back to visit again? Well I'm not sure at this moment in time, but perhaps I would.

Susan Smith

A 'Present' from Glemsford



Last Summer, the Society was presented with a china plate, transfer printed with a picture of 'Glemsford Schools' (See photo). As with postcards, it had become fashionable towards the turn of the 19th/20th century for people to buy views, printed on china, wooden boxes or other bric-a-brac, of places they visited. A village retailer would order these souvenirs or 'presents' from a travelling sales representative and provide him with a print of a notable village scene. Much of the china was imported from Germany but our example appears to be English and probably originated in Staffordshire. Very little is known about the suppliers of these wares, but they were probably only decorating establishments, applying the prints and gilding to white china 'blanks' bought in from a major pottery manufacturer. This would explain the lack of marks to be found on such wares.

Transfer printing onto china was invented in England in the middle of the 18th century. The design is engraved onto a copper plate which is then charged with a heated mixture of colouring oxide and oil. The excess having been wiped off, a wet tissue paper is pressed onto the plate, peeled off and applied to the treated glazed surface of the china article. The tissue paper is finally washed off and the article is fired in an enamelling kiln.

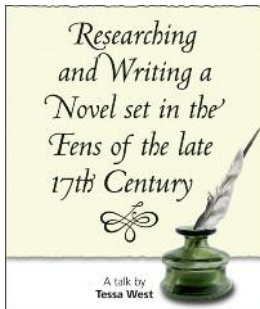
Pioneers of the technique included the Liverpool firm of Sadler and Green who produced wares for Josiah Wedgwood, and Robert Hancock who worked at the Worcester Porcelain factory.

The illustrated tea bowl was made at Worcester in about 1760, at a time when a deep black was still difficult to produce. There are a number of examples of Worcester on-glaze transfer printed china from this period and bearing prints after Thomas Gainsborough, to be seen at Gainsborough's House in Sudbury. The decoration to be found on our Glemsford plate would have been applied in much the same manner.

There are two questions that immediately spring to mind. Who was the Glemsford retailer (perhaps a General Stores), and who designed the print of 'Glemsford Schools' ?



GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY News



TESSA WEST, an author who lives in the village, was our first speaker of the New Year. On a dimly damp and foggy January evening, Tessa spoke initially of her early family life and career and how via a route of teaching, firstly in schools then in prisons – employment which led to a great deal of other prison work – she finally came to writing roughly ten years ago.

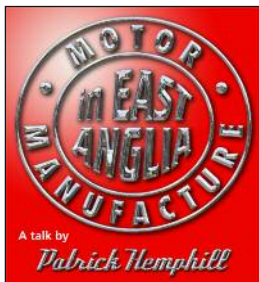
She realised then her innate love of writing and this, together with a passion for cycling and exploring the East Anglian countryside in which she has resided most of her adult life, led to the production and publication of her first three novels. These all deal with fictitious characters; all are set in atmospheric East Anglian landscapes yet at auspicious times of challenge and change allowing authentic events to be included.

Thus *The Estuary* is a tale of the Deben River at Felixstowe Ferry involving R.A.F.

personnel working in radar at Bawdsey Manor and set in 1952-1953 when the East Coast floods wrought havoc.

The later novels reflect Tessa's work with prisoners and her growing interest in communities on the outside. *The Red Flute* set in and around Great Yarmouth and the Norfolk Broads, features a family of Iraqi asylum seekers; while in *Companion to Owls* she takes readers to the flatlands, dykes and channels of the Fens during the 17th century when both Huguenot refugees and Scottish prisoners of war were located to the area to build and maintain the waterways.

Tessa emphasised the importance of painstaking research, citing the amount of personal reading and information collecting that is involved. Throughout she read some impressive excerpts from all her books and concluded this most enjoyable and interesting talk by taking questions from the floor.

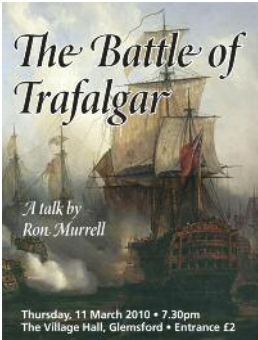


A VERY LARGE ATTENDANCE of nearly 50 came to listen to Patrick Hemphill, one of the Society's most active members, give a talk on 'Motor Manufacture in East Anglia', a topic which included up to ten manufacturers covering the areas of Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

Using slides to illustrate his talk, Patrick showed us a large variety of cars including steam buses, wagons and the first Ford, dating from the 1890s/ early 1900s, through to sports cars – the Astral, Lotus, Lola, Ginnetta and a recreation of a pre-war Jaguar. It was most interesting to hear that all these cars had been designed and developed in our part of the country and that many were linked to famous names in the motor business – Bentall, Chapman, Clarkson, Mansell, Hill and Surtees to name but a few.

Custom cars come and go but there never was one more odd than the Swan Car built in 1910 by the Lowestoft-based Brook company. Beautifully fashioned to resemble an enormous swan with glowing red eyes, it was designed and driven through the streets of Calcutta, by one Robert Matterson, an officer from the days of the Raj, who liked nothing better than to play its internal pipe organ while spraying the populace with hot water from the beak and white wash from the rear! No small wonder that he was regularly arrested! This marvel of motoring can still be seen in a Dutch museum.

Many thanks to Patrick for such an entertaining evening.



RON MURRELL, our March speaker, really brought the Battle of Trafalgar to life for a large audience of members and visitors.

With the use of contemporary paintings he described the differing personalities of the two main protagonists – Admiral Nelson on the one hand, a superb naval commander, and on the other Napoleon who, while super-confident in all he did, was a man unversed in the capriciousness of the sea and utterly reliant upon his allied French and Spanish captains when it came to fighting tactics.

Moreover Britain possessed a well-practised, fitter naval force well used to spending long periods at sea, while the allied crews – many of whom were suffering from scurvy – were often incompatible and basically untried.

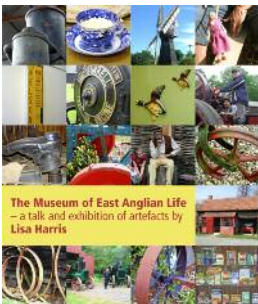
The battle date, October 21st 1805, was the culmination of weeks of manoeuvres, blockades, attacks and counterattacks

and Britain's strategy was to force two breaks in the enemy lines and then to use a variety of cannon-ball fire in attack.

The 'live' reports from which Ron read confirm that fighting was fierce, brutal, ear-shatteringly loud and chaotic; the paintings show the general blood and carnage – and yet Nelson's navy managed to achieve victory without losing one ship.

By the time the allied force surrendered, Nelson himself was mortally wounded, shot through the spine by a musket ball, although he heard the jubilant British cheers. His body was, as he requested, sent home to England in a barrel of brandy.

Trafalgar, for all the tragic loss of life, remains a great sea battle and as Ron said in this most interesting talk very much a strategic success for the British naval forces.



OUR SPEAKER FOR APRIL, Lisa Harris, from the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket, kept another very large audience entertained with a most professional presentation of photographs and accompanying information.

The museum evolved during the mid 20th century being the brain-child of the Misses Longe who were very aware that, with the ever changing face of mechanisation, many of the old tools, skills and crafts would be lost for good. To this end they donated over 70 acres and their 18th century home, Abbot's Hall, in trust to house what was then a large collection of artefacts in temporary storage.

Today the aim is to appeal to all groups and ages of visitors, from the young learning about the past for the first time, to those who can identify with many of

the exhibits. As visitors explore a number of restored historic buildings including a tithe barn, they can discover working steam engines, farming machinery, kitchens and grocery displays from days of yore, in addition to enjoying the farm animals, the Punch Horses and other members of the Suffolk Trinity, plus some rare breeds of cattle and sheep. Special days featuring gypsy culture, country crafts, music and beer festivals are also held on a regular basis.

It was obvious that Lisa approached her job as the Collections Manager with an infectious enthusiasm, which will doubtlessly be infused into future exciting projects including complete restoration of the Hall and the walled gardens. So visit the Museum of East Anglian Life - it makes a truly great day out for all the family!



ON SATURDAY, APRIL 17th, 50 members and friends of the Glemsford Local History Society enjoyed a day's outing by coach to Norwich.

On arrival in the city we gathered in the Forum for a Blue Badge guided tour when three guides took us around both old and new areas including many well-known landmarks such as Elm Hill, the lanes, the market, Tombland and finally the cathedral. We learnt a great deal about the history of Norwich, its famous

and sometimes infamous inhabitants and its most notable buildings.

Following the tour we had plenty of leisure time to explore, to shop or just stroll by the river.

The icing on the cake was the splendid weather – wall to wall sunshine, an added bonus in April – and all agreed the day had been a great success. This may be an experiment well worth repeating in future years.

Margaret King Secretary

Discovering 'Treasure'!!

Following on from the recent metal detectorists' visit to Glemsford, where they made a number of fantastic discoveries, particularly that of the Roman Lamp in the field opposite Clockhouse Farm, I was very interested in the idea that a Roman Villa might have been located in that field.

As I often walk down the side of the field and across the middle of the field on the public footpath with my dog, I always keep looking to see if I might spot something. Up to now, I haven't seen anything of note, only perhaps a broken piece from a plough. Then just beside

the path, I spotted it – it was a large piece of metal. I got very excited. Was this an historical piece?

Well it was a large piece of metal all right! It was most likely Victorian and made of iron. It certainly was very heavy! I carried my treasure home to show my wife. We washed the mud from it and it was pretty clear just what it was:-

A VICTORIAN SOLID IRON GATE FINIAL

Somewhat disappointed by what might have been, I took a photo for posterity.

Brian Smith



PROGRAMME 2010 / 2011

2010

Thursday **Monica Place** (a National Trust speaker):
September 9th Richard Cobbold's Wortham – a Victorian Village.

Thursday **Nick Sign:** Suffolk to the New World –
October 14th John Winthrop of Groton.

Thursday **Annual General Meeting** –
November 11th Members' Talks.

Saturday **President's Evening** – hosted by Mr George Grover
December 11th at 'Chequers' (members only).

2011

Thursday **Peter Minter:**
January 13th Brickmaking and our Country's Heritage.

Thursday **Sylvia Horder:** Hedingham Castle –
February 10th from Norman Times to the Present Day.

Thursday **Roy Tricker:**
March 10th More Eccentric Local Anglican Clerical Characters.

Thursday **Barrie Stevenson:** Antiques Roadshow.
April 14th (Only one item per person; no valuations given.)

Thursday **David Eddershaw:**
May 12th Pakenham Watermill.

Thursday **A Summer Evening Outing to**
June 9th **Pakenham Watermill** for a guided tour.

Thursday **A Summer's Evening Function** –
July 7th to be arranged.



Newsletter | Spring/Summer 2010 edition

Annual Subscription: £10.00 **Visitors:** £2.00 per time

We meet on every 2nd Thursday of the month in Glemsford Village Hall at 7.30pm.

We welcome your continued support and that of others. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join us.