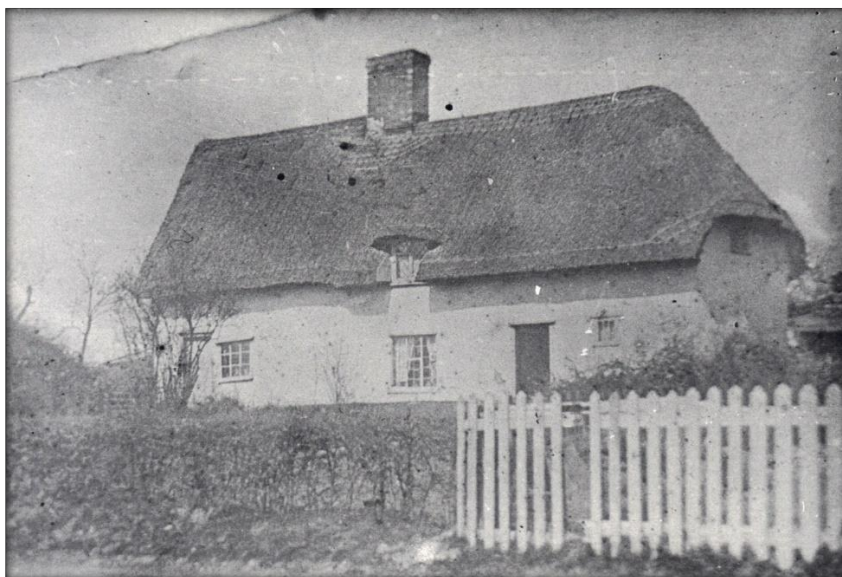




A brief history of Wren Cottage,

adjacent to Belvedere along Church Road, Stowupland.



The photo shows the property that we know as Wren Cottage and Belvedere.

We do not know when it was built but it is thought to be a timber framed long house, possibly even being one of the older properties in Stowupland. We do not know what the property was originally called but at some time it was divided into 2 homes. Luckily for us by the mid-18th century, the right-hand (NE side) was occupied by the Catchpole family and subsequently became known as Belvedere, the left hand (SW side) which had the higher ridge line in the photo became Wren Cottage. The thatch was removed in the early 1900s.

We have some details of owners from the 19th century census returns and later details were gleaned from documents that the Catchpole family kindly donated to the Stowupland archives.

20th century exterior renovations





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In the 1920s drinking water was obtained from a pump near the Crown or across the road from the vicarage garden. There was a pond to the rear of the cottages for water for brewing and washing.

When piped water was laid on from the pumping station on the green this was only to outside the property and the tap for Belvedere and Wren was probably in Wren's garden.

SLHG has visited Belvedere and the then occupier of Wren, Pam Krowdczyk, allowed the group to peek into her Cottage but no signs of the original timber frame could be seen.

Researching the history of your house is complicated because the name of the main road has varied over the decades but knowing that the Catchpole family lived next door from the early 1800s has helped to lock in their neighbours, also your nearest neighbours on the other side was the Crown Inn. NB the church was not built till 1843, so after the census of 1841. And the school was not built till the mid-1860s.

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The earliest record we have for your property comes from the Tithe apportionments (if you haven't come across this think of it is an early poll tax, each property was given a number and details of the properties were recorded. The number made it easier to record the location of a property on a map and to link it to a written document.). A few properties were owned and occupied by the same person but most were rentals.

344 – owner John Burch, occupier George Pike et al so presumably this is **Wren Cottage**

345 - Thos Prentice owner, occupier Robert Kerry – presumably this became **Belvedere** but the census for a year or two later gives the Catchpole family living there.

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Details found in census returns:

1841 – Catchpoles are living in **Pitman Road**. Rachel Catchpole is named as head of the household with her son Stephen and daughter-in-law Mary Ann. Next door are **George (b. 1780) and Sarah Pike**. They have a lodger, David Bly.

On the other side is the 'smithy', this would later, in the mid-20th century, become Stowupland Post Office

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1851 census -Stephen and Mary Catchpole are on **Mendlesham Road** (they haven't moved house, but the name of the road has changed). Their neighbours according to the census are Richard Bly (a widower, age 40) with 3 young children and Eliza and William Chapman with a daughter Eliza and grandson (more research is definitely needed here).

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1861 census, the Catchpoles are now living in **Saxham Street**, although they still haven't moved house. Next door now are **Charles Burroughs** (b1830) , **Mary** (b 1825) with their sons Charles,



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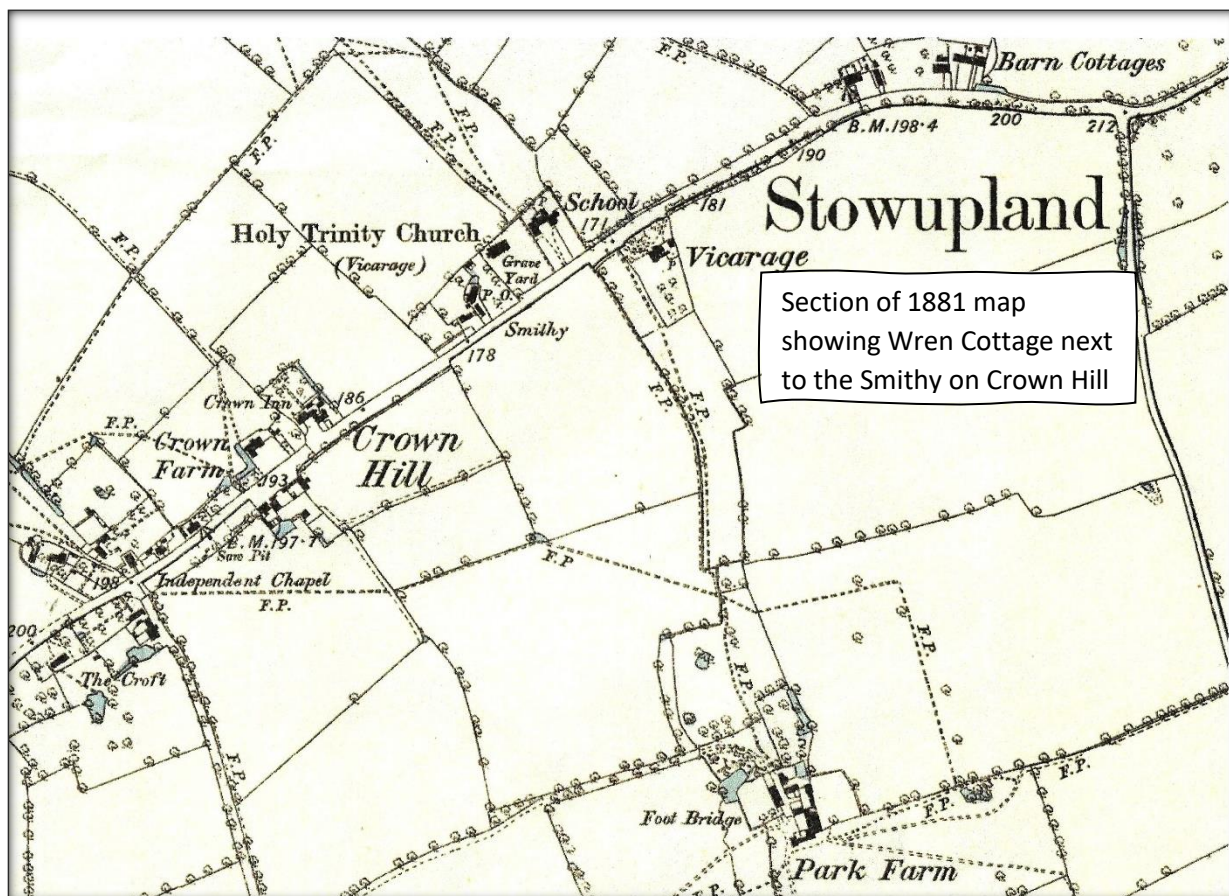
James, Elijah, George and Philip. In 1891 Elijah is named as a shop keeper in Saxon street. Somewhere nearby is Richard Bly (b1811), 10 years later at the age of 60 he is married to an Eliza and they are living in a cottage next door to Saxham Cottage in Saxham Steet-my home)

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1871 Census – living along **Stonham Road**. next door to the Catchpole family were **Charles and Mary Burroughs** with their 6 sons. On the Crown Inn side is Jane Burch with 5 children. Her occupation was given as a housekeeper. Other near neighbours were the Pyman family at Park Farm , whilst further down the road were John and Sarah Stedman at Crown Farm

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1881 census – still living in **Stonham Road** and next door to Stephen and Mary- Ann Catchpole was Mary **Burrows** (she is a widow and although her surname is spelt different to 10 years previously!) her 6 sons are still and living living at home, they are all agricultural labourers aged from 14 to 27.



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NL¹ adds - in **1891** Mary is still there aged 61 with sons Charles Samuel age 29 and James 26.

¹ NL is Neil Langridge one of many researchers



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Samuel Burrows seems to have been the black sheep as he's in the news a lot for drunk and disorderly etc.

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In **1901** Mary age 73 is still there with her son Samuel in his 30s

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Then in **1911** we think a new family moves in John Wm. Edwards age 46 with his wife Sarah age 44. They have sons Fred. 19 who worked at Explosives works, George 21 worked at Chemical works, John 14 grocers shop assistant and Isaac 9. Edith Wilden age 3 is named as a visitor.

In the 1901 the Edwards couple had been living in the Hop House, Bury Road, Stowmarket, he was working in one of the town's maltings.

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Press cutting from **19th January 1934**

Poultry in the Cemetery Complaint was made as to the Cemetery being invaded by poultry from Mr. John Edward's property adjoining, and it was decided to write asking for the necessary steps to taken to prevent this in the future.

Press cutting from **4th Nov 1938**

STOWUPLAND GOLDEN WEDDING November 1st. 1888. Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards of Church Road. Stowupland were married by the Rev. Mitton. of Stowmarket and Tuesday they were still enjoying life to the full within a few yards of the church in which they were married. They have lived at their present abode for 37 years, and previous to that had lived at the old Tollgate house and at Hopground house.

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From the **1939** register (War Survey similar to a census) John Wm. Edwards (b 1865) and his wife Sarah (b 1868) are still there.

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Ena noted that Mary Messenger may have been in Wren Cottage in 1985

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It is thanks to Margaret Catchpole and her sister Ivy that we know as much as we do about Belvedere, but we don't have much in our archives about Wren Cottage. The above is what we have been able to piece together, if you have any information that confirms, reinforces, or refutes our thoughts please let us know.²

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I hope this has helped it would be great to see you at our meetings (see Telstar. If you want to learn more about our village, we are holding an informal Archive evening on August 1st (7.30 in the village Hall, visitors £4.00), some of our archive material will be available to look through and tea or coffee will be available.

² We are grateful to a local historian Ena Carter who did a lot of research into local history and saved it for our archives.

**STOWUPLAND
LOCAL HISTORY
GROUP**



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