



By the time you read this we will be thinking about Christmas, so from the LHG committee may we wish you **Seasons Greetings and our Best Wishes for the New Year.**

Hopefully our Christmas tree in Abbots Hall is now decorated for you all to see. The Food Museum theme was 'Christmas around the World,' so with a nod to Stowupland's past our decorations were inspired by images of Christmas cards that friends and family might have sent to Stowupland people in the last century - and a bit.

Join us on **December 7th** for David Steward's talk on '**Dad's Army**' and learn more about the people in Stowupland who might have sent or received cards from these far-off places. Sadly, you will have missed what John Day had to say about Suffolk artists, '**Gainsborough through to Becker.**' We hope to have a brief write up in the New Year but without the pictures. If you missed our December meeting don't forget we do not meet in January but hope to see you on February 1st 2023 for **Stowmarket's Market Disputes** by local historian Hannah Salmon.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jerry Voden: 01449 703717 or voden@btinternet.com.

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Here is Jerry's report on **October's Ghostly Goings on in Suffolk Pubs by Ed Nicholls.**

Our audience this month were treated to a talk on Ghosts in the Suffolk area, though our historical passports also took us to Northern Ireland. To borrow a line from William Shakespeare "***It was to see or not to see***", Ed asked for a show of hands as to if anyone present had seen a ghost. There were no takers, however there was acknowledgement that some had experienced a 'presence' at some point in their lives. When asked if the Retreat or the Crown had been the subject of any ghostly experiences Ed said he was unaware of any known stories. *(Jerry notes – 'Though who knows what regulars may have witnessed after exiting both pubs after a pleasant night out - could be anybody's guess, we will leave that as a starter for ten, or an article for down memory lane!')*

Ed had started his research in the town centre of Ipswich and got permission to look at various venues to find out what if anything had gone on in the town. He found out quite quickly that 96% of the claimed sightings could be proved false. He shared plenty of stories of ghosts in pubs but with the space available I will focus on two he described in the talk. There is also quite a few about theatres in the town, and Ed's tours in this area have become quite a tourist attraction. He also told us that in his experience ghosts don't seem to haunt churches. Again, that may be a subject for discussion.

First, he took us to Bally Kelly Castle in Northern Ireland, this was an sighting that Ed had actually experienced. He had taken his family to the castle for a holiday and booked a family room. When checking-in he had noticed a postcard showing a lady's picture who was identified as Lady Isobella.

Not thinking any more about her, after a tiring day out the family had retired to bed. Ed had woken at about midnight noting that his family were peacefully asleep, but Ed noticed the figure of a well-dressed lady in the room. While his family remained asleep, the figure seemed to come from the wardrobe and move across the room before disappearing through the wall. Mentioning this to the family in the morning nobody believed him at all as no-one else had seen anything. At the reception desk Ed asked about the post card. 'Yes', said the receptionist *'that could have been Lady Isobella who lived here with the family. Her husband had taken up a relationship with her sister, and that had not ended well as Lady Isobella was banished to live at the top floor of the castle, and she sadly committed suicide'*. It was well known to staff that she had always been concerned that her own children were cared for, and it was said she had been checking all was well in family rooms. Ed said this had been a trigger for him to look into ghost stories.

Then Ed brought us closer to home, to the **Magpie pub** on the A140. In researching the coaching days, Ed had found that the landlady of the Magpie had been put on trial as a witch, and her trial had taken place at the pub. The lady in question had mounted a robust defence but to no avail. Justice was dispensed quickly and she was hung from the gantry that used to span the road. Unfortunately, in their eagerness the assembled crowd had forgotten the stage coach from London to Norwich was due, and as the body dropped it knocked the coach driver from his seat - killing him instantly. A sad story to end our evening with. The Q and A session proved that there was a mixed reaction to these ghostly tales, but whatever your views this left us with food for thought, and thanks to Liz and Annie as we then enjoyed a well-earned cup of tea before venturing out into the dark night.

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Neil now takes us further back in time to tell us of the

MISFORTUNES OF THE AMOUNDEVILLES

At our February meeting we look forward to hearing from Hannah Salmon talking about the history of Stowmarket Market and a dispute that arose over the ownership of the market. The Richard de Amondeville involved was lord of the manor of Thorney Hall which included much of Stowupland.

The de Amundeville's appear as small but aspiring landowners in the county in the thirteenth century. There were other branches of the family and the spelling of the name varies but eventually evolved into Mandeville. Robert de Amondeville obtained the manors of Oakenhill in Badingham and Thorney Hall in Stowupland through his wife Nichola. She had inherited these manors from her father William le Breton who died in 1257. Robert de Amoundeville died before 1286 and the two manors passed to Robert's son Richard, who died in 1322, being succeeded by his son, also Richard. On this Richard's death in c.1350, the de Amoundeville male line ended and Oakenhill, and also possibly Thorney, were settled on a daughter, Margery, who had married Nicholas Fastolf. The manor of Thorney Hall now passed out of the family, eventually being granted to the priory of Ingham in Norfolk in

1390/91 and remained in those hands until the Reformation.

In 1314 a gang of Badingham locals forcibly broke into Richard de Amoundeville's park at Oakenhill and his land at Thorney ... *"and hunted therein without his licence, fished in his stews and several fisheries at Thorneye, and carried away his fish and other goods, and also deer, etc. taken in his park and warrens"*. The fact that these two manors were 20 miles apart suggests that this was more than random poaching and that Richard was being targeted either in some act of revenge or because his land were seen as vulnerable.

In 1327 when Richard Amoundeville senior's widow held Oakenhill another group of locals broke into the deer park there and carried away goods and deer and assaulted her servants. In 1338, Richard the younger, obtained a charter from Edward III for a market and fair in Stowmarket. Ten years later the Abbot of St Osyth petitioned the King claiming that de Amoundeville had obtained the market and fair by false suggestion as he was not lord of the manor of Stow Market. Amoundeville was summoned to the Chancery to prove his claims, the result being the grant to the abbot of St Osyth of rights to market and fair in Stowmarket in a new charter.

In 1341 Richard complained that *"John Mareys of Stowemarche, Richard Soue, Thomas Chaundeler of Stowemarche, Nicholas Dreye of Hawelee, John Mirable of Baketon, Stephen Kayish and John le Wryghte in Stowemarket church holding themselves with armed force besiege the said Richard and other lieges and grievously threaten them so that he dare not return to his house in those parts and stay there, for fear of death to himself and his men. This gang were said to "daily commit other crimes"* including manslaughter in Bury St. Edmunds.

The final shocking incident recorded involving the Amoundeville's is in 1355 when *"a certain Thomas de Scoulton slew Maud de Amundeville (Widow of Richard junior) in the Kings highway at Stowmarket."*

Whether the Amoundevilles were particularly unpopular or just unlucky we do not know, the records of these incidents do not record the motives behind the deeds, but these were turbulent times.

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This month it is my turn to apologise for an error that appeared in the October Telstar. I had assumed that Stowupland Hall was sold to Robert Black in the mid-1940s because Thomas Carter had died. I am grateful to his grand-daughter for pointing out my mistake. In fact, Thomas lived for another 30 years not dying till 1973. After leaving Stowupland he moved to Felixstowe where he continued to grow vegetables, even buying up a neighbouring garden to give him sufficient space.

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Down Memory Lane –



Although this is a photo of Primary school children (1960s?) engrossed in an educational activity it got me thinking about wooden toys and construction kits that Father Christmas used to bring. Did Father Christmas bring you a treasured wooden toy? Do you recognise any of these boys and girls, did any grow up to be carpenters or engineers?