

## Let's celebrate!

The Society has so much to celebrate. Even at that first Society "gathering" in the Church Hall, it was obvious that there was a huge interest in local history and in Glemsford's history.

Looking back to that meeting, I want to acknowledge the central role of Richard Deeks, whose work really created a framework on which the Society could build, but let's also not forget the part played by all the other people who created that first committee and got the Society working.

They responded to the interest and fed it; so, the interest grew, and the Society continues to serve that growth.

At its heart, though, is this unique village, with its history and its people.

That familiar Glemsford journey from the Three Turns to Scotchford Bridge provides a view of History in action – the village's links to agriculture and industry, its huge variety (in size and age) of domestic buildings, its range of religious sites, the greens, the shops, the school, the inns, the reminders of good times and bad, rich and poor, argument and unity, peace and war.



Above all, that journey helps explain why the Society exists and why there is so much to keep it busy for many more years.

In celebrating 20 years of the Society, let's also celebrate 1000+ years of Glemsford, a village and its people.

**Steve Clark** - Guest Editorial



**President:**  
George Grover

**Chairman:**  
Patrick Currie

**Treasurer:**  
Rowland Hill

**Secretary:**  
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# Delving Into Glemsford's Past

As some of the Club Members already know, I like to look for fossils and flints on my doggie walks, and recently decided I would like to find out more about the articles I had found over the years.



*Flint finds from an excavation in Sussex.*

Firstly I sorted out a tray of flints and made an appointment at the Suffolk Archaeological Service in Bury St. Edmunds to see Dr. Colin Pendleton, who picked out two flints to study further. After a few months I finally went back to collect the flints which had been identified and catalogued as a Mesolithic Axehead and a Lithic Implement. These flints have now been recorded by the British Museum and can be viewed on the following website: [www.fnds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id](http://www.fnds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id) items 393687 and 393689 respectively.

I hope we can put this information on the Club Website so that it is easier to access.

The exciting thing about the flints is that the Axehead has been dated circa 8300BC to 4500BC, which means it is possibly the oldest flint found in this area after the last Ice Age, when Glemsford first became inhabited (Mesolithic Period).

The Lithic Implement was dated to the later phases of the Prehistoric Period circa 3500BC TO 1000BC.

Although these flints are not up to the class of the ones shown in Museums, they are still very important in mapping out the past in our village, and I will make them available for Members to see.

## The Finds Keep Coming

Following on from researching my flint collection, I decided that I must try and date some of the many fossilized shells I have found in Glemsford on land I had the owner's kind permission to explore.

I went back to Bury St. Edmunds' Archaeological Service, but they don't deal with shells so they sent me to the Moyses' Museum in Bury St. Edmunds, who, in turn, gave me a contact at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Cambridge University. I made an appointment to see a Finds Expert called Dan Pemberton, and spent a morning with him. The Sedgwick Museum is one of the World's greatest geological Museums and houses an amazing collection of finds. It is also free to the public to visit.

My shells were sorted into groups and then dated, and I was astonished at the result. The shells dated from 90 million to 199 million years' old These must be the

oldest things ever found in our village and they have given me some more clues into the forming of Glemsford.

There were several Ice Ages, as you all know, and land was pushed from all directions, sometimes several times, and this resulted in materials from many areas finishing up in one place.

It has been found that my shells possibly came from Yorkshire in the Lower Jurassic Period; from the Oxford Clay, Lower, Middle and Upper Jurassic Period; and from the Chalk, Upper Cretaceous Period. I had previously thought from an article I had read, that Glemsford was formed from land which was carried down from the Norfolk Coast. I have now changed my mind in the light of the evidence and information I have been given by the Sedgwick Museum.

**Brian Smith**

# June's Spectacular Wildlife



The first two weeks of June provided Glemsford's wildlife watchers with two thrilling events at either end of the village.

The easiest to see occurred along the B1066 between Glemsford and Boxted. A section of hedge had been covered with a silken tent created by thousands of caterpillars of the Small Ermine Moth *Yponomeuta*.

There are several species of this micro moth, each one favouring a different food plant. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* are the usual food source, but, on examining the few remaining leaves, our hedge appeared to consist mainly of Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*. The adult moth has white wings covered with tiny black dots.

The second spectacle was for the keen birdwatcher or "Twitcher". On the 5th of

June, a friend from Long Melford discovered a Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* that had set up a territory just within the perimeter fence of the old Bush Boake Allen factory.

Marsh Warblers are difficult to tell apart from Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, inhabitants of our reed beds in summer. The Marsh Warbler differs, however, in its song which mimics other birds and its preference for willow scrub. A few birds breed in Worcestershire but, in recent years, increasing numbers have been seen on migration in Suffolk; and it is thought a pair may have bred in our county in 2009.

A steady stream of "Twitchers" was seen to wend its way down the track from the main road during the bird's week-long stay.

**Robin Ford**

# GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY News



OUR MAY MEETING took the form of a visit to Boxted Church. Historian Clive Paine, our guide for the evening, pointed out various architectural features from the outside of the church, including the absence of buttresses (the church was solid and well built), and an attractive Arts and Crafts chimney. Before going into the church, Clive gave a brief history of Boxted Hall as we looked down towards it from the vantage point of the churchyard.

Moving into the warmth of the church, we all took seats in the pews, some of which were boxed. The pre-reformation history of the fabric of the building was described colourfully, and the carving on the roof picked out with extra lighting to show the detail, some in the style of

fabric wound around a rod, creating the look of a barber's pole.

The coats of arms of the Poley and the Weller Poley families were very much in evidence, for this is their property. The very ornate memorial to Sir John Poley, who died in 1638 is a complete contrast to the black and shiny bog-oak effigy of the Tudor Poles, William and Alice. (Apparently the nursery rhyme 'a frog he would a wooing go... Rowly, poley, gammon and spinach' relates to the frog earring worn by this Sir John Poley). Approximately 33 members and 11 visitors enjoyed this excellently informative outing.

**Jenny Wears**



*Last year, Ashley published this charming book. Illustrated by his friend Benjamin Perkins, it would make an ideal stocking filler for a child or grandchild.*

OUR JUNE MEETING took the form of a visit to Ashley Cooper's Museum in his farmhouse at Gestingthorpe. Established following the discovery of a Roman villa on the Cooper land during the late 1940s/ early 1950s, the Museum has become a very popular destination for parties of adults and groups of schoolchildren looking to discover more about everyday life in Roman Britain.

A somewhat overcast and chilly evening discouraged a walk to the villa's original site, but fortunately failed to deter our enjoyment of the museum and other internal exhibitions, which were so competently shown to us by Ashley and his father, the farmer responsible for the initial discovery. The Museum in recent years has gone from strength to strength and now boasts a veritable array of Roman artefacts ranging from beautifully delicate jewellery to weapons,

farm tools and cooking utensils. All the finds are well displayed and many are complemented by accurate and colourful paintings, commissioned from an artist friend, which reconstruct exactly how life would have been lived in Roman Gestingthorpe.

Equally interesting, although from a much later era, were the collections of old farming machinery such as ploughs and seed drills along with many hand tools used in general maintenance which were all stored in a number of barns next to the house. A few of us could recall seeing some of these tools in use!

Ending with refreshments of coffee and biscuits, this was a very successful evening visit thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

**Margaret King**

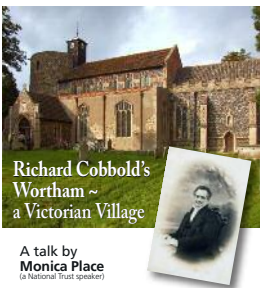


ANOTHER VERY BIG thank you goes to Pauline and Patrick Currie for hosting a very successful Summer Evening's function in July. Unfortunately, owing to holidays, Margaret King missed out on a really great evening with lots of good food, drink, and convivial company.

The evening began with another of Patrick Hemphill's challenging, clue-searching, scatter walks. We gathered together by the village sign without realising that some of us were sitting on the answer to one of the clues!



### Robin Ford



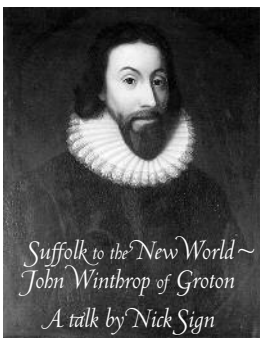
THERE WAS A very good attendance of both old and new members at the first meeting of the new season to hear speaker Monica Place tell us about the north Suffolk village of Wortham in Victorian days.

Richard Cobbold, an ancestor of the Tolly Cobbold dynasty from Ipswich, was the rector of Wortham for much of the 19th century and, fortunately for the village, not only did he supervise its spiritual needs but also found time to record details of events and daily doings of its inhabitants. More compelling still was

the fact that Richard Cobbold loved painting and he has left behind a remarkable legacy – a complete portfolio of his idiosyncratic portraits of village scenes and characters. And what characters they were!

Reading from Cobbold's own words, and complimenting them with her own brand of gentle humour Monica gave us a fascinating insight into what it was like to live, work and socialise in a Victorian village.

### Margaret King



AT THE OCTOBER MEETING a large audience enjoyed Nick Sign's most informative account of the life and times of John Winthrop, owner of nearby Groton Manor in the 17th century.

Born in 1588 and after a relatively privileged life including spells at Cambridge University and Law School in London, Winthrop, already involved with the Puritan movement, was becoming increasingly unhappy with the depressed state of the general economy as well as the ritualistic, religious practices of the time in Protestant worship. Anything that smacked of Popish idolatry plus the general ethos of Charles I was frowned upon, thus when the King disastrously dissolved parliament in 1629 it did not take long for progressive individuals such as Winthrop to decide to follow their 1620 forebears, the Pilgrim Fathers, and emigrate to the new colonies in America.

In 1630 a fleet of 11 ships comprising 700 emigrants and 400 seamen set sail from the Isle of Wight on a long and arduous six-week journey. On arrival the sheer amount of work which these pioneers had to tackle must have been overwhelming. Houses had to be built, land made fertile, crops planted, children educated. After some initial skirmishes with the Native Americans the newcomers learnt to trade with them; they learnt how to make boats, and how to avoid settling in marshy areas prone to fevers such as malaria.

John Winthrop became the first governor of the colony; the New England community thrived and spread under his leadership and to this day his descendants are to be found there. Many thanks Nick for such a fascinating talk.

### Margaret King

# PROGRAMME 2010 / 2011

## 2010

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.

Robin –

I have checked with  
Patrick Currie and **The  
Three Turns** is correct  
(he has the photos to  
prove it!).