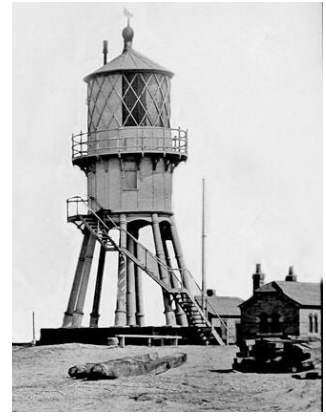


Society News

The Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History
Society Newsletter

April 2024

Editors:- Ron and Irene Ashman



Triangle Market



If you have been in the High Street recently you might have noticed that the canopy over the Triangle Market has been removed.

Over the past years this area has seen little use but once it was the well used market place of Lowestoft which became a market in the 1890's

The Town Council had planned for a tramway to be installed along the High Street but to accommodate this the west side of the north end of the High Street had to be widened. This included the setting back of the Town Hall.

In the latter part of the 19th century, Lowestoft was expanding southwards along London Road North

towards the bridge, and one argument put forward for the moving of the Town Hall to the southern end of the High Street at its junction with St Peters Street was it put the building closer to the centre of the Town. Subsequently the buildings on that site, which included shops, were demolished.

In April 1899 the Lowestoft Journal printed a report of a special meeting of the Lowestoft Town Council where the plans were discussed and a decision was made.

One councillor said that as Lowestoft was growing there could be a visit from Royalty and the town needed a worthy building to entertain them and went on to say that they could not bring them to "this tin-potly place". Another councillor replied that the present Town Hall could be added to and made amply adequate to entertain Royalty and they should not think about squandering a large sum of money in putting up palatial buildings.

After a vote the cost of building the new Town Hall was eventually considered to be too much to justify it.

In June of the previous year a contractor had submitted a tender for the alterations and additions to the existing Town Hall but since then the cost of materials and wages had risen and he could no longer carry out the work for the price quoted. The Council agreed to a 5% increase.



This picture showing one of the stalls is how in the 1960's many people will remember the Triangle Market, fresh vegetables and fruit were sold, much of which was grown locally by Market Gardeners.

Over the years the market slowly declined, then in 1988 a market opened in the Britten Centre, this saw, apart from two permanent stalls, the end of the Triangle Market.

Have you any memories of the Triangle Market?

The Third Crossing

by Dave Pyecroft

After over 100 years of "planning" Lowestoft has a 3rd crossing.

Saturday 9th March dawned early, too early for me!! After having, in the past two years, seen the four loads of steelwork for the northern and southern approaches and the final load, the bascule section, arrive on Monday 4th March. We didn't want to miss the final chapter of the two sides being finally joined

Farrans announced on their Facebook page that the lift and move would commence at around 6am. What we didn't know was that the section had been partially jacked up on Friday. When we got there, at about 6:30, the barge carrying the bascule was just being attached to its winching points already just below road height



Over the next 3+ hours we watched the team, using a clever jacking system, lift the bridge to a height to clear the roadway. The barge was winched into position and the bascule lined up over its final resting place



The team then reversed their actions to remove, section by section, the lifting system lowering the impressive middle section onto its location points at just after 12pm. We then watched the men removing more of the lifting pier sections but instead of the bridge coming down the barge was lifting as the weight came off it. Finally, the tug Isa sounded its horn as light appeared between the jacks and the bridge which was now totally supported by the bridge abutments.



We watched for a while longer and saw the first people cross from both sides.

I was mildly disappointed when they didn't shake hands as they did when the Channel Tunnel broke through

Now starts a few weeks of commissioning, testing and training before the crossing opens later this year (hopefully)

Annual Society Lunch.

On Friday 22 March nineteen members met in the East restaurant at the East Coast College for the Annual Society lunch. As usual this was an enjoyable meal and our thanks to Ray Collins for organising the event.

Annual General Meeting

This meeting will take place on 23 May, and all members are welcome to attend. Come along and have your say about Society matters and to vote in the Society's Officers and Committee.

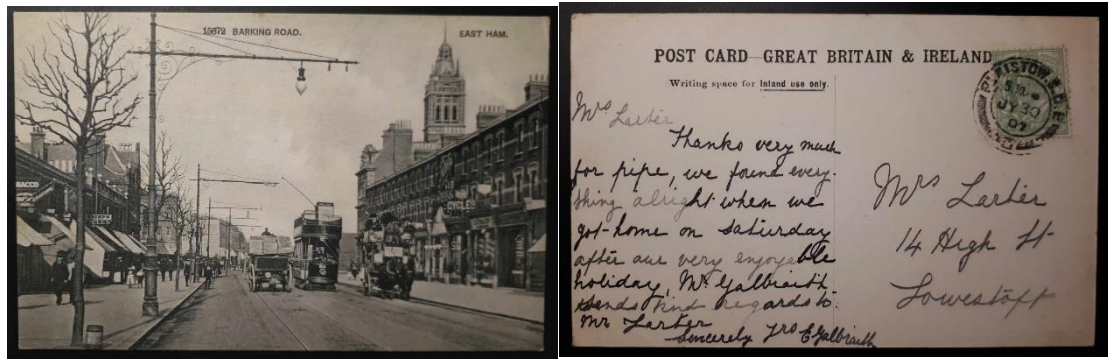
Editors Note

by Ron Ashman

Following my footnote at the end of an article last month, referring to IZAL medicated toilet tissue, I have been informed by a Society member that IZAL toilet tissue had another use. Apparently it was a good substitute for tracing paper.

Postcard Coincidence!

by Richard Mundy



I do enjoy collecting postcards and collect many on various subjects including ones from around the UK. I have a fair few of Lowestoft and London. I did wonder if there would be any cards from where I was born and grew up. They don't tend to produce postcards of council estates in East London, so I did not hold up much hope! But I did manage to find this one on-line a while back, Barking Road East Ham, my hometown. The online seller was only displaying the front picture on the selling site but I thought it would be a great addition to my collection. The road was basically the same as this growing up there in the later 1970's and 1980's – although the vehicles were a bit different! But I even remember details such as the 'Cycles' sign to the left still being there. The grand building 'popping up' to the right is the Town Hall built in 1903 – so very much a 'new build' in this picture. By 1990, many of the shops/houses to the left were pulled down when a new road and traffic light junction was installed and created at this point, much the same as what happened with Katwijk Way/Denmark Road in Lowestoft in the 1970's. So, this scene was changed forever.

When I bought the card and received it in the post. I turned the back over, not even knowing if it had been posted or not and I could not believe it. It had been posted to '14 High Street, Lowestoft' this made this card very special for me indeed. A card that linked where I was from to the place I now fondly call home.

It appears in 1907 this couple from East Ham had been on Holiday and stayed at a B+B in Lowestoft run by a 'Mr and Mrs Larter' So decided to send a postcard back to them of East Ham, thanking them for a lovely holiday. Society member and local family history historian, Jan Kirby, kindly did a bit of research for me a while back and informed me that Mr Daniel Larter was a pork butcher, born in 1864 in Halesworth. Mrs Eliza Larter was born in 1865 in Westhall. The 1911 census shows the couple have a daughter Amy (1895) and a son John (1896) who were both born in Lowestoft. When I shared this card on my Postcard Facebook page (Friends of Uncle Davids Postcards) a lady come forward to confirm that Mr Larter was her Great Grandad and they ran 14 High Street as a B+B.

Request for information

by Ron Ashman

In February this year Richard, our Chairman, received through the Society Facebook page a request from a gentleman in Belgium for information about the World War 1 tank that once stood on the green next to the lighthouse. As Richard knew that I had researched and written about the Lowestoft tank he asked me to reply to this request, which I did.

If anyone wants to read this report it can be found on the Society website in the Annual Report of 2020, page 34.



A team in Poelcapelle in Belgium built the above replica 1917 World War 1 British Mark IV tank from original blueprints. It is not in a museum but is used at special events, the gentleman who inquired about the Lowestoft tank is a member of the Poelcapelle tank crew. The item in a roll on top of the tank was for use on wet terrain when it would be unrolled on the ground for the tank to drive over it.

This tank was built by the Belgium team to remember the brave soldiers who left for the battlefields of Flanders more than a hundred years ago.

Poelcapelle is close to the battlefields of Ypres and Passchendaele.

The infantry attack at Passchendaele began on 31 July 1917 and continued until 6 November 1917. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and within a few days the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it.

Perhaps more than any other, the battle of Passchendaele has come to symbolise the horrors and the great human costs associated with the major battles of the First World War. The armies here under British command, which included those of the Commonwealth, suffered approximately 325,000 casualties at Passchendaele. About 90,000 bodies were never identified and 42,000 never recovered.

These battles and the British Empire soldiers that perished in them are today commemorated at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, and the Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing.

In the first talk in January this year Tony Thurston gave a talk titled The Commonwealth War Graves Commission which included those cemetery's mentioned above.

Editors note. The name "Tyne Cot" is said to come from the Northumberland Fusiliers, seeing a resemblance between the many German concrete pill boxes on this site and typical Tyneside workers' cottages (Tyne cots).

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.

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. 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).