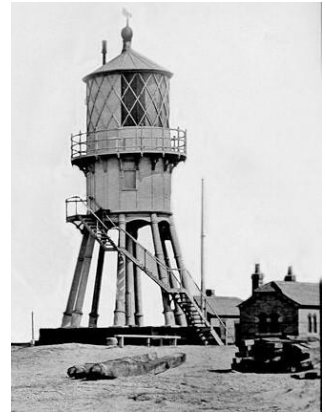


# Society News

The Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History  
Society Newsletter

April/May 2023

Editors:- Ron and Irene Ashman



## Gone and probably forgotten.

By Ron Ashman



Finding this photograph recently reminded me of when I started work in 1961, at T.V.Manufacturing, which was part of the Pye group. The factory was in School Road, off Victoria Road. At the time I was living in Blundeston and as I did not have any form of motorised transport I travelled to work on my bicycle.

Having left home with reasonable time to arrive at work at the correct time, weather conditions and the signalman closing the Oulton Broad North Station line gates early

meant that I was stopped on occasions and my progress was halted. To arrive at work one minute late meant the loss of a quarter of an hours pay. The solution was to pick up the bicycle and carry it over the train lines on the footbridge shown in the photograph.

In January 1973 it was announced by British Rail that due to the cost of maintaining this footbridge it would be removed and new crossing barriers for the level crossing would be installed.



There was another problem by being stopped at the Oulton Broad North Station line gates as you lost time using the footbridge and then could be stopped at the Victoria Road crossing. (photo on left) But as with the North Station crossing there was a footbridge to continue the journey.

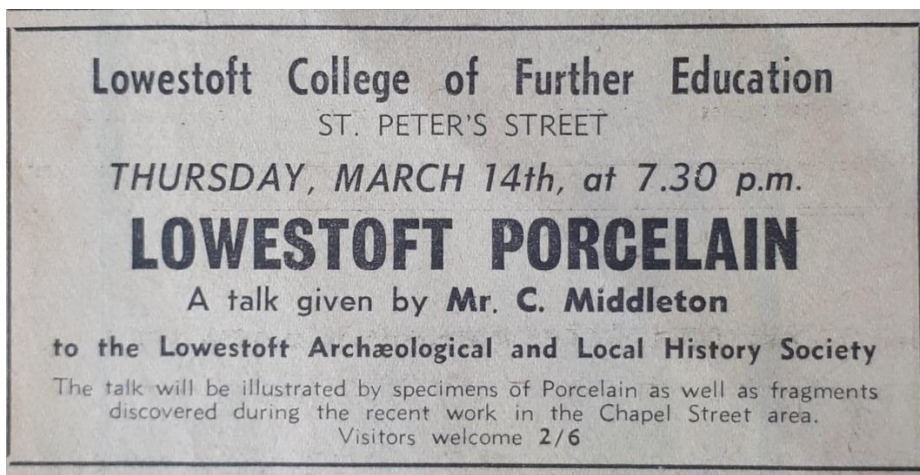
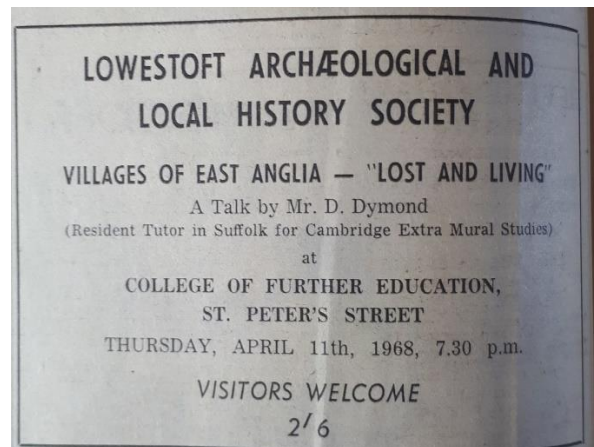
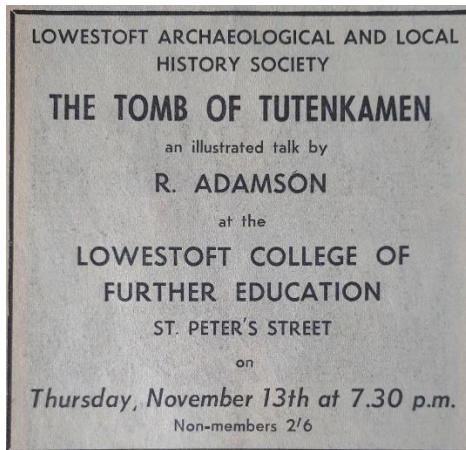
Pye was taken over by Philips, the Dutch electronics company in 1967, when the factory became renamed, Pye Ltd Manufacturing Division. The number of employees increased,

which created a problem in Victoria Road as many employed at both Pye and neighbours Brooke Marine cycled to work. Although Brooke Marine left off 30 minutes before Pye at lunchtime and at the end of the working day, the number of cyclists created a problem in Victoria Road. To help a Traffic Warden would control the traffic flow at the Heath Road/Victoria Road junction, then they would move to the School Road/Victoria Road junction. At leaving off time, School Road was like the start of the Tour de France, as the entire width of the road was full of cyclists. At its peak Pye Ltd employed 2,500 people in Lowestoft.

## Old Society Adverts

by Richard Mundy

To research for my Lowestoft 60's music talks I went through every Lowestoft Journal from the 1960's. As anyone trawling through old newspapers to do research will tell you, it can be particularly tricky to stay focused on the subject in hand as there is always so many interesting articles to distract you. Discipline is required. I was generally good at this. However as I got into the late 1960's I was drawn to these adverts I have included here. Some of the first adverts used to promote our Society to feature in the Journals. These are from 1968 and into 1969 - we charged visitors 2'6 back then! Anyway, thought they maybe of interest to members in 2023:



## Suffolk Family History Society, Lowestoft Group.

The following talks will complete the Suffolk Family History Society's Spring/Summer programme.

6 June            Photos of Old Lowestoft            by Bert Collyer.

4 July            Experiences of the 2011 New Zealand Earthquake by Michael Jeffery.

The talks are held at Saint Margaret's Hall, 147 Hollingsworth Road, Lowestoft, starting at 7.30pm. Members entry fee £1.50, Visitors £2.00. There is on site parking and refreshments.

## Hatfield Hotel Then and Now

by Richard Mundy



A lady called Helen Peake contacted me recently. She lives in Kent and is a member of my Facebook Postcard page called 'Friends of Uncle David Postcards'. She shared this postcard image with me and asked if I recognised it. To me it looked very similar to The Esplanade Villas. She then revealed that the card had popped up on a 'Unidentified photos of the British Isles' group and they thought it was part of what became The Hatfield Hotel in Lowestoft. As I live 2 minutes away I popped out and got a modern picture as close as I could to compare. I think you will agree it's a good match. I then shared this on our society's Facebook page where it gained a lot of local interest.

## Roman Mosaics

by Ron Ashman.

If you are interested in Roman mosaic floors, one of the best collections can be seen at Fishbourne Roman Palace, which is near Chichester in West Sussex. Although it is called a Roman Palace it is thought, although not proven, to have been the home of a British tribal leader in the first century AD, who ruled that area for the Romans. The Palace was built between 75 AD and 80 AD.

Some of the West wing buildings today lie beneath the housing estate and A259 road to the west of those in the Museum.



The mosaics are viewed from the walkways shown. Some were made with black and white tesserae whilst others were made with coloured tesserae.

Some show damage from later farming activities such as ploughing and others from subsidence over the centuries.

Others, that were part of the west wing, have been moved from nearby gardens to the museum.



One unusual mosaic is the one shown on the left, where a second mosaic has been laid over the original one. Was the original one worn, did they not like the pattern or the colours, or had the original one become old fashioned and the owner wanted a change.

Another had a rectangular hole dug through the floor at a later century for a burial. The grave diggers would not have known of the existence of the flooring as the Palace buildings would have gone and the site was probably covered in rubble and undergrowth.

### **The Weald and Downland Living Museum**

Ron Ashman

Not far from Chichester is the interesting Weald and Downland Living Museum. This Museum contains buildings from around the county that cover many centuries.



If you watch BBC's The Repair Shop you will recognise the barn on the left.

The Museum covers quite an area, with buildings displayed around the site.

When we visited a Tudor farmhouse, ladies were giving a cooking demonstration of the type of food that would have been prepared to its occupants in the 1540's.



As well as the various buildings about the way people lived and worked, they did not forget the natural functions.

This building shows the outside loo at the back. Note the serrated top of the door, for ventilation purposes.

### **Next meetings.**

11 May A Long Way from Home : Lowestoft Evacuees- 80 years on

by Sandra Delf

25 May Annual General Meeting

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 and you do not have to include photographs.

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. Could you write a review of an historical book you have read. Or could you write about childhood memories. (e.g shops, wash days or school days).