

GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Free to members,
50p where sold

SPRING 2018

Law 'n' Order

This Spring edition of your newsletter, coming late in the season, bids a good farewell to the unwelcome wintery start. We look forward to some Bank Holidays and have hopefully enjoyed our first Society outing.

Somehow a theme of police-related items make up this newsletter, the 'pot' being empty. Please members, you must have something you could share with us! How about any history that has been uncovered in a house renovation or a family history connection to Glemsford from a new resident in the village, perhaps you've come across something else you could share?

I enjoy my visits and searches at the West Suffolk R/O, but don't want to see my name at the end of each piece in **your** Newsletter! So while relaxing over the summer, cast your mind around and think about putting pen to paper or digit to keyboard. The Oct/Nov issue will concentrate on the end of the First World War.

Jenny Wears, Editor
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PS It seems the trip to Peterborough was enjoyed, despite the very wet weather. The Cathedral, museums, shopping, and plenty of respite in tea rooms etc provided something for everyone.



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Printed and published by Glemsford Local History Society **Editor:** Jenny Wears **Design and Production:** Pete Coote
The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society as a whole.

Transported Burglars

I recently obtained a copy of the Richard Deeks book *Transportees from Suffolk to Australia 1787-1867* (1995), and although some members will be familiar with its contents, I suspect many will not be. I was surprised by the number of Glemsford 'convicts' transported for burglary and other forms of theft, besides those being punished for agricultural dissent such as arson, involving barns, crops and machinery. I have picked out the cases of 'burglarising' in the village, one, a Mr Hickford being unfortunate in being burgled twice in as many years.

The information in the book was obtained by Mr Deeks from records at PRO Kew and Bury St Edmunds, with description of the cases from the Bury & Norwich Post and Ipswich Journal. I have tried to add to this by checking the newspaper reports in the Bury & Norwich Post but Mr Deeks had gleaned all the details available. The other local papers either do not date back to the 1820s/30s, or they have not been transferred to microfilm/fiche for the Record Office. So here are the entries relating to burglaries in the village.

All the reports came from the Bury & Norwich Post.

1824, 24th March: William Cranfield (aged 16) convicted at Suffolk Assizes, Bury St Edmunds. Sentenced to death, reprieved and transported for life – for burglary in the house of George Hickford of Glemsford, with Robert Bradman and Thomas Wright. (these two were hanged at Bury Goal 21st April 1824). Ship, *Mangles*.



1825, 25th March: Joseph Hartley Stammers convicted at Suffolk Assizes, Bury St Edmunds. Sentenced to death, reprieved and transported for 14 years – for having burglariously entered the dwelling house of Mr. John Bigg at Glemsford and stolen between £70 and £100 in gold and silver.
Ship, *Marquess of Hastings*.

1826, 13th July: John Clark convicted at Suffolk Assizes, Bury St Edmunds sentenced to death, reprieved and transported for life – for burglariously entering the dwelling house of Mr George Hickford of Glemsford and stealing from the bedroom in which he was sleeping eighteen shillings of copper coin, three sixpences and a handkerchief.
Ship, *Governor Ready*.

1827, 15th January: James Pearman convicted at Bury St Edmunds Quarter Sessions, sentenced to be transported for 7 years – for stealing, with Edward Bland, a quantity of cloth etc., to the value of £70, from the shop of John King of Glemsford. (Edward Bland received the same sentence.)
Ship, *Governor Ready*.

1832, 15th March: Charles Stains convicted at Suffolk Assizes, sentenced to be transported for life – with Thomas Stains, for breaking into the shop of Frederick Golding of Glemsford and stealing thirteen shillings, a piece of calico and other articles. Ship, *Planter*.

1837, 10th January: James Pearman convicted at Suffolk Quarter Sessions, Bury St Edmunds. Sentenced to be transported for 7 years – for stealing a clock and other articles from the house of Sarah Mansfield of Glemsford no person being therein. (Very unlikely to be the same one as 1827, a not uncommon name in Glemsford.)
Ship, *Emma Eugenia*.

1838, 10th July: Abraham Brewster convicted at Suffolk Quarter Sessions, Bury St Edmunds. Sentenced to be transported for 10 years – for breaking into the dwelling house of James Fenn of Glemsford.
Ship, *Gilmore*.

1839, 8th January: John Gridley convicted at Suffolk Quarter Sessions, Bury St Edmunds. Sentenced to be transported for 15 years – for stealing, in the night time, from the person of James Wales of Glemsford, six and a half pence, an empty purse and a clasp knife. (Died on voyage 10th June 1839.)
Ship, *Marquis of Hastings*.

1840, 7th January: William Shepherd convicted at Suffolk Quarter Sessions, Bury St Edmunds. Sentenced to be transported for 10 years – with Charles Brewster, ‘two desperate boys’ for entering the dwelling house of Mr. Sidney Eldred of Glemsford during the hours of divine service and stealing 9 sovereigns, some odd silver, a marked shilling, a pocket book, workbox, a silver watch and sundry other articles.
Ship, *Eden*.

Did James Gridley get more than his ‘just desserts’, by dying on the voyage, when he may have survived his sentence to return to Glemsford? Mind you on 28th June 1842, the *Waterloo* was wrecked off Capetown, on route to Van Dieman’s Land, and 143 convicts, 14 crew, 15 of the guard, 4 wives and 14 soliders’ children were drowned. The irons not taken off the prisoners until the last minute.

All information from “Transportees from Suffolk to Australia, 1787–1867” by Richard Deeks 1995

Jenny Wears

A plenitude of Peggles

Cowslips, or peggles, are in abundance at the moment – footpaths and roadside verges as well as in a few fields.

Nicholas Culpepper, astrologer-physician of the early 17thc, had several 'recipes' using these lovely little plants, not that you should go picking them to try.

No doubt some 350 years ago they were common enough for leaf, flower and root to be used for medicinal purposes and beauty ointments – vertigo, croup, back pain, freckles and wrinkles to name just a few. The flowers, pressed and conserved, taken daily for the relief of 'inward' disease, but wounds and wrinkles and sunburn required an ointment made from the leaves and hog grease.

No recipe for cowslip wine – that sounds more palatable.

JW



A new 'Glemsford' book – a work in progress

Many of you may be aware that a new book, the subject being Glemsford Pubs, is being written, hopefully ready for publication in the autumn. Three of us are making fine progress having received a good assortment of material and photos, from various members and others in the village.

Thank you.

Jenny Wears

1899 – Attempted Murder and Suicide in Glemsford

continued from last edition of Newsletter

Following the attempt on Emily Heard's life at lodgings in Glemsford, she fled to Long Melford. Here she was 'rescued' by PC Runnacles at 2.30am who took her to the Police Station. Once there a Mrs Farthing, wife of Inspector Farthing, dressed Emily's wounds and took her to Dr Horsford, who examined the wounds. Apart from several cuts on her neck, her hands were also injured, as she had defended herself against Edward Brett's assault.

Inspector Farthing then went to Glemsford with PC Ward and visited the 'scene of the crime'. They found Mr Bigg, who shared the lodging room with Edward Brett, and Mr Wm. Beeton an engineer, in the garden of the lodgings. Brett was indoors, downstairs, with a handkerchief tied about his neck, (presumably covering injuries from his suicide attempt). A quantity of blood was seen on the bedroom floor and down the stairs. A razor was found under a corner of a mattress, on the floor, by the police when they inspected the lodgings. Inspector Farthing told Brett that he would take him into custody for attempting to kill Emily Heard, with Brett replying "It's a bad job for both of us, if I get ten years I shall deserve it." The police then took the prisoner to the Police Station at Long Melford, where his wounds were dressed.

PC Ward of Glemsford had known the prisoner for about nine months and although a heavy drinker, was quiet and civil. Once Brett had been charged with attempted murder, he was then charged with attempted suicide, this was before Sir Wm. Parker at Melford Police court, later on the same Monday. (The events had taken place in the early hours).

The prisoner was then taken for trial at the Bury Assizes, with the newspaper report for 16th July, 1889 stating:

'Henry Bigg, a matting weaver, living at Glemsford, said he slept in the same room as prisoner. There were two beds in the same room. The girl slept in the same bed with the prisoner. On the last night she slept there, the Sunday night, between one and two, she cried out and called upon him for assistance. he went down and unlocked the door. She ran out of the door,

and the prisoner soon after followed down and asked where the — was. Witness told him she had gone. He went back to go to bed, and in the course of some conversation he said, "he would learn her to disgrace him" He afterwards went to bed.' Later in the proceedings at Court, the Foreman asked if the prisoner was sane. 'His Lordship said there was no evidence that he was not. If the jury acquitted him on that ground it would be far worse for him than any verdict they could find. The foreman said the prisoner would in that case be taken well care of.

His Lordship: Yes, for life.

The Foreman said there was one juryman who wished the prisoner's sanity to be tested.

His Lordship said the jury should resist any temptation to say more than guilty or not guilty.

The jury then found the prisoner guilty of intent to murder.

His Lordship said the jury had very properly found the prisoner guilty of intent to murder. There was no object as far as he could see in what he had done, short of an attempt to take the prosecutrix's life, and there was not, as far as appeared, the slightest provocation for what had been done – no quarrelling, no sign of anger, nothing passing between them; he had known her only five or six days at the utmost, and then he deliberately proceeded to take her life. There was no defence, no excuse, nothing which could be urged in extenuation of the offence, and the prisoner would have to go to penal servitude for ten years.

Bury Goal had closed some years before this murder case, leaving Norwich and Ipswich to receive 'local' criminals. Edward Brett served his time at Ipswich. It is not known whether Emily Heard returned to Brentwood.

Jenny Wears

Details from various editions of Bury & Norwich Post 1889.

A Police Presence

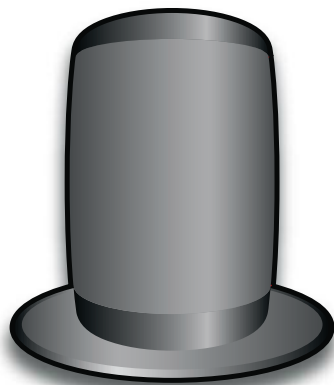
Relating to one earlier piece in the newsletter, a little detail concerning the presence of a village policeman. At the time of the 'Transportees', there was no police force as we know it, Robert Peel was yet to reorganise the London police force in his role as Home Secretary. The County Police Acts of 1839 and 1856, saw a paid police force set up in each county, those not introduced initially, were done so at the later date. East Suffolk saw the formation in 1840 while West Suffolk had to wait until 1856/7. The later Act compelled all cities, boroughs and counties to have police forces, so PC James Reid Bailey was possibly resident in Glemsford for a few years before the 1861 census return took place.

Robert Ward, who was the arresting police officer in the Emily Heard/Edward Brett case in 1889, served the village of Glemsford for

over twenty years, as a brief look through the census returns show.

The now converted 'Old Police House' on Fair Green, once housed Robert Reeve, Police Inspector in 1901. Prior to this the police residence varied. Robert Ward, as 'Inspector of Police' in 1891, was at Tye Green, after being at Clockhouse, as Sergeant of Police in 1881. As a humble PC in 1871, he was back at Tye Green. Possibly the first policeman in the village was James Reid Bailey, listed in 1861 as Police Officer, near Tye Green.

The last Police Station in the village, on Fair Green was in use in 1990, manned by Community Policeman Andy Green. This was sold by 1994 and has recently undergone conversion, just retaining the name 'The Old Police House'.



Bad roads are nothing new

John Mondes, of Glemsford, left money in his will, dated 30th April 1533, for the repair of certain roads in the village.

“...towards the repairation of certain ‘noious’ highways within the town of Glemsford, ie - Parck Lane, 66s. 8d: Hareway between Glemysford Bredge & Cavendish, £10, in the way between Strutes Tye & Hunttes Tye 66s. 8d. in the way between Downe Brooke & Strawes house 66s. 8d: & in the Rye Lane, on the back side of my house, 40s – in all £22.”

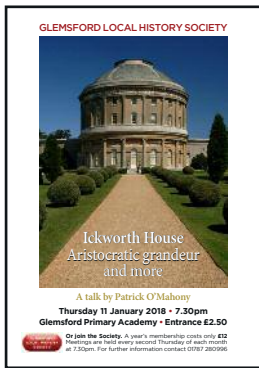
I think the Hareway may be the Highway; Downe Brooke & Strawes Hse, possibly going out of Brooke St up towards Fern (Farne)Hill; Rye Lane is, but was Strutes Tye possibly Tye Green, does anyone know?

Just for interest, the will continues “.... Elizabeth my wife to have my tenement called Rokells at the farne hill within the parish of Glemsford, in which I sometimes dwell, with all the lands – meadows & pastures, both free hold & copyhold (on condition that she maintains them). After her death property to John Golding – one of the King’s auditors.”

This comes from one of the twenty or so will transcriptions relating to Glemsford, held in the Society’s archives. They were the work of the late Eileen Lynch, a retired archivist, and an early and very active member of GLHS.

JW

GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY News



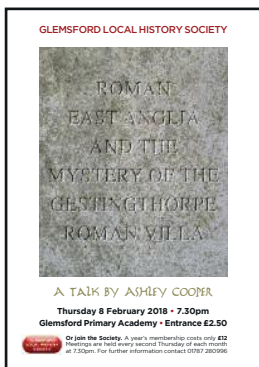
A LARGE AUDIENCE enjoyed the first talk of 2018, which was given by National Trust volunteer Patrick O'Mahony and called Ickworth House: Aristocratic Grandeur and More.

We were taken on a fascinating journey through the history of the Hervey family, who in their heyday owned 37,000 acres of land countrywide, including the present Ickworth estate.

A very old aristocratic family, it was not until the early 18th century, following his support of the Hanoverian succession, that John Hervey was made the 1st Earl. As the father of some 19 children, omens for creating a dynasty were promising, although the

gallery of heirs who went on to inherit the title was truly eclectic, a mix of Johns, Georges and Fredericks; some were womanisers, others gamblers, many involved in government, some confirmed bachelors, one gay Earl and one (Augustus) a very brave and successful Vice-Admiral.

In the late 18th century, the 4th Earl became Bishop of Derry, supplementing his income with money from the diocese to the tune of £10,000 a year. A great collector and lover of art, living mostly in Italy, it was this earl-bishop who commissioned an Italian architect to design and build the house as we know it today, resplendent with central rotunda and the two long wings.



LOCAL HISTORIAN, ASHLEY COOPER, gave us a most engaging and interesting talk about his Roman villa in Gestingthorpe and Roman East Anglia in general. The beautiful paintings of early Roman Essex by a local artist helped transport us back 2000 years to the time when the Trinovantes tribe controlled all the land around the Essex coast surrounding their capital, Camulodunum (modern Colchester). Salt from the estuaries was a precious commodity which they traded via straight roads to a number of towns and settlements which the occupying Roman forces were establishing.

Fast forward to 1945 AD when Ashley's father, having bought Hill Farm in Gestingthorpe, found some land almost impossible to plough owing to numerous pieces of red tile. Further investigations, plus an archaeological trial dig, revealed evidence of a Roman settlement. A plough share, wattle and daub walls and writing styli were amongst the finds unearthed; in 1950 the walls of a very large villa (36m x

18m), together with a hypocaust, plunge pools, baths, kitchen and dining utensils (often made from Samian pottery) were discovered.

Most exciting was in April 1965, when Mr Cooper found, deep down in the black earth, a large lidded pot which he opened for the first time in 1600 years – only to find it completely empty! Other stunning finds followed – enamelled glass jewellery, rings, pins, bracelets and a clay crucible used to melt bronze for statuettes. Many of these can be seen in Ashley's small museum at Hill Farm.

It remains a mystery as to why the villa was built where it was, in the middle of nowhere; or indeed how and why other Roman remains throughout East Anglia were established in various places. Likewise, why did the society disintegrate and the settlements become abandoned so completely?

AT OUR MARCH MEETING we welcomed speaker Stephen Govier. He entertained us with a most interesting talk on the subject of Hoxne and its history, with particular focus on the famous treasure discovered there by local resident Eric Laws when ploughing in a field at Home Farm on November 16th 1992.

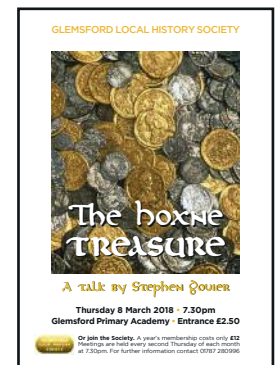
Combining his innate knowledge of the village with a fair degree of insight and humour, Stephen described the interglacial lake near Hoxne where in 1790 palaeontologist John Frere first excavated the stratifications, discovering much Stone Age flint weaponry.

Fast forward to 970 AD and the martyrdom of King Edmund, traditionally supposed to have taken place in Hoxne, although the legend is much open to dispute. To support its claim, there was a priory, a Bishop's Palace and two chapels in the village,

the latter possibly being evidence of the duality of the martyrdom; Edmund was finally beheaded, so did each chapel contain a part of the saint? Hoxne thus became a place of pilgrimage.

The 1992 hoard of 14,191 coins (the largest number ever found in Britain), gold and silver necklaces, bracelets, chains, pepper/salt pots and exquisite ornaments (the most famous being the leaping tigress) was dated back to the late Roman period. This, together with other evidence, confirmed that the area had also been a significant Roman settlement; perhaps there was a large Roman villa or farmstead. possibly on the site of Hoxne Hall?

Sadly the owners of the treasure, which was carefully packed into a large box, never returned to retrieve it. It can now be seen in its entirety in the British Museum.



Mr Gilman Game, farmer, a founding member and prolific provider of articles for the newsletter, has died recently, following a few years of infirmity.

There are six or seven men of Glemsford who died in the First World War in August of this year, but there are none listed on our memorials for the months of February to July. This is why there is no 'Remember them' section in this edition.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, **Lauri Page:**
May 10th Reading Medieval and Tudor handwriting

Thursday, **A Summer Outing at 7 pm:**
June 7th to Ashley Cooper's museum at Gestingthorpe.
Numbers are limited to 20, so those members who have already visited Hill Farm should allow other members to go. A donation of £3 will be collected at the forthcoming meeting on Thursday 10th May, when full details will be announced.
NB This replaces the usual second Thursday meeting. **No meeting on June 14th**

Thursday, **A Summer Evening's Function:**
July 12th to take place at our Chairmans' home, 3 Rectory Close, at 7.30pm. You will be notified of any further details, or changes to the 'event' nearer the time.

Thursday, **Pat Hodgkins:** John Constable.
September 13th Subscriptions for 2018/19 will be collected at this meeting.