



If you are reading this as soon as you received it, you can join us on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> for a talk by Don Mobley on the **History of American Aviation in East Anglia**. Don is an ex-American USAAF Aviator who has chosen to make Stowupland his home. I am not interested in planes, airfields or warfare but having seen a pre-view of

Don's talk I am looking forward to his presentation. Doors open 7.30pm at the Village Hall, non-members £4.00, members £2.00.

Hopefully those of you who joined us for our Archive evening found something of interest among the photos and documents on display. Jerry will endeavour to give Telstar readers a taste of the experience in next month's edition but there was so much fascinating history I don't think he knows where to start. If you missed this event or want to explore our archives in a bit more depth, visit our website [www.stowuplandlocalhistorygroup.com](http://www.stowuplandlocalhistorygroup.com). We are still transferring our archive material onto this and some of our details are sketchy, but it is a good start for your own research or just to explore more of the history of our amazing village from the comfort of your armchair.

I am still often surprised by what an earlier generation of local history recorders did deposit in our archives. Whilst trying to decide what members might find interesting for our Archive evening, I came across an item that Ena Carter had copied from the 1716 Stowmarket Terrier relating to the then church bells and clock. As a farmer's wife Ena spent many hours exploring dusty paper records in parish churches and the Ipswich 'dungeons'.

In the Steeple. Eight Bells .	
	ewt    gr.    lbs.
The Treble weighing	- 05 .. 3 .. 00
Second weighing	- 06 .. 0 .. 00
Third weighing	- 07 .. 1 .. 00
Fourth weighing	- 08 .. 3 .. 00
Fifth weighing	- 11 .. 1 .. 00
Sixth weighing	- 14 .. 2 .. 00
Seventh weighing	- 19 .. 1 .. 00
Eighth weighing	- 23 .. 3 .. 23
	<hr/>
	96 .. 2 .. 23
A Clock and Clock Bell	
A Pair of Chimes with Quarters .	

Returning closer to home in time and space, Neil has been able to add to Ena's notes about the building of Stowupland's parsonage or vicarage. Although his research often involves reading through Suffolk's Archive paper collections, this time he has been able to sit comfortably at home letting his computer do the hard work searching through digitalized newspaper archives.

**The Bury and Norwich Post announced in July 1873 that building tenders for the erection of a Rectory-house [now The Old Vicarage] at Stowupland had been sent in, the following builders tendering - Crowe, Stowmarket, £907, Andrews and Son Stowmarket, £884, E. and E. C. Gibbons, Ipswich, £872, Henry Luff, Ipswich £868 (accepted). The Church Commissioners had granted £289 towards the cost. The building had been designed by R. M. Phipson the Diocesan architect. Henry Luff builder of Ipswich employed over**

40 men he also built Ipswich Masonic Hall and did much work on churches in the county including Whitton. (NL 2023).

This is a useful add on to the following note that we had from Ena's records.

from Specification of Sundry Artificers Work  
to be required to be done in the Erection of  
a Parsonage House at Stowupland,  
Suffolk. April 1873.

Architect R.M. Phipson.

"The W.C. on first floor is to have a mahogany  
seat and riser with chamfered flap and  
frame  $\frac{3}{4}$ " mahogany skirting  $\frac{7}{8}$ " high.

The Servant's Necessary [in the yard] is to be  
similar only slate riser and all the rest  
in deal."

Cellar steps to be built in hard brimstone  
lumps set on edge, as also the stable  
floor. The path across yard & floors to  
cellar, scullery, pantry, larder, china closet  
Coal & Wood house, Servant's Necessary, & G.  
Coach House to be paved with hard brimstone  
lumps flat in sand.

"The Carting of Bricks, Slates, Sand & Timber  
will be done for the Contractors by the  
Parishioners - for any distance not exceeding  
that to Stowmarket."

This was luxury indeed, not only was the vicar to have an inside, first floor W.C. with a mahogany seat but the servant was to have their own one (all be it probably outside and with a less posh seat). The photograph shows the vicarage in 1911.



Many local houses didn't have an indoor 'necessary' until decades later. Ena recalled that when she holidayed at Stowupland Hall in the 1930's "another novelty was the 'little house' at bottom of the garden. It was quite a way from the kitchen door across a court-yard, through a door down & across a path between shrubs on the other side of the court-yard wall. If it was dark, we went in pairs holding a lighted candle & a box of matches in case it got blown out.

*When we got there, in a sort of anti-room there was always a small paraffin lamp burning. It was a 2 ½ seater – 2 large & 1 small. It was quite an adventure!”*

To return to 2023 Neil gives us his report on our July meeting when we welcomed Holly Brega for a showing of her film “The Land Girl and Horses of Suffolk”. Many will remember Nicky Reynold’s talk last year on the subject of Suffolk’s Women’s Land Army in both wars and Nicky was seen in the film talking about the WLA uniform. The Land Army women were very much a presence here in Stowupland during WWII as there was a training hostel at Columbine Hall.

Holly’s film looked at how candidates were recruited, the successful women receiving a uniform badge and handbook on enrollment. Some of the women had kept items of their uniform, paperwork, and memorabilia from their time in the WLA and Holly was able to draw on these collections, notably of Daphne Hedges of Henley. On her enrollment into the WLA Daphne had been assigned the role of ratcatcher, probably not her first choice!

In West Suffolk there was a training school at Chadacre. Iris Bird who trained here recounted her memories of working at nearby Shimpling and later at Rougham where she worked a milk round. The WLA wasn’t disbanded until 1950 and many members went on to employ the skills learnt in farm work.

Holly also looked at conditions in the war including rationing – we learnt how to make ‘Friday Pie’ – basically potatoes and onions – very filling!

Suffolk Punches were a common sight on the county’s farms at this time before mechanization started to replace them in the 1950s and some of the women got to work with these horses. Today the Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley works to promote the breed and record its history. Breeders such as Nigel Oakley at Rede Hall work to preserve the Punch. Numbers had dropped dangerously low but the Trust is hopeful that the breed will be saved from extinction. The Suffolk Punch has almost become the image of the county’s agricultural heritage, appearing in the logos of Ipswich Town Football Club and Mauldons Brewery.



Holly is to be congratulated on producing such a professional film in which she interviewed some of the women which were able to recount their fond memories of their days in the WLA. The group were very happy to be able to make a donation to the fund-raising campaign for a memorial (possibly to be sited in Combs) to the members of the Women’s Land Army. Details of this and much else can be found at <https://www.suffolkwomenslandarmy.com/>

Neil has now completed our list of speakers for this year and is looking forward to 2024.

September 6<sup>th</sup> - we will welcome Don Mobley for his talk on **American Military Aviation in East Anglia**

October 4<sup>th</sup> - John Rainer will tell us what **Lidar mapping** technology can show us about what lies under our feet.

November 1<sup>st</sup> – sees the return of Sarah Doig to tell us about **“Angels and Demons: Exploring Suffolk Churches”**

December 6<sup>th</sup> - we end the year with local genealogist Keely Taylor who will give you some ideas on **“How to Start Building your Family Tree”** especially using internet resources. to research family history (when family ask what do you want for Christmas you will know what to ask for!)

**Could you join our committee as our Assistant Treasurer?** You never know unless you ask, find out more; - Please contact **Jerry on 01449 703717** or **voden@btinternet.com**

**Down Memory Lane-** I don't know who lives here now but I bet they paid more than £495.00 (or £20.00 less if you didn't have a garage). No that was not the monthly rental but the asking price for a semi-



detached new build on the Broomspath Estate in the late 1930s - or a building plot could be bought for £30.00. The sites came with the added bonuses that being "200 foot above sea-level...the vista on a clear day is marvelous ... when on many occasions the valley below is fogbound the estate enjoys absolutely clear sunshine". The brochure went on to argue that the 'absence of smoke and noise that was associated with town living' would mean less washing of household linen and fewer doctor's bills (this was the days before the NHS).

Electricity was "available to the Estate occupants" and the estate houses were connected to an up-to-date disposal plant "so that the usual disadvantages of sewage disposal contiguous to country living are disposed of."