

Chairman's Message

I took over as Chair at the May 2018 AGM, having served on the FOSRO Committee since 2016. I am a regular user of the Suffolk Record Office, visiting all three branches regularly over many years, both for family and for local history research. On each visit I make, the sheer range of material available to users never ceases to amaze me: it is a resource which needs and deserves our support.

The Friends of Suffolk Record Office is committed to supporting Suffolk Record Office staff in their work. We have therefore made a grant of £1000 towards cataloguing staff costs for this year, as we have done in previous years. We were also pleased to help secure £150k from the Garfield Weston Foundation which will be used to create and fit out an exhibition room and special display spaces in The Hold, the new archives centre currently in construction in Ipswich. You can read more about the progress of this, and associated activities, in this newsletter.

I am delighted to say that over the past year we have been successful in acquiring several documents, including an account book dating from the mid-1800s for Riddleys, the grocers in Bury St Edmunds, and two nineteenth-century accounts ledgers relating to farming and brewing. Committee member Ray Whitehand has been working to try to identify the specific owners and/or businesses of these two ledgers. It is still very much a work in progress. Acquiring documents that would otherwise pass into private hands remains one of our key aims, and so, please get in touch if you come across Suffolk-related, non-published, material at auction or for sale by specialist dealers.

We have a relatively small but loyal membership. Many give significantly more than the annual £12 individual membership fee and for which we are very grateful. Others offer their time and expertise, including by serving on our small, dedicated committee. Of course, we always welcome extra pairs of hands, and so if you are interested in serving on the committee, please get in touch with me or any of our committee members. Thank you.

Following on from the well-attended, excellent lecture by Dr James Freeman of Cambridge University Library after our AGM at Christchurch Mansion in May 2018, we have decided to establish such lectures (combined with a brief AGM) as an annual event. We have therefore booked the **Guildhall in Bury St Edmunds for the evening of Wednesday 22nd May 2019** at which we have planned an equally-stimulating lecture. I do hope you can join us for both the AGM and the lecture. Further details, including an invitation card for the lecture and a reply form are included in this mailing.

Sarah E Doig

STOP PRESS

FOSRO made a successful bid and acquired for the Suffolk Record Office the **THORNEY HALL MANOR COURT BOOK 1709 -58** (Latin and English) from Forum Auctions, London

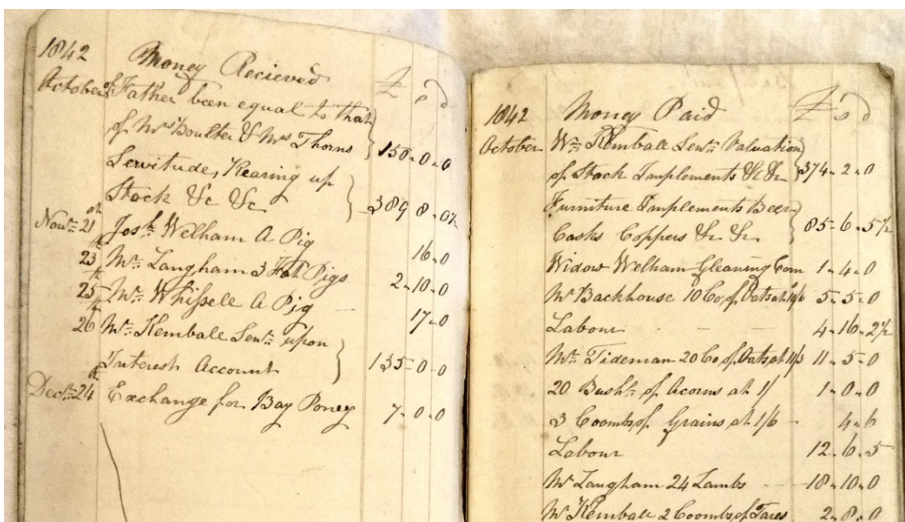
Recent purchases – Ray Whitehand (FOSRO Committee member)

Brewery Account Books

Last summer FOSRO purchased two brewery related account books from an auction house in West Sussex. The first volume is an unidentified **Farm Accounts Book** of 180 pages, 1842-1854 (HD4153/1). This mentions payments to Oakes Bank, South Norfolk/North Suffolk. The second volume is a **Brewing Ledger** from the Rattlesden area; 1848-1851 (HD4153/2). It consists of 200 pages, and mentions local place names, including Rattlesden, Combs, Finborough, and Buxhall. There is an index of names at the front of the volume. Both volumes are in reasonably good condition, and seemingly in the same clear and legible hand.

Farm Accounts Book (1848-1854) consists of un-numbered pages and covers the period October 1842 to February 1854. The facing pages are for 'moneys received' and 'monies paid'. It relates to various and varied transactions of an agricultural merchant based in the Stowmarket, Finborough, and Buxhall area. It relates to both crop seed and livestock. A selection of names includes Mr Crabb,

Mr Crick, Mr Bird, Mr Groom, Mr Clover, Mr Wright, William Kimball Sr, Rev C. Hill, Henry Welham, Messers Boldro & Dykes, Dame Rozier, Jas Double, Henry Double, Mr Goram, and Mr E Cropley.



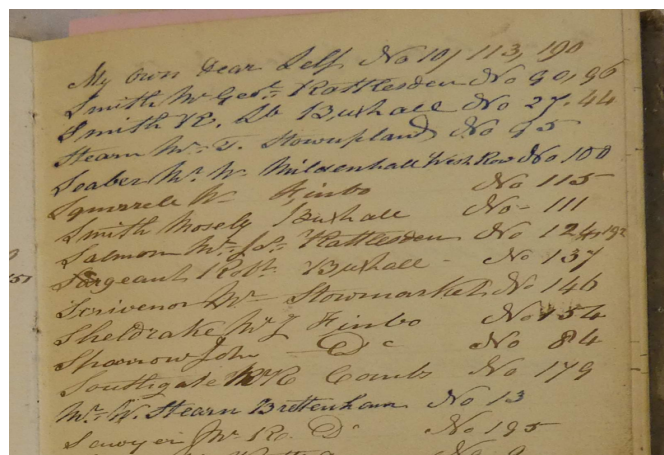
Some general entries relate to the amount individuals paid for items, such as, cherries, raspberries, laurels, carting stones, and tithes

paid to the vicar Rev. C. Hill. Examples of 'Money received' entries include amounts for '3 fat pigs - £2.10.0d' (Mr Langham November 23rd), the amount received for the 'exchange of a Bay Pony [sic] £7.0.0d' and - 'Nov 26th - Mr Kemballe Senr upon Interest account £135.0.' On the facing page to the above example, is a 'Moneys paid' listing. One example is a listing for October 1842. The entries include: 'Wm. Kemballe senr valuation of stock impliments, [sic] etc etc £374.2.0, Furniture, Implements, beer casks, coppers etc etc £85.6.5½ and to Widow Welham cleaning corn £1.4.0d'.

Of particular interest are the names of local Stowmarket tradesmen, such as Charles Brees (Doctor); Clover (Miller); Bewley (Iron Monger); Mr Gross (Manager of Oakes Bank) and Mr Madley (Vicar of Gt. Finborough).

The second volume is labelled ‘Ledger’ on the front cover. The index contains the client’s surname and parish. For example: W. Scrivener of Stowmarket; Mr J S Salmon of Rattlesden, and widow Stearn of Buxhall.

This volume seems to relate to the transactions of a brewery-related industry. It could belong to a brewer buying stock from a large number of smallholders, or to a merchant selling brewing ingredients to householders for personal consumption. The majority of transactions are for sales of hops or malt in a wide range of quantities. Several of named persons made monthly transactions throughout the year, and this could suggest the ingredients were being used for personal use.



The author is unknown but records entries on the index page under ‘S’ as ‘for my own good self’. Could this provide a clue as to the identity? Was it John Spink? Any suggestions as to the original owners of these account books, please contact any FOSRO committee member or one of the staff at a Record Office who will forward your suggestions.

Update on ‘The Hold’: A Suffolk Archives Service for the 21st Century – Amy Rushton

Construction



Construction February 2019 (image - RG Carter)

Work on the new building ‘The Hold’ is progressing remarkably well thanks to the relatively mild winter we have had. Anyone who has visited the University of Suffolk recently will have seen the steel frame rising proudly from the site: at the time of writing, over 90% of the frame is complete!

The strongrooms which will house the archive collections are also substantially complete, with the concrete structure already complete to the second-floor level. This area of the building has been a particular focus for the construction team, as it needs time to dry out thoroughly

before any archives are moved in. Because the strongrooms are a ‘passive’ design (relying on air tightness rather than plant to maintain conditions) this makes the drying time somewhat unpredictable.

By the end of March, the masonry blocks and brick laying will start, with the building on track to be completed in March 2020, ready for formal opening celebrations in Spring 2020. As some of you may recall, we had previously hoped to open the doors by the end of 2019 in order to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the Eye Charter; if it is possible to do this safely prior to practical completion, we surely will, so watch this space!

Activities and outreach

The Record Office now has two 'Community and Learning Officers' on the team, thanks to the support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Hannah Salisbury covers the western half of the county, and Mandy Rawlins covers the eastern half. They are charged with delivering the countywide 'Activity Plan' of learning and outreach throughout the project and beyond the end of the Lottery support.

Their initial focus is on delivering the '**Sharing Suffolk Stories**' (SSS) programme in which some of you may already be involved! The objective is to support community groups to explore the history and stories of their local area, helping them to develop their archive research skills, and then helping them to share their work in creative ways (e.g. through music, drama, storytelling, poetry and exhibitions).

There are already 12 active projects, including the 3 'Land and Shore' projects which are supported by our partners the Voiceloud (pictured with their group the Rogue Shanty Buoys). You can find out more about the Sharing Suffolk Stories programme at:

www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/the_hold/sharing-suffolk-stories

If you see Hannah and Mandy out and about, please let them know if you have an idea for a Sharing Suffolk Stories project!



Bringing heritage to life through song –
'Sharing Suffolk Stories' partners the Rogue
Shanty Buoys (image – SCC)

I would like to end by thanking everyone who has contributed to FOSRO's joint fundraising campaign with the Suffolk Archives Foundation for the '**John Blatchly Local Studies Library**' at The Hold. While we remain short of the ambitious £100,000 target, there has been great generosity from FOSRO members and others. The Local Studies Library will be at the heart of The Hold and will form a fitting tribute to this great man. It is still possible to contribute at: www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/blatchlyappeal



Artist's impression of the
John Blatchly Local Studies
Library at The Hold
(image – SCC)

Contact details for the **FOSRO** committee can be found at www.fosro.org.uk