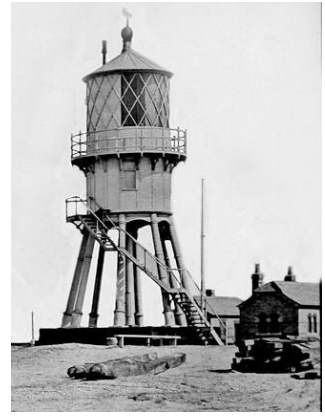


# Society News

The Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History  
Society Newsletter

September 2022.

Editors:- Ron and Irene Ashman



At the Annual General Meeting held on 26 May 2022 the following Society members were elected to the Committee:

Chairman: Richard Mundy  
Vice-chairman: Jeremy Stone  
Secretary: Jenny Hatton  
Treasurer: Ray Collins  
Programme secretary: Marilyn Duerden  
Committee: David Hatton, Irene Ashman, Rodney Duerden

There are two vacancies on the committee, if anyone would like to join, then please speak to the Chairman or a committee member at a meeting.

## **Chairmans Report:**

Hello Members,

Welcome to 'Society News', a new platform, where you can create and share articles and information. Special thanks to Ron and Irene Ashman, the editors of this production. The platform can only be a success if people contribute so please do submit your contributions to Ron and Irene.

On Saturday 9th July Society member Janis Kirby and I attended and ran a stall at Great Yarmouth's Local History Fair. We were invited by Gareth Davies from Poppyland Publishing, who has also been a speaker at our Society. We had a very successful day, engaging with the public through out our time there. This was a great platform for us to promote not only the Society and Museum but also promote Lowestoft as a great place to visit. We both agreed it was well worth attending. Whilst there we also looked around the other stalls including Great Yarmouth Archaeological and Local History Society, Gorleston Heritage Group and Young History and Archaeologist Club (GYALHS).

I had a chat with the chair of GYALHS, we exchanged pleasantries and how our respective societies were doing post Covid.

Thanks to all of you that popped along on the day.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, I certainly did and look forward to reading the next one.



## Heritage Open Days

This year the Heritage Open Days (HOD) in Lowestoft will take place between 8th to the 18th September. A brochure with the full programme of free events can be obtained from the following: The Railway Station, Sam's Café in Bevan Street, the Town Council Reception, Lowestoft Library, Oulton Broad Library, the Kirkley Centre, or Uncle Sid's in the High Street. Or you could look on the Heritage Days Website.

## Disappearing shop name. by Ron Ashman



Recently in Kirkley an outside wall of a shop was re-plastered removing the old shop name. As can be seen in the photograph it was once owned by the Lowestoft Co-operative Society Ltd and the shop was part of the Co-op dairy and bottling plant.

The present day Pot Black Club and the corner shop were both part of the dairy.

The 1925 edition of Kelly's directory lists the building as the Overland Model Dairy. By 1927 it had been taken over by the Co-operative Society. Interested passers-by could watch the milk bottles being processed through the windows.

After the Dairy closed in the 1960's the Pot Black part was occupied by the Wally Gooch motorcycle shop. This became Gooch Motors in 1963 and was later a motor factors selling car spare parts.

The business also included a driving school.



Shop front with sign removed prior to re-plastering



Position of lost sign

## For your information.

Did you know that Norwich Cathedral Library is open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

**Old sayings.** by Irene Ashman.

Do you remember these sayings which were commonly said in the past. Or do you know of any more.?

It has taken the wind out of my sails.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

I should cocoa.

I'll go to the foot of our stairs.

Like it or lump it.

Shut your cakehole.

A job worth doing is worth doing well.

Cack handed.

Gift of the gab.

A stitch in time saves nine.

You are an old flannel foot.

**The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Festival of Suffolk relay was part of several county-wide events taking place to celebrate the Queen's 70th year as monarch. To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee a torch was carried between towns and villages in Suffolk, with the torch bearer travelling in a rickshaw, by about 250 nominated 'local heroes'.

On Friday 27th May, Paul Durbidge was the Museum nominated local hero for the journey from the car park opposite St Marks church, then through Oulton Broad and Nicholas Everitt park, with the journey finishing at the Museum.

The relay started in Brandon on Friday 13 May and finished at the Suffolk Showground on Wednesday 1 June for the Jubilee Pageant.



**The Lowestoft Museum is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.**

by Ron Ashman

Over those 50 years many people have been involved in the successful running of the Museum, in a variety of roles, which have made the Museum an important asset in preserving the history of the area, also from education to tourism.

In the Museum on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May an event was held to celebrate the 50 years and the opening of the new display room, the Turner Room, which is dedicated to Michael and Barbara Turner for all of the work they did, for many years, for the Society and the Museum. A special display was arranged in the new room

about the Museum to mark this achievement. Refreshments were available, including a nice celebratory cake.

Following the founding of the Lowestoft Archaeological & Local History Society in 1968, the Lowestoft Museum was created by its members in 1972 and housed in the disused Premier Laundry building in the Prairie, off London Road North. If you walk through the Britten Centre and on to the Library you will be walking on the route of the Prairie

In 1980 the Trustees were advised by Waveney District Council (W.D.C) that the area where the Museum was situated was being re-developed to create the Britten Centre. The old Premier Laundry building the Museum occupied was to be demolished, together with the Odeon cinema and several vacant houses in the Prairie. W.D.C were helping to find a new home for the Museum and one building that was considered but not taken up was the then vacant tax office building in Kirkley.

I remember visiting Broad House with Michael Turner, Paul Durbidge, W.D.C Chief Executive Malcolm Berridge and other members of W.D.C to review the suitability of that building. What is now the entrance foyer, in the early 1980's had been the park gardeners equipment room. There were grass cutters and various other tools stored there and it was quite dirty and untidy. What is now the Everitt Room was then being used as a changing and store room for the Bowls Club.

Broad House required a lot of refurbishment, it was re-roofed, the accommodation changed from two flats into one flat for the Park Keeper, and the gardeners store moved. A new pavilion was constructed next to the bowling green for the bowls club, who moved out of their ground floor room.

The work on converting Broad House was planned to start in June 1984, with the work being completed ready for the Museum contents to be transferred directly in November.

As planned the Museum in the Prairie closed its doors for the last time at the end of September 1984. Then the following week began the task of dismantling the display cases and the packing of all the exhibits ready for the move to the new home.

Unfortunately this was the start of a few problems, but that will be in the next edition of Society News.

### **Kensington Gardens are celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.**

by Ron Ashman

Having written about one local anniversary, there is another being celebrated this year. One hundred years ago on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1922 the Kensington Gardens were officially opened. The Lowestoft Journal printed a detailed account of the opening ceremony, a shortened account of which follows.

The work on the gardens was started in 1920 and the greater part of the work was carried out by unemployed people, to reduce the stress of not having a job. In the gardens the Lowestoft Journal reported that there was a Japanese teahouse, sundry shelters, flower beds, rockeries, trees and much grass. Hard and grass tennis courts were a prominent feature.

The 4.5 acre site had been bought before the First World War and during the hostilities it had been used to grow oats and potatoes to help the war effort. A large amount of the cost to complete the project was covered by a Government grant to the Corporation, therefore the whole project cost did not fall upon the ratepayers.

The original plan was for Lord Claud Hamilton, the chairman of the Great Eastern Railway company (G.E.R) to formally open the garden. However, illness prevented him from attending, so the Mayor took his place.

A procession started at the Grand Hotel and was headed by the band of the British Legion. This was followed by the mace bearer, then the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk all robed and gowned. These were followed by representatives of various organisations. At the entrance of the garden there was a Guard of Honour of members of the British Legion, the 4<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Regiment and the 103<sup>rd</sup> Suffolk Brigade.

At the gates the Mayor was presented with a box containing a gold key which the Mayor used to unlock the gates. The wrought iron gates had been made by the Corporation's blacksmith.

The Kensington Garden small lake once had a statue of Peter Pan displayed in it, but at some unknown point, thought to be about 1985, it was removed and not returned. Do you know what happened to it?

**Next meetings.**

- |         |  |                    |
|---------|--|--------------------|
| 22 Sept | The Voyages of Captain James Cook.   | by Sue Pearce      |
| 13 Oct  | The Lincolne Letters (Life, Love and Loss in Halesworth 1816-1850).                  | by David Wollweber |
| 27 Oct  | Travellers Tales: East Anglia through the eyes of travel writers over the centuries. | by Sarah Doig      |
| 10 Nov  | Monte Carlo or Bust – the story of two Lowestoft friends motorbike Holiday in 1951.  | by Janis Kirby     |
| 24 Nov  | The Lothingland and Mutford Half-hundreds: Domesday and after.                       | by David Butcher   |

If you have any articles that you would like published in this Newsletter, please contact the editors at a meeting or send your piece to email address [LALHS@btinternet.com](mailto:LALHS@btinternet.com).

Items do not have to be typed, they can be hand written and do not have to be very long.

If you wish your name can be attributed to the article, or it can be left out.

Have you been to any interesting place or building in this country that might be of interest to other members that you could write about. Or, could you write a review of an historical book you have read.