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Vol. XXXV No. 4 June 2008



The Round Tower

Vol XXXV NO. 4

June 2008



Bill Goode 1912 – 2008

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ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY 2008 TOURS

Saturday Tours – first church 2.30pm

7 th June	Norton Subcourse (TM 407 986), Thorpe next Haddiscoe, Haddiscoe
5 th July	Worthing (TF 995 196), Bylaugh, Morton on the Hill
2 nd August**	Bruisyard (TM 325 663), Thorington and Theberton
6 th September	Intwood (TG196 042), Keswick, Swainsthorpe
** Please note complete change of itinerary for this tour in Suffolk	

Church Tours – Sundays, first church 2.30pm

15 th June	Docking, Burnham Westgate, Burnham Sutton cum Ulph, Burnham Thorpe
20 th July	Saham Toney, Ovington, Carbrooke, Scoulton
Church Tours, visiting Norfolk Churches, were organised by Richard Butler-Stoney from 1970 until 2003. Tea will be provided. These	

Everyone is welcome to attend either Tour programme, which are free.
Any queries about either Tours phone 'Lyn Stilgoe - 01328 738237.

Your contributions in the form of articles, notes on visits, anecdotes, local activities etc., are all greatly appreciated to make each issue of the magazine an interesting and worthwhile read.

Please send material to:-

Susan Williams, Ivy Farm, Witton,
North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9TT
Email: swilliams151@btinternet.com

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EDITORIAL

The first tour of the season was blessed with both good weather and a good turn out. For those who missed the AGM the report and accounts can be found on pages 84—87. In this issue Stephen Hart looks at one of the remaining round tower churches in Cambridgeshire whilst Michael Coates and Carole Potter follow the work of George Street who built Denstone All Saints. This talented architect designed not only the church but was also responsible for the creation of the interior from Altar hangings to the carved font. Information on the up coming tour to Baden Baden can be found on page 92 whilst future Saturday and Sunday tours can be found on page 94.

The next issue is September 2008 and the deadline for insertion is Friday 25th July 2008.

Please send all items to:-

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Ivy Farm
Witton
North Walsham
Norfolk. NR28 9TT
Tel: 01692 650994
Email: swilliams151@btinternet.com

Cover picture: Courtesy of Mr Edgar Spelman

THE ROUND TOWER

The quarterly magazine of the
Round Tower Churches Society

Vol. XXXV No. 4 June 2008

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Annual Membership Subscription:

Minimum £10 (overseas £15) of which 40% is for the printing and posting of *The Round Tower* and administration, with the balance going to the Repair Fund.

Magazines are published on the 1st of March, June, September and December. Membership renewal date is the first of these dates following the application for membership.

To join the Society, please contact the Treasurer whose address and telephone number is on the inside back cover.

BILL GOODE

As the Society mourns the passing of its founder, Bill Goode, at the age of 95, it is inspiring to look back on his life. Born in Ealing in West London, this champion of that most East Anglian of features, Round Towers, did not come to the area until he and his wife, Ada, moved to Lowestoft not long before the war to run a pork shop. This was left to the care of Ada, while Bill served as a wireless operator/gunner, landing with the 1st Army in Algiers in 1942. After eventful service in North Africa, he was part of the Allied advance in Italy. As he told us at the Study Day at Mendlesham, he felt very blessed to have survived some of his adventures.

After the war he returned to the pork shop and later to a work in the Pye radio factory in Lowestoft. Photography with his Ensign camera had been an early interest and on his retirement he acquired an Argus single lens reflex camera. Living in a district where so many of the churches have round towers, he found his interest turning to these as subjects for his pictures. This soon became an absorbing hobby. Bill, with Ada, set out in their Volkswagen Beetle to visit all the round tower churches, armed with his camera, torch, extending ladder, and equipment for measuring the height of towers. Bill reckoned that that car covered 70,000 miles between 1973 and 1992 in pursuit of his passion. He climbed every tower, undaunted by rickety ladders, heavy trap doors or coming literally face to face with a nesting owl. One member recollects her first encounter with Bill, then in his eighties, standing on the top of South Pickenham tower casting a trainer on a line down from the parapet to check once again on the height.

The more he measured and photographed, the more interested he became in the history and dating of these towers. He was of the opinion that the thickness of the tower walls held the clue to their age and argued for Saxon or Norman origins for most towers. All this careful measuring and recording laid the foundation for his book *The Round Tower Churches of South East England*, which he published at his own expense. This sparked a wide interest, which has led to ongoing research and study; this may not always agree with some of his conclusions, but realises its debt to his work. The archive of his

ROUND TOWER NEWS



Frank Bayford writes concerning his article in the June 2007 issue about the round tower church at Bowmore on the Isle of Islay which 'did not allow the Devil a corner in which to

hide'. He has since come across the picturesque round houses in Veyan on the Roseland peninsular in Cornwall. Built in the 19th century, their circular design was to 'thwart the devil,' who stalked in dark corners. As an additional precaution crosses were placed on the roof although it is believed they were never used as churches!

Erratum: Vol XXXV No 3 March 2008 page 52 Horsey All Saints
In the sixth line of the second paragraph west wall should read north wall.

Saturday Tours—please note that on August 2nd the itinerary should read Buisyard (TM 325 663), Thorington and Theberton

Beachamwell Village Gardens Open Day
In aid of St Mary's Church, Beachamwell, Nr Swaffham

Sunday 1st June 12.00 noon—5.00pm
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Saturday 28th June 2008 10.00am—4.00pm
Sunday 29th June 2008 noon—4.00pm

ROUND TOWER SOCIETY TOUR 2008 BADEN-BADEN AND SAARBRUCKEN

Would you like to join us on a tour of round tower churches in Baden Baden and Saarbrucken?

Church visits to include: Reinheim, Bebelsheim, Zetting and Erfweiler—Ehlingen on Saturday and Farebersviller, Farschviller, Heckenransbach, Berg and Weyer on Sunday



Dates: Friday 12th September to Monday 15th September

Costs include: 3 nights bed and breakfast in a twin share or single accommodation, light snack on arrival on Friday, dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday, airport transfers, bus transport for the duration of the tour and the expertise of local church guides

Costs: £269 per person sharing a double room and £339 per person in a single room plus the cost of return flights from Stansted

For more details and booking arrangements, contact Susan Williams on: 01692 650994 or email: swilliams151@btinternet.com



notes and his researches has been deposited at Lowestoft Public Library and is available for consultation.

Disturbed by the condition of some of the churches he visited, faced as they were with large repair bills and small congregations, in 1973 he set up the Round Tower Church Society to promote the study of, and make grants towards, maintaining the fabric of these fascinating churches. A convinced Christian, he was anxious that churches should be able to remain open for worship. As funds have increased, grants from the Society have gone up both in scale and number, a real help to hard-pressed PCCs. Bill had the satisfaction of seeing the Society grow to nearly 600 members and receive the patronage of the Prince of Wales.

After the death of Ada and of his only son, Society members became a sort of extended family. Immaculately turned out and with cheerful smiles for all his friends he was, until recently, able to attend all the Tours on summer first Saturdays. He celebrated his 90th birthday with a cake, baked in the form of a round tower church by one of the committee, at a tea-party in the graveyard of Heckingham church.

It was with great regret that the committee accepted his resignation as President in 2007. In his last years Bill moved into sheltered accommodation in Oulton, where he continued to enjoy the support of his daughter-in-law and grandchildren. His funeral was attended by a number of Society members and was a suitably affectionate thanksgiving for the life of a remarkable man.

Paul Scriven, Churchwarden of Frostenden, shares a memory of Bill Goode

“Bill was such an unassuming man and it would seem that Frostenden was one of his early ‘ports of call’ to survey. He came to Frostenden Rectory to give a talk on 19th April 1971 and Frostenden All Saints was featured on the cover and his survey published on the inside of Volume XV1 No 6 in July/August 1989. This was the first of a number of visits and I recall meeting him, with his friend, (only a few years ago) having come on the bus from Lowestoft. He must have been proud of the Society and its progress over the years, and the number of small grants which it was possible to make. I know we had at least two such grants and very grateful we were for them.”

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BARTLOW Map Ref TL 586 452

This church is one of only two in Cambridgeshire with a surviving round tower, the other being at Snailwell. Bartlow church comprises a nave with narrower chancel, a round west tower, a north porch and a modern vestry on the south side of the chancel. It appears to have undergone considerable alteration and restoration at different times. The most recent, towards the cost of which the Society made a grant, was in 1998 when much of the tower flintwork was repointed.

Goode calls the tower and church Saxon without offering any evidence to support that attribution but he suggests that two small circular quatrefoil windows in the tower may be altered Saxon ones. Pevsner, in the 1970 edition of the Cambridgeshire volume, called the tower Norman. In fact though, as the accompanying notated photo of the church's SW corner suggests, the constructional chronology of the west end is rather more complicated.

Perhaps the church's oldest fabric is the right-angled salient of flint masonry (1) on the photo that projects from the re-entrant angle between the tower (2) and the nave west wall (3) on the south side. This feature is no ordinary fillet of the kind often seen in this position at many round-towered churches, nor is it imaginable as a buttress because the tower and nave west wall provide mutual lateral support at this point. In the absence of any other explanation, it seems more than possible that it could be the SW corner of an earlier church, later entirely replaced except for this remnant, by a wider church. On the evidence of its original quoins of flint, now renewed in dressed stone, the corner might date from the eleventh or twelfth century.

Apart from the SW salient, no other evidence of the postulated early church survives, but from the salient we can estimate a probable nave width of 15 to 16 feet depending on the thickness of the original side walls, a typical width for a small early church. Its eaves level was probably at about the level of the top of the stones, (5) in the photo, and it probably had no tower, though there may have been a west entrance.

If indeed the salient is the SW corner of an earlier nave, a similar one might be expected in the equivalent position on the north side of the tower, but there is not one. Instead, an excessively wide 'fillet' fills the angle between tower and the NW buttress (see plan overleaf); the fillet meets the tower wall at a point corresponding closely with the point where the salient meets the tower wall on the south side. This suggests that the original north-west corner may also initially have been retained but was demolished later, and the unusually

An exterior set of steps leads down to a door beneath the south wall of the chancel into a crypt which the Heywood family clearly intended to be their personal mausoleum. However, there have never been any interments with all the family members being buried normally in the churchyard.

The churchyard cross is fairly restrained in design, standing on a circular base around which are the following words: '*Inscribed by their children in pious memory of the founders*'. The lych-gate is also of simple design, with stone bases, timber framing and a tiled roof.

This unusual church maintains its Anglo-catholic traditions and will reward those who make the effort to visit it. We would like to thank the church warden, Mr Bob McGuinness, for his co-operation and assistance, without which this article could not have been written.

Michael Coates & Carole Potter

MEDIEVAL WALL PAINTINGS IN ENGLISH AND WELSH CHURCHES by Roger Rosewell

Boydell & Brewer £39.95 ISBN 978 1 84383 368 0

There has not been a comprehensive book on Medieval Wall Paintings published for many years, but this one is worth the wait. The first impression is of the very high quality of the many colour photos, giving a broad perspective of the delights that can be gained from looking at wall paintings. The written words are equally informative, giving an insight as to the how, why and wherefore of these often fragmentary relics of a distant age. The author's depth of knowledge of the subject is amazing, as is his ability to put it over in a readable and understandable manner. The second part of the book includes an extensive gazetteer listing by county all the significant paintings still to be seen. There is also a list giving details of the subjects portrayed and of the lives of the Saints, and where examples can be found. This is a book to be enjoyed and made use of by every person interested in our church heritage. Inevitably more wall paintings will be discovered, but a web-site has been set up to keep the book's information up to date – www.wallpaintings.org. Do make use of the generous discount offer by the publishers, distributed with our March Magazine, which finishes at the end of June 2008, (£29.96 plus £3 postage).

Lyn Stilgoe

In addition, there is a further large window with plate tracery on the south side of the chancel. Around the base of the apse are massive buttresses which rise only to cill height, plus a full-height buttress to support the chancel arch. The south wall of the nave has three windows with decorated tracery but each window has a different design. At the west end is a rose window, whilst the nave windows on the north side consist of four single lancets except for the window at the western end which is a large cinquefoil to provide light for the font. All the window arches have alternating cream and rose - coloured voussoirs.

Inside, there is no plastering on the walls with the rose-coloured banding continuing to feature. All the nave windows are deeply recessed whilst those in the chancel have black marble shafts. All the stained glass is by Clayton & Bell. The whole of the church floor is laid with Minton tiles, some of which is now covered with carpeting. The roofs are open in the nave but boarded and paneled in the chancel. The chancel arch has dog's tooth ornament, marble half-piers and foliated capitals. To the north of the chancel is the vestry and an organ chamber which is accessed by a groined passage underneath the bell tower. From this passage it is possible to confirm that the tower is circular from its base upwards. Above the passage, part of the tower wall juts into the nave. The organ chamber is separated from the chancel by a metal screen. Within the sanctuary is a piscine and a triple sedilia with black marble shafts, whilst on the north side is an aumbry. The reredos is of alabaster with marble columns, gilded squares and statues.

The large, square font was designed by Street and carved by Thomas Earp. It is of alabaster and supported on a central stem with a marble column at each corner. The panels show four angels, one at each corner, in long robes and holding reversed jars to symbolize the four rivers of Paradise. The circular stone pulpit and the low, stone screen are richly carved from marble and alabaster, with shafts, embedded spherical marble designs, angels and foliage. Six steps within the chancel raise the Altar to well above the level of the nave. There have never been any pews in the church, only individual wooden chairs.



wide fillet built to cover the scars on the walls of the tower and west wall that would have been exposed by its removal. It is difficult otherwise to account for the very unusual configurations each side between tower and nave west wall.



1997 photo of the SW corner, showing different building stages. See text.



The tower, from the north

The next building phase appears to have been the addition of the tower to the original small church. A central opening would have been formed in the west wall (or if there had been a doorway, altered) and a new west wall about 3'4" thick was built *within the church* alongside the existing one, becoming the east wall of the tower. In it, the tall pointed tower arch of dressed stone was formed, with dressed stone also used at the angle where the arch reveals meet the inner circumference of the tower walls at the re-formed jambs of the existing central opening. (See plan) The arch is about 18 feet high to the apex, 6'4" wide and double-chamfered without imposts, but on the tower side the outer chamfer of the arch itself dies into the flint reveals of the opening at springing level. On the

nave side of the opening, the arch has a hood mould. These constructional features and the inner curvature of the tower east wall above the arch indicate contemporary construction of the tower and the tower arch wall. The double-chamfered profile of the arch could suggest a late 13th century date, an attribution supported by other evidence in the tower.

The tower is built of closely-packed, uncoursed, as-found flints with some cobbly erratics, a style typical of late 13th and 14th century work. It has two circular stages of approximate equal heights separated by a weathered stone string course, with a similar one below a modern octagonal battlemented brick parapet. The lower stage has 4'6" thick walls and an internal north-south diameter of about 10'9"; it contains one two-light west window with ogee lights, perhaps indicating later insertion. In the upper stage, just above the string course, two small circular stone quatrefoil lights face north and south-west; their internal embrasures are square with stone jambs and flat boarded lintels and show no evidence of variation from their original state nor would there appear to be any reason for an alteration. At the same level in the east wall there is a blocked upper door of similar internal construction.

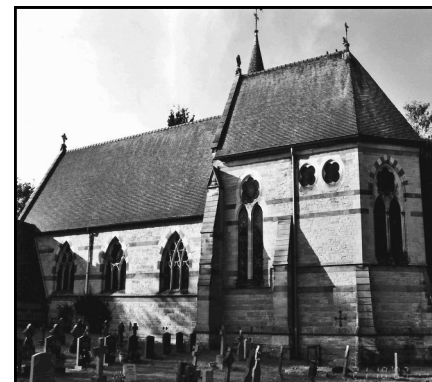
The upper stage has four single-light belfry openings; those facing south, west and north are tall lancets and support a 13th century attribution, but



approximately forty-five feet with the cap adding about another fifteen feet. The external diameter is approximately ten feet, which with a wall of two feet in thickness gives an internal diameter of just six feet. There are four sets of belfry windows, each consisting of a circular opening with slender quatrefoil tracery together with a pair of short lancets beneath each opening. In between each of the main openings are very small circular openings, once again with quatrefoil tracery.

The tower contains four bells which are rung from the ringing chamber that is approached via an external staircase. Inside the chamber is a narrow, circular staircase, without any handrail, which gives access to a hatch leading into the belfry. Ringing the bells in such a confined space is quite an art, there being room for only three ringers on the floor of the chamber. The fourth ringer has to perch precariously half-way up the unguarded, circular staircase.

A few years later, in 1873, Street was to design a very similar tower when he restored the church of St Tysilio at Llandysilio in Wales. (*See The Round Tower, Vol XXX111 No 1 September 2005.*)



The chancel is loftier than the nave which makes the external proportions of the building rather unusual. All the exterior walls, including the tower and porch, have rose-coloured, stone banding. The apse has three large windows with plate tracery, together with two quatrefoil windows high on the south side of the chancel with three quatrefoils high on the north side.

DENSTONE ALL SAINTS Map Ref: SK 101 409

The village of Denstone is about 17 miles east of Stoke on Trent and six miles north of Uttoxeter. All Saints church can be found on the southern side of the B5032.

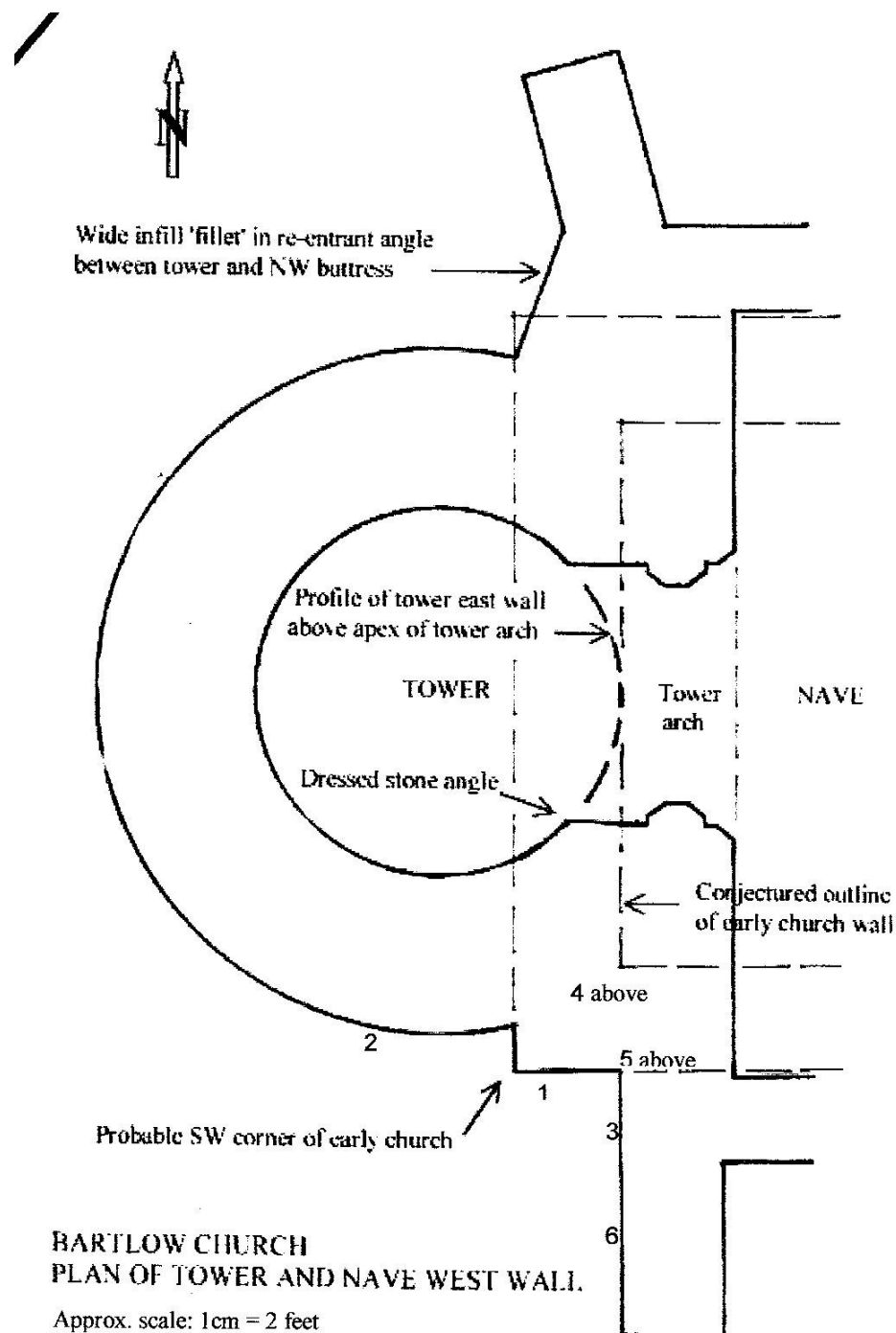
Although mentioned in the Domesday Book, the village had no church until the mid-nineteenth century when Sir Percival Heywood, who lived nearby, commissioned the architect George Edmund Street (1824-1881) to design and build a church together with an adjoining vicarage and school. Work commenced in 1860 and the church was consecrated on 24th July 1862. Today the parish is combined with those of Ellastone and Stanton which together form part of the Weaver group within the diocese of Lichfield. The vicarage stands to the north of the church with the school to the south but unfortunately too many bushes and trees now prevent the three buildings being admired as a group.

Street was given a totally free hand to design not only the church together with the churchyard cross and the lych-gate, but also the smallest details of the interior including the font, pulpit, screen, reredos, stalls, organ case and Altar hangings. A carved inscription can be seen in the vestry which reads: *'George Edmund Street—Architect and Master of the Works.'*

The church was intended to express the Anglo-Catholic revival within the Church of England. Street was associated with the 'Gothic Revival' and the general design of Denstone can be called 'Middle Pointed' but in a highly original form. Pevsner states that this church is *'...young Street at his very best.'* The building uses stone quarried locally at Hollington and consists of a nave and apsidal chancel with a south porch and a circular bell tower, organ chamber and vestry to the north.

The churchyard is to the south of the church with only a footpath providing access around the remainder of the building. The east side is bounded by the road, the west side by a former railway which is now a public footpath, and the north side by the garden of the vicarage. This house is now in private occupation so it is necessary to get permission from the residents to enter their garden in order to get a view of the tower.

The tower is on the north wall, to the west and immediately adjacent to the chancel arch. Around the base of the tower is a lean-to store, now redundant, which leads Pevsner to describe the tower as *'growing out of an oblong base zone.'* It was perfectly clear from our observations that this



the one facing east is wider and shorter with a more rounded arch and looks more recent. Its heightened cill level tends to confirm that when the tower was built, the nave was lower.

The upper part of the tower east wall, being built on the tower arch wall, would necessarily be thinner than the main tower walls, and that would account for its flattened curvature externally.

Following the addition of the thirteenth-century tower, there appears to have been a major reconstruction of the church in the fourteenth century when, except for its west end, the original nave and the chancel were demolished and a new wider and higher church built. The new nave's west wall (3), whose lower part is actually the end face of its south wall, was built up against the face of the retained west end of original south wall to which it would have made a straight joint, and at higher level, on the gable of the tower-arch wall. The raising of the cill level of the belfry window in the tower east wall seems to have been necessitated by the height of the new roof of the wider church. A later heightening of the nave is unlikely since the medieval wall paintings inside extend up to the eaves level.

The windows of the nave and chancel have undergone considerable restoration though they may well be their original pattern as a few pieces of original stonework remain in some. This can be seen to be clunch, a chalk stone notorious for its poor weathering qualities, and would account for the extensive replacements. Except for the restored Victorian Perpendicular east window, all the others are two-light with divergent mouchette tracery in the curvilinear style of the Decorated period. The north and south doorways and the porch arch are all of a similar design in which a pointed arch is surrounded by a square label with circled quatrefoils in the spandrels; this is widely regarded as a typical Perpendicular feature but there are precedents for its appearance quite early in the 14th century. Unless therefore these three arches are later insertions which seems unlikely, they are contemporary with the rebuilt nave, probably the mid 14th century.

The massive west buttresses are of interest. The south-west one (6) has had much of its stone replaced but still contains quite a lot of weathered clunch. It is obviously later than the nave, being built up against dressed stone nave quoins. The north-west buttress is at an odd angle relative to the nave, and its stonework is Barnack stone (i.e. probably not later than late 15th century); its east side is faced with rubble flint but it has knapped flint on the west face. The bottom moulding of its lower offset is continued across the wide fillet, suggesting that these two features are contemporary.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2007-2008

Once again I have the pleasure to report that the Society has had a satisfactory financial year.

The accounts show that we ended the financial year with nearly £6,000 more than we started with. The main reason for this is that we only paid out £3,400 to five churches facing repair bills. During the previous financial year we awarded grants totaling £12,950 to some 21 churches. For obvious reasons we only make payment of grants once the repair programme is actually underway. When churches are faced with repair bills, and begin fundraising, we are happy to make promises of grants toward any necessary work as we know that this helps with fund raising in other directions. At the moment, there are outstanding promises of help to six churches totaling some £7,000. As these promises turn into actual payments, the figures will appear in the accounts.

Once again I would like to thank Jack Sterry for generous donations, totaling £250, arising from the sale of his books and calendars. Thanks also to Edgar Spelman for raising £100 from the sale of used postage stamps, so keep saving stamps for your Society. Such thanks also go to all who made contributions to the Society either in the form of increased subscriptions or as outright donations.

Membership still totals 560 and you can all take pride in the achievements of the Society. As usual, I would like to thank each and every one of you for keeping my life, as your Treasurer, relatively stress free.

Richard Barham, Hon. Treasurer

GRANTS PAID BY THE SOCIETY 2007-2008

AYLMERTON	St John the Baptist	£200
<i>(toward renovation of the organ)</i>		
FRITTON	St Catherine	£1000
<i>(toward connecting electricity to the church)</i>		
FRITTON	St Edmund	£200
<i>(toward repair of tower roof)</i>		
WEST DEREHAM	St Andrew	£1000
<i>(toward repairs of tower, porch, nave and windows)</i>		
STUSTON	All Saints	£1000
<i>(toward re-tiling the roofs and renewing rainwater goods and drainage system)</i>		

**ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY
THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Village Hall, Gissing, on Saturday, 10th May 2008, at 2.15pm.

1. The Chairman, Mr Howell, welcomed the 32 members present. The Rev'd Frank Howard said an opening prayer, remembering that to-day was the Eve of Pentecost.
2. **Apologies** had been received and were given, as recorded in the Minute Book.
3. The **Minutes** of the **34th AGM** on 12.5.2007 were agreed, following a proposal by Miss Pinner, seconded by Mr Pollitt, and signed.
4. The **Chairman** gave a review of the year and paid tribute to our late Founder, Mr Bill Goode, who died 28th January 2008, aged 95 years, and to other members who have been promoted to glory within the past year, including Mr Brian Harmer, Mrs J Julings, Colonel J Leader and Mr Bill Sterne. A minute's silence was kept in respect. The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the Committee members and he particularly thanked Mr John Scales, who retires from the Committee after many years' service including time as Chairman, and Mrs Ray, who is also standing down. The Society continues the work of those who have gone before and in so doing it is a living memorial to our Founder.
5. The **Treasurer**, Mr Barham, reported that total funds were up, but less had been given in grants over this year as fewer churches have started work. Membership still hovers around the 560 mark. The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by the Rev'd P Gray, seconded by Mr Coates and agreed.
6. The **Grants Officer**, Mr N Wiggin, reported that five churches had received grants totalling £3,400, with a further £10,000 plus promised over the last two years. Two of these churches will start work soon, and a further four applications will be considered by the Committee later this afternoon. The Grants Report was agreed.
7. **Election of Officers and Committee:** Mr Howell was proposed as Chairman by Mr Barham, seconded by the Rev'd P. Gray and agreed. Mr Scales and Mrs Ray wish to retire, but the remainder of the Committee agreed to stand for re-election. This was proposed en bloc by Ms A Woollett, seconded by the Rev'd F Howard and agreed.
8. **Auditor:** Mr. Russell Hadman was again thanked for his help with the auditing of the accounts, as he has done for 11 years. His re-appointment was proposed by Mr Barham, seconded by Mr Coates and agreed.
9. **Any Other Business:** the Rev'd F Howard asked if a list of people willing to give lifts to others for Tours could be made, to assist carbon footprint worries. He also suggested more advertisement of Tours via the press. Mr R Harbord asked how the willingness to give lectures/slide shows was publicised and how the lecturers concerned were authorised by the Society. Mr Pollitt suggested that more use could be made of the web-site, to make it more pro-active and possibly to publish the Magazine on line. Ms Woollett and others expressed real concern, not least that by giving information for free, people would cease to pay membership subscriptions. These points will be given careful consideration by the Committee. Mrs Williams gave details of the Baden-Baden Trip 12th - 15th September 2008 There are still places available. Applications welcomed.

Following the Meeting refreshments were kindly provided by Gissing P.C.C.

Examination of the SW corner of the church shows features that pose questions. Why, before the recent repointing, was the flintwork (4) of the tower wall above the salient noticeably different from that of the tower (2)? What is the purpose of the vertical line of stones (5) on the west wall? The following interpretation attempts to provide explanations.

When the wider nave was built, the eaves level of the original nave was probably at about the level of the top stones (5), and the salient (1) at that time would have extended almost up to the level of the tower string course. Some time later, perhaps as a result of deterioration, the upper part of the corner was taken down, thus exposing scars on the tower and west wall; the tower scar was made good in flintwork (4) not quite matching the tower, and at the same time, repairs with large rather irregular lumps of clunch which confusingly could be read as quoins (5) appear to have been made at the straight joint where the later nave's west wall had abutted the face of the original nave south wall.

Stephen Hart

FLINT FLUSHWORK A Medieval Masonry Art

By Stephen Hart

Boydell Press £30 ISBN978-1-84383-369-7

Flint flushwork is one of the church features that many of us see but never really look at. No longer. In this beautifully illustrated book Stephen Hart shows us what we have been missing. From simple chequer board patterns to Lombardic lettering and complex emblems, all of stone and knapped flint, he opens our eyes to the wide varieties of flintwork that decorate church exteriors. This art flourished in the 14th and 15th centuries mainly in East Anglia where flints abound and we are guided through the different applications, replica windows in belfries, panels to enliven buttresses, arcading to emphasise features like plinth or parapet and inset emblems. The latter includes designs of great skill, a crowned sword or a vase of lilies. Bolder panelled designs cover the South face of a porch, as at Halesworth, or the amazing West face of the tower at Redenhall. The book includes proudwork and brick flushwork, but the contrast of pale stone and dark glossy flint are the most striking and are particularly well illustrated in the colour plates. The book concludes with a gazetteer by counties, embracing a number of Round Tower Churches. This book will greatly enhance your enjoyment of visiting churches and provide a worthwhile compensation for finding a church locked.

Anne Haward

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st. March 2008

		<u>Society Account</u>			
<u>2007</u>	Income	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	Expenditure	<u>2008</u>
24,164	Opening Balance	20,309	12,950	Grants to Churches	3,400
7,375	Annual Subscriptions	7,588	995	Magazine Printing	774
1,158	Tax Relief on Covenants and Gift Aid	1,395	469	Purchase of Society Items for sale	579
1,730	Donations and Lectures	1,415	813	Postage, Stationery & Advertising	928
785	Bank and COIF Charities Deposit Fund, Interest	982		Hire of rooms for AGM & Committee M'tgs	50
172	Magazine Advertisements	172	390	Donations to Churches	860
561	Sale of Books and Society Items	1,195	29	Website Rental	29
26	Postage from Sale of Society Items etc.	29	3	Secretary's Expenses	13
			13	Treasurer's Expenses	21
				Refund of overpaid subscriptions	30
				Speakers Fees (Study Day)	240
			15,662		6,924
			20,309	Closing Balance	26,161
<u>35,971</u>		<u>33,085</u>	<u>35,971</u>		<u>33,085</u>
 <u>Balance Sheet as at 31st. March 2008</u>					
206	NatWest Bank - Current Account	1	20,309	Society Account	26,161
9,091	- Reserve Account	14,578			
10,926	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	11,554			
86	Petty Cash in hand	28			
<u>20,309</u>		<u>26,161</u>	<u>20,309</u>		<u>26,161</u>

I have examined the Accounts and Books, etc. of the Society
and certify this is a true Statement of the financial records.

Richard Barham Hon. Treasurer

Russell Hadman Hon. Auditor 1st May 2008