

# **SOUTH ELMHAM AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

## ***NEWSLETTER***

**Issue No. 23**

**January 2010**



**FLIXTON HALL**  
(From "East Suffolk Illustrated" 1909)

## **Chairman's notes**

Since our last newsletter meetings have lived up to the usual standard of excellence. The visit to Stuart Orr's home and museum of radio and recorded sound was exceptional, we were made to feel very welcome, and Stuart's enthusiasm for the subject really shone through. Pip Wright gave us a wonderful insight into the lives of those transported to faraway places in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries; Australia being the usual destination for criminals of the time.

The last meeting of 2009 was a welcome return of Dr Sam Newton with this time a talk on the Halls of the Wuffings. This was a most interesting evening with Sam also talking about the recent Staffordshire hoard and its comparison with the Sutton Hoo treasure.

2010 starts with the social event at Heath Farmhouse, Homersfield. This includes good food and a tour of the house starting at 11.00 am on the 17<sup>th</sup> January. February looks to be very interesting with Mark Mitchel giving us an insight into the lives of the Paston family.

Lisa Harris from the Stowmarket Museum of East Anglian Life will be coming in March. In April Kate Jewell will be telling us all about Mediaeval Drama in Rural Suffolk.

So, the New Year looks to be just as interesting as always, I must thank those on the committee who arrange all this for us, managing to keep the meetings varied and interesting to keep us all informed.

Paul Watkin

## **Editorial**

I am most fortunate to have so many original observations, and detailed studies of our local history to include in the Newsletter. In this issue we have the first of two articles on a South Elmham site of unique archaeological interest completely unknown to most of us. The author wants to remain anonymous, and in order to protect the site is not prepared at this stage to reveal its location. He has adopted the pen name of Pertinax, whose face he found on a Roman coin. (The virtuous reign of Pertinax followed the tyranny and prodigality of the evil Commodus. With his great and long experience, and in spite of his great age, Pertinax set about reforming the organisation of the Empire. This did not please the Praetorian Guard who rose up, and on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 194 AD assassinated him only 86 days after the death of Commodus.) Our Pertinax has been studying a site in South Elmham for 15 years, and approached me at our joint meeting with the Suffolk History Council in May of 2008. Last September I invited him to write about it for our Newsletter, and was delighted when he agreed. Here now you can read the first report on this important archaeological site.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 the walk through 'Medieval' St. Margaret was a memorable occasion so nicely researched by Susan Riseborough and Audrey McLaughlin. Susan has now recorded this on page 8. Read the inventory and see that the rector of St. Margaret, the Reverend Thomas Linsley's most expensive possession was his library.

Diana Fernando gives us an erudite insight into the etymology of the names of our Christmas festive greenery on page 11.

On the front page is a picture of the last of probably three great halls at Flixton, the grandest buildings of their time in South Elmham. (See page 7)

Please see the enclosed booking form for the ten week course on local history starting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, and make your application before January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Basil Harrold

## A Suffolk Field – An Ancient Settlement

By 'Pertinax'



**Iron Age man's head (30mm)**

When I retired I wanted to do something which would be intellectually stimulating, whilst at the same time would give me exercise and fresh air, so I bought myself a metal detector. I knew nothing about the art of detecting, and so I had to teach myself. However, I had a large garden and this was the ideal teaching ground. I was agreeably surprised at what I found. The garden was full of coins all small denominations and mostly of the pre-decimal period, going back two or three hundred years. There was nothing of very great monetary value, but they were of great interest nevertheless. Other artefacts that I found were mainly consigned to the dust bin.

After a while I found that the garden was about exhausted, but by then I knew what to listen for, what to investigate further, and what to reject, and so I went out, into local fields. Here I found fewer coins, but perhaps a wider range, and certainly more interesting artefacts. Amongst the earliest finds was a selection of bronze axes, a knife, and one or two spear tips, and arrow heads. It was not too long before I found my first Roman coin - an As of the first



**Roman brooch 1st century AD (37mm)**

century AD. Other coins began to turn up, both Roman and post Roman, and after a while I came to realise that one field, of approximately 10 acres in size, was more productive than the others, and I tended to concentrate my searching to this particular field. Here I found not only coins, but a wider range of artefacts, than elsewhere. Sherds of Roman pottery were frequently found. These I collected not only for their own interest, but their presence in the field was a giveaway to someone walking across. The pottery was mainly the standard Roman "greyware", but small quantities of Samian ware were also found. In one part of the field substantial chunks of Roman roofing tiles, one carrying the imprint of a dog's paws turned up. Ancient nails of all shapes and sizes were freely scattered about the field, together with a large quantity of scrap lead, all in small pieces.

The field also included a number of small ingots and chunks of what appears to be raw copper. These I assume to mean that metal was being worked on the site at one time. A very wide range of artefacts of Roman and post Roman period were also there. These include fifty four Roman brooches in a variety of forms and mainly damaged to a greater or lesser degree, but some are intact and in a very good state of preservation. Other Roman items include rings, a votive offering in the form of a small axe and a head of Minerva.



**Iron Age woad pestle (42mm)**

Probably of more interest than the Roman artefacts are those of the Iron Age. Amongst these are two fragments of the lynch pin of a chariot, and two cosmetic pestles which were used by the Celts to crush the leaves of woad. Other Iron Age artefacts have also been found, together with some sherds of pottery of the same period.

The principle finds though, have been the coins – Iron Age, Roman, and subsequent

periods. So far thirty three silver Celtic coins have been found together with one gold stater, one quarter gold stater, one forged stater, one base metal coin, and eight Thurrock potins. The latter were given this name, as they were initially found in the present day Thurrock (Essex). These coins are mainly found in Kent and Essex, and were the first coins to be used in this country, dating from the end of the second century BC. They were based upon a design of Greek coins, with the head of Apollo on the obverse, and a charging bull on the reverse. The other Celtic coins are principally Icenian, although the quarter Stater is attributed to Tasciovanus, who was of the Trinovantian tribe.



**Icenian gold stater (15mm)**

Far more numerous than the Celtic coins are the Roman coin finds. So far I have found five hundred and seventeen of these. Whilst many of these can only be identified as Roman, more than half can be identified by Emperor. Six of the coins are denarii of the Republican period, but the rest are Imperial, and cover virtually the whole period of the Roman occupation of the country. The earliest of these are Claudian (41-54 AD) and the last is of Gratian (367-383 AD). Other unidentified ones are of the correct appearance to have been post Gratian. Altogether thirty Emperors are depicted, together with a further fifteen which carry the head of an Emperor's wife or family member. Specimens of almost all the denominations of coins, other than the gold ones which were issued during the occupation period, are represented among the finds. Most of the finds are of base metal, but fifty five are silver denarii, one of these carries the head of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180 AD) on the obverse, but a second head is shown on the reverse, was this the original double headed penny!?

Two more denarii are of Vitellius (69 AD) and Pertinax (193 AD) who reigned for only six months and



**An As of Hadrian (25mm)**



**Morose Britannia (25mm)**

three months respectively, before they were assassinated. One coin, an As of Hadrian clearly shows a rather morose looking Britannia with the word Britannia beneath.



**Magnentius (22mm)**

One other coin of Magnentius (AD 350-353) carries the Chi-Ro symbol of Christianity. Whilst it cannot be construed as proof that Christianity was practiced at that time in South Elmham, it might be argued that at least it was known about. This coin incidentally appears to have been quite new when it was lost, and have scarcely suffered from being buried



**Chi-Ro (22mm)**

for 1650 years. All the coins were individual finds, and were freely scattered over a large area. Since they were mainly small denominations, and cover such a long period of time, clearly they were not a hoard.

After the departure of the Romans the finds suggest that there was very little activity on the site. This is strange as it is known that the Anglo-Saxons were active in South Elmham. However, very few Saxon artefacts have been found, and no coins whatever. Nothing Norman or Viking has been found, but coins of Henry II (1154-1189) were chronologically the next to turn up. From that period to the present day, finds of coins were not unusual, although they were no more numerous in what I call the Roman field than elsewhere in the surrounding fields. This suggests that by this time the field was no longer being used as a settlement. Within the medieval period one or two interesting coins have been found. Three of these are Spanish, whilst one is from Venice, one from Burgundy, and a further one is of David II who was king of Scotland from 1329-1371, though for much of the time he was a prisoner of the English.

Large numbers of musket balls have been found. This seems strange, but perhaps the musketeers were practicing, although the finds have not been predominantly in one area. So far as I know no battles were fought in South Elmham during the musket age, so what the targets were I do not know.

All my ancient finds have been seen, identified, and registered with Suffolk Archaeological Service as they have been found, and the strange encouraging fact is that they still keep turning up on the site some fourteen years after I found my first Roman coin. For obvious reasons I cannot give the location of this site, but I will say that it is somewhere in South Elmham.

The existence of the site raises very many questions, and of course one can only surmise about the answers. In the next edition of the Newsletter I hope to put forward a few suggestions as to what these might be.



**Iceni Gold Stater (15mm)**



**An Edward III Groat (24mm)**

## THREE SILVER ICENI COINS (11 -15mm)



N.B. Measurements of the artefacts indicate their maximum dimension.

Most, if not all, the coins in the collection were manufactured in one of the mints which existed in Gaul, or in Rome. There was a mint in London (Londinium), but this was used for only about forty years at the end of the third century AD and about five years of the fourth century. The earlier coins gave no indication of the place of manufacture, but a mint mark began to be shown on some of the coins about the middle of the third century AD.

## Glossary

### Roman coins in the first century AD.

In successive years new denominations were added, but the quality of the coins deteriorated. In parallel with the decline of the Roman Empire, so came a decline in the standard of coinage.

1 Aureus (gold)	= 25 Denarii
1 Denarius (silver)	= 16 Asses
1 Sesetersius (base metal)	= 4 Asses
1 Dupondius (base metal)	= 2 Asses
1 As (base metal)	= 4 Quadrantes
1 Semi (base metal)	= 2 Quadrantes
1 Quadrans	= 1/4 As

‘Pertinax’

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## Flixton Hall

The front page of Newsletter 22 showed an earlier Flixton Hall built by Sir John Tasburgh in about 1616. The present front page shows the hall that the Adair family built in



1861 after the old hall had burnt down in 1846. This new hall was designed by Anthony Salvin, on a grand scale, as can be seen. (Salvin had also been commissioned to rebuild the derelict Flixton Church). The Tasburgh hall survived for 230 years before its tragic destruction; the Adair hall, like so many others after the war, was demolished after less than 100 years. The Eastern Daily Press has kindly sent this photograph of the destruction of the ballroom by pick axe! I remember trespassing into the hall with my father and being stunned by the elaborate painting and gilding of the interior that we were bold enough to walk through. Roly Bray has spent many hours looking through the pages of various Eastern local newspapers, and used his influence to get this photograph, he also found the following in the Beccles and Bungay Journal of 25<sup>th</sup> June 1948;

### **FLIXTON ESTATE OF NEARLY 3000 ACRES SOLD**

*Major General Adair's Flixton Estate of 2970 acres, comprising 21 farms, village properties, gravel pit, two licensed premises, accommodation land and many cottages, has been sold as a whole by Bidwell & Sons to Metropolitan Railway Country Estates Limited.*

*It is understood that it is the intention of the purchasers to retain for investment the whole of the agricultural portion of the estate but that the non-agricultural portion will be offered by auction.*

B.P.H.

## A 'Medieval' walk around St Margaret South Elmham

By Susan Riseborough

We were blessed with a gloriously warm summer's day on August 27<sup>th</sup> for our walk around St Margaret South Elmham. Altogether twenty five members gathered at Valley Farm for the leisurely two mile stroll to see the locations of some ancient sites within the village.

Walking down to 'The Beck' which meanders through the farm, we looked across the stream to see the medieval site of a tenement, which was owned by James Denny in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. He had lived at Brooke near Norwich and was also the owner of the paper mill at Stoke Holy Cross. He had offered the 56 acre estate with messuage as a marriage settlement, when he married Sarah Dybal of nearby Shotesham. After his death the estate passed, via his daughter Tabitha Baily, to her daughter Elizabeth Newhouse, who then sold it to the Adair family from Flixton Hall in 1799. A map of this estate can be found in the Lowestoft Record Office (741/HA12/D4/11).

Following the Beck we walked through the meadows to the bridge and then along the road in the direction of the Church, to see the old site of a cottage which once belonged to the Town Lands Charity. This tiny cottage used to be situated just to the right of the double 'Millennium' gates leading into the churchyard. The rental income was used for many years for the upkeep of the parish roads. The pretty thatched cottage was demolished in the early 1900's, but a photograph of it was printed on our January 2008 newsletter front cover. (See editorial note below)

Passing through the Churchyard and entering the Church, we admired the unusual bosses that adorn the fine medieval arch-braced roof built of oak.



The ladder

The hammer & pincers

The scourges & rope

The crown of thorns

Oak bosses showing the implements of The Cross

We also found the graffiti of John Sellynge (who lived in Rookery Farm) by the door to the bell tower. Outside, we noticed that the south porch unusually had two storeys; the upper floor being known as a parvis, or priest's room. We then tested the scratch (sun) dial found outside on the porch wall (by improvising with a stick) to find it was one hour ahead of actual time!

Leaving the Church, we stopped at a ploughed field on the left – the site of a cluster of medieval cottages - where many medieval pottery shards and domestic articles have been found.

Opposite, we visited (by kind permission of Mrs Blaxland), the moated medieval site which was once home to the previous Rectors of St Margaret's Church, before the more recent Rectory was built. An inventory relating to the Rector of St Margaret's Church - Thomas Linsley who died in 1631 has been transcribed by Audrey McLaughlin and her group, and a copy of it follows this article. (NRO DN/INV37/110)

Passing through the village lined with several timber framed houses, Bernard Duffield invited us into his home, which was previously the village post office and general stores. Although not medieval, he showed us the old timbers of his cottage and also some of his research into the previous occupants of the house.

We then continued to the Common where local people once grazed their sheep, cattle and horses. The mound and ditch of the post windmill can still be seen. Details of its repairs in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century can be found in the bailiff's accounts; they include a new millstone bought in Great Yarmouth for 23 shillings carried up to Beccles for sixpence and thence to South Elmham.

Across the Common from the postmill we saw another medieval moated site which was known in the South Elmham Court Rolls as Horys or Borys. Two early deeds in the form of feoffments relate to this site. The first dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 1597 is described in the Adair Catalogue as a "*Feoffment of messuage called Borys together with all rights of common on St Margaret's Green...*" The lands which passed from Richard Porter to Ralph Box his servant are described in detail in Latin with the "*First piece a messuage with a house, gardens, waters, and orchard lying in the parish of Saint Margaret containing by estimation four acres more or less and lying between the lands in the hands of the said Richard Porter on the west and the way called Marlespitt waye on the east and abuts on the land of the manor of South Elmham in the hands of the said Richard on the north and the common pasture called Saint Margarett Grene towards the south*" (Ref 741/HA12/B4/24/24) The other feoffment deed is dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 1590. Again the text is in Latin and the tenement is again named 'Borys' and was conveyed from Nicholas Waters to Richard Porter. (741/HA12/B4/24/28) The medieval house was burned down in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the Victorian barns erected by the Adair family remain and have recently been converted to a house.

Leaving the freeholders moated site, we walked back to Valley Farm, where we all enjoyed a welcome cup of tea and several cakes, whilst viewing the many display items and field walking finds from the village.

Susan Riseborough

**Editorial Note:** In the January 2008 issue of the Newsletter the editorial suggested that the cottage was to the north of the churchyard because there was a linear shadow across the foreground which must have been cast by a large building, probably the church itself. The coloured picture below shows the shadow in the churchyard made by the church this year and compares it with the old picture of the cottage.

B.P.H.



An Inventorie of all the goodes & Chattels debt & credits w(hich) were Thomas Linsleys Clerk late of St Margarets of Elmham, priced by John Sagar Clerk, Henry Woolnough & John Bowler yeoman October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1631.

	£	s	d
In the Hall			
Imprimis a long Table	00	12	00
It(e)m a forme 3 joyned stooles	00	07	00
It(e)m a presse	00	06	08
It(e)m a table Chair	00	06	08
It(e)m 2 Chairs	00	02	06
It(e)m a stock-iron, hakes, fire-pan & tongges,w(ith) 2 small Cobirons & a small rost	00	13	04
It(e)m a salt & a spitt with the weightes	00	18	00
In the little Parlour			
It(e)m a bedsted & a fetherbed w(ith) curtains & rugge	06	00	00
It(e)m a joined Chest	00	06	08
It(e)m 2 deskes	00	05	00
It(e)m 3 framed Chaires	00	12	00
It(e)m 2 quishing-stooles and 2 other small stooles	00	05	00
It(e)m a pair of Cobirons & a firepan	00	06	00
It(e)m a warming-pan	00	02	06
It(e)m in Napery	06	00	00
In the great Parlour			
It(e)m a drawn Table	01	00	00
It(e)m a liverie table & an eight square table	00	15	00
It(e)m a great Chest	00	08	00
It(e)m a joyned chair & 4 joyned stooles w(ith) covers	00	19	00
It(e)m 3 other joyned stooles	00	04	00
It(e)m a window quishing	00	02	06
It(e)m his Apparrell	06	00	00
In the buttery			
It(e)m 3 bottles, one brasse pott & a posnett	02	03	04
It(e)m in pewter	00	10	00
It(e)m 3 small beer vessells, one tubbe & a keeler with a flesh-tubbe	00	08	00
It(e)m a beerstoole, a keepe & certain shelves	00	05	00
It(e)m a frying pan & a rostiron	00	02	00
It(e)m in the hall chamber a liverie bedsted	00	05	00
In the Parlour chamber			
It(e)m a bedsted w(ith) a covering & curtains	02	00	00
It(e)m a trendle bedsted, a chaffe bed, 3 pillows, a blanket & a covering	00	13	04
It(e)m his Librarie	08	00	00
In the Backhouse			
It(e)m in hemp	00	05	00
It(e)m in apples	00	08	00
It(e)m a cheesepresse, a salting trough & a cheesc board	00	09	00

## Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe

By Diana Fernando

Here are some more etymological positings, this time on the three plants best associated with winter festivities.

Popularly in this region, we link ‘holly’ with the ON *hulver*, ivy with OE *ifig*, and mistletoe with the mistle-thrush.

Since it is as easy now to jump to fanciful conclusions as at any time in the history of language, I start with the warning in my Old Norse Grammar: ‘Vowels are as ambiguous as consonants,’ and we can’t ever know the real origin of words for which there is no documentation. We must beware of concluding that words now spelt the same always were so. For instance, hall/ hall, holm/ holm, no less than cleave/ cleave. For instance, the *-hall* in Ilketshall is not Ulfketel’s hall, which would be from OE *heal*, but Ulfketel’s enclosure [<OE *halh*, *haga*, corner, nook, haugh, piece of low-lying land by a river] of the same origin as Hales in Norfolk, although not of Haughley (which comes from the other meaning of *haga*, hawthorn)!

And so to holm/ holm, one of whose meanings is holly:

### Holly

Delve far enough back, and we’ll find that the English word ‘holly’ and its Norse equivalent ‘hulver’ do in fact meet in the root KUL/HUL (meaning a ‘peak’) where the interchangeable H and K follow expected, recognised patterns.

At a glance, we can find a holly in these place-names: Holdenhurst (Hants), East and West Holme (Dorset), Holmwood (Surrey), Holne (Devon), Hulne (Northumberland), etc., all from the OE *holegn*, holly.

However, other names which may appear to derive from the ‘holly’ route do not: some of the Holme places: Holme Lacy [<OE *hamm*, a low-lying meadow], Holme on the Wolds [<ON *haugr*, a hill] are not connected at all.

As for the ‘hulver’ route, we find locally: Hulver Farm, Hulver Street and Hulvers tenement in ‘Rodefild’ near Rumburgh. But some names are not so easy to pinpoint. Halvergate marshes, where the Berney Arms is heroically marooned, is likely to be a combination of ‘half’ and ‘heriot’ (the tribute paid to the lord of the manor when a tenant died).

Holly turns up in surnames, in some but not all the Holinsheds, Holms, Hulms and Humes. We can be pretty sure that Richard Homes of Suffolk (1524) was a ‘dweller by a holm’ [< ME *holm* < OE *holin/holegn*] but not so sure that the Reverend Edward Adolphus Holmes of St Peter’s was linked to holly. His Holmes may have derived from ‘a piece of dry land in a fen.’ Hulver has Isabel Huluyr of Suffolk (1493) and Henry Hulver of Norfolk (1479). These people lived near or by holly trees, but were not the holly itself.

In Norse, the final R is found in words for trees where it is absent in English: *askr* (ash), *reynir* (rowan) and of course *hulfr/hulver* (holly). In English, the ‘er’ ending could be used for an object itself, or for the agent (i.e. person associated with it). Thus cutter, binder,

climber, pounder, crusher and so on, could be either the thing, or the person connected with it. And so it was with hulver.

Now for a little more about KUL/HUL, the root of both ‘holly’ and ‘hulver.’ Who would have thought that a ‘colonnade’ and a ‘colonel’ would have anything in common with the holly tree, let alone be the ‘culmination’ of circuitous and prickly paths! The C/K sound-change with H is common in linguistic history, and is clearly illustrated in the development of the pre-Latin and early Teutonic HUL/KUL words into *culmen* [L a peak], *culmus* [L a stalk, from the Teutonic *hulmus*], *holm* [< OE a mound, hill, a rising slope, an island – even the sea itself], *kholm* [Russian, a hill], *colonna* [< L *columna*, a column] – and many further permutations.

It is now much clearer to see how words for ‘holly’ in various languages have a common origin: in Old German it was *Hulse*; in Dutch *hulst*; in French *houx*; in Welsh *celyn*; Cornish *celin*; Breton *kelen*; Gaelic *cuillionn*; Irish *cuileann*.

The word ‘holly’ is much more often used than ‘hulver,’ even in this area. Hulver –headed, applied to a foolish person, appears to be the chief expression remaining in common parlance.

### Ivy

This word [< OE *ifig*, or *ifegn*, with the final *n* as in *holyn* and *misteltan*] seems to go back to the Latin word for parsley [*apium*] which itself was borrowed from the Greek *apion*, whose first meaning was ‘pear’ before it was ‘parsley.’ In the Greek world, parsley was associated with death, so perhaps it was as well that the meaning changed to ‘ivy’ - the plant of well-being!

### Mistletoe

This comes from three separate parts: *mist* [<OE *mist*, gloom, fog, vapour] + *el* [a diminutive] + *tan* [< OE *tan*, a twig; cognate ON *teinn*]. The *mist* element in German means ‘dung,’ perhaps because the seeds are deposited by birds who eat the berries. In Old Dutch the word *mistel* meant ‘birdlime,’ which might refer to the slime in the berries. According to Sir Thomas Browne, Aristotle, as far back as the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, observed that there was a kind of thrush that fed on mistletoe.

The association of *mistel* with ‘gloom’ brought about the legend of Baldr the Norse Sun God, who was slain by a mistletoe twig, leaving the world in darkness. We still connect mistletoe with the winter solstice.

Key: < = derived from      ON = Old Norse      OE = Old English      L = Latin

## Book Reviews

The Land of Boudica  
Prehistoric and Roman Norfolk  
By John Davies

This book, written by a curator of Norwich Museums, uses its collection of artefacts to illuminate the early history of Norfolk. Norfolk led the field when metal detecting began. While others were fearful of the loss of important finds, Norfolk developed a working liaison with amateur detectionists and by the mid 1990's up to 20,000 individual objects were being reported to the Norfolk Museum Services each year.

The first third of the book covers prehistory from 750,000 BC to 700 BC. The rest is about the Iron Age and the Roman occupation. The book is full of illustrations, 194 in all, mostly of tools, weapons, and coins, but earthworks of the Iron Age, both linear as at Launditch, Fossditch and others, and 'hill forts' as at Thetford, Warham, South Creake, Narborough and Holkham, are well described. Here you will find description of the amazing Iron Age treasure found on Ken Hill Snettisham. More torcs have been found in East Anglia than in all the rest of Britain. The Iceni developed their own art and expressed this in their coinage, and other metal objects, where the horse, the severed head, and the opposing crescents are commonly portrayed.

The disgraceful behaviour of the Roman occupiers against the Iceni after the death of their king Prasutagus, and the subsequent Boudican Revolt are well covered. After this the Roman dominance in Norfolk, their roads, castles, and towns (the largest of which was Venta Icenorum) fill many pages with colourful pictures of what they have left behind.

Anyone interested in prehistoric and Roman life in Norfolk would find a fascination in this book.

B.P.H.

Heritage Publication with Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service. 2009 £19.95  
ISBN978-1-905223-33-6

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Treasure Hoards of East Anglia and their Discovery  
By Mark Mitchels

Mark Mitchels, came and spoke to us about the 'Cretingham Murder Mystery' last February. He has written this attractive little (A5 size) book about major finds of treasure. Although we may know about some of the artefacts themselves his account includes the sometimes fascinating histories of their discovery. At Ken Hill Snettisham in 1948 a tractor driver had been asked to plough a field more deeply. He soon noticed something unusual in the last of his furrows, stopped, picked it up, rubbed it, and put it under the tractor seat. Seeing his foreman he stopped and showed it to him. The foreman thought it was part of an old brass bedstead, and with a laugh threw it into the hedge. Several days later the plough revealed more objects of interest which were brought to the farmer himself. Realising that they were gold he took them to Norwich Museum where Rainbow Clark, the curator, identified them as Celtic gold torcs. The tortuous ways in which these treasures are discovered and revealed to the public are perhaps best shown by the story of the Mildenhall treasure, but that I leave for you to read.

B.P.H.

Countryside Books 2009 £7.99 ISBN978 1 84674 147 0

## **Programme for 2010**

**Meetings will be held at St. Margaret Village Hall (unless otherwise stated)  
on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

Annual Social Lunch at Heath Farm Homersfield 11am to 3 pm (Members and guests only)

**25<sup>th</sup> February**

Fifteenth Century Life with the Pastons

By Mark Mitchels

**25<sup>th</sup> March**

A Talk about The Museum of East Anglian Life; its collections and exhibits to handle

By Lisa Harris

**22<sup>nd</sup> April**

“At [Bungeye] yt shall be sene”

Late Medieval Drama in Rural Suffolk

By Kate Jewell

**27<sup>th</sup> May**

**To be held at Bateman’s Barn South Elmham Hall**

The Annual General Meeting followed by:

‘Repairing Timber Framed Buildings’

By Rick Lewis

**24<sup>th</sup> June**

The Archaeology from Fifteen Years of Excavation at Flixton Park Quarry

By Stuart Boulter

### **Other Meetings**

**Suffolk Institute of History & Archaeology**

(Meetings held at Blackbourne Hall Elmswell Suffolk at 2.30 p.m.)

**13<sup>th</sup> February**

‘An investigation of Languard Fort Felixtowe’

By Paul Pattison

**13<sup>th</sup> March**

‘Landscape Character Assessment: capturing the landscape of Suffolk’

By Phil Watson

### **Some Recently Published Books**

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