



Registered Charity  
No 288042

# Newsletter of the Friends of Suffolk Record Office

August 2013

## Chairman's Letter

We shall soon have a Suffolk Heritage Strategy arising from the forum set up by the County Council; a first draft has been written. Our input into that has been crucial to ensure that the Record Office is seen to underpin the whole heritage sector in Suffolk - no records, no facts to work from!

For some time, a group has been compiling a list of important people in the County who might not know about the Record Office, with all of us on the Committee sharing writing to them to explain FOSRO's role; encouraging them to join as a Friend, host an event, just think about us and the Record Office. We've had several commitments and messages of support for which we are most grateful. One result of this has been the promise of financial support from the family of George Ewart Evans for three days of local history activity looking at Oral History, Archaeology and caring for community and personal records.

Another group has been looking at whether we need our own dedicated website rather than one hosted by the County Council.

As the Record Office comes under pressure to deliver more with fewer resources, we have been asked to release Judith Stephenson from the Friends' administration. She has gradually become not just secretary, providing us with a permanent post box for all our incoming enquiries, but also minutes secretary, newsletter editor, and latterly book-keeper/treasurer and membership secretary. We have been spoilt and we now must take on more roles ourselves to allow Judith to devote time to digitisation projects. Various names have come forward from within the Committee and we have also been in touch with Community Action Suffolk, but so far no firm offers have been received. The next newsletter will be edited by me, and we look forward to others stepping forward, bringing their own different skills. We meet 4 times a year and if you do have time and interest, please get in touch via Judith at the Bury branch. We are enormously grateful to Judith for the sterling work she has undertaken for us. We are so fortunate in all who help us and our cause - members paying their subs on time provide us with funds, and especially those volunteering time in the three branches - with whom we wish to link more effectively. But could you help more? The crunch point will be at the AGM on Friday 20 September when the positions have to be filled! We look forward to seeing you!

*Hot off the Press - Frances Gander has just agreed to be our new treasurer and membership secretary but other positions are still vacant!*

*Paul Simmons  
Chairman*

### Inside this issue

Cautley and Barefoot, Architects Collection	2
Suffolk Yeomanry Volume	3
Manorial Documents Project Register Update	3
Gem from the Archives	5
Court rolls, Manor of Leiston	6
Contact details	8
Halesworth Town Council - a personal view	8

### Cautley and Barefoot, Architects Collection

The Suffolk Record Office has been awarded a grant to catalogue this large collection as part of the *National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives*. The collection is of national and regional importance especially to those studying inter-war architectural activities or post-war modernism. The application was supported by The Twentieth Century Society, RIBA Suffolk, Ipswich Borough Council, The Ipswich Society and FOSRO. The 2 year project aims to catalogue, list and repack the collection. Volunteers from some of these organisations and experienced record office volunteers will be working alongside project archivist, Hilary Ritchie to help identify, data input, number and pack the collection. The completed catalogue and a selection of images from it will eventually be available online.

The material relating to the architect partnerships *Cautley and Barefoot* and *Peter Barefoot and Partners* is held in the Ipswich branch of the Record Office and consists of approximately 159 linear feet dating from about 1892-1994 (Ref SROI HG400). This includes documents, papers, contracts etc relating to the businesses, rolled architects plans, specifications, photograph albums, slides and catalogues and brochures. In 2008 Mr Guy Barefoot, the grandson of Leslie Barefoot, converted the long term loan to a gift.

Hilary has been working on the collection since January and has written this about her progress so far: "It seemed very daunting at first as there are over 142 boxes in which there are about 730 rolls of drawings. The firm supplied the record office with two basic hand lists for the deposits of drawings although they can be confusing to use as the rolls include so much more than the lists suggest. The first lists the rolls by subject, e.g. church alterations, war memorials, rectories, hospitals, houses, banks, schools etc and consist of nearly 500 rolls and the second list is arranged by job number. Major clients included Lloyds Bank, Ipswich Borough Council, Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich School and Tollemache's Brewery.

A volunteer has been repacking the rolls, wrapping them around acid-free tubes and then in covering paper. Some smaller drawings will be placed in folders or 'Secol' transparent packets. The outer paper of the roll will be numbered and then the whole roll will be returned to a suitable size box. Another volunteer, who contacted us as a result of the appeal in the last Friends of the Suffolk Record Office newsletter, has started to input my handwritten lists onto CALM. From the first box of nine rolls there are 60 items on the catalogue. As I am going through the drawings I am identifying interesting items to use in displays and for digitisation (we can attach images to the electronic catalogue record)."

Cataloguing this collection will obviously be of great benefit to searchers who are interested in property and church history studies – about 25% of our users – and help to give them a more complete picture. The plans link to other material in our collections such as Ipswich Borough Council and Felixstowe Urban District Council Building Plans, the archives of Suffolk parish churches and the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, RIBA and the Church Plans On-line website <http://www.churchplansonline.org/> They will also help communities and individuals who are trying to find out more about the history of the buildings in their area.



St Mary Elms, Ipswich (HG400/2/23/2)

As Munro Cautley was a prolific designer of war memorials, this archive contains plans of many throughout the county. Researchers are already beginning to investigate the history of the memorials in their parish in anticipation of the commemoration of the Great War in 2014. We envisage there will be an increased demand to see his drawings as more communities plan their activities.

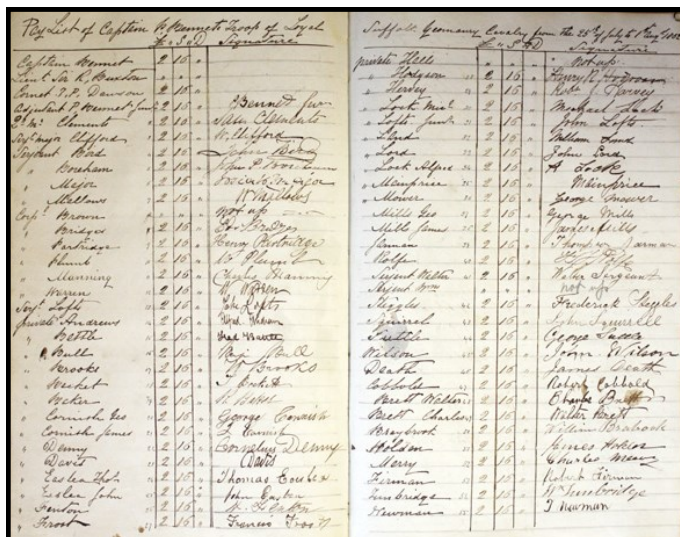
Bridget Hanley

### Recent Purchase - Suffolk Yeomanry Volume

The Friends recently purchased a volume relating to the organisation and activities of the 1<sup>st</sup> Troop of the Loyal Suffolk Yeomanry Cavalry between 1838 and 1868.

The Yeomanry were created in 1794 as a form of defence against a possible French invasion – the mounted equivalent of the Militia. They were also available to help keep the peace at home, in the absence of regular police forces.

The Suffolk Yeomanry was a largely West-Suffolk based body, reorganised in 1831 into three Troops, of which the 1<sup>st</sup> was commanded until his death in 1866 by Philip Bennett of Rougham Hall. It drew its strength from villages within a fifteen mile radius of Bury St Edmunds.



The book contains annual lists of the men, with their home parish and date of enrolment; pay lists; details of the number of days spent on the obligatory permanent duty and field exercise; lists of the Troop's weapons (swords and carbines); accounts of expenditure on clothing and contingencies and copy correspondence.

All in all, a valuable resource for local, family and military historians. The volume can be consulted at the Bury office, ref HD3241/1.

Gwyn Thomas  
FOSRO Committee

### Manorial Documents Register - project update

The revision of the Suffolk Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is now in its final year and work has started on locating and recording documents held outside Suffolk Record Office. According to information held on the original MDR, 65% of known manorial records relating to Suffolk are held within the three branches of Suffolk Record Office. The remaining records are located in disparate repositories around the world and many remain in private ownership.

As would be expected, The National Archives (TNA) and the British Library hold the largest proportion of manorial records relating to Suffolk outside the county, constituting 12% and 6% of known records respectively. The majority of records held at TNA derive from the administration of the Crown's estates, together with manorial records which were submitted as evidence in legal cases. County record offices outside Suffolk hold 5% of the remaining records, the largest quantity being in Suffolk's neighbouring county record offices of Norfolk and Essex. There are however significant collections in less obvious places. Staffordshire Record Office holds the records of the Sulyard family which became part of the Stafford collection through the marriage of Frances Sulyard to Lord Stafford in 1800. The Sulyard family papers are extensive, the manorial component being a particular strength of the collection. Although the family possessed only modest family estates nucleated around Wetherden and Haughley, a large quantity of records have survived due perhaps to the fact that successive generations of the family were lawyers.

Universities hold 4% of known Suffolk manorial records, many of which relate to the Suffolk estates of the Cambridge colleges. Many of these are now held at Cambridge University Library, although some

### Manorial Documents Register - project update (cont.)

of the Cambridge colleges still maintain their manuscripts in-house. Kings College has a particularly notable collection of records relating to their Suffolk estates, including the manors belonging to Kersey Priory and the Priory of St Leonard at Bricett, which formed part of the original endowment granted to the college at its foundation by Henry VI in 1444. Again, there are records to be found in more unexpected locations. The University of Reading holds the W H Smith collection containing records of the Thurlow and Hundon Estate purchased by W H Smith from Sir Henry Dashwood in 1877. Of particular significance in this collection are records relating to the manor of Hardwick, for which manor very few records appear to have survived anywhere else.

Prior to the Law of Property Amendment Act of 1924 it was permissible for manorial documents to be transferred out of the country. As a result there are a number of records maintained in overseas repositories. Harvard Law Library, Vassar College and the University of Kansas maintain collections which include Suffolk manorial records, although the most extensive and well-known of the US held collections is the Sir Nicholas Bacon Collection of English and Manorial Documents held at Chicago University Library. The records within this collection relate to monastic and other lands which were purchased by Nicholas Bacon during the mid-sixteenth century, including former manorial holdings of Bury St Edmunds Abbey. The significance of this particular collection derives from its unparalleled chronological run of manorial court and account rolls spanning four centuries and, according to the collection guide, provides 'an unusually detailed view of the development of English rural and agricultural society'.

The final category of holdings relate to documents retained in private ownership and make up 8% of known Suffolk manorial records. These range from extensive collections such as that held at Helmingham Hall relating to the estates of Lord Tollemache and maintained by a designated archivist, to private individuals holding a small number of documents through purchase or inheritance. TNA maintains the MDR and undertake much of the work to trace the present location of documents. This is no easy task given that documents frequently change hands without information about changes in ownership being passed on. It should be stressed that TNA treat details of private owners in strict confidence and all enquiries are directed to and filtered through TNA in the first instance.

Information held on the MDR for records held at Eton College demonstrates the necessity to revise the existing data. The original MDR recorded only one entry for Eton College, viz 'Creting St Mary: court rolls, rentals etc, undated'. It was therefore something of a surprise to discover an extensive catalogue of records relating to the college's manorial holdings in Great Blakenham, Chattisham and Hintlesham, along with Creting St Mary. A single entry on the former MDR has since become 135 entries on the revised MDR. Visits to repositories and correspondence to private owners are now underway in order to further clarify catalogue entries and to work through records where no catalogue has been produced.



Arundel Castle

A visit to Arundel Castle in June resolved a number of queries relating to the records of the Duke of Norfolk's Suffolk estates, including the correction of palaeographical errors which the Suffolk MDR Project Officer was able to clarify through local knowledge of Suffolk manorial names. The box-listing of a number of early court rolls and rentals relating to the Bungay manors was also completed during the visit.

This aspect of the project clearly highlights the MDR as an indispensable resource for locating dispersed records in repositories a considerable distance from the geographical area to which they refer.

Collating this information will result in a far more comprehensive and reliable source of information. It is also hoped that by promoting manorial records as a significant historical resource, private owners may be encouraged to come forward with information about records which have hitherto been unknown to the wider community. By making these collections better known to the public and encouraging their care and accessibility, their disposal or loss of archival integrity through dispersal at auction can more easily be prevented.

For further information regarding the revision of the MDR (Suffolk) please contact the MDR Project Officer, Gemma Field (email: [Gemma.Field@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Gemma.Field@suffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 01284 741205).

For queries relating to records held in private ownership, including advice and guidance on care of manorial records held privately, please email [mdr@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mdr@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

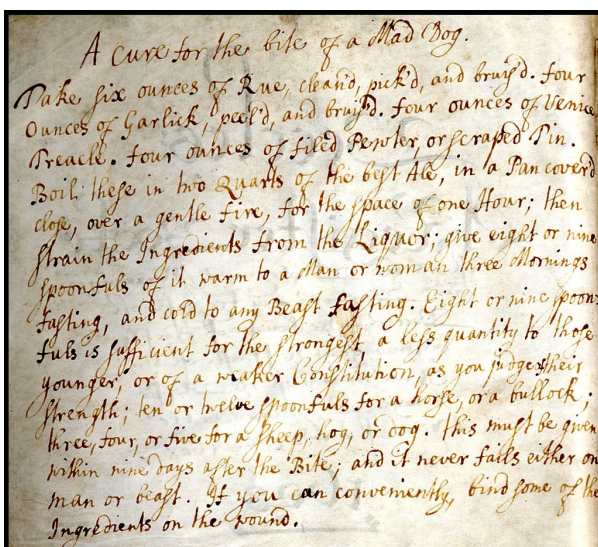
Gemma Field, MDR Project Officer (Suffolk)  
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### Correction to the last newsletter

The April 2013 newsletter recorded that the Wickham Market Local History Society had generously contributed towards the purchase of the archive collection relating to the Beeden family of Marlesford. The contribution was actually made by the Wickham Market Area Archives Centre. We are very grateful for all donations and apologise for the error.

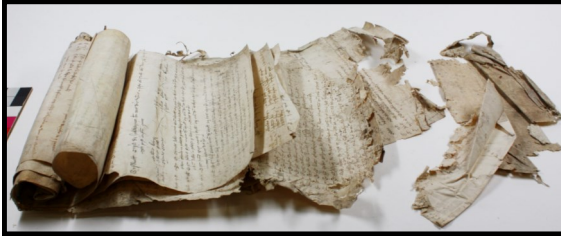
### Gem from the Archives - Beccles parish regiser, 1608

Black dogs have remained notorious in the Suffolk region through the 'Black Shuck' legend, publicised widely in 1577 by Abraham Flemings' ballad. The ballad describes a strange incident in Bungay church: during a thunderstorm, a supernatural black dog entered the church and slew two men to the horror of on looking parishioners. The 'Mad Dog' recipe indicates that the people of Beccles were concerned about the risk posed by dogs, supernatural or otherwise: They could be deadly, a premonition of death or a manifestation of the Devil himself.



The recipe reads, "Take six ounces of Rue, clean'd, pick'd and bruis'd. four Ounces of Garlick, peel'd, and bruis'd. four ounces of Venice Treacle. four ounces of filed Pewter, or scraped Tin. Boil these in two Quarts of the best Ale, in a Pan cover'd close, over a gentle fire, for the space of one Hour". To the modern reader, the idea of treating rabies with metal filings, treacle and salt seems both comical and dangerous but it is an important reminder of how different the early modern world was to our own. Ideas about diseases and medicine and life and death were intertwined with ideas of God, religion and the supernatural. The 'Mad Dog' recipe indicates that the people of Beccles were concerned about the risk posed by dogs, supernatural or otherwise: They could be deadly, a premonition of death or a manifestation of the Devil himself.

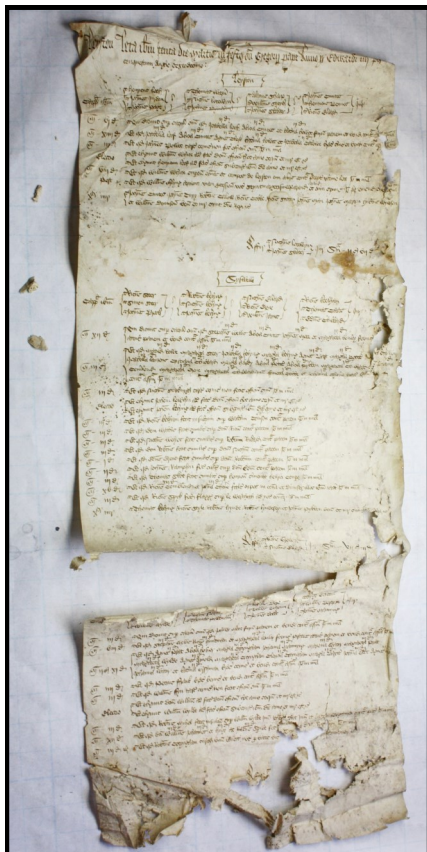
## Court Rolls, Manor of Leiston



During the last couple of years our conservator, Dominic Wall, has been engaged in repairing some of the court rolls for the manor of Leiston in the HD1032 collection. These are: HD1032/2 (1413-1422), 3 (1456-1472) and 8 (1509-1546).

They have been used extensively by researcher Anthony Breen who has written a fascinating and detailed summary of his findings which show how the courts operated and how rolls have survived. These have been of tremendous use to Gemma Field, our Manorial Documents Register Project archivist. With Mr Breen's permission I am including extracts from this summary as well as some photographs of before and after the conservation work was carried out. He says:

The conservation of all the surviving court rolls for the reign of Henry VIII has made it possible to carry out an analysis of how the manor court operated both before and after the dissolution of Leiston abbey. The records relate to three courts, the general court baron, sometimes referred to simply as the court and occasionally as a court with view of Frankpledge, the court leet and the Hethewarmote Court. The records of the latter court are often described as 'wreck rolls'. By the sixteenth century the abbots of Leiston had adopted a regular pattern for the meetings of each of these courts. The general court normally met four times a year. The post dissolution practice was quite different as both the court baron and court leet met at the same time. The records of Hethewarmote continued through to 1517. There is then a gap in the records until a meeting of the court on 6 December 1537 during the brief period when Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk was lord of the manor. The final record of the meeting of this court was in 1544 on the feast of St Thomas the Apostle (21 December).



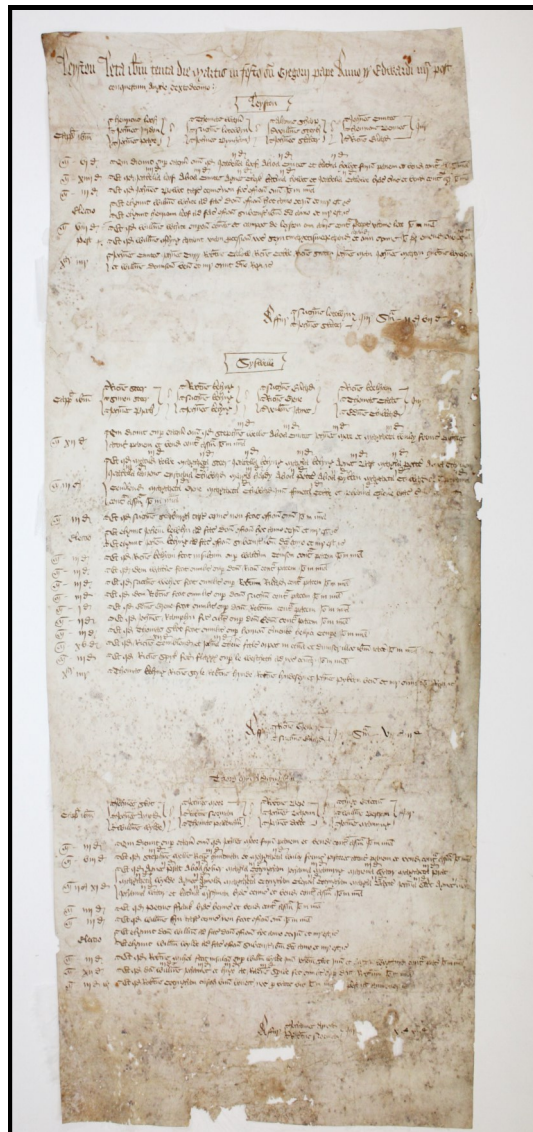
### Location of the records

Most of the surviving rolls are now held at the Suffolk Record in Ipswich. At some point these were in the care of the Halesworth firm of solicitors Cross and Ram who probably acted as the agents for the Vanneck family, Lords Huntingfield who were the lords of this and other manors. Further records were held at Lord Huntingfield's home, Heveningham Hall. In 1970 these were purchased by the Government and subsequently deposited at Cambridge University Library (Vanneck Collection). They were described in 1978 in an Out of Custody List (Record Office reference B 120) prepared on behalf of the National Register of Archives. The collection then included just a single court roll for 35 Hen VIII (1543-1544).

The fate of the Hethewarmote rolls is a little more complicated. Shortly after the rolls had been identified amongst 'the muniments of Lord Huntingfield formerly at Heveningham Hall' they were described by Bertram Schofield in his article 'Wreck Rolls of Leiston Abbey' published in 1957. He mentions two earlier rolls and the 'final roll, of seven membranes dating from 20 Henry VII (1504) to 9 Henry VIII (1517)'. Originally the rolls including that for 1504-1517 were deposited at the East Suffolk Record Office (HD 371) but in 1967 the roll for 1504-1517 was lent out for a temporary exhibition held at Leiston. This roll was not returned and its absence was later noted in the collection catalogue. This roll has found its way to Cambridge (ref. Vanneck Box 17).

**The Survival of the Rolls**

The survival of so many of the early court rolls of Leiston is due to the efforts of Sir Henry Glemham, the steward of the manor who recovered the records from their previous custodians. At the manorial court held on 7 April 1607 the jury for Leiston first mention the existence of other records in relation to a property called Westhowse. The court records note further presentments that there were 'in the hands of Francis Colbie esquire the chief steward of the manor *'One great trunck'* and *'one great bagge'* full of court rolls, extents, rentals survey books and accounts belonging to this manor in which were the *'twoe extent books'*. They also presented that Nicholas Fleet had delivered to the court 'nine rolls strung together and one roll that is to say one roll of view of Frankpledge held in the 5th year of Edward III, *'one little remembrance in parchment'* of diverse services and one long old roll or *'one longe ould Rowle'* written in parchment in various parts used for or regarding various grants'. The jury continued by stating that Jonas Blomefield had seen *'diverse bookes of extent & surveighe'* in the hands of John Doone gentleman who was in the service of John Browne esquire the 'supervisor' of this manor. They also presented that 'a sealed cupboard (?) full of books namely extents and surveys accounts and rentals of the manor had been delivered by John Browne esquire deceased then the supervisor of this manor to a certain Thomas Browne of London gentleman who was then secretary to the lord treasurer namely William Lord Burley deceased' (ref. HD1032/13/11). Later at the same court Anne Colbie widow 'now the wife of Francis Bayldon knt.,' was ordered to deliver to the court *'certain old rolls or books - An Auncient Dragege of Common Pasture of the manor of Leiston and one copy of the same book and also numerous of rolls of the manor and 2 extents'*.



One of these surveys is now at Cambridge (ref. Vanneck/Box 17) and is endorsed *'This Book was received in Anno 1607 by Sir Henry Glemham knt of Sir Francis Balden who married anne the late wife of Francis Colby esq late heigh stuard of the mannor of Laiston ...'*

Anthony M Breen

Dominic is now working on the HD1032/86-88 (1422-1481) rolls. These are for the Sizewell court of 'Hethewarmoot' which had jurisdiction over wrecks.

**Membership and Subscriptions**

Members are reminded that subscriptions fall due each year on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The minimum subscription is £12 for Individual/Family membership and £20 for Corporate membership. Cheques should be made payable to the *Friends of the Suffolk Record Office* and sent to the Secretary at the Bury St Edmunds branch.

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Website address: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sro>  
One-stop gateway to Suffolk Record Office catalogues and Suffolk's heritage collections -  
[www.suffolkheritagedirect.org.uk](http://www.suffolkheritagedirect.org.uk)

For any queries or comments about the Friends please contact the secretary at the Bury Record Office or by email at [judith.stephenson@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:judith.stephenson@suffolk.gov.uk)

### Halesworth Town Council Collection - a personal view

At first glance the Halesworth Town Council Collection (ref. 1724) appears a little dull; committee minutes, notes and formal letters written by council officers amounting to a bureaucracy of thin typing paper concerned only with the minutia of life in a provincial Suffolk town. Looking a little closer, the collection begins to speak, drawing you into the hopes and dreams, dramas and disputes which have shaped the physical and social structure of Halesworth over a thirty year period. Where to build the relief road, should cyclists be allowed on the footpaths, who should cut back the overgrown verges for the elderly are all questions which mattered a great deal to the people of Halesworth, so much so that they made their opinions known through pen and paper.

While cataloguing this collection I found myself rooting for the 'New Reach Project' volunteers. Their hard work clearing and renovating the canal into a leisure area won an environmental award and further funding. However, all was not well; the work had allegedly affected the standing water level and brought objections from a local land owner. The resulting correspondence between volunteers, the Council, land owners and river authorities became more fraught as compromise after compromise failed to suit all parties. At that point the land owners offered to sell the land to the council. When they refused to name a price and withdrew from the sale, I reached fever pitch, and I confess, I cheated and googled the 'ending'. The result was bitter, New Reach was abandoned after an agreement could not be found and I was devastated. For all that work, passion and frustration to come to nothing seemed so unfair, so unsatisfactory. But that's the problem with reading archives as exciting as any novel, the happy ending is never guaranteed.

This collection gives voice to the workings of the Town Council, its priorities and ambitions. It also allows us to hear the voices of the general public in Halesworth, the worries of residents, their fears, hopes and frustrations. The material also gives us a visual memory, with detailed maps and plans which show the town in reality and how it was envisaged by developers, volunteer groups, architects and industries. It may be a relatively modern collection but 1724 can really tell us how Halesworth was changing and how people felt about those changes.

Helen Band, Searchroom Assistant  
Lowestoft Record Office