

Chairman's Message

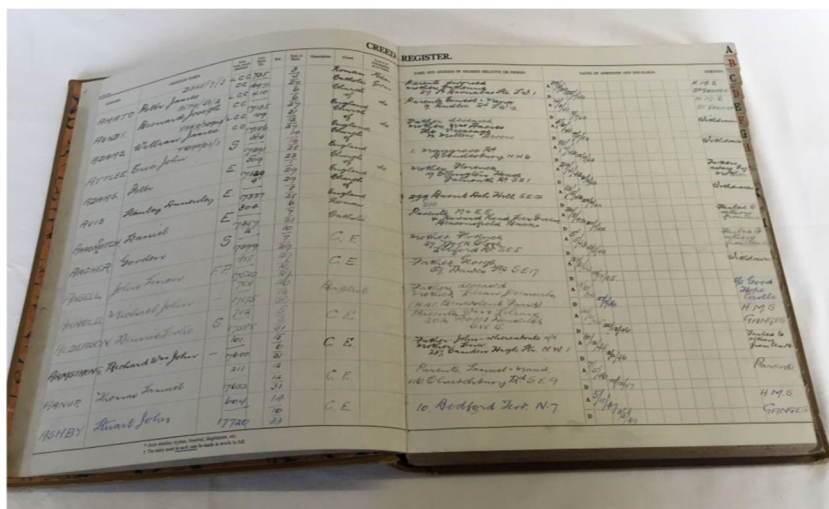
The project to build a new branch down by the Ipswich docks edges ahead and excitement grows as the various strands come together. Along with others, I have been talking to Julia Holberry who is researching what is needed in terms of outreach and activities centred on the new facility- I have no doubts that we must be reaching out to those who have never been to a record office, to demystify the experience and show what fun it is to undertake research from primary records rather than secondary sources.

I've also had a meeting with Tony Horner, the Chair of Trustees of the new Suffolk Archives Foundation, which is now a charity (no1170463) set up to seek funds for 'the advancement of education for the public benefit by means of grants, human resources, educational services, advocacy and advice to promote, maintain and improve the archive service in Suffolk' with the initial aim of raising funds for the new building, and could go on then to seek funds for the other branches in due course. Your committee felt that to take on that sort of fund-raising activity was beyond the scope of the present trustees' resources.

What we have provided is matched funding for a new A3 book scanner for the Lowestoft branch; the remaining money coming from locality budgets of SCC Councillors Richard Smith and Michael Ladd; in total £15,250! This follows the success of one we purchased with legacy funds for Bury.

Paul Simmons, Chairman.

New Acquisitions



Woolverstone Register

Since last summer FOSRO has successfully purchased two historical documents which have been deposited in the Record Office. The first document was bought from a private dealer and is a single sheet of handmade paper relating to the estates of the William Hervey, Marquess of Bristol. It lists tenants on his Suffolk (and Hertfordshire) estates in 1706 giving details of rents payable for the year. FOSRO was also successful in bidding for the original register of pupils of the London Nautical School at Woolverstone Hall and covers the period 1930-1949. It records biographical details about the boarding school's pupils along with their home address and notes on where pupils went on leaving the school. Many boys moved to the nearby Royal Navy training ship at Shotley, The *HMS Ganges*. This register will be of interest both to family historians and those who are interested in the history of naval institutions in Suffolk.

FOSRO committee members regularly scan auction house listings as well as private dealers' catalogues on the lookout for items of interest. Following earlier disappointments in being outbid in auctions, the committee has agreed to bid as aggressively as possible. This policy certainly paid off in acquiring the Woolverstone register, and it is hoped that we will be equally successful in bidding in the future.

If any member comes across a document of historical interest with a Suffolk connection, please contact a member of the FOSRO committee.

The Burrell Album

Peter Goulding of the Breckland Society reflects on the importance of the album to The Military History of the Brecks Project.



Soldiers Memorial Elveden

The Burrell Album at Suffolk Record Office in Bury is a visual treat. Two large album's hold more than two thousand photographs taken from the first three decades of the Twentieth century. A large part of the collection covers World War 1 in Suffolk, and it was these pictures that made this event seem real, in a way that casualty statistics could not.

The Military History of the Brecks 1900-49 project was run by the Breckland Society and funded by the HLF Breaking New Ground landscape partnership scheme. The project used volunteers to research this history for a 32-page report, which rapidly swelled to first 40 and then 48 pages. The reason for this was the richness of the history in this unregarded part of the Norfolk and Suffolk countryside.

We found evidence of the first tank training ever to take place in the world, near Elveden. One of the earliest military airfields in Thetford was used as early as 1911. We found out about the 1911 manoeuvres : crucial training that allowed the British Army to fight and survive the opening battles of World War 1. We found airfields, evidence of Poles, Aussies and Kiwis, Canadians, and many other nationalities, not least the Americans. We identified military camps on industrial estates and bunkers hidden in flint walls.

Investigating this history made it real in a way that reading books could not. Looking through the photographs of the Burrell Album was especially powerful.

Many of the images are of casualties of the trenches recovering locally. Many of the men are well on the mend, wearing what would have been blue hospital uniforms, although often with Aussie Slouch hats or Highland Regiment bonnets. Nothing is there to tell us what happened next. Were the individuals on their way back to the front, with a wound-stripe on their arm? Or had they got a blighty wound which would see them safely and honourably discharged home?

Throughout the album there are very many faces, staring into the camera. In the end we chose just four images for our report out of 2000, we could have used hundreds. A gun team, in immaculate uniforms haul their artillery piece across stony Breckland ground; the camp at Ingham, in a picture taken from the church tower, showing rows of white bell tents and wooden huts amongst ancient cart sheds and barns; a group of soldiers enjoying bathing in the river at West Stow; the inauguration of the soldiers memorial at Elveden in 1921, the tallest in the country.

I would recommend a visit to Suffolk Record Office at Bury to anyone, it would be worth it for the Burrell album alone.

Keeping this incredible record available to the public is an essential safeguard of the evidence of our past.

Tracking the Market

By Paul Simmons

Those of you at the 2016 AGM will perhaps recall my plea for help in monitoring archival material being offered for sale on ebay. We have had some success in this but the more eyes there are the better. We need to keep abreast of the many auction houses locally to ensure we don't miss important items that would enhance the Record Office holdings. To that end, the committee have undertaken to commit themselves to tracking specific auction houses rather than leaving it to chance.

But you may not be aware that the National Archives [TNA] also tracks the market. As TNA says, 'most archive services acquire new material for their collections and make them available to researchers through longstanding arrangements, very often by transfer from their governing body, or by deposit from businesses, families, organisations and individuals. However, manuscripts and archival collections do come up for sale. This is sometimes through specialist auctioneers and dealers, but increasingly through non-specialist antique dealers and amateur sellers, almost always online. When important documents are put up for auction how can we help ensure that they go to the right archive service – somewhere where they can be seen in context alongside other, similar material and where researchers will be able to access and enjoy them?

The sales monitoring service, which is run by the Archive Sector Development team at The National Archives, was set up to support this effort.

In the last sales year, we monitored around 350 catalogues from over 100 sources. Where we see lots that fit within the collecting remit of one of the UK's archive services, we notify that institution so that they can decide whether they want to buy the manuscript or collection.'

We in Suffolk have indeed had items brought to our attention, mainly from sellers outside the East Anglia region which we would have had little chance of finding were it not for TNA's help.

Furthermore, the unique overview TNA's work gives of all aspects of the buying and selling of archives means that they have real expertise on the value of archival material, and also how the market in manuscripts works. TNA is, like FOSRO, always caught in the cleft stick of not wishing to push



the market higher by bidding at open auction and the downside of missing out on items that should be in a public repository.

Of course, TNA has a national role for nationally important material and works with grant awarding bodies – such as the Arts Council/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Friends of the National Libraries – playing a vital role in securing significant manuscripts for UK institutions. The advice they give these bodies looks at whether the seller is asking a fair price; whether the material is important enough to justify purchase; and whether it fits well with the purchasing institution's collecting policy, and will sit alongside related material which will enhance both the evidential value of the purchase and the collections it joins.

The market in archival material is relatively lightly regulated, and the majority of professional dealers are happy to work within the limits of legislation. Nevertheless, TNA looks out for documents which should not be sold on the open market (primarily public records, sealed tithe documents and parish registers). They send copies of the Manorial Documents Rules to be distributed when a manorial document is offered for sale, reminding purchasers of their obligation to notify the Manorial Documents Register of document movements and the prohibition on export of manorial documents.

Our aim, and that of TNA, is always to make sure that important material – and the stories that it can unlock – are preserved and made available.

Grand Tour Map of Rome

By Paul Botwright



Last March when the catalogue system (CALM) was down I was in the strong room checking queries that had arisen whilst putting the Saumarez Collection paper catalogue onto CALM. Next to a document I was checking was an intriguing patterned card pouch with Italian words on the label including 'Roma'. As we had just booked a week in Rome for August I couldn't resist a quick look. The pouch contained a most beautiful folded map of Rome, linen backed, and engraved with all features depicted in perspective.

The paper catalogue lists it as 'Large-scale plan of Rome c.1816' and it was in the papers of the Middleton family of Crowfield and Shrubland, with the name 'W F Middleton' on the label. I checked on-line at home but couldn't find an illustration of this specific map, although other maps in a similar style were earlier than 1816. I forgot about it until August when our apartment in Rome turned out to be 3 doors from an old fashioned print and map shop, selling originals and reproductions specialising in Rome, but again I couldn't find one like Middleton's map.

Back at the Record Office in September I knew a Volunteers' Newsletter article would be due for Christmas and was determined to identify the map. On checking the map again there was no title or writing on it, so I only had the pouch label to go on. By googling each word, and permutation as most weren't clear, I eventually got 'Pianta di Roma Moderna del Vasi' - Modern Plan of Rome by Vasi. I could now easily get a hit on-line. Giuseppe Vasi, 1710-1782, originally from Sicily, was Rome's foremost engraver for over 30 years, very famous, but now overshadowed by his pupil, Piranesi. Vasi produced

hundreds of views of Rome, one set of books alone was in 10 volumes with 238 prints. He produced guide books with itineraries, prints and maps for rich visitors, such as those Englishmen on the Grand Tour, and all are highly sought after today.

Our map is his last masterwork, published in 1781, the year before he died, under the full title - 'Nuova Pianta di Roma in Prospettiva'. The map is large, 3ft 1ins X 2ft 3 ins, and has been cut into 28 sections for ease of folding when mounted onto its linen backing. Looking again I could just see that the title and attribution are actually still there along the bottom edge, underneath the linen backing where it has been folded round the edges and stuck onto the front of the map, all the way round.

William Middleton the younger 1786-1860, later Sir William Fowle Middleton, 2nd Baronet, of Shrubland Hall, like many heirs to great estates, went on the Grand Tour. In fact between 1805 and 1820 he went on several rather grand tours, Britain and Ireland, Austria, Germany, France and Italy, fortunately for us keeping comprehensive travel diaries. He arrived in Rome in November 1816 and stayed until January. On Christmas Day, 200 years ago exactly, he went to a service at St. Peter's. He was back in Rome in 1819, probably with his map. It had been catalogued as c.1816 because that was when he was first in Rome, but actually dates from 1781 and is an absolute treasure, rarely, if ever, requested for viewing.



Article originally published in Suffolk Record Office Volunteer newsletter.

SRO Website and Digitisation

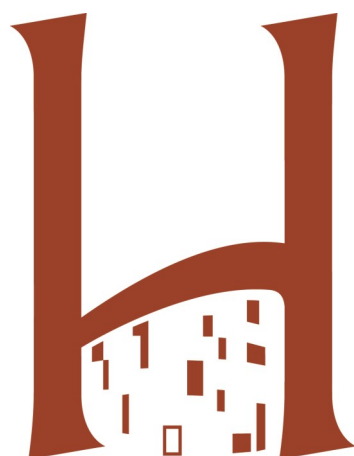


Work on the development of the website www.suffolkarchives.co.uk has continued. On 13th December the Record Office Searchroom teams started taking online payments through the website from customers for the first time. The first digitised wills were also available for customers to pay to download, creating a very exciting moment for the service, which everyone has worked so hard for over the past 2 years. It represents a significant milestone and step change. More content continues to be added including new stories about the collections e.g. The Isaac Johnson Map Collection <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/collections/isaac-johnson-map-collection-hd11475/>

The eventual winners in the Suffolk Record Office finalists' category (The National Archives Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy) at the prestigious Digital Preservation Coalition Awards Ceremony on 30th November held at the Wellcome Foundation, were Amsterdam Museum and Partners. We were warmly congratulated by The National Archives on just how well we had done to be nominated as a finalist against such strong international competition. These awards are a truly world-wide celebration of those who have made significant and innovative contributions to ensuring our generation's digital legacy will be available tomorrow. We were up against nominations from ten different countries and four continents. We received a finalist's certificate and were very pleased to be mentioned in the Suffolk County Council Chairman's announcements at http://suffolk.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/257722

Update on 'The Hold'

By Amy Rushton



More than 50 people attended lively focus groups in December which explored logos and strap-line ideas for The Hold, as well as confirming the name for the building.

Participants were asked to vote for their favourites – there was a very clear preference for both the logo

(retaining the existing one, with some refinements) and the strapline “Explore. Discover. Connect”. The design is being finalised in the studio at the moment and will start appearing on project materials from now on.

There will be a little more work to refine the logo when the project enters its Delivery Phase in 2018; however, this should be in the form of tweaks rather than a major change of direction.

Suffolk Archives Foundation

To help deliver The Hold and to support the Record Office in its future work, a new charitable organisation has been established – the Suffolk Archives Foundation (SAF for short).

SAF is run by a small group of volunteers and Trustees. The Record Office is extremely grateful to FOSRO Committee Member, Tracy Hickey, who was instrumental in getting it set up.

Over the coming months, they will be planning events and their fundraising campaign, as well as looking to recruit more volunteers.

SAF will work closely with the Friends of Suffolk Record Office (FOSRO); FOSRO will continue their sterling work for the Record Office, including acquiring Suffolk documents, with SAF initially concentrating on projects like The Hold.

Watch the Suffolk Archives website (www.suffolkarchives.co.uk) for a link to SAF's website once it is up and running. You can also opt-in to receive information about SAF's fundraising campaigns and activities by following this link www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/suffolk-archives-foundation-thank/

Mapping Suffolk's Stories



In October we welcomed Steve Gilby to the team; Steve is our new Activity Plan Officer and will develop an exciting programme of learning and engagement activity to accompany the physical development of The Hold.

A big part of this will be the 'Mapping Suffolk's Stories' project, where groups around the county will research themes and stories of interest to them, starting from the initial stimulus of historic maps.

This will include schools, grass-roots heritage groups, and new audiences who don't currently use archives. Groups will be supported with equipment, training, and tools to help them share the results of their research in new and exciting ways!

Steve, who is supported by two steering groups representing Record Office users and schools, has already been recruiting eager participants and volunteers, including some to take part in 'pilot' activities for our Development Phase. He enjoyed speaking to BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy about it last month.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Steve at stephen.gilby@suffolk.gov.uk.

Design Team on Board



The Hull History Centre, designed by Pringle Richards Sharratt

The Project Team are very pleased to announce we have appointed award-winning architects Pringle Richards Sharratt to design The Hold. They were awarded the contract after a highly competitive tender exercise. The project team are grateful to Ben Gummer MP, Lord Stevenson, Roger Wright (Chair, Aldeburgh Music) and Jay Merrick (Architecture Critic for The Independent) for lending their expertise, help and support to the selection process.

Pringle Richards Sharratt have worked on a huge range of prestigious heritage and cultural projects over the years, including archives, museums, galleries and university buildings. Their portfolio includes stunning new facilities, such as the Hull History Centre, the Herbert Gallery and History Centre in Coventry, and the Black Cultural Archives at Brixton.

One of the first things they will do is consult end-users and stakeholders to check that the brief for The Hold still meets people's needs – details will be available through the Record Office branches and website.



Dates for Your Diary

Friday 5th May 2017 6pm. FOSRO EGM, followed by illustrated lecture by Dr. Nick Amor on his book "From Wool to Cloth" at the Unitarian Meeting House, Bury St Edmunds.

Thursday 22nd June 2017. A visit to the National Archives at Kew organized by the Ipswich Branch of Suffolk Family History Society Price £25 per person. Booking Deposit £10 (Non refundable). For booking and further details contact the Chairman: Howard King 01473-274300 or e-mail howard.king1@outlook.com.

Friday 6th October 2017. FOSRO AGM and Guest Lecture The Edmund Room, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, 6pm. Details to follow.

News from Lowestoft

We are very proud to announce that Hannah Eyles, our search-room assistant, has been appointed as the Project Archivist for the Britten Pears Museum after finishing her Masters in Archive Administration at UCL, we look forward to being able to work with Hannah in the future. We have purchased a new top of the range digital micro-film and micro-fiche reader printer. Our strong-room is now equipped with a new air conditioning system. The People's Railway Arches Project is now complete with the boards up in the station arches. Kerry Meal has fully indexed the Beccles and Woodbridge Gaol books from the 1800s which will soon be available to view online.

We have been cataloguing a very interesting range of material including:

LRO 2433 Phyllis Page Collection

Diaries and photographs of Phyllis Page. Phyllis Page was born in Lowestoft in 1922 and was 17 at the beginning of WWII. She was the daughter of George W Page (a Fish Salt & Manure Merchant) and Caroline Gravells. Her mother died in 1927 and Phyllis apparently lived with her grandparents at 420 London Road South. The diaries record every air raid warning sounded at Lowestoft between 1939-1945 including date, time duration and (where appropriate) the nature of the raid. These diaries are a unique record of life in Lowestoft during the war.

LRO/2455 Lowestoft Town Football Club Programmes 1967-2015

A marvellous collection for any Lowestoft Fan!

LRO/2440 Photographs of Lowestoft Public Houses 1990s

A collection of coloured prints of local public houses taken by Mr. Ivan Reeman.

Helen Band

Lowestoft Record Office



Follow the Suffolk Archives
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to date on news, events
and collections.



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The Editor wishes to thank all contributors and everyone who supplied photographs. Design by Mrs Tracy Hickey.