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THE OWNERSHIP OF "THE DELFS," AT HADDENHAM

(continued from page 184).

In the 10th Jas. I, 1612. The Earl caused the Delfs and Ouse-delfs to be divided, and shortly afterwards sold them in lots, to Docwra, to Serjeant Byng, to Dr. Gifford, to Tavener (the writer of this pamphlet), and others.

In Mich. Term, 1645. "At a tryall at the Common" "Pleas Barre, the Jurors being husbandmen (though by" "an Order made in Chancery, they ought to have been" "quality), not understanding their evidence, they found" "for the Commoners,"

In Mich. Term, 1646. There was another trial at the Common Pleas, for the same cause. "The Jurors being" "divided, they were shut up all night; at least an affected" "party in the Jury did carry it, and a verdict was given" "for the Commoners, contrary to the Judges direction," "and their expectation, who attended not the verdict."

The next summer after this last verdict, the people, seeing that their possession of Common would not benefit them unless they could totally exclude the Cattle of the Delf-owners from feeding in these grounds (i.e. with those of the Commoners), "did daily vex the under-" "tenants in the Delfs, by distraining their Cattel for" "involuntary escapes into the Commonable Fens," "which adjoined to the Delfs, through those many gapps" "themselves had made into the Delfs. They denied to" "deliver the Cattle impounded" upon the usual terms in such cases "They exacted of the poore under-" "tenants at several times above twenty pounds. And" "bond some of them in bonds, not to put their Cattel any" "more into the Delfs after Lammas." Further, "they" "did drive and chase away all the Cattel they found" "feeding in the Delfe about 600, and detained them" "in Pound" "to the end, that no man should" "dare to take any of those grounds to farme."

In 1651, one of the Delf Owners brought an action against Mr. Castell for feeding his Cattle in the Delfe after Lammas; but, after the Jury had been sum-

moned, a few days before the trial, (in Easter term 1652) complaining that his "backers" had deserted him, Castell withdrew from the action.

In Easter Term, 1653, the trial of which this pamphlet is an account took place. Our Author says: "Then " "because the Inhabitants avoyded all Tryalls to be had " "in the Court of Common Pleas, an old Action depend- " "ing in the Upper-Bench, by Consent, was revived." "And a trial agreed to be had in that Court in Easter " "Terme last past, 1653, which accordingly was done." "And the witnesses, proofes and Evidences produced " "on both sides, were fully heard and debated."

The Delf Owners had entered a suit at the beginning of the dispute, in Chancery, at which 12 witnesses were examined by the inhabitants (presumably the "old action" referred to above), who deposed *verbatim* according to a leading interrogatory, viz.: "Do you know or " "have heard, that by all the time whereof the memorie " "of man is not to the contrary, there hath bin an " "Auncient custome, as well for the owners of any " "Auncient Messuage or Cottage, as well Freehold as " "Copyhold, &c., and for their Farmers, &c. To have " "Common of Pasture in the Delfs and Ose-delfs, &c." " (the grounds called the Pingles excepted) for all manner " "of Cattel (sheep excepted) from the last of July, to the " "Annuntiaton of our Lady, &c. And for sheep from " "St. Martin in winter to Lady day, &c. And what was " "the ancient Custome, &c., as you have heard before " "that time." The depositions of these witnesses were not read at the trial of 1653. The Author then makes comment on these depositions in Chancery. Among other things that may be noted is that they contradicted themselves. "For Sandall said it was 38 yrs since the " "town had Common. Crisp said, that the Delfs were " "inclosed about the last yeare of Queen Elizabeth." "Camps and Brand deposed that the Delfs were " "inclosed 40 yrs since. Basien (name crossed out, as if " "in error) aged but 69, yet swore Common for 60 yrs," "and that the Earl of Suffolk had the Fore-crop 60 yrs " "agoe, &c."

He then goes on to point out: "How these witnesses" "agree with the truth, which was, that the first fore-" "crop wch the Earl of Suffolk had in the Delfe was in" "the yeare 1603. And the verdict for the Earl was in" "Easter term, 1605, that is, 48 yrs since the first" "verdict, &c. &c."

All this is in the nature of an introduction, and in explanation of the case. He then states the evidences which were given on behalf of the Delf Owners.

The Evidence consisted of Two Parts.

- I. Proof that the Inhabitants of Haddenham had the Delfs and Ose-delf in Lease from the 5th of Edw. 6th to the 34th of Eliz.
- II. Proof of the Severalty of the Delfs and Ose-delfs, for all the year, before the people had it in lease, that is to say during the Reigns of Ed. 2, Edw. 3, Rich. 2, Hen. 7, and Hen. 8.

PART I.

The lease of the 5th Edw. 6th (or its principal parts), is given. It is between the Bishop of Ely on the one part, and Thos. Wren, Esquire, Wm. Betts, Gent, Geo. Hall, John Denton, Tho. Brown, William Grace, John Gooday, Edward Heron, and Tho. Wulwin of the other part: dated 30 Nov. in the 5th of Edw. 6: for 40 yrs, from Mich. next ensuing at annual rent of £9, at the four usual feasts, &c., &c. "And we the Deane and" "Chapter of the Church, &c., do confirme the said" "lease, &c."

He then notes that the lease is entered *verbatim* in a "Leger Book in the evidence house at Elye," and that a true copy was taken, and attested to be so in open Court, at all the trials, by the person who had the records, &c. in his Custody.

That in the 11th Eliz. The Bishop, reciting the above mentioned lease to Wren, &c., did demise to Oliver, Lord St. John, the Delfs, &c. for 21 yrs, "next after the determination of the lease to Wren, &c."

That in the 20th Eliz. Lord St. John in consideration of 100 Marks did by deed grant his lease to 35 of the inhabitants by name, to the use of all the rest of the people, &c.

That in 23 Eliz. Bishop Cox died, &c., &c., and that the Queen received the rents &c. till the expiration of the lease to Wren &c.

That 12 Wills, the originals produced made by persons who were inhabitants of Haddenham, taken out of the Registry of the Arch-deacon of Ely prove ownership under the lease as follows :

Nicholas Sole	1581
Wm. Farrar	1583
John Eliot	1583
John Dougkis	1583
Gabriell Fyng	1584
John Hicks	1585
Robt. Read	1585
John Hall	1585
Robt. Townson	1587
John Steven	1587
Geo. Present	1587
Geo. Vesey	1589

And he Notes, "that none of the Testators have the" "surnames of any of the nine lessees (in the lease to" "Wren &c.) except *Widow* Hall, of which surname there" "be several families in Haddenham." The names John Hicks, John Hall, are, in an old handwriting, corrected to Jone, in both cases. There are several other corrections, in the same handwriting in the pamphlet: they were most likely made either by the Author or by some one living at the time, and who knew all the facts of the case.

That the lease to Wren, &c. expired at Mich., 34 Eliz. and that the inhabitants held the Delfs and Ose-delfs from Lady-day 35 Eliz. till 23 Jan., 41 Eliz. This latter lease was made to Will. Medley and Fra. Need, Esquires, and was assigned by them to 20 of the inhabitants, to the use of all the rest. Serjeant Clark, Counsell for the Inhabitants at the trial admitted the

lease. A copy of this lease was given in evidence to the Jury. It was further proved by three wills, viz. :

Rafe Epen	1595
Richard Ingram	1596
Geo. Gam	1597

Four witnesses' depositions were taken in Chancery, April 1645, viz. :

Rafe Garret
Rafe Leggat
Rich. Gunton
William Baily

Four witnesses, for the inhabitants, at the last trial were Raven, Sandall, Rawson, and Stubbs.

The Author then gives a recital of the evidences.

1. By the lease of the 5th Edward 6, for 40 yrs.
2. By the payment of the Rent as recorded in the Auditors' Office.
3. By the lease to Lord St. John, and by his assignment of the lease to the inhabitants, at wch time the lease to Wren &c. was in being.
4. By 15 of the inhabitants' wills.
5. By depositions of their own witnesses in Chancery in 1645.
6. By the depositions of their witnesses at the last trial.

And he sums up "That it is as cleer as the day-light," "that the inhabitants had the Delfs in Lease, and that" "they had the profits thereof from Mich. 6. Edw. 6. till" "Dr. Heaton was installed Bishop of Ely, wch was in" "Febr. Anno 41 Eliz."

And he goes on "Now, whether the inhabitants fedd" "the Delfs after Lammas, by virtue of their severall leases," "or in Right of Common, is, the maine question between" "us. The Delf owners affirme, That the Inhabitants" "fedd the Delfs As Common, But not In Right of" "Common, and that for these Reasons," viz. :

1. There is no clause in any of the leeses that the Delfs were commonable, &c.
2. Because there was no other imaginable way of dividing the after pasture among 200 people who

were Commoners, but by their using it "As" Common," &c.

3. . . . "But that any one person or township should"
 - "take a lease of 750 acres of Meadow or Pasture"
 - "lying together, and enclosed with large Ditches,"
 - "for one and Twenty years in which 750 acres"
 - "the Lessee had Right of Common, and yet not"
 - "expressed in the Lease to be Commonable at"
 - "Lammas; Such presidents (we conceive) are"
 - "very rare to be found."
4. "There are in Hadenham three under-Manors."
 - "In one of which Mr. Wren, an Esquire lived"
 - "Anno 5 Edw. 6. Master Betts was a Gentleman"
 - "of a good Family, and a Land holder in Haden-
 - "ham; the rest of the nine Lessees were principal"
 - "inhabitants, &c." "And for the Bishop of Ely,"
 - "they had with them or near them the Steward of"
 - "their Courts: And a secretary, Surveyor, Auditor,"
 - "Receiver, a Register, and other Officers, who"
 - "were Gentlemen well bred, besides the Chief"
 - "Bailiffe of the manor: There was not a lease"
 - "sealed, before it passed through the hands of"
 - "most of those Officers. And therefore it is scarce"
 - "credible. That not one person of all those"
 - "numbers should cause a clause to be inserted in"
 - "neither of the Leases, for the preservation of the"
 - "Inhabitants right of Common in case they had"
 - "any." But if it were admitted that they had
 - Common in the Delfs before they took the lease,
 - &c. . . . this Common would be suspended
 - during their lease . . . therefore it rests on the
 - Inhabitants to prove their Common before they
 - had the Delfs in lease, which they have not done in
 - any of the three trials: &c. The inhabitants say we
 - proved that we had Common in the Delfe at Lammas
 - after the lease from the Queen was expired . . .
 - till the third of Jas. I. The Delf Owners reply
 - that a right of Common cannot be gained in 4 yrs
 - . . . And as to those 4 years, "we can wipe
 - "them away also" or, at least reduce them to two.

And as to the Lammas Common in the Delf in the 1st of Jas 1. The Earl of Suffolk's Bailiff had the disposal of the fore-crop, and claimed the Severalty, wch was all that could be done that summer . . . The King's Coronation was upon St. James' day: at which time the plague raged in London, and did so long continue, that Mich. term was adjourned to Winchester, which much obstructed business. But in the 2nd Jas 1. The Earl brought his actions of trespass against Mr. Jowles, &c. . . . which came to a trial in the Easter term following: "And at Mich. after Mr. Jowles was Sheriff of London," "and Knighted," &c., &c.

PART II.

The severalty of the Delfs and Ose-Delfs for all the year proved: By the agistments of Cattle there in the Reignes of King Edw. 3. and of King Richard 2. for threescore yeares together. For the right understanding whereof, take notice of these particulars following.

1. "First, that the Delfs and Ose-delfs, alias Ouse-
"delfs, because it abuts upon the navigable river"
"of Ouse, do contain together with the Pingles,"
"parcell thereof, neer about 800 acres. Thereof"
"the Ose-delfs in Edw. 3. Rich. 2. did then"
"contain 250 acres, the Delfs 550 acres. But at"
"this day the Ose-delfs with the Pingles contain"
"about 500 acres, the Low-delfs about 300 acres."
2. "That in the reignes of Edw. 3. and Rich. 2."
"there were yearely chosen at a Court-Baron"
"two of the customer Tenants Cottagers, who"
"held a Messuage and the fourth part of a Yard-"
"land to be Delf Reves, who were sworn Officers;"
"the one to sell Grasse in the Ose-delfs, the"
"other to keep the Cattell agisted in the Delfs."
3. "That the Ose-delfs Reve did yearely present"
"at the Court, the number of acres of Grasse"
"which hee sold in the Ose-delfs, the furlongs"
"in which they lay, and the several prizes for"
"which the same were sold. The Delf Reve"

“did likewise present the numbers of Cattell”
 “which were there agisted for the whole Sommer,”
 “for the half Sommer, and in winter after Mich-”
 “aelmas : The Steward of the Court did enter”
 “each particular presentment in the Rolls of the”
 “Court, and transmitted them, (together amongst”
 “the other profits of the Court to the Bishops”
 “Auditor, who ingrossed them in Parchment.”
 “And gave them in Charge, to the Bailiffe of”
 “the Mannor, who did yearly account (amongst”
 “the other Revenues of the Mannor) for the”
 “monyes received for the Grasse sold. And for”
 “the Cattell agisted.”

“Those Court Rolls and Reves accounts, are”
 “the Evidences (or rather Records, for the”
 “Bishop of Elye had *Jura Regalia*) produced to”
 “prove the severalty of the Delfs and Ose-delfs,”
 “for all the yeare, They being the same, which”
 “were given in Evidence at the Tryall, Anno 3.”
 “Jacobi. For the Delfs owners had the Leases”
 “above recited, and the Bailiffes or Reves”
 “Accounts hereafter following out of the Earl”
 “of Suffolks evidence Room.”

The Proofes follow.

Lyndon-
bury.

Curia Domini Episcopi Eliensis tent. ibidem, &c.
 Anno Reg. 3. Edw. quadregesimo primo.

Ricardus Frost et Johanes Sadleir, Electi sunt
 Custodes del Delfs et Jurati.

Curia Baronum &c. tent. Anno 13. Rich. 2.

Robert Herrie is chosen by the Homage to serve the
 Lord in the Office of Keeping the Beasts feeding in the
 Delfs.

Curia Baron &c. tent. Anno 21. Ri. 2.

John Stevens is chosen, &c. . . . And is sworn.

Hadden-
ham.

Compotus Willmi Andrueson prepositi ibidem, A
 Festo Sci Michis. Archi. Anno Regni Regis Ricardi
 Scdi : decimo usque in crastino Sci. Michis. Anno Regni
 ejusdem Regis XI^{mo}.

To be continued.

GREAT STUKELEY CHURCH, HUNTS.

At the time when Domesday Book was compiled there was on the land of the Countess Judith in Stukeley (i.e. at Great Stukeley), a Church and a Priest; and here to-day, doubtless upon the same site, stands the ancient Church of St. Bartholomew, and hard by, in the Vicarage House northward of the Church, lives the successor in Office of the priest who is mentioned in 1086.

When the present Vicar came to Stukeley, in 1906, the Church was in great need of repair; its walls were cracked in many places, two windows in the chancel and another in the south aisle were blocked up, the walls were covered with a thick coat of modern plaster 'decorated' with yellow wash, the roofs and floors were in holes, and the pews were unseemly boxes of stained and varnished deal; this state of things the new Vicar promptly set himself to remedy, and what was done it is the purpose of this paper to record.

Probably no man has such ample opportunities for reading the history of an ancient building as he who cuts into its walls, not to destroy nor for the pleasure of leaving his own mark upon them, but in order that by removing decay he may give new life and vigour to that which is sound; and it is fitting that he who has thus obtained an intimate knowledge of its walls should try to make the stones reveal their story. It is generally believed that the majority of the early churches of England were of timber, and, although this idea is sometimes contradicted, it is probably true of this County of Huntingdon, for, while we have no building stone of our own, the ancient forests must have produced an abundant supply of oak trees, and so the material for these little timber churches lay close at hand; be that as it may, the earliest stones that have been found in this Church are late Norman, of a date obviously subsequent to the Domesday Record. The Church was almost entirely rebuilt in the Thirteenth Century, when with the exception of the tower, it assumed very much the size and shape which we now see.

The present building consists of a chancel, nave with clerestory, two aisles, south porch and west tower. The walls of the chancel are of Early English date, and the north wall has a plain door of this character; and a window, in the same wall, which had been despoiled of its head and blocked up, when opened out was found to have jambs prepared for a shutter (or for glass fitted into a wooden frame), and a fine pointed rear-arch. A small broken fragment of the head was found, and this enabled the window to be restored in its original form. Several months later, in taking down some loose walling at the top of the west wall of the north aisle other portions of this window were discovered which confirmed the opinion formed as to its original shape. In the north wall, also, there are two plain aumbries, one of them now fitted with a modern oak door. The east window, which was probably re-modelled in Perpendicular times, has a poor modern head, and indeed the east gable, above the springing line of the window, is a thin wall of yellow bricks. The south wall has undergone still more changes, although much of the Early English walling, including a good piscina, still remains; but the window has been replaced by a square-headed two-light window of Decorated date, and a square-headed low-side window has been inserted in the usual position.

Externally the chancel has Early English buttresses square at the angles, and one on each side; a good string-course runs round the north and east walls, but it is somewhat patched in the latter case, and is quite absent from the south wall, which seems to point to considerable rebuilding there. At the northern end the east wall has fallen over very much towards the east, and here a large buttress was built some years ago, which it has been thought advisable to retain rather than to rebuild the corner, although the crack inside has been grouted up and made good. On the south side another modern buttress had been built between the window and the corner; this has been removed, and the wall underpinned and repaired.

What the original roof of the chancel was there is

now no means of telling; the present tiled roof and plastered ceiling are entirely modern, but three oak beams, perfectly plain and of no great interest, are possibly rather older than the rest. These beams had been cased with modern stained deal boards, and obtruded very unpleasantly across the head of the east window; the casings have now been removed, and the general effect is much improved, but a new roof and upper part of the east wall are greatly to be desired. The wall above the chancel arch contains, on its eastern face, some label stones which would give the line of a roof certainly older than the present one.

Our forefathers seem to have had a special veneration for the chancel arch, and it was often the last vestige of the Norman church to give way to the improvements and rebuilding of successive generations, and this seems to have been the case here, for in digging for underpinning and in resetting loose parts of the walls numerous Norman stones were found, most of them ornamented with carving of rather late date, including—the round-rolled voussoirs of three or four different arches, one of them carved, another with the chevron; a piece of rounded moulding with spiral bands of bead ornament (now fixed in the sill of the western window of the north wall); and two pieces of plinth, the base and several fragments of circular shafts. The plinths, base and shafts certainly seem to have belonged to the Chancel Arch, and in all probability some of the voussoirs came from the arch itself. That it remained until long after the rest of the church had been rebuilt may be gathered from the fact that the present arch is of Perpendicular date.

The upper part of the gable was very badly built and had large hollow spaces in it, and in repairing it a fragment of a coffin-lid was discovered, which is now built into the wall at the western end of the north aisle.

There are still some signs of the rood loft; two ends of the oak beams remain on the north side of the chancel arch, and on the same side a mutilated stone shows where the beam passed. On the south side marks

remain in the adjacent wall where the ends of the beams rested. The north arcade wall has an opening right through it at the level of the loft; this is now partly blocked up, but the jambs and the lintels may still be seen. No portion of the steps remains, and indeed the opening itself is so small and cramped that it is difficult to see how it was ever used. The alterations in this corner must have been considerable, but what they were cannot now be traced.

The nave has an arcade of four arches on each side; they are all of Early English date, but varied somewhat in character, and those on the north rather later than those on the south. The columns are all circular, and on the south the caps are well moulded and have circular abaci, and the third cap from the east is ornamented with rather stiff foliage. On the north the caps are poor and the abaci octagonal, but they still retain the Early English feeling. The eastern respond on the south is a half column; on the north a corbel, below which, in the square jamb, is a mutilated piscina.

The western responds appear to have been altered when the tower was built; that on the south is a plain square pier, while on the north the arch simply dies into the great buttress of the tower.

The bases are of the Early English water-holding type, but those of the two western columns and responds have been modernised.

The clerestory windows are plain and late Perpendicular two-lights, three on each side, the spaces where the western windows should come being left blank. The heads of all these windows appear to be cut out of earlier tombstones; this is especially the case with the eastern window on the south and the two eastern windows on the north, one of the latter having evidently been a fine sepulchral effigy in rather bold relief; this last is visible from inside the Church, but naturally is not very easy to see from the ground. The clerestory wall on the south was found to be in a very serious condition owing to a long horizontal chase having been left where the old aisle roof came, and the outside face of the wall being

carried on large flat stones largely supported by the timbers of the aisle roof. A considerable portion of the facing had to be reset, and the flat stones, being taken out, were found to be carved coffin-lids cut in two and otherwise broken; remains of some five or six coffins were thus found, and they have now been built into the west wall of the south aisle and at the west end of the north aisle.

The roof of the nave is modern, tiled on the outside and boarded inside; that the original roof was of flatter pitch is shown by the brickwork of the upper part of the gable, clearly visible inside as well as out. It is probably safe to say that the nave once had parapets and a flat lead roof like most of the neighbouring churches, but these have long since disappeared.

The south aisle is apparently wholly of Perpendicular date, it has three three-lights in the south wall and another at the east end, the west wall being blank. The south door is also of the same date, and so is the parapet, and there is a plain piscina towards the eastern end. The eastern window of the south wall was partially blocked up by a large buttress, apparently put there to counteract the thrust of the south arcade, which, at this point leans somewhat to the south. This buttress has been shifted slightly to the east, and in so doing a very pretty piece of carving was found, built in at about the level of the ground, and this has been preserved in the re-built buttress. The stonework of the window thus opened out was found to be intact, but required re-setting. The walls of this aisle were much cracked and had to be considerably repaired and, in places, underpinned, and it was in doing this work that most of the Norman stones were found, some of them being in the large buttress. The leadwork of the roof was re-cast and re-laid.

The north aisle is the puzzle of the church; it is abnormally wide and, before the restoration, had much the appearance of an enlargement of the Perpendicular period, for the three windows of the north wall and the one at the west end are three-lights of the ordinary

Perpendicular type, and the parapet appears to be of the same date. But that the aisle is not an enlargement or rebuilding of so late a date is proved by the fact that when the plaster was removed from the walls, the inner jambs and parts of the sills and arches of the original Early English windows were found *in situ*. The buttresses also are all of Early English date, a contemporary string-course runs all round the walls and buttresses without any break or sign of a change, and the door, which is plain, has stops to the jamb splays and notch-head terminations to the hood-mould which speak quite plainly of the Thirteenth Century. The sills, outer jambs and mullions of the east window are also of that date, but the head and inner jambs have been much modernized. There is an unusually long stretch of wall between the north door and the western corner without a buttress; a modern buttress stood there, but it was not bonded at any point to the wall, and was in dis-repair, and when taken down it was found that the Early English string-course ran right through, clearly showing that there was originally no buttress there, and it was consequently not rebuilt. That the Perpendicular windows of this aisle were inserted subsequently to the erection of the tower, is evident from the fact that the end of the west wall nearest to the tower has sunk considerably, due doubtless to the sinking of the heavy tower when first built, and this sinking has affected not only the plinth but also the string-course for fully two-thirds of the west wall, and yet the sill of the west window is quite level, clearly proving that the wall had sunk before the window was inserted.

But how was this ungainly aisle roofed? What its earliest roof was will probably never be known, but when the men of the Fifteenth Century raised their nave walls and built the clerestory, they kept the sills of the northern windows some twenty-two inches higher than those on the south, and it may therefore be reasonably concluded that they then roofed the aisle with a very flat lean-to roof. A portion of a moulded oak beam, probably part of this roof, was found, cased in deal,

when the old roof was removed, and has been re-used as the ridge piece of the eastern bay of the new roof. It was evidently soon found that this flat roof could not be kept watertight, and at last the drastic remedy was taken of blocking up the clerestory windows in order to raise the pitch of the roof. When this took place it is not possible to say, but of the five main beams of the last roof one was ancient, two were of modern deal, and two of modern oak; and of the latter one bore the inscription **B.W+Y. 1830**, which is perhaps the date of the change. But the blocked clerestory and the sprawling modern roof were eyesores, and it was determined to rectify both, so a new span roof, formed largely of the old oak and covered with the old lead (re-cast in the churchyard), has been erected, the two old beams, the one Mediæval the other dated 1830, being retained to tell their tale of change and yet again change.

The tower is a good specimen of Perpendicular architecture, well and boldly designed with massive angle buttresses, a plain west door with a good three-light window above it, and two-light windows to the belfry. It was probably intended to have a spire with bold pinnacles at the angles, very like Islip, Norths., but it is doubtful if these were ever built, the tower now finishing somewhat abruptly a little above the moulded string-course of what should be the parapet. The lower stage was groined, the springing stones and wall ribs remain; the former are boldly carved with grotesques. On the south-west buttress is the somewhat unusual feature of a sundial facing west.

The porch is poor, it is of late but uncertain date, and bears evident signs of much ill-treatment. Its main arch is semi-circular and quite plain, and two plain square-headed windows (probably two-lights), one in each of the side walls, have been mutilated until they are almost unrecognisable. The walls are much cracked, and the roof is poor and covered with tiles.

Before the restoration the walls were covered inside with a thick coat of modern plaster, daubed over with yellow-wash, but there was no fragment of the ancient

plaster remaining. When the modern plaster was removed to repair the walls they were found to be built of good stone, full of interest and revealing much of the history of the church; there before our eyes were the jambs and lintel of the door at the top of the rood-stairs, the holes where the beams of the rood-loft went, parts of the jambs, sills and arches of the original windows of the north aisle, the brickwork showing where the east gable of the nave had been raised, and the straight joint between the tower and the south arcade, all of which are now visible and add considerably to the interest of the church.

So far we have dealt with walls and roofs, now let us deal with the floors. The chancel floor was of very common tiles of no antiquity and presenting no claims to preservation, these have been replaced by Ketton stone paving slabs on a bed of concrete. Very slight alterations have been made in the levels, which agreed very well with the height of the ancient piscina; the altar-pace has been slightly enlarged and the step at the altar-rail better arranged, but the two old memorial slabs to members of the Stone family have been retained in their former position. It may be interesting to put on record that before laying down the concrete bed the ground was carefully probed at close intervals to ascertain whether any tombs or stones, &c., existed beneath, and three deep holes were dug beneath the altar to see if any relics had been hidden there at the time of the Reformation. Nothing was found except a little brick and stone rubbish in one of the holes, which produced a carved face (now fixed in the wall by the low-side window) and a fragment of the rim of a stone jar or mortar. A hollow space was found beneath the altar-rails, towards the northern end, showing that the floor had been disturbed, but there was nothing in it. A red brick floor was found six inches below the floor of the Sanctuary, but this did not extend over the western end of the chancel.

The floor of the nave and aisles consisted of wood floors and joists beneath the seats, and plain tiles in the

To be continued.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society

(Continued from page 188).

The Autumn Excursion in 1910 took place on Wednesday, 14th September, when the Members and their friends visited Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Fenstanton, Hilton, Yelling and Graveley.

Notwithstanding that the rain was falling heavily and that there was no promise of better conditions prevailing, a goodly party set out from Huntingdon Station, and arrived at Hemingford Abbots Church, (St. Margaret¹), where they were met by Captain Herbert, son of the aged Rector.

The earlier parts of the church are of early Decorated date, of which period are the nave arcades, probably the aisle walls and perhaps the font. The latter may be earlier still, but its details are so plain that it is impossible to date it with much certainty, and it is probably contemporary with the rest. The eastern arches of both arcades are rather wider than the others, and their piers are square masses of stone; the pier on the south has an arch springing from it towards the aisle wall, while the springers of a similar arch remain on the north.

The south aisle has a modern east window, but the jambs and parts of the sill, &c., of the older window may still be seen. The south wall is divided into bays by wall arcading, and has stone seats along it, and a plain piscina and aumbry in the usual place. The west window of the north aisle is of much the same date as the rest of this work, but all the other windows are slightly later.

The chancel arch, of late Decorated date, has the stairs to the rood loft on the north side. The chancel itself is of poor and late character, of brick, with a flat roof. It however contains an interesting stone bearing an inscription in Lombardic capitals round its edge; it appears to be in French, and evidently commemorates one of the Rectors:—

(per)sone : de
: le eglise : de : (Hem)eyn(gef)ô(rd)

The rest of the church is all of Perpendicular workmanship; the roofs are good, those in the aisles have carved bosses; that of the nave has well moulded cornices, carved bosses and figures, and the eastern bay has considerable remains of ancient paint, with two inscriptions which, so far, have defied interpretation. The middle clerestory window, on the south side, has two letters carved upon the hood-mould terminals, the one is € the other looks like K.

1. St. Margaret is the generally accepted dedication, but a Will dated 1537 speaks of 'the Church of All Hallows, Hemingford Abbots'; and another, dated 1541, refers to 'the High Altar of St. Margaret' in the same Church. [Editor].

The tower, also of Perpendicular design, has a good plain west door, with a three-light window over it; the belfry windows are good two-lights. The buttresses at the angles are bold square piers, but above the west window a string-course runs round the tower, having gurgoyles and niches on the buttresses, which then become octagonal; and a little higher up they give place to ordinary diagonal buttresses. The tower has embattled parapets with angle pinnacles, and bold gurgoyles. The spire has two tiers of spire lights, the lowest being two-lights and on the cardinal faces. Just above each tier is a band of battlement moulding.

There is a good Renaissance oak chest with turned legs, in the church. The eastern part of the south aisle roof is covered with copper; a material which was much more frequently used for roofing in the past than it is now. When rain falls upon it the noise inside the church is terrific, and probably that fact, combined with its expense, led to its disuse. In the churchyard is a massive and ancient stone coffin, found on the roadside and removed here by the present Rector.

Proceeding to Hemingford Grey Church (St. James), the party was met by the Rev. Byrom Holland (Vicar), who read some notes on the church, which contains work of most of the periods of English architecture.

The north arcade of the nave has a semi-circular arch between two pointed ones; the columns are circular, with Norman caps and bases, but half the cap of the eastern column has been removed, and replaced with an Early English moulded cap. The eastern respond is a semi-circular column with a moulded cap; the western arch dies into the wall. The south arcade also consists of three arches, the two western being Norman, and semi-circular, while the eastern is pointed, and Early English. The columns are circular, with Early English caps and bases; and the responds are similar to those on the north. At the east end of each arcade is a tall plain wall arch, under which a narrow window, looking into the aisles, has been inserted; these were hidden under the plaster until 1859. The clerestory has four plain Perpendicular two-light windows on each side; and the roof is plain, and of the same style. The south aisle has a good early Decorated piscina in the south wall, and an Early English bracket in the east wall. The roof is plain Perpendicular.

The chancel has a fine double piscina of Early English date, with intersecting semi-circular arches resting on a polished marble shaft; the basins are both circular. There is also in the chancel a plain double aumbry. A Decorated two-light window in the south wall of the chancel is the only window in the church (excepting those in the tower) which was not renewed in 1859, in which year £1080 was spent in restoring and enlarging the church, the works including: Chancel, walls raised, and new roof; Nave, roof re-boarded and re-leaded; South Aisle, thoroughly restored; North Aisle, rebuilt and enlarged; Porch and Vestry, newly built; Floors, Seats, Windows and Doors, renewed; Alter rails, Pulpit, Font, all new; Columns scraped and repaired; Walls replastered

inside and repointed outside; Chancel arch heightened and re-modelled; Gallery for children built in tower: the Architect being Mr. J. Perkin, of Leeds.

The tower is Perpendicular; it has a plain west door, with a modern two light window over it. The Belfry windows are Perpendicular two-lights. There is an embattled parapet, with a stone ball at each corner; and the base of the spire has also been finished off with stone balls at the angles. The spire was blown down by the destructive storm of 1741, and its stones are locally said to lie in the river which flows close by the west door; but Mr. Holland expressed his opinion that this is an error, and that the spire really fell upon the Church. Certainly the direction of the storm was from S.W. to N.E. The tracery of the south belfry window is very poor, and may possibly be due to the disaster of 1741.

There are several interesting Renaissance monuments in the church.

From the Churchyard a view was obtained of the ancient and picturesque water-mill, said by Sir Robert Cotton to have been first erected by '*one Gray, a minion of the time*' and to which or rather to the alterations then made in the course of the river, he ascribes the decay of the town of Huntingdon. Perhaps Sir Robert was hardly correct in his deduction; but that the river here has been considerably diverted from its original course, probably upon more than one occasion, is certain, (c.f. the records of the Ouse navigation disputes,) and it would form an interesting and instructive study for someone who has the necessary leisure to devote to it.

The next Church visited was Fenstanton, (SS. Peter and Paul,) where the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. Frewer, read a paper which we shall hope to see printed in a subsequent part of the Transactions.

The chancel has a magnificent Decorated window of seven lights, with fine tracery in the head; the side windows are two-lights, with flowing Decorated tracery, (three on each side,) and the south wall has a piscina and three graduated sedilia, under ogee arches, and a priest's door. In the floor is a very large stone slab, bearing the indent of a demi-priest, and of an inscription:—**Hic jacet Dominus Wilelmus de Loughthone quondam Rector hujus ecclesie**¹, but all the brasses from it have gone.

The nave, and aisles are Perpendicular, the windows of the north aisle being of better design than those on the south; and the roof of the north aisle is also the richer of the two.

The tower is partly of late Decorated date, the side arches being supported on moulded and carved corbels of this character, but the arch to the nave is Perpendicular, and the west window, the belfry windows and the spire are of the same style. The side buttresses at the north-east and south-east corners are wholly within the church, they are of bold projection and the lower parts are carried on a low relieving arch, somewhat after the manner of a flying-buttress.

1. William de Loughthone, or Longthorne, was Rector, 1344-1352. [Editor].

The porch is plain Early English, and has the dog-tooth ornament in the hood-mould of the outer arch. There is a plain vesica-shaped window in the gable. The roof is plain; and the side windows are Perpendicular two-lights. The inner door is good Perpendicular, with continuous mouldings. The pulpit is made up of old oak, some of the panels being of late Perpendicular linen-fold pattern; and some Gothic crocketed finials, evidently from the roodscreen, have been affixed to the modern oak framing. Other portions of the screen may be recognised in the tracery panels, of late Decorated date, now worked into the lectern. The font has every appearance of being modern, and although it is vouched for, locally, as being old, '*at least 60 years old*,' we cannot help thinking that, if not entirely modern, it has at least been reworked.

The chancel floor is lower than that of the nave, and the floor of the sanctuary is almost level with the seats of the sedilia; and yet the latter is not unduly raised above the general level of the chancel. There is a large plain tomb, in the chancel, to Lancelot Brown, the celebrated "Capability Brown" of the Eighteenth Century, who died on the 6th February, 1783, aged 67 years. He is said to have owned and laid out the adjoining village of Hilton, which is undoubtedly one of the prettiest villages in the County.

From the Church the party went to the School, where Luncheon was served in the Gymnasium; after which they proceeded to Hilton, where the first object of interest was the curious maze cut in the turf of the village green. The stone obelisk in the middle has a sundial on the north face. It has four inscriptions:—on the south face, 'Sic transit gloria mundi. Gulielmus Sparrow, Gen., natus ano. 1641. Ætatis sue 88, quando obiit, hoc gyrosformavit anno 1660'; together with a coat of arms, three roses, and a chief, crest, a unicorn's head; on the east face, 'William Sparrow departed this life the 25th August, Anno Domini 1729, aged 88 years'; on the north face, 'A.B. hoc'; on the west face, 'Dep. hoc.'

At Hilton Church; (St. Mary Magdalene), the Vicar, the Rev. Philip Dalby, met the party and showed them the objects of interest. This Church, which consists of chancel, nave with clerestory, south porch and west tower, is all of the same date, namely about the middle of the Fifteenth Century, the design being a somewhat plain form of Perpendicular, but with rather good tracery in the windows. During the process of rebuilding the north-west corner of the tower,¹ a few years ago, several interesting stones were brought to light; the finest of all being a very beautiful little memorial stone containing in its circular head a representation of Christ upon the cross, this stone, which is of rather early Thirteenth Century date, was found turned face downwards, doing duty as the threshold of the belfry door at the top of the tower stairs. The next most interesting find is a Norman archstone showing the chevron moulding, and it is

1. Under the direction of Mr. S. Inskip Ladds. [Editor].

suggested that this possibly formed part of the original chancel arch. Another stone, possibly the base of the same arch, was found in the foundations of the south-west buttress. Several of the old internal quoin stones of the buttress were found to have been cut out of portions of columns and arches of an earlier church, most likely of Fourteenth Century date, and it is a curious fact that just sufficient of these stones were found to complete the circle of one drum of a column. Some other stones of Fourteenth Century date were also found; and the whole of them have been built into the walls of the tower.

In addition to the restoration of the tower, in 1904, a general restoration took place in 1850, when the roofs were repaired and the walls replastered; in 1889, when the western gallery was removed, the chancel raised, and new seats provided; in 1898; in 1906 when the walls of the south aisle were underpinned and repaired: and in 1909 when the chancel was repaired.

The next Church on the programme was Yelling (The Holy Cross), where the Rector, the Rev. J. Mawson, read some notes on the church and manor. The walls of the chancel are partly Early English and partly Perpendicular; in the south wall is a good Early English piscina, having two basins (one a quatrefoil within a circle, the other octofoil, also within a circle), both under one arch.

The chancel arch has Early English jambs, but the arch, which probably consists of the old stones, is rather flat and has no doubt been widened. The nave is of three bays; the north arcade is of late Norman workmanship, and has circular columns with carved cushion caps, and plain semi-circular arches. The south arcade is late Decorated, and built of Cambridgeshire clunch; but the bases of the columns are of stone, and of early Decorated date. The clerestory windows are Perpendicular two-lights.

The south aisle is largely Early English or very early Decorated; the east window and the eastern one in the south wall are two-lights with quatrefoiled circles in their heads, the next window on the south is a plain two-light, and the doorway is of the same style, while the western-most window is a Perpendicular two-light. There is a plain square aumbry; and a piscina with a quatrefoiled circle for its basin. Under a low arch in the south wall is a very fine Early English coffin lid, carved with a rich floriated cross rising from a calvary of three steps; the head of the cross is enclosed within a circle. The font, which is a plain octagon, of Perpendicular design, stands in this aisle.

The north aisle has been very largely rebuilt (in 1868-9), and the windows are modern; it has an Early English double piscina in the south-east corner, the eastern basin being a plain circle, and the western one a sexfoil, and the arch over is trefoiled.

The tower is Perpendicular; the arch to the nave is rather plain and coarse, and of clunch. The west window is a three-light, and the belfry windows are two-lights. The tower has good buttresses, and an embattled parapet; it had formerly a spire, rising from behind the parapet, but this was pulled down in the

time of the Rev. P. N. Jodrell (1805-1850), because it leaned towards the Rectory House, and it was feared that it would fall.

The dates of the restoration of the various parts of the church are as follows: the chancel, nave, north aisle and tower by the Rev. T. W. Leventhorp (1850-1860), and the Rev. E. M. Heale (1860-1875); the south aisle and porch by the Rev. W. H. Burville (1887-1896). The latter restoration, which was completed in 1889, under the direction of Mr. William Taprell Allen, Architect, of London, included a new roof to the aisle, the previous roof being very weak and in ruins, and blocking up one third of the height of the clerestory windows, nothing being left of the ancient roof but the tie-beams. There is said to have been formerly a good Perpendicular screen under the chancel arch, but this has entirely disappeared.

The last Church visited was Graveley (St. Botolph) and here the Rector, the Rev. O. P. Fisher,¹ pointed out the various objects of interest.

The chancel was entirely rebuilt by the Rev. Henry Trotter (Rector, 1723-1766), but has been very much altered in recent years. The nave has a blocked arcade of four arches on the north side, of early Decorated date; the arches are well moulded, and die into an octagonal pier without any cap; there are good hood-moulds over them all, with carved terminals. Under the arches are three early Decorated two-light windows and a plain door which have evidently been removed from the outer wall of the aisle. The windows have a quatrefoiled circle in their heads, and the lights of the western window are cusped, but they have all been much restored. The south wall of the nave has been largely rebuilt; it has a plain blocked door, and two two-light windows copied from those on the north. The chancel arch is quite modern, but a fragment of a late Decorated niche has been built into the wall on the south side of it.

The tower is a good specimen of a simple Perpendicular tower; it has a rather fine west door under a square hood mould, above which is a large three-light window unfortunately much modernized; the belfry windows are Perpendicular two-lights. There are bold diagonal buttresses at the north-west and south-west angles, and the tower is finished off with an embattled parapet. Four stone corbels, formerly belonging to the chancel but for many years built into the walls of the Rectory stable, have recently been built into the wall above the west door.

The western wall of the north aisle still remains.

Having inspected the moat and earthworks of the Rectory Close, the party were very kindly entertained to tea by the Rector. The rain had cleared off about two o'clock, and the party which started from Huntingdon was considerably augmented during the day.

Amongst those present were the Reverends A. J. Edmunds, G. H. Frewer, O. P. Fisher, G. E. Sharland, A. Peskett, S. St. A.

1. See Mr. Fisher's paper on Graveley, pp. 92-96 *ante*.

Baylee, K. D. Knowles, H. P. Pollard; Dr. Newton; Messrs. A. Bull, S. Inskip Ladds, Wm. Emery, H. E. Norris, E. L. Watts, F. Christmas. W. H. E. Brewster; Mrs. Baylee, Mrs. Yeatherd, Mrs. Walker, Miss Walker, and others.

The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE SESSION,
1909-1910.

The past Session has been one of quiet but steady progress. The Membership of the Society is now 83; six new members having been elected, while three have left the Society by resignation or otherwise.

The Council has held four meetings at which little more than the ordinary routine business has been transacted.

The Society's Library continues to increase; there are now 71 volumes and parts; and it gives the Council great pleasure to record that the Transactions are now exchanged with the Peterborough Natural History, Scientific and Archæological Society, an exchange which has been made retrospective so that this Society now possesses a complete set of that Society's Transactions.

The ancient Court Rolls of the Hammonds' Manor of Somersham, Colne, and Bluntisham, &c., having come into the market, your Council have purchased those relating to the years 1715-1728; unfortunately the matter was brought to their notice too late to enable them to secure the Rolls relating to earlier years.

Two excursions have been made during the Session; the first on Wednesday, May 25th, to Girton, Oakington, Long Stanton St. Michael and All Saints, Willingham, Histon and Impington; the second on Wednesday, September 14th, when Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Fenstanton, Hilton, Yelling and Graveley were visited. To all those who kindly gave their time and otherwise contributed to making the visits a success the Council desires to tender its hearty thanks.

The Transactions of the Society still maintain their high value and interest; the list of Incumbents of the Churches of Huntingdonshire makes slow but steady progress towards completion. Another part of the Transactions is nearly ready, and will be issued shortly.

The collection of picture postcards of the Churches and other ancient objects of the two Counties has made very rapid strides. That for Cambridgeshire, which has been in the hands of the Rev. J. G. Cheshire, may be said to be complete, and the cards have been mounted ready to be bound in albums and deposited in the Society's Library. The collection for Huntingdonshire, which is in the charge of Dr. Newton, is rapidly approaching completion, and will shortly be mounted to match those of the other County.

In speaking of these collections as 'complete' the Council does not wish to be understood to say that the collection is closed; it is and always will be pleased to receive additional cards, but the collections, so far as it is at present possible to make them, are complete.

The Committee appointed to draw up a Report upon the Earthworks and early British, Roman, and Saxon remains in the County of Huntingdon has not yet issued its Report, but it is understood that some progress has been made in collecting materials for that purpose. The Council is still desirous of forwarding the study of these branches of Archæology and will be glad to hear from anyone who can assist.

The financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. The balance in hand is not so large as it was last year, but the Session has been a rather expensive one in several ways, and your Council is of opinion that the money has been well spent.

The Treasurer presents his Report to date, which shows a balance in hand of £25 8s. 8d.

The retiring Members of the Council this year are Mrs. Yeatherd and Miss Parsons, Messrs. Bull and Ladds, who are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

The Rev. F. G. Walker and Rev. J. G. Cheshire wish to resign their membership of the Council, and the Council recommends in their places the Rev. J. Holford Scott of Wilburton, and Mr. Charles Whymper of Houghton.

The Council regrets to have to record the resignation by the Rev. A. J. Edmonds of his office of Honorary Secretary, and recommends the election of Mr. Wm Emery in his place. The Council desires to express its thanks to Mr. Edmonds for steering the Society through very troublous times, and recommends that he should be elected to the vacant Vice-Presidentship. In conclusion the Council desires to express its thanks to the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Editor and other Officers, and to all those who have assisted in the work of the Society during the past Session.

G. E. SHARLAND, *Chairman*,

26 October, 1910.

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society.

HON. TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MICHAELMAS, 1910.

Presented at the Annual Meeting, 26th October, 1910.

Receipts.	<i>£ s d.</i>
Balance in hand 29th Sept., 1909, from } last account	45 4 9
Members' Subscriptions	38 6 6
Excursion Tickets.—Carriages, Luncheons	13 18 0
Sale of "Transactions"	2 6
<hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/>	
<i>£97 11 9</i>	

Payments.	<i>£ s d.</i>
Subscription to Congress of Archæological } Societies	1 0 0
Insurance of Stock in hands of Curator	5 0
"Transactions" Part 2, Vol. III	9 12 6
Ditto Part 3, Vol. III	18 8 2
Ditto Part 4, Vol. III	18 11 2
Printing and Stationery	2 3 7
Hire of Rooms for Meetings	9 6
Excursion-Expenses—Carriages, Lunch- } eons, &c.,	13 7 9
Somersham Court Rolls	4 10 0
Hon. Secretary—out of pocket expenses ..	2 10 3
Hon. Treasurer ditto	1 5 2
Balance in hand, 29th Sept., 1910, to next } account	25 8 8
<hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/>	
<i>£97 11 9</i>	

G. E. SHARLAND, *Chairman.*
26th October, 1910.

Wm. EMERY, *Hon. Treasurer.*
Audited and found correct,
S. E. ARMSTRONG, *Auditor.*

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