

**Friends  
of the**

*Suffolk  
Record  
Office*

Registered Charity  
No 288042

# Newsletter of the Friends of the Suffolk Record Office

September 2007

## ***'Celebrating Gosnold'***

This year the Suffolk Record Office has taken part in a series of events and activities to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first English settlement in America by Suffolk explorer, Bartholomew Gosnold. The record office was part of a partnership including Suffolk County Council, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk Development Agency, Otley Hall, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, BBC Radio Suffolk and Ipswich and Colchester Museums Service, which was awarded an HLF grant of £49,500.

One of the events was the 'America 400' celebrations, held in the Abbey gardens and Angel Hill on Sunday 6 May 2007. The Heritage Marquee hosted a historical display by the Suffolk Record Office and staff were available to answer questions about Bartholomew Gosnold and his local links. The Bury Record Office created a major exhibition, *Gosnold and the World he left behind*. During her research for the exhibition, Liz Wigmore discovered an entry for Anthony Gosnold (Bartholomew's father) in one of the indexes. She was thrilled when she searched through the bundle of deeds and found not just one Gosnold signature, but two – Anthony and Bartholomew. This spectacular find, the only known signature and seal of Bartholomew became the centrepiece of the exhibition and attracted lots of publicity both here and abroad. School groups visited the Bury Record Office and Cathedral to see the exhibition and take part in other activities.

Panels from the exhibition were displayed at the Suffolk Show, in Endeavour House and at the Old Customs House in Ipswich in August, when free tours of a replica ship the *Discovery* allowed members of the public to get a real feel for what life was like on board ship in the 17th century. Images and information from the exhibition will be included in an educational pack designed for Key Stage 2-3 children. Record office talks on Suffolk Explorers and the New World, Bartholomew Gosnold, and his DNA were well attended.

There were also themed open days at Otley Hall, the 16th century ancestral home of the Gosnold family and a new exhibition in Christchurch Mansion *Ipswich and the New World*.

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## Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends

Many of you will already be aware that Gwyn Thomas retired at the end of March. Gwyn gave much help to the Friends, notably helping with the HLF grant, which provided the last part of the money needed to secure the purchase of the Corder manuscripts.

Since Gwyn's departure there have been some staff changes at the Record Office. Kate Chantry has now taken over as Interim Head of the Suffolk Record Office, Bridget Hanley has been appointed Collections Manager and Judith Stephenson Searchroom Services Manager. These appointments have been made for one to two years. It is hoped that two new archivists will be in post before we hold our AGM. We wish them all well in their new posts.

It seems that Suffolk manuscripts are constantly being offered for sale. The Record Office itself has very limited funds for purchasing records, while the Friends funds are also limited, and it seems quite likely that by the time we meet in September, our coffers will be virtually empty. In these circumstances, we cannot attempt to acquire everything which comes to our notice, and sometimes hard decisions have to be taken.

With this in mind, the increase in membership is encouraging, as each new member means an additional subscription. Many of our members give us more than the minimum subscription – which does no more than service your membership – and often Gift Aid it, to make it even more valuable. As ever, we need more members. We would like to help the Record Office to secure as many Suffolk records as possible, so that they are available for use by students of the history of Suffolk, now and in the future. There are other ways in which, had we sufficient funds, we might be able to help the Record Office. We are always interested to hear of suggestions for fund-raising, such as perhaps joining 'Everyclick' and the Hymnathon, both of which are mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Statham



## Suffolk Record Office News

### Starters and Leavers

We were very pleased to welcome Jayne Austin back to work in April 2007. Jayne had been on maternity leave since May 2006.

Helen Murray, one of the Sunday staff at Lowestoft, went on maternity leave at the end of July 2007.

### Outreach and other activities

The three branches of the Suffolk Record Office have once again been very busy over the last six months running workshops, successful lecture series and preparing activities for the autumn. Details of the autumn programme of events are available on the Suffolk Record Office website and will be sent to those Friends who did not opt out of the publicity database.

Kate Chantry, Sheila Reed and Dave Feakes were at the Suffolk Show at the end of May. The stand included the exhibition panels from the 'America 400' celebrations, see page 1 for more details about the activities commemorating the achievements of Bartholomew Gosnold. The three staff also provided help and advice about starting to research your family history, as well as answering questions on other topics.

### 10 and 20 week courses at Suffolk Record Office

The record office is running a number of courses this autumn in conjunction with the UEA, Cambridge Continuing Education and local tutors. Full details can be obtained from the Suffolk Record Office website or from the relevant branch.

#### **Bury Record Office**

Suffolk Churches

Tudor Suffolk

Palaeography for Local and Family historians: Part 2

Two Great Novels of the 1870s

Victorian Values: Art & Design in Nineteenth Century Britain

Clive Paine

Clive Paine

Clive Paine

Ulrike Horstmann-Guthrie

Graham Slimming

#### **Ipswich Record Office**

Suffolk Fare: Food and drink during the 17th and 18th Centuries

Palaeography: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced

Dr Pat Murrell

Dr John Ridgard

#### **Lowestoft Record Office**

Reconstructing Historical Communities

David Butcher



## The Fenn Wright collection of sale particulars

In February 2002 an article appeared in the *East Anglian Daily Times* concerning Ipswich estate agents Fenn Wright and the accumulation of its company archives which was taking up valuable storage space in the cellar and vault of their premises at 1 Buttermarket, Ipswich. Described as a "chaotic treasure trove", the working papers of over 200 years of business were causing a headache for staff at Fenn Wright who, realising their value, were anxious to find a suitable method of disposing of them. The publicity attracted the attention of staff at Ipswich Record Office who quickly stepped in to negotiate the deposit on loan of the substantial collection. (Class ref: HE402)

It was soon clear that resources would not be immediately available to deal with such a large deposit and so it was extremely fortunate that the Suffolk Family History Society, recognising the value of the archive to students of family, social and property history, stepped into the breach. Their generous funding has enabled two members of the Ipswich searchroom team, Sally Looker and Sue Munt, to each work an additional half a day a week to sort, re-pack and catalogue the 6430 items. That task has recently been completed.

Sale catalogues comprise by far the largest part of the archive, of which there are two series: properties sold at auction by Fenn Wright between 1801 and 1973, and those sold by other agents, covering the period 1915 to 1966. The majority cover the south and east of the country with, not surprisingly, a strong emphasis on Ipswich. From these, it is possible to plot very clearly the nineteenth century development of the town – for instance, the movement of industries out of the town centre: Ransomes and Sims (HE402/1/1852/30) and Old Ballast Wharf (HE402/1/1842/23), and the sale of large town properties for development: part of Handford Lodge Estate (HE402/1/1840/10) and St Margaret's House, Bolton Lane (HE402/1/1892/65), as well as the rapid development of new roads and streets in the suburbs.

Though most catalogues relate to landed estates, houses and commercial enterprises, the unusual does occur quite often.

For instance, an astronomical observatory in St Margaret's parish, Ipswich, was sold by Captain Dashwood in 1863 (HE402/1/1863/16); a pew in the 'New Gallery', of Stowmarket parish church (HE402/1/1801/1) and an annuity on the lives of William Webb and Sarah Maxwell (HE402/1/1847/28). Other types of property include seagoing vessels, lordships of manors, advowsons and stocks and shares.

### Astronomical Observatory for Sale.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY  
Garrod and Turner,

Upon the Premises, St. Margaret's, Ipswich, by direction of CAPT. DASHWOOD, on Friday, 29th May, 1863, at 11 for 12 o'clock precisely, without Reserve,

**T**HE MATERIALS, &c., of an ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY, constructed of Wood and Iron, with massive brick and stone foundations, having a revolving dome 16 feet diameter, and a large transit-room, erected by the late Charles May, Esq., C.E., upon the most approved scientific principles.

In the above is a considerable quantity of useful and valuable Material; it may be seen any day previous to the Auction, from 9 till 1 o'clock, upon application to Robert Parker, the gardener, upon the premises; it will be Sold to be pulled down and cleared away by the Purchaser within 14 days after the Sale.



The catalogues themselves, particularly in the nineteenth century, are packed with detail, giving not only a full description of the property but also, very often, the vendor's name and names of tenants with the amount of rent paid. Some are accompanied by a variety of fascinating ephemera such as inventories of fixtures and fittings, plans, photographs and correspondence. Often used as the auctioneer's working copy at the sale, many are annotated with helpful reminders of selling points, bidding prices and names of purchasers.

The series of maps comprise rolled Ordnance Survey (6" and 25" to the mile) sheets obtained from the Tithe Redemption Commission. Arranged by parish, they are marked up as working copies with tithe map plot reference numbers and have been heavily annotated by Fenn Wright. There is also a run of OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition Survey Area Books and Books Of Reference. Other sections include manuscript indexes to valuations (by name and date) and sales (by vendor, property and year of sale), 1849-1959, as well as records relating to Hadleigh Grand Feoffment Charity, 1953-1959, when Fenn Wright were acting as the charity's agents.

Catalogued into the Suffolk Register Office CALM computerised database, the collection is proving to be a rich source of material for staff and public alike. CALM allows fast and wide-ranging searches and interest in the collection is already growing. Though not yet available on a public terminal, staff are always ready to assist in providing information from the catalogue on request.

Sally Looker,  
Ipswich Record Office

### **'Everyclick'**

FOSRO has recently registered itself on the 'everyclick' website and would urge all its members to use the 'everyclick' search engine instead of their usual internet search engine. [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com) is a no-cost fundraising facility that has raised an estimated £220,449 for 170,000 charities. When you first use the website you will need to select the 'Friends of the Suffolk Record Office' as your preferred charity.

'everyclick' allocates 50% of its gross revenue to charity each month. Each active charity receives a proportion of that sum equivalent to the proportion in which its supporters use the website relative to the supporters of other active charities. The activity of 'everyclick' website users who do not select a specific charity benefit all active charities on a pro rata basis.

The committee is hoping that this will generate additional income so that the Friends are able to purchase more documents and fund other activities within the record office.

### **Suffolk Record Office Publicity**

Members' details have now been added to the Suffolk Record Office mailing database and you should receive leaflets about the autumn programme of events shortly. The record office is looking at ways in which it can be more environmentally friendly and would like to send out such information by e-mail where possible. If you do have an e-mail address and would be interested in this type of publicity, please e-mail the secretary at [Judith.Stephenson@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.Stephenson@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk).



## HA558 Marquess of Bristol Estates

The Hervey family, first Earls, then Marquesses of Bristol have been gathering headlines for centuries. Their principal residence, Ickworth House, with its gardens and park is today in the hands of the National Trust and the old estate has ceased to exist. The records of the family and their estate reside at the Bury St Edmunds branch of the Suffolk Record Office.

In 1996 the 7th Marquess decided to sell the remaining estate and personal files kept in the east wing at Ickworth. The Record Office already held two large collections of material relating to the Herveys, Ickworth House and the Bristol estates and were very pleased and grateful when the Friends, in a joint partnership with the National Trust, purchased these papers and deposited them at the Bury St Edmunds branch.

In 2005 the Friends and the National Trust agreed to fund an archivist for six months to enable the material purchased in 1996 to be catalogued. The cataloguing was completed in May 2006 by Naomi Boneham and it is hoped that the collection will be accessible to the public from September 2007. A copy of the catalogue will then be available in the Bury Record Office searchroom.

The two earlier collections [941 and HA507] are fully catalogued and are available for consultation at Bury. These catalogues can be searched on line at <http://www.a2a.org.uk/> or in the Bury searchroom. The first collection (941) deals mainly with family papers and the building of Ickworth House. Particular highlights include plans and drawings of the distinctive rotunda, which show that it was originally planned to house servants in the dome. The second catalogue (HA507) covers material relating to various manors and the extensive estates held by the Herveys in Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Essex, Sussex and London.

### **The latest collection: HA558**

The material purchased in 1996 includes both family and estate papers, and includes material dating up to the late 20th century. The family papers continue with material dating from the 2nd Marquess onwards and include a set of day-to-day diaries for the 5th Marquess and Monarchist League papers of the 6th Marquess. The manorial papers include quit rents and statements by the Bury St Edmunds based solicitors who acted as manorial stewards for the Herveys. The estate papers date mainly from the late 19th century to the late 20th century. They trace the changing methods of estate management over the years and chart the gradual selling off of property and lands. They include an almost complete set of copy letter books and numerous building plans for post Second World War developments.

There are business records for over thirty companies set up by both the 6th Marquess and 7th Marquess, which show how they took the Hervey name global, investing in sheep farms in Australia, pecan farms in Georgia USA and villas in Dominica. Papers relating to changes to Ickworth House include the installation of electricity and heating systems and plans for swimming pools.

Taken as a whole the three collections provide an insight into the creation of a landed estate, its development over time and its gradual decline. They also provide a fascinating insight into the lives of one of Suffolk's famous families.

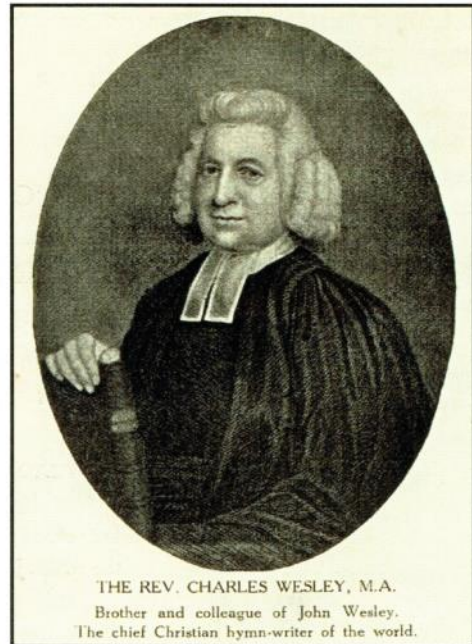
Naomi Boneham

**Suffolk Record Office, in association with the Ipswich Methodist Circuit, invite you to a fundraising event to celebrate the life of Charles Wesley.**

**Saturday 17 November 2007  
10.00am-2.00pm**

Led by the choirs of St Mary le Tower church, we hope to sing our way through some of Charles Wesley's most popular hymns. There will be a 30 minute break (tea and coffee provided) to give singers the chance to recover their voices!

We will be using the 'Hymns and Psalms' hymn book, so if you have a copy please bring it along. We will also be providing service sheets with the words for those singers without a hymn book.



Tickets for singers will be £3 for adults and £1.50 for under 16s and over 60s. They can be bought in advance from any branch of the Suffolk Record Office or you can buy them on the day.

Non-singers are welcome as our audience — we will take requests for specific Wesley hymns for a small donation. There will also be an exhibition focusing on Methodism in Suffolk, using original material from the three branches of the Suffolk Record Office.

The money raised from the event will be divided between the Friends of the Suffolk Record Office, the Friends of St Mary le Tower Church and the Methodist Homes for the Aged.

**2007 is an important year for Methodists:**

300 years since the birth of Charles Wesley  
200 years since the formation of Primitive Methodism  
100 years since the formation of the United Methodist Church  
75 years since the Methodist Union

To celebrate these anniversaries, the Suffolk Record Office has planned a number of events.

These include:

An exhibition in Endeavour House, Ipswich  
Coffee and Cakes lectures at the Bury and Ipswich branches  
'Find out about Methodist Records' at the Bury and Ipswich branches  
'Find out about Methodist, Baptist and Congregational records' at the Lowestoft branches

For further details of what has been planned, please see the Suffolk Record Office website at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sro>



## Suffolk Record Office Contact Details

For any queries or comments about the Friends please contact the secretary or treasurer.

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Website address: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sro>

## Recently purchased manuscripts

In November 2006 the Friends bought a selection of manorial documents relating to Waldringfield. The documents include court rolls for the Manor of Waldringfield Hilton, 1356-1715; court rolls for the Manor of Waldringfield Rivershall, 1561-1718; and surveys and rentals for both manors, 1592-1679. They have been given the reference HD2454/14315 and are housed at the Ipswich Record Office.

### First eBay Purchase!

The Friends bought their first document from eBay in May 2007. The National Archives monitor auction sites, including eBay, and let relevant repositories know of any archives coming up for sale. The record office received an email alerting them to the sale of a Barham day book, 1842 and fortunately, a member of staff was able to buy the volume for £37, including postage and insurance. The Friends kindly agreed to reimburse the record office for the purchase. The volume has been given the reference HD2479/14427 and is housed at the Ipswich Record Office.

Some of the documents purchased this year by the Friends will be available at the AGM for members to look at.

The AGM will be held at the Bury St Edmunds branch of the Suffolk Record Office on Friday 28 September 2007. We look forward to seeing you there.