

BARTON CHAPEL. NYETIMBER — PAGHAM.

THE "BARTON" OR "MANOR" FARM, NYETIMBER,¹ PAGHAM.

BY H. L. F. GUERMONPREZ, A.R.I.B.A., AND
PHILIP M. JOHNSTON.

THE following account of some remarkable discoveries in connection with an old farmhouse at Nyetimber, in the parish of Pagham, has been placed in my hands by Mr. H. L. F. Guermontprez, architect, of Bognor. It is illustrated by his own excellent drawings; and I have thought it best to let it speak for itself, with the addition of a preface, postscript and extra illustrations of my own. Mr. Guermontprez has had exceptional opportunities of investigating this group of ancient buildings, and has made very good use of them. My own visit to Barton Farm took place under the kind guidance of the owner, Mr. W. H. B. Fletcher, of Aldwick Manor, a member of this Society, at a date when most of the discoveries recorded by Mr. Guermontprez had been already made.

Pagham, in which parish the hamlet of Nyetimber is situate, is an extremely ancient settlement in the Selsea peninsula. It is said to have been given to Bishop Wilfrid by Cœdwalla, in A.D. 687, when, in sorrow for the

¹ The orthography and derivation of this name are somewhat doubtful. "Nytimber" is common; so also is "Nightimber." "Nigh-to-the-Bar (tum)" has been suggested by Mr. Guermontprez as a likely derivation. Possibly, however, the name may have reference to the nearness of the settlement to the "small wood" mentioned in Domesday. Barton is a generic name. "Bertone de Aldewych," "Bertone de Berglestode" and "Bertone de Shrympene" are other Bartons in the immediate neighbourhood. My friend Mr. L. F. Salzmänn gives me an apt quotation bearing upon the use of this term Barton: In Cornwall, in the reign of Edward I., "Reginald de Mohun gave this barton of Bochym to one of his daughters who was married to Bellot." Halliwell has: "BARTON. The demesne lands of a manor; the manor-house itself; sometimes, an enclosure in which poultry and pigs were kept." Barton is still used colloquially in Dorset and elsewhere for the farm enclosure. Earl's Barton, Northants, and Barton-on-the-Humber, Lincs., are well-known examples of churches with pre-Conquest towers.—P. M. J.

devastations he had made in Kent and elsewhere, he resigned his crown and went to Rome.² The settlement at Nyetimber seems to be of equal antiquity: and as the "manor" of Pagham was thus given to Wilfrid, it is quite likely that at that early date it would be identical with the present Nyetimber, subsequently a manor in the parish of Pagham; and that in the most ancient portion of the existing house we have the actual "aula" of Cœdwalla and Wilfrid, an early pre-Conquest manor-house. It is noteworthy that the village of Pagham practically consists of the hamlet of Nyetimber, the church lying almost solitary a mile away.

Domesday shows us that the manor was still in the hands of the Archbishops of Canterbury. The church mentioned in that survey is recorded in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas (A.D. 1291) as existing "cum Capella." This chapel-of-ease—which it is important not to confound with the chapel of a manor—was dedicated to St. Andrew, and some remains of it are said to exist in connection with the old Rectory House, about half a mile north of Pagham.³

No entry of special interest relating to Barton Manor has come under my notice in the various sources of information among ancient documents. In 1547 it is referred to as "the farm of the manor of Nyetimber:" and in 1588 we have "the scite of the Manor of Nyetimber." As far back as 1450 the house was used as a mere farmhouse.⁴

PHILIP M. JOHNSTON.

² See the Venerable Bede's "Historia Ecclesiastica." As is well known, the Selsea peninsula and the strip of coast adjoining was one of the earliest pieces of land to be cultivated in England. It was also one of the oldest seats of the manorial system.

³ I have drawn attention, in "S.A.C.," Vol. XLIV., p. 165, to the great number of chapels-of-ease—as well as manorial chapels—existing before the Reformation in this part of West Sussex. To the list there given South Mundham might perhaps be added. There appear also to have been numerous manorial chapels, of the Atherington type, but probably smaller and less ornate than that beautiful little building. Elsham Manor, shown on the map of Atherington, had also, I find, a chapel. In this connection Mr. W. H. B. Fletcher writes: "I have heard that the west end of a chapel exists in a stable at Pagham" (Woodbine Cottage), . . . "and that there is a piscina in Bowley Farmhouse (near S. Mundham), occupied by Mr. John Harrison, also in the parish of Pagham." I have not yet had the opportunity of investigating these remains, but they are worthy of being placed on record.

⁴ Dallaway, "Hist. W. Suss.," Vol. I., p. 37.

Before the dismantlement the buildings were arranged for use as a farmhouse, consisting of ground, bedroom and attic floors, and covered a rectangular surface of 65-ft. by 43-ft., with the exception of a small kitchen court excised on the S. side, about 18-ft. by 12-ft. The roofs were a mixture of thatch, tile and slate, and the timbers of which they and the floors were composed comprised many beams of large scantling and great antiquity. Some bore evident traces of having been used in different positions and for other purposes. The walls were of stone rubble, flints and brick, with stone quoins and other dressings, in many places covered with mortar and plaster. They were pierced at haphazard with doors and windows of all sorts of dates, and many of these had been blocked up and altered as occasion required. The interior was formed into two sitting rooms, dairy, kitchen, brewhouse, larder, store and six or seven bedrooms and attics, with the necessary passages, staircases, etc.

It seemed probable that the restoration as a dwelling-house was effected in the 18th century, as most of the door and window openings and fireplaces were of that period, with 19th century alterations.

On the dismantlement of the buildings it became apparent that the N.W. portion had been used in the 13th century and subsequently as a chapel. The eastern gable wall was found to be pierced with a finely proportioned triplet of lancets; while of the N. and S. walls about half remained, each retaining the greater part of a complete lancet window and the half of a second one. The remainder of these walls and the West wall had been pulled down to the ground level and the materials made use of in fitting the building for domestic purposes.⁵

The length of the chapel when complete was 51-ft., the breadth 25-ft., so that for a building of its class its size was exceptional.⁶ In the eastern part of the South wall is a trefoil-headed piscina, with a plain shallow circular

⁵ There was probably a doorway in the west wall, as at Atherington. Several stones of the door-jambs were found among the *débris*.

⁶ Atherington Chapel was little more than half—28-ft. by 14-ft. It will be noted that in both cases the length is twice the breadth.—P. M. J.

basin, in very good preservation. All the window dressings are in the purest Early English style. The centring of the windows is in "tierspoint," with separate templates for each varying window. The stone used is mostly Caen, but there are a few large blocks of fresh-water or Bembridge limestone, these last being re-dressed and re-used from some more ancient building. The heads of



the windows were filled in with sawn chalk of a remarkably hard texture and showing a conchoidal fracture. The E. windows and those in N. and S. walls were possibly originally unglazed, or they may have had outside shutters or frames, as there are traces of iron fastenings in the outer rebates, but at a later period a chase was cut in the reveal for glass: this chase, however, only appears

in part of the total height of the jambs, and there are clear indications of the position of the later raised cills, at a level of about 4-ft. above the original line. It seems very probable that these windows replaced others of the Norman period, in which the fresh-water Bembridge limestone was used, and that the N.E. quoin and large parts of the walls are of that earlier date.⁷ The walls are built without buttresses and with external and internal quoins, and the materials of which they are composed are very numerous, comprising glacial boulders, flints, water-worn sea-beach stones and Bognor rock, mostly quite undressed. The foundation is of beaten clay and very shallow.

In the eastern gable wall there are four through-holes, 6-in. by 9-in., lined with partly wrought stones. Two of these occur about midway in the side jambs or piers of the triplet, and two above the springing of the centre window. Mr. Amory, jun., the builder in charge of the works, to whom I am indebted for much kind assistance, informed me that four other holes occurred in the return walls. Two of these I have seen: they were in the N. and S. walls, about 6-in. from the E. wall and 8-ft. from the floor. The other two, Mr. Amory says, were midway between the side windows at the same level. The probable use of these was for the scaffolding during erection.⁸

But the greatest interest attaches to the S.E. corner of the house, used before the alterations as a brewhouse. The north, south and east walls of this building (which may be described as lying north and south—see plan), proved to be those of a very ancient structure, most probably an early Saxon “aula.” The internal dimensions are 18-ft. 10½-in. by 17-ft.; the N. and S. walls being 2-ft. 10-in. thick and the E. and (originally) the W. walls

⁷ Mr. Guermonprez ventures to suggest that there was a Saxon chapel on the site before the Norman. This seems highly probable, but it was most likely a much smaller building.—P. M. J.

⁸ In restoring Warlingham Church, Surrey, and Yapton Church (chancel) in this immediate neighbourhood, I have found these through-holes, carefully lined with stone. Both buildings are thirteenth century in date. The Early English builders seem to have been fond of these elaborate putlog-holes. They are not to be confounded with the holes formed in walls to receive earthenware pots, supposed to improve the acoustics of the building. These were usually larger and differently placed.—P. M. J.

2-ft. 3-in., constructed in herring-bone work, the peculiar solidity and massiveness of which probably accounts for their having survived all the assaults of time and man.

The bulk of the stones of which this herring-bone work is composed consists of water-worn pieces of Milliolite limestone from the Mixen rocks at Selsea Bill, used in their natural state; the other sorts are Bognor rock and glacial boulders, with which this part of Sussex was at one time plentifully strewn and of which the first builders availed themselves.

The north and south walls of this building were pierced by door openings, measuring 6-ft. to the spring of the arch by 3-ft. 7-in. wide. These openings were clearly not additions, but contemporaneous with the walls, as the neighbouring work is built to meet them. The dressings of that in the north wall have been quite removed, but the voussoirs of the arch in the S. wall are nearly all in their original position, and some of the jamb stones are visible in the built-up work of the doorway (see accompanying illustration⁹). These dressed stones are worthy of close attention, as their source of origin is obscure. They are a freshwater Chara limestone of Eocene age. It is possible that they were detached from a bed on the coast of the Isle of Wight, off St. Helen's (where a very closely related stone occurs) by the glacial ice, and strewn over the mainland; but I must say that these stones are very distinct from anything I have yet seen from St. Helen's, and if they do not emanate from the Isle of Wight or the Purbeck strata their source of origin must be sought further afield—possibly even in Norway and Sweden. A few of these stones are to be found in most of the old buildings in this district, their position and character giving reason to imagine that they have been employed in yet older buildings.¹⁰ This stone is a most

⁹ Also shown in another illustration.—P. M. J.

¹⁰ Mr. Guermonprez has drawn my attention to the existence of these stones in the walls of Yapton Church. When I had the stucco removed from the chancel walls in the recent restoration, several pieces re-used from older work were found on the outside, and the jambs of the E.E. chancel arch contain about thirty of these stones. I have found others in Walberton, Barnham, Clymping, Rustington and Ford Churches. The star-pattern abacus of the chancel arch at the latter church is worked in this coarse-grained stone. Singleton Church tower (pre-Conquest) is built of it.—P. M. J.



S. Doorway of Aula,
Nyekunber.



valuable one for building—in fact, quite ideal—as, though easily cut with a wood saw, yet its crushing point is very high, and its durability is so great that its exposed surfaces remain to this day practically intact, not being in the least degree degraded. I have been unable to find any pieces of this stone in a natural state, all having been garnered and used by the earliest stone builders. To my mind this fact is very suggestive. These stones would appeal strongly to the Romans, as they resemble closely their native Travertine, and their presence in this vicinity is the more significant from the proximity of Regnum (Chichester). May not these stones have been dressed by the Romans for some small building, and brought thence to be used in their present position by the Saxon builders? They are the only wrought stones, with the exception of two voussoirs of Caen stone, but these have certainly been repairs, as portions of the original pieces are visible, built into the wall near by.

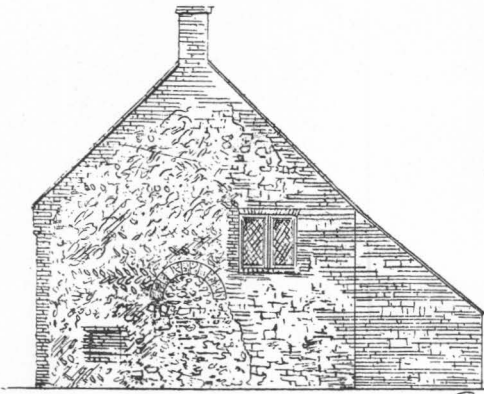
To the north of the aula the recent drain trenches cut across the foundations of a building 45-ft. 6-in. by 27-ft., "out to out," with walls of flint work 2-ft. 8-in. thick. This building was most likely of later date than the aula, as the internal dimension was made to agree with and embrace the exterior width of the aula, and also because of the different material and construction of the walling. Moreover, one of the dressed Chara stones was found re-used at a depth of two feet from the surface of the ground as the lowest N.W. quoin. This larger chamber has all the appearance of late pre-Conquest or early Norman work.¹¹ Below these foundations were oyster shells and potsherds, indicating an earlier occupation of the site.

The building is surrounded by a ditch, in many places still 6 to 8-ft. deep and 10-ft. wide, enclosing a parallelogram of about 300 by 100 yards. There is also a subsidiary trench connecting the N. and S. sides to the E. of the buildings. On the W. side the ditch is quite obliterated where it adjoins the main road. The trenches have every appearance of having been formed for defensive purposes.

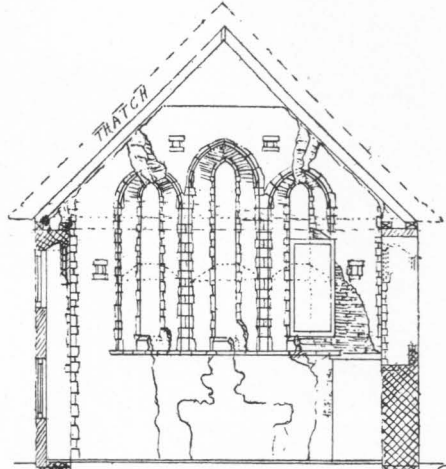
¹¹ I think we may safely say eleventh century.—P. M. J.

REMAINS AT "BARTON OR MANOR" FARM

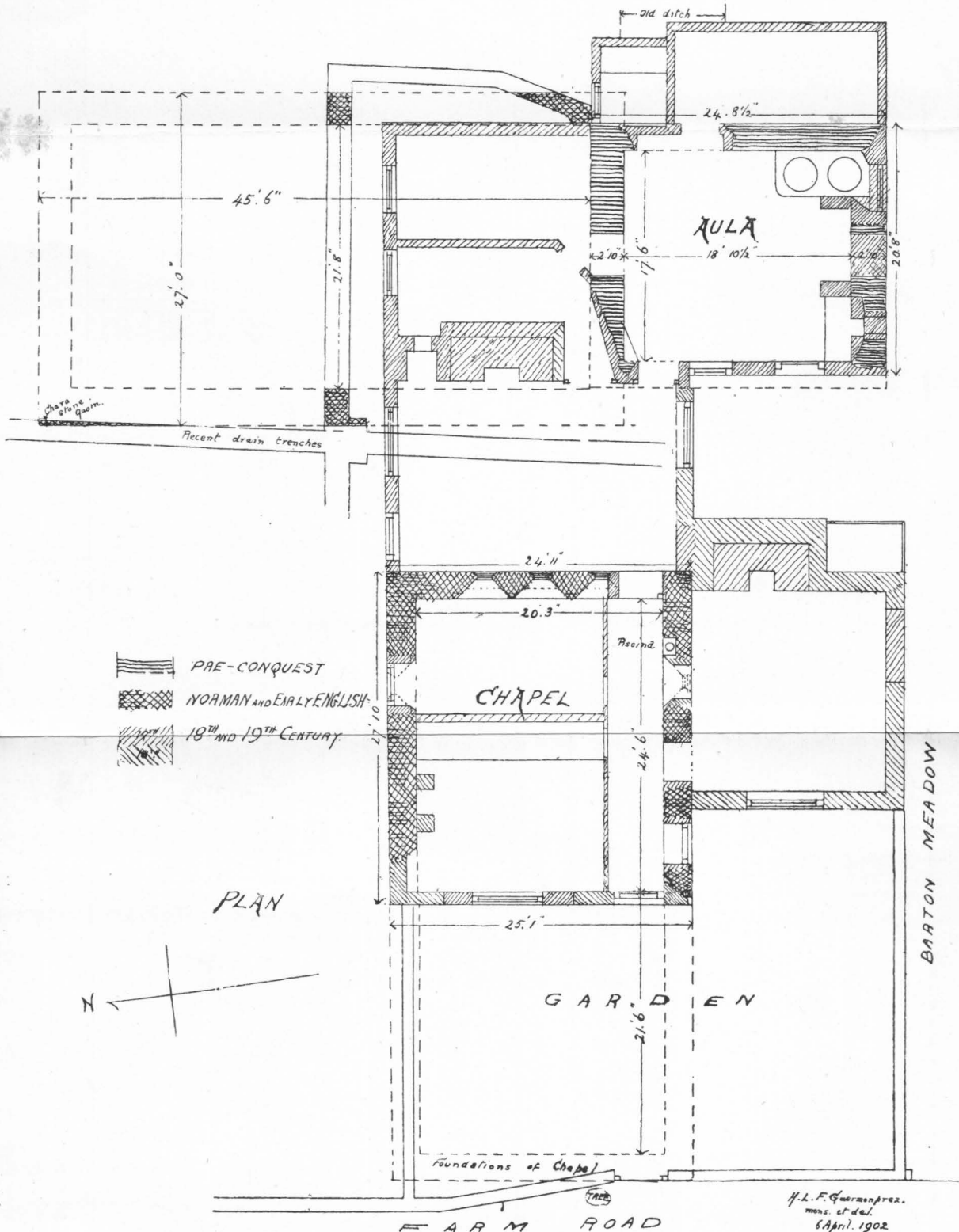
NYETIMBER — PAGHAM, SUSSEX.






ELEVATION OF S GABLE OF AULA (E)



SECTION THRU. CHAPEL (E)



-  PRE-CONQUEST
-  NORMAN AND EARLY ENGLISH
-  18TH AND 19TH CENTURY

PLAN



H.L.F. GARDNER, F.R.S.
meas. et del.
6 April, 1902

SCALE OF 0 5 10 20 FEET

In the S.W. corner of the Barton field there is a triangular excavation in the brick earth, now forming a pond, from which, no doubt, were made the bricks for the farm buildings, most of which are of quite recent date—eighteenth and nineteenth century. Only a very few narrow old bricks of sixteenth or seventeenth century character are observable in the walls, mostly used in early repairs. This leads to the presumption that but little, if any, alteration was made in the older buildings during those centuries. The farmer's house of that period is to be sought for among the farm buildings and the now adjacent cottages.¹² H. L. F. GUERMONPREZ.




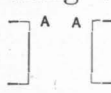

I have not much to add to this valuable account of a singularly interesting group of buildings. I feel doubtful as to the walls of the chapel being of Norman date while its windows are Early English, although the quoins here look like Norman work, and we have many Norman stones in the quoins of the Atherington Chapel, a few miles eastward, which in all its features is advanced Early English.

But the most interesting question for archæologists is the date claimed for this tiny “aula:” and I must say that my own opinion coincides entirely with that of Mr. Guermontprez, and that it seems most probable to me that we have here a unique specimen of the “Hall of the Manor” of our pre-Conquest forefathers.

Besides the instances of the occurrence of the peculiar stone that I have cited in a footnote above, its employment extensively in two famous W. Sussex pre-Conquest Churches—Bosham and Sompting—is noteworthy. It is particularly noticeable in the caps, piers and bases of the chancel arch at the former, and in the pilaster strips—

¹² Mr. Guermontprez, quoting the grant in 687 by Cœdwalla to Bishop Wilfrid of *Pecganham*, with its manors, church, mill and meadow, says: May not this be the site of the manor, possibly one of the earliest in England? It is certain that Pagham (now called Aldwick) Manor is the head manor of the district. Dallaway tells us that in early reigns the tenants of the lordship were of such importance that William de Pageham was sheriff from the 16th to the 21st of Edward I.; and of such antiquity that Richard de Pageham was admitted the principal tenant in the 12th of King John. Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, was consecrated at Pagham in 1267 by Archbishop Anselm. The value of Nyetimber in 1316—£62. 12s. 7d.—is a considerable one for those days, taking into account the worth of such sum to-day. The district has always been renowned for its wheat.—P. M. J.

alternately with a close-grained yellow stone like Caen—of the tower of the latter church. One might, with a little searching, multiply instances, but these are enough to show that the stone is found in typical pre-Conquest Churches and in later work as re-used old material, and that therefore the aula is in all probability of pre-Conquest date.

A few small points may be noted in conclusion. The northern end of the aula is in some respects better preserved externally than the southern. The herring-bone work of the gable and the massive coursed rubble walling below are specially interesting. The regularity of the arch in the southern wall and the finely-wrought stones of which it is composed (see the accompanying drawing) are very striking, and so unlike Early Norman work in this respect. Note the wedge-shaped mortar-joints of the stones, suggesting that the stones themselves have been employed originally in an even older arch of wider span. Note also that this arch, which bears all the evidence of having been an external doorway, has no rebate for a door,  such as one finds invariably in Norman and  later door plans. In this respect it agrees  very remarkably with the through-arch of the blocked door in the S. wall of Lyminster Church and the N. door of Selham Church, Sussex—both pre-Conquest in character. There is something very primitive-looking about such an opening,  and one wonders how it was closed. Possibly  there was a wooden frame at A—A, tied into the stonework in which the door was hung.

The piscina in the chapel is a pretty example and belongs to a type of which there are many instances in W. Sussex, *e.g.*, Bosham, Barnham, Clymping, Pulborough and Fittleworth. In a line with its western jamb, 3-ft. 11-in. above its cell and 4-ft. 9-in. from the E. wall, is a clean little hole one inch in diam. and $2\frac{1}{4}$ -in. deep, drilled in one of the stones of the lancet window over. This no doubt held the rod or hook upon which the Lenten veil hung. I have met with several other examples in Sussex, including one in Rustington Church.

P. M. J.