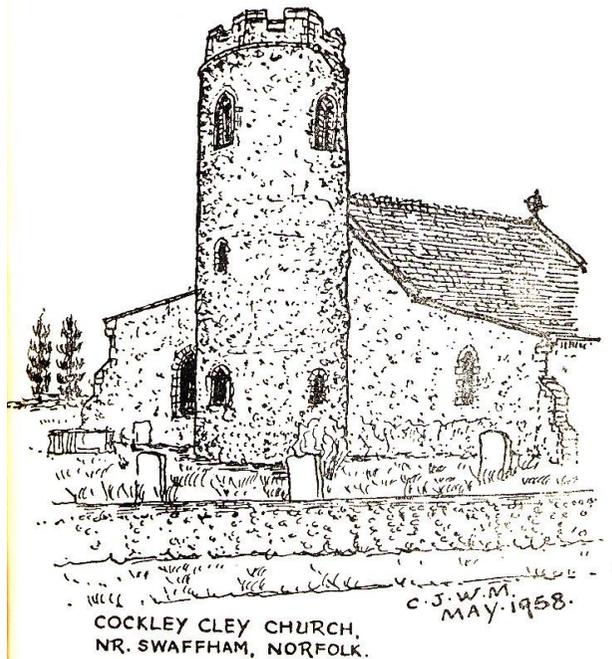




# The Round Tower

Vol. XL11 No 4

June 2015



£2 to non members  
[www.roundtowers.org.uk](http://www.roundtowers.org.uk)

## ITEMS FOR SALE BY THE SOCIETY

<b>Tea Towels</b> — Five Norfolk Churches design	£3.00	Plus 70p p&p
<b>Tea Towels</b> — Five Suffolk Churches design	£3.00	Plus 70p p&p
<b>East Anglian Round Tower Churches Guide</b>		
Revised edition of A5 booklet	£1.50	Plus 70p p&p
<b>The Round Church Towers of England</b> -By S Hart	£12 00	Plus £2 p&p
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<b>Round Tower Churches in Mid Norfolk, North Norfolk and Suffolk</b>		
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**Please forward orders to: - Mrs P Spelman, 105 Norwich Road, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0LF. Cheques payable to The Round Tower Churches Society.**

### Editorial

‘Lyn Stilgoe has revised the leaflet on Burnham Norton to honour the memory of the late Jack Sterry. You will find the leaflet text on page 4. The church still has a good stock of the old leaflets but when they run out the new leaflet will come on stream. Burnham Norton was Jack’s favourite round tower church. Over the years from the proceeds of sale of his books and calendars Jack gave us £3,750.

Richard Harbord’s article on Cockley Cley needs to be read together with Stephen Hart’s article published in the March 2015 magazine. We will include Richard’s working notes in the September magazine because they are fascinating reading in their own right and give a marvellous insight into the work of a church historian. Richard’s article starts on page 7.

This magazine also includes the minutes from our 2015 AGM, the accounts and financial report and the Grant Officers report. It was agreed at the AGM to increase the minimum membership subscription to £20. This increase takes place immediately for new members and from 1st September for existing members, If you pay your subscription by standing order please inform your bank. Many members already give more than £20 a year. The churches we support with our grants are all appreciative of your generosity.

Finally we are sending you our new car sticker with the magazine. Now you no longer have to display a tax disc this is the ideal advertising space for you to promote the Society. If you don’t own a car please pass on the sticker to a relative, friend or neighbour.

**The next issue is September 2015 and the deadline for contributions is 1st August.**

Please send items for publication either as email attachments or on disc as **separate** files – text, photos, drawings etc., or by post to:-

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### **Membership Subscription**

*Minimum £20 (overseas £30) a year of which 40% goes towards the printing and posting of The Round Tower magazine and administration. 60% goes to the Repair Fund of the RTCS.*

*Magazines are published in March, June, September and December. The membership renewal date is the first day of the month following the application for membership.*

*To join the Society or to make any enquiry about your membership please contact :-*

**Mr Richard Barham**  
6 The Warren, Old Catton,  
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Tel: 01603 788721

## **THE ROUND TOWER**

**The quarterly magazine of the  
Round Tower Churches Society  
Vol. XL11 No 4. June 2015.  
www.roundtowers.org.uk**

Burnham Norton leaflet	4
Cockley Cley	7
Annual accounts	14
Minutes of AGM	16
Grant Officers report	17
Treasurers report	18
Society Officers	23

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For up to date information visit the website. For up to the minute information follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook. Links to our Facebook page and our Twitter feed can be found on the website.



## BURNHAM NORTON ST MARGARET

This fine church, in a commanding position overlooking the marshes and the North Sea, is one of 58 medieval churches in Norfolk under the special protection of St Margaret. St Margaret of Antioch was a popular saint in early times, partly due to her being the Patron Saint for childbirth!

The oldest visible part of the church is the **round tower**, (one of 124 in Norfolk), which is now reckoned to have been built just at the time of the change from Saxon to Norman dominance in the late 11C. Probably the men working to build the church were still Saxons, but their overlords were the Normans. This is evidenced by the openings being in the Saxon style, built with no dressed stone and using flints to form the shape of the frame. However the recessed arches in the belfry openings are much more of a Norman idea in style. There are six of these now infilled with brickwork, and above them were twelve circular openings, which are blocked and hardly visible from outside, due to the repointing of the flintwork. The tower is 55 feet high and has been crowned with a later parapet, probably in the 15C. It holds one **bell** made by Brasyer, with the inscription "I am called the bell of Mary the most excellent of Virgins".

This tower was originally attached to a simple church, with a nave and a short chancel, probably with a curved apsidal east end. In the 13C, possibly due to the coming of the Carmelite Friars with their Friary just a field away to the east of the church, there was the need to enlarge the nave with the addition of aisles to the north and south. The west walls of the aisle were added to the still-present early wall seen immediately on either side of the tower. The central nave roof has been heightened to accommodate clerestory windows, to give additional light in the centre of the church. The chancel was also extended eastwards and given a square east end.

There is unusually a **15C porch** only on the north side, an indication that the Lord of the Manor lived to the north of the church. It is also unusual that the chancel has fine 14C Decorated windows on its north side, and simpler 13C lancets to the south. The chancel was at one stage longer than at present, but it has been shortened and now has only a small plain window facing east.

In the 15C the aisle windows were improved and given Perpendicular tracery with stepped battlemented transoms half way up. The original 13C windows are still present in the west walls.

Entering the church, the space at the west end of the nave is dominated by a sturdy square **Norman font**. It has different carved patterns on each face and is supported by four pillars, again with differing carvings, (two chevron, one

spiral and one with vertical lines), supporting each corner and a central column. The font is surrounded by a carpet stitched by local people in 1993.

Also at the west end above both doors are **Royal Arms**. To the south are a set for William III (1689-1702) overpainting the Arms of Charles I (1625-49). Above the north door there are the Arms of George IV, painted by Zecharius Fenn of Walsingham. He probably also painted the fine Commandments Board on the west wall.

By the north doorway are two openings, the one in the corner being a **wafer oven** with its chimney ascending through the wall. On the eastern side of the door is a **Benetura**, which contained Holy Water. Members of the congregation could dip their fingers and make a Cross as a sign of atonement as they entered the church.

The tower arch, framed in flints, has been filled in and now has a domestic type door fitted, but above it is another blocked arch, formerly an upper doorway. This provided access from the nave by a ladder to the first floor room in the tower.

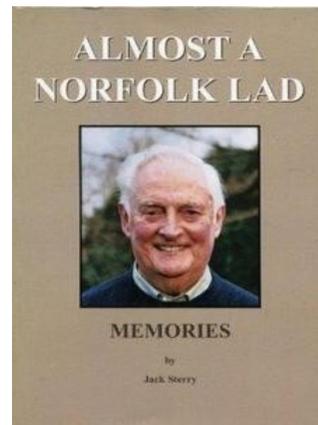
In an effort to minimise the chilliness of the north winds, the central pews are enclosed by screens between the pillars. At the east end of the nave, close by the Rood Screen, is a fine hexagonal **wine-glass pulpit**. It shows the painted figures of the Four Latin Doctors, early theologians who did much to define Christian teaching and the Gospel. These are, from the left, St Ambrose (4<sup>C</sup> Bishop of Milan), St Gregory (6<sup>C</sup> Pope), St Jerome (4<sup>C</sup> Secretary of the See of Rome) and St Augustine (5<sup>C</sup> Bishop of Hippo). The remaining panels show the donors in 1450, John and Katherine Goldale. This pulpit is no longer in use, but on the opposite side of the nave, nearer the pews, there is another elevated, square pulpit below a sounding board, made in Victorian times, mostly from re-used Jacobean panelling.

The lower part of the **Rood Screen**, given in 1458 by William and Johanne Groom, was formerly painted with saints, but these were harshly scratched out at the time of the Reformation, later to be overpainted with Elizabethan texts. Now only small fragments of colour or the texts can be seen. Above, there still remains some of the delicate double filigree wooden cusping within the arches, from the 15<sup>C</sup>. The new cornice and cresting at the top of the screen were added in the restoration in 1953, in memory of Lt. Robert Hancock, killed in the Second World War. The small shields are for Repton (his school), the Diocese of Norwich (three mitres), the central one is the badge of his regiment 4/7<sup>th</sup> Royal Dragoon Guards, the Kingdom of East Anglia (three crowns) and the Royal Arms as used by the Kings of England from 1405-1603.

The organ is a modern one, made by Roger Pulham of Charsfield, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, in 1985. Nearby is a recess with steps, which would have provided access to the top of the medieval screen, and on the adjacent wall is the faint outline of a haloed saint, possibly the Blessed Virgin Mary or St Margaret. There is now a small altar at the east end of the south aisle, as there would have been in medieval times.

In the chancel the altar is covered by a Laudian-style **altar cover**, embroidered locally in 2006, with the changing rural scene through the four seasons. Above this is the east window, with stained glass given in 1927, showing two Saint Margarets. On the left is St Margaret of Antioch, who was very popular at the time of the Crusades. The other one is crowned and is St Margaret, the wife of King Malcolm III of Scotland. Queen Margaret, noted for her Christian influence in that land, lived about 1046-1093

‘Lyn Stilgoe



Burnham Norton was Jack Sterry's favourite round tower church, and the first one in his Round Tower Churches: Hidden Treasures of North Norfolk (can be purchased from the Society see p2). Jack wrote his story in 'Almost a Norfolk Lad'.

All Saints, Threxton tries very hard to keep their doors open to visitors. On the 12th September they are holding a Gift Day to coincide with the sponsored cycle ride. Members of the congregation will be there in person to welcome you and make you tea and coffee. Here is hoping they have lots of visitors to their delightful church.



## **All Saints Church, Cockley Cley, Norfolk**

Hilborough Group of ten Churches; formerly part of the Rural Deanery of Cranwich.

The last time there was an article on Cockley Cley Church in this magazine (September 2003) was when fallen rubble was about to be cleared away from the base of the tower. Much of the tower had collapsed in 1991 and all efforts to rebuild it had failed. Since then an archaeologist's Monitoring Report (no. 3096) was published in May 2008. It found no evidence of foundations for the tower - only a few pieces of shaped masonry from the fallen openings, some of which had mason's marks on them. Once again, archaeology had little to tell us about a round tower.

Stephen Hart published a masterly analysis of this tower's fabric in 1995. His closely argued conclusion was that the most of the present church including the tower was erected as a single build in the late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Much of the fabric of that early period can still be seen in the church today despite a radical rebuild in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Several other aspects and features of the church also suggested that it replaced an earlier Norman building. The issue discussed here is how much weight should we give to dating evidence provided by the fabric alone?

The parish records give some sort of answer even if they are open to different interpretations. The advowson of All Saints Church belonged to the West Hall Manor of Cockley Cley. There was also an East Hall Manor with its own separate church – St Peters. Between these two churches was yet a third – St Marys. It was converted into a house in the middle of the 1500s and then it was called 'Rose Cottage' until 1948 when its original purpose and usage was re-discovered. By 1970 the buildings accretions had been stripped away to reveal the original Norman church. It was opened to visitors as part of a tourist attraction the Icen Village (now closed). St Mary's has an apsed chancel. Inside is a burial slab where the brother of St Fursey was allegedly buried which emphasises the church's great antiquity. There are deeply splayed slit-windows and a Norman south door. There was no bell

tower attached to this chapel as far as we know. It has an archaic layout which the guide book suggests makes it possibly the oldest church in Norfolk even though the nave of the nearby ruined church of Caldicote was almost the same dimensions (according to the 18<sup>th</sup> century historian Francis Blomefield). Clearly these three churches co-existed in close physical proximity to each other which raises the question - why?

At the Great Survey in **1086**, the western part of the village called 'Cley Thorpe' (meaning a parish with extensive pasture) was an estate owned by Ronald, son of Ivo. About 45 people including ten men lived there. St Mary's chapel would have been just big enough to accommodate them. It had its own burial yard; a massive 80 acres of glebe land and a church-guild. Further east along the village street was the larger church of St Peter, standing next to the manor house. That church served over 100 people so it was bigger than St Mary's. Between 1066 and 1262, St Mary's advowson was owned by the Blunt family. It then passed by inheritance to the Waleynes who also became lords of the West Hall Manor. Soon after **1262** the Valeynes acquired consent to use St Mary's as their family chapel. This event suggests that plans had already been made to build a new church on a separate site further west. The need for a larger church was created by a general rise in population across Norfolk in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the adjoining villages in the dry Breckland part of Norfolk were being abandoned. This included Caldicote where the ruined walls of the church were still standing in the early 1700s. Some of its Norman stonework could have been reused in the churches of Cley. Cockley Cley as it was known after c1390, lay on a water course so it survived. It acquired a small outlying manor called Lenwade near the western parish boundary.

There are several ecclesiastical records of the **late 1200s** which mention St Peter's Church but the other church lands in Cley are only lumped together under no specific dedication. This suggests that construction of All Saints Church was in progress. It was not until **1300** that the first priest was presented – a member of the local manorial family, John of Cley. By that date the church was complete and it had

been dedicated. Within a few years and just before the Black Death of **1349** it was enlarged to provide more seating and a chapel for the guilds of Corpus Christi and St Mary. These guilds even had their own glebe of 18 acres. The south wall of the nave was demolished and replaced by an arcade, a south aisle and a porch. Decorated windows were later inserted in the chancel. Blomefield noted in the mid-1700s there was still a rood screen (now gone). In **1415** there was a substantial bequest of £80 left by William Docking to glaze the windows of the (new?) south aisle where he wished to be buried and for the 'repair' of the tower. It is probable that three new tower frames and their bells were installed at that date. At the same time, a clerestory with its three square headed windows was inserted over the arcade. The height of the belfry openings could not be raised without drastically rebuilding the tower so a clerestory was provided without raising the ridge height of the nave. The south side of the aisle roof was given a curious sort of 'mansard' arrangement. That is shown in a drawing of the church by Ladbrook, made c1820.

During the Middle Ages the three manorial families of Cley had each donated their share of the parish to local monasteries. After the dissolution in **1538** three other families again took back the ownership of the parish and this helped to unite it under the one Church of All Saints. St Peters Church disappeared soon after that date and St Marys was converted into a rectory serving All Saints Church. That is curious as All Saints Church even with its aisle had seating for only 145 people – much fewer than the estimated 180 people living in the parish in 1086. The clear conclusion from the parish records is that it is highly unlikely there was an earlier church on the site of All Saints. In his analysis of the fabric of the present church Stephen found several features that suggested that it replaced an earlier building – 'a conventional Norman church plan' which sounded a bit vague. The narrow nave; two 'Norman style' lancet windows in the tower; and the tower and its door which are offset from the central axis of the nave. He accepts that the stone frames of the slit windows could have been relocated from a different church as already noted above. When the south wall of the nave was demolished in the early 1300s, the nave could have been widened

by a foot and that would account for the off-centre tower and its doorway. All these anomalies suggest they came from changes after the original church was built about 1300; not from changes made to an earlier church. This can be seen on the attached plan. All Stephen's other evidence points to a church completed about 1300. The walls of the tower are integral with the west wall of the nave and there are numerous other features that help to confirm this date. This evidence outweighs any minor reservations such as the slight difference in texture of the walls of tower and the west wall of the nave. Even the orientation of the church conforms with the cardinal points – an indication of a later church plan rather than a Norman one. The general conclusion has to be that relying exclusively on evidence displayed in the fabric of a church can be misleading.

It is worth adding that the large patch of plaster where the tower wall met the gable of the nave and above first floor level, was also over the church boiler. Perhaps a plaster lined recess was cut into the wall to accommodate a water tank – a rather more prosaic explanation than a 'Sanctuary Bell'? The tower is spherical shape rather than round at ground level. The east-west dimension is about a foot less than the north-south dimension.

A few other aspects of Cockley Cley Church are also worth recording here. In the period of high Victorian farming, manual labour was intensive and the population of Cley rose to a maximum of 255. In **1866** the Buckworth family of the old Cockley Cley Hall (now gone) stepped in to finance the restoration and further enlargement of All Saints Church. Theophilus Buckworth employed the architect Richard Makilwaine Phipson (1827-84). Most of the chancel; the north and east walls of the nave and the porch; the south clerestorey and all the roofs were ruthlessly demolished. Only the inside of the upper part of the tower and its octagonal parapet were part of this remodelling programme. The parapet looks very similar to the one shown in Ladbroke's earlier drawing so it was probably a faithful copy. A north arcade and aisle were added. They were designed to match the existing south aisle. When the ugly clerestory was removed, the height of the windows and roof of the south aisle were raised. The south wall of the chancel had a priest's door flanked by two windows, one narrow the other wider. Phipson completely rebuilt it with five matching lancet windows. His work in

Cley was much more than a 'restoration'. Buckworth also employed Phipson to build a new and fairly grand Cley Hall (1866-70) though this was in a fashionable 'Italianate' style. Phipson was a careful and studious designer who became the County Surveyor and later the Diocesan Architect for Norwich. His designs were more restrained than many of his era. He loved elaborate and often inappropriately designed stone towers and steeples. Luckily he did not express this passion in Cockley Cley!

In **1552**, at the sequestration of church goods, St Peters and All Saints each had three bells but they were removed soon afterwards. In the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century two of the three bells of All Saints were sold by a bishop's faculty. The two more recent bells were given by:

1. John Richard Dashwood of Cley Hall, and John Crowe churchwardens, cast in **1805** by Dobson; and inscribed, '*in memory of those we see no more*', 29" diameter.
2. Emily A. R. Dolignon, cast in **1900** and by Warner.

A church guide originally written in 1983 by Richard Butler- Stoney of Burwood Hall, said 'a large bell fills the belfry space'. When he revised the guide in 1991 he altered it to, 'the tower space contains one bell'. No mention was made of the (19<sup>th</sup> century?) metal bell frame. This was placed in the churchyard along with the fallen masonry from the tower. In 1991 there was only one bell left in the tower and it was blamed for its fall. Local testimony says that only a few days before the collapse occurred, a wedding group posed for photographers right under the very wall that was about to fall down!

Between 1871 and 2001 the population halved to 138 people. this held back drastic changes to the church. Cockley Cley is a huge parish of over 4,400 acres much of which has poor soils and was covered by heaths – typical of much of Breckland. The heaths surrounding the village are now planted with extensive forestry. Cockley Cley feels remote and isolated, yet the bustling market town of Swaffham is only a few miles away to the north. To the east and south there are few villages but in 1086 there was a cluster of eight. As the population generally declined in the late Middle Ages, four of those villages were deserted.

Continued on page 14

**ROUND TOWER CHU**  
**Statement of Accounts for the Year**  
**Society Accounts**

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<b>2014</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>2015</b>
18,559	Opening balance	19,883
8,200	Annual subscriptions	8,096
1,179	Tax relief on Covenants and Gift Aid	1,223
831	Donations and lectures	4,156
56	Bank and COIF Charities Deposit Interest	59
111	Magazine advertisements	111
250	Sale of books and Society items	508
14	Postage charges from sale of Society items	34
-	Study DayTour donations	530
<b>29,200</b>		<b>34,600</b>

**Balance Sheet as at 31st Dec 2015**

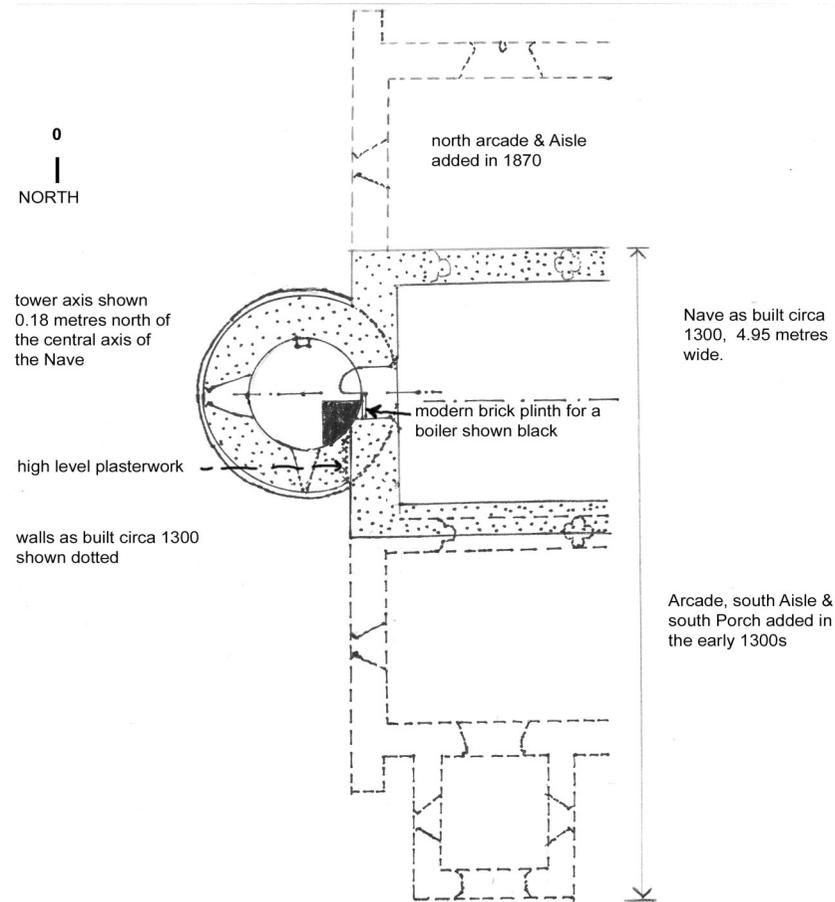
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496	Nat-West Bank– Current Account	1
6,765	Nat-West Bank—Reserve Account	11,361
12,498	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	12,552
124	Petty cash in hand	316
<b>19,883</b>		<b>24,230</b>

**Richard Barham. Hon. Treasurer**

I have examined the Accounts and Books etc of the Society and certify that this is true S





**All Saints Church, Cockley Cley  
A speculative reconstruction of the  
construction phases.**

Richard Harbord

**WE HAVE MORE TOURS THIS YEAR.**

**ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY**

Saturday Tours, first Church 2.30pm

6th June Hassingham, Acle, Fishley  
4th July South Elmham All Saints, Ilketshall St Margaret,  
Gisleham  
1st August Hardwick, Morningthorpe, Forncett St Peter  
5th Sept Hardley, Hellington, Surlingham

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**CHURCH TOURS**

on Sundays, first Church at 2.30pm

21st June Barney, Kettlestone, Guist, North Elmham  
19th July Welborne RT, Mattishall Burgh, Mattishall, Thuxton

Everyone is welcome to join us, and all our tours are free, though donations are encouraged at every church. Teas will be provided by one of the churches during each afternoon. The Sunday Tours normally end with a form of Evening Prayer at 6pm or 6.30pm. This is optional. Further details from 'Lyn Stilgoe 01328 738237.

Beachamwell Village Open Gardens Day 2015 - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June – 12 noon to 5pm. Many lovely gardens will be open. Ploughman's lunches. Afternoon teas and live music in the Old Rectory Garden. A variety of stalls and a raffle. Adults £3 and children free. All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church. [www.stmarysbeachamwell.co.uk](http://www.stmarysbeachamwell.co.uk) Enquiries 01366 328774 or [williamsoldies@gmail.com](mailto:williamsoldies@gmail.com)

## **The 42nd Annual General Meeting, Croxton Park. Saturday 9th May 2015 at 2.15pm.**

1. The Chairman, Mr Stuart Bowell, welcomed the 28 people present and expressed grateful thanks to Mr & Mrs Raker for generously providing the venue for the Meeting and the tea to follow. The Rev'd Philip Gray kindly lead the opening prayers.
2. **Apologies** had been received from Dr D Sladden and Mr R Batty.
3. **Minutes of the 41st AGM** on 10.5.2014 were agreed and signed, following a proposal by the Rev'd P Gray, seconded by Dr A Woollett.
4. **Chairman's Review:** Mr Bowell reported on another successful year, and mentioned the death of Mr Stephen Hart. He also expressed his grateful thanks to all the Members, and especially the Members of the Committee, for their help to the Society.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Mr Richard Barham presented the Accounts with a balance of £24,230, after 5 grants in the year. During the year there had been 2 bequests, the sale of old stamps and collections had brought in £769 and the use of a franking machine had saved about £300. The Accounts were accepted following a proposal by Mr M Pollitt, seconded by Mr J Butcher.
6. **Annual Subscription:** Mr Barham raised the question of whether it was time to consider increasing the annual subscription, which has stayed at £10 for 14 years, although the average given was already about £15 per head. He suggested that £20 (minimum) per annum would give more money to donate to the churches as the costs of repairs rise. The proposal was that £20 would be the amount for new members from 1st September 2015 and hopefully existing members would increase their payments to at least this sum, though he retained discretion for anyone who felt they could not pay that much. Mr Barham proposed that the subscription should be raised to £20 per annum, which was seconded by the Rev'd P Gray and unanimously agreed.
7. **Grants Report:** Mr N Wiggin reported on the 5 grants given in the year, with promises for a further 6 grants, but a further 5 applications had come in only last week! He explained about the difficulties of gaining grants from such as English Heritage, who never gave 100% of the costs, but expected local initiative to raise the remainder. The Report was accepted following a proposal by Mr M Coates, seconded by Mr M Pollitt.
8. **Elections:** Mr Barham took the Chair for the election of the Chairman, and Mr Bowell was proposed by the Rev'd P Gray, seconded by Mr M Coates, and agreed. The existing members of the Committee, all being happy to continue in post were each proposed and seconded individually, as recorded in the Minute Book. There were no new volunteers.
9. **Auditor:** Mr Barham thanked Mr Coates for his advice and help as Independent Examiner for the past 4 years. Mr M Pollitt proposed his re-election, seconded by Dr A Woollett.

**10. Any Other Business:** Dr Woollett expressed her gratitude to all who contributed articles for the Magazine, especially Mr M Pollitt, who was typing up many articles written by the late Mr S Hart, so that they can be put on the web-site. Mr Hodge mentioned the new car stickers, which will be distributed with the June Magazine. He also enlarged on the value of Facebook and Twitter reaching out to a new audience and giving instant publicity to the Society and forthcoming events in the churches. The Rev'd P Gray expressed sincere thanks to the hardworking Committee Members. Mr Hodge proposed that the Rev'd P Gray should be made the Hon.Chaplain of the Society, which was seconded by Mr Pollitt, and formally agreed.

### **Grant Officers report to the AGM. May 2015.**

This has been a comparatively quiet year. The Society has paid out just £6,500 in grants to five churches. I am aware, however, that we have outstanding promises of £8,200 to a further six churches who are still completing work or raising funds. Things look busier for 2015 2016. Last week I received five grant applications for our consideration which is something of a record.

I did encourage a number of our churches at the tail end of last year to apply for a Government Church Roof grant from the small pot of money that was made available. This turned out to involve a great deal of work by churches for a very slim chance of success. I know that Bramfield has received some funding but other churches were not successful with their applications. There are many churches requiring work and little money to go round.

The Heritage Lottery Fund does give generous grants towards church repairs if churches meet their criteria but these grants never meet the total cost of repair. For example Ramsholt that we visited not so long ago has been given a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of nearly £71,000. This sounds a lot but estimates for the repair work have come in at about £126,000. This shortfall has to be found locally which can be difficult. One of our outstanding grant promises is for £2000 to Ramsholt as and when the work starts.

Syleham's repaired and repointed tower looks splendid (the Society gave them a grant of £1000 towards the work in 2014-2015). Teresa and I hope to visit Hardwick soon. They are very appreciative of our 2014-2015 grant of £1000 towards their new roof which has cost £120,000. Last year also saw the repointing work underway at Horsey. The Society gave them a grant of £1000 towards the work. Teresa and I represented the Society at their Service of Thanksgiving

Our churches really appreciate the support and financial help that we are able to give. We are only able to do this because of the generosity of our members.

Nick Wiggin

## Treasurers Report 2014 - 2015

Once again the Society has ended the financial year with more money than we had twelve months ago. I still think that this is the result of the recession of five/six years ago when churches put on hold all but the most urgent repair programmes waiting on better economic conditions to arrive. This year we have given grants of £6500 to 5 churches compared to 2011 when we gave grants to 17 churches. The Society will continue to help round towered churches with programmes of repair and we receive the most positive feedback from churches we have helped.

The cost of postage continues to rise and has recently gone up to 54p for a second class stamp (staggering to think that this is almost 11 shillings on old money!). Fortunately I have been able to continue to use a franking machine to send out our quarterly magazine for 39p a letter. Over the last twelve months I estimate that this has saved the Society about £310 which we can put forward to helping our churches

During the year the Society received legacies of £500 from the estate of the late Jack Sterry and £2500 from the estate of the late Stephen Hart. We miss both these gentlemen but it is nice to know that they thought enough of the Society to leave us these bequests.

The sale of used postage stamps and stamp collections brings in a steady flow of money. Over the year Geoff Swain has managed to donate £769 to the Society. Three small stamp collections were given to the Society and Geoff turned them into cash for us. So keep sending us stamps and old stamp collections and we will make good use of them. You can send stamps direct to Geoff Swain at 33 Saville Street, Blidworth, Notts NG21 ORW or hand them to me on our tours.

A special thanks to Michael Coates for casting his sharp eye over my accounts and for making sure that I present them in an easy to understand format. Also a great many thanks to all members for keeping my life relatively easy and for being forgiving and understanding about the odd 'senior moment'

Richard Barham. Hon Treasurer. April 2015.

## Grants Paid 2014 - 2015

Burgh Castle, St Peter and St Paul. Roof repairs and drainage work.  
£2000.

Hardwick, St Margaret. Re-roofing and drainage work.  
£2000.

Horsey, All Saints. Repointing work.  
£1000.

Little Snoring, St Andrew. Bird screens and plaster repairs.  
£500.

Syleham, St Margaret. Work on tower and belfry openings.  
£1000.

**Total paid 2014 - 2015: £6500.**



Little Snoring, St Andrew. February 2015. Note the new bird screens. Ignore the tracks made in the muddy car park by your editor's old 4x4.

**Thursday 25th June at 7pm St Margaret's, Syleham IP21 4LN**  
(A north Suffolk round tower church)

Entertaining insights into this and other ancient Suffolk churches with historian Roy Tricker and architect Matthew Thomas.

Wine & nibbles to greet you! £5 per person.

Reservations and enquiries to [mary.lewis43@icloud.com](mailto:mary.lewis43@icloud.com) or 01379 669258

# Music & Murals

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St Mary, West Somerton

**Saturday 6 June  
at 7:30 pm**

**Tickets £10** including refreshments from Pauline, Simon or Selwyn

St Mary's is well-known for its wall paintings from the reign of Edward III (1327-77).  
This is an exciting opportunity to hear music that the artists might have heard  
when the paintings were brand new!

*The evening will include a brief talk on the history and ongoing restoration of the wall-paintings  
given by churchwarden Simon Peasley.*

For more information see Faronel's website  
[www.faronel.co.uk](http://www.faronel.co.uk)

Selwyn 01493 393430 Pauline 01493 393579 Simon 01493 393223

On Sunday 7th June The Norfolk Broads Concert Band will be playing  
more popular music at 3pm. Tickets are £5 and includes refreshments.

## **RYBURGH OPEN GARDENS**

**Saturday, 20th June 1 – 5 p.m.**

Visit a wide range of village gardens and meet the gardeners who  
planted them!

Garden passes £3 available from the church on the day.

Teas and plant sales. In aid of St. Andrew's Church.

Details from 01328 829413

## RTCS TREASURER

A unique opportunity will arise in the near future to make a positive contribution to the Society and to work alongside enthusiastic and able members of the RTCS committee. After many years as RTCS Hon Treasurer Richard Barham has indicated to the committee that he would like to pass on this responsibility at some time in the next few years

This responsible post requires integrity, common sense, ease with a computer and good communication skills. A certain amount of financial acumen is desirable but not paramount. Full induction to the post and ongoing support will be given as required.

If any of the *Round Tower's* many readers would like to make this vital contribution to the working of the Society, or if they know of anyone who might wish to do so they can get information on an informal basis by contacting Dick on **01603 788721**



### **OPEN CHURCHES WEEK: 1st – 9th AUGUST 10 – 4 p.m.**

Come and see the newly cleaned WW1 memorial screen at **Great Rybugh**.

Local history displays and activities for children.

Light lunches and teas.

### **Sat. 8th Aug. 6 p.m. “Pack up your Troubles”**

An evening of WW1 song with a meal.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Tickets £5 in advance from 01328 829413.

## From the vaults



Drawing by Stanley J Wearing of St Mary, Bessingham in 'Beautiful Norfolk Buildings' published in 1944 by Soman-Wherry Press.

This is what Mr Wearing had to say in the introduction to his little book:-

'Many of the sketches reproduced in the following pages are the result of days of quiet enjoyment during holidays before September 1939. With the outbreak of war and the possibility of damage to our treasured buildings, such drawings are of increased value as records, for which the National Buildings Record has made a wide appeal. With this thought in mind further ones were made, especially of our city churches, whenever opportunity occurred. The collection of them into book form will ensure their preservation – in time when such evidence may be lost over-night. These sketches, too, may serve to give pleasure to lovers of our Norfolk buildings, and stimulate interest in those who have opportunity to visit them'.

**Exciting news. For many years it has been near impossible to find Welborne open. From April to October 2015 it will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 to 4. Please visit as often as you can. The Welborne volunteers need to know that you appreciate their time and effort.**

# ROUND TOWER CHURCHES SOCIETY

<b>PATRON</b>	<b>HRH The Prince of Wales</b>
<b>FOUNDER</b>	<b>Mr W.J. Goode</b>
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<b>LECTURERS &amp; SLIDE SHOWS</b>	<b>Mr Stuart Bowell, Mr Richard Barham</b> (see above), <b>Mr John Scales</b> - Pastons, 30 Stoke Road, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7JL. Tel: 01508 493680

**Website:** [www.roundtowers.org.uk](http://www.roundtowers.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No:**267996

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