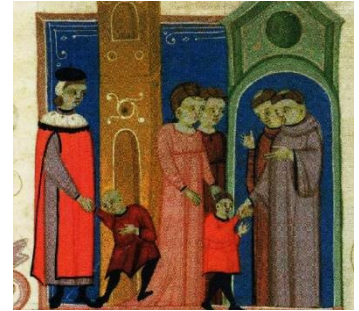




OUR NEXT MEETING is:- Wednesday April 3rd (7:30, Village Hall) when we welcome back Kate Jewell will take us back to **school in Medieval Times**. If you missed this, we have something very different for May 1st when Geoff Robinson will join us for a talk on Parish Fire Engines and his project to restore Worlingworth's Historic Fire Engine.



At our March meeting we welcomed Sarah Doig for her talk on 'Angels and Demons' in her favourite Suffolk Churches, you can read Jerry's report in next month's Telstar. I am always grateful to Jerry for producing this as it is not an easy task, but I know many of you enjoy reading his words.

I like to try to produce a topical Display Board for each month and searching through our archives for what we have on our church, I came across a newspaper cutting about the church's celebration in 1933 of the 90th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone back on May 13th 1843. This service was held at 8.00 pm so that ***'the congregation might better appreciate the spectacle of the switching on of the new electric lighting'***. There were;- ***'Nine high powered flood lights had been let into the woodwork of the roof, with two smaller pendent globes underneath the gallery and another illuminating the stairs to the gallery and another for illuminating the stairs to the gallery and also to the West porch. The two vestries and the churchyard also had globes affixed at vantage points.***

Then when after singing the hymn 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven' the verger, Mr C. Catchpole switched on the lights the sacred edifice was suddenly transformed from the sombre of twilight to a brilliancy that brought out to the fullest advantage the details of the structure especially the chancel with its curtained background of blue and gold, the green altar cloth and the bright colouring of the profusion of flowers on the altar as arranged by Mrs Chapman the whole presenting a rich and memorable picture."

The vicar commented ***"on the poor attendances at church nowadays but expressed his belief that the day was coming when people would be as glad to enter God's house as they were 90 years ago."***

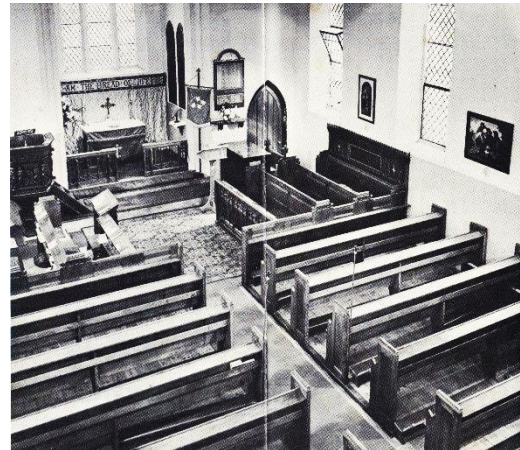


Do you remember the Farthing coin? In the 1930's our church had a Farthing Fund to raise money for improvements to the church. The farthing was not much bigger than a thumb nail and worth just a ¼ of an old penny (for those who don't know there were 240 pennies to a pound.) At the time of the Farthing Fund Britannia was featured on the coin but you may remember the coin with the little Jenny Wren



In the winter of 1932 a new heating stove was installed in the church and in 1933 having raised £40.00 it was planned to close the fund, but there were plans for further improvements such as 'putting in new oak stalls and pews' and have 'memorial tablets to past stalwarts of the church affixed around the walls leading to the conclusion that the edifice may well be transformed by the time the centenary is celebrated."

I am not sure of the dates of these 2 photos but as can be seen they are from before and after the erection of the plaque to commemorate the Fallen of WW1 and 2



To return to Jerry's report on our February meeting when

Stowupland Local History Group welcomes 2024 as we move forward with our talk on "The Stowmarket British School" by Gill Marchant

Thanks to all those who turned out for this our first meeting in 2024. Dave and Sandra were unable to attend so Neil took over the technical role with Jerry on the welcome to all. We sorted a technical hitch after Neil contacted Dave and Annie and Liz provided the tea to fill the gap as all things technical were sorted out. Neil introduced Gill to start the evening. Thanks to Dave for his help and Sandra for coming down with the equipment needed to get us going.

This is really the second half of the story as Gill had been to do the "Stowmarket National School" in April 2023, both schools featured in the life of Stowmarket during the Victorian and Edwardian periods of town life. In 1814 the British and Foreign School Society was set up, this was a body appointed to oversee the education of older school children in the country. Gill spoke of her earlier talk when the "Stowmarket National School" was set up in 1836, the building is still up and is now used as the Church Hall for the Stowmarket Parish Church. The "British School" was founded in 1852 with funds from a non-conformist's group, there was a "Deed" set up to complete the founding and it was built in what is now Childer Rd in the town. There was also a residence constructed for the head teacher which was used throughout the time it was a school. Gill had records of the staff who taught there and told us of the best-known head teacher the aptly named Mr John Inkpen. I have no doubt the pupils attending would have fun with his surname on occasions. He was in post from 1860-1884 and in that time the school had a capacity for 130 boys and in 1877 girls were taken in for the first time. A grant of £372 7s 6d was given to set this up, and provide the suitable facilities for the girls to join in at the school. Mr Inkpen was a popular head teacher and helped his pupils with their education and progression into the wider world. Gill had evidence from the local press of the day, that he had even helped out one of his former pupils when he had fallen on hard times and been unable to pay a fine imposed at the local court. He had paid the fine from his own funds. One high light in 1862 was when 15 pupils had visited London, probably by train to see the 2nd international exhibition held at the site,

quite an existing day out for them all I should imagine. There were fairly strict rules at school in those days and in 1880 Mr Inkpen had been accused of assault on a pupil, the boy in question had not complained and not reported matters to his parents, however his sister was also at the school and arrived home and told her mother what had happened. The family pressed charges and the case was heard at the local court, the court dismissed all charges against Mr Inkpen and the other school staff who were involved saying that the school staff were allowed to use the rules of the school as they saw fit. However things were never quite the same at the school after this case and he resigned as Head Teacher in 1884. He continued in public life however and retired in 1912.

Time moved forward with changes to Government policy and Education, in 1905 changes to funding from "Deed" to government and it became harder to fund. In 1913 it was decided to close this site as a school, Gill finished her talk with an appeal to the audience as there was once a plaque marking the site of "The British National School" this is now missing, and it would be nice to be able to locate it if it is still around. Neil thanked Gill for completing the 2nd half of our talk and took questions from our audience.

Prompted by the wet weather and flooding Neil Langridge has been looking into one way in which Stowupland tackled the problem of wet and soggy ground.

Cancer, Caunsey, Cansey, Karnser

"A raised path, a causeway; usually through marshy land"

Suffolk Dialect by A.O.D. Claxton

The recent heavy rainfall has led to Thorney Green becoming heavily waterlogged. In the past conditions must have been similar at times. When the green was used for grazing animals, their hooves churning up the ground added to making crossing the green difficult. For this reason, raised causeways were made crossing the green and other of the wettest areas.

One of these can still be seen leading from the corner of the green at Thorney Green Road towards Green Farm, slight remains of others also exist. In the parish account book regular payments for maintaining these causeways appear. In 1690 a Robert Page was paid 5 shillings and 6 pence for "*mending the cansey in Saxham Street*" and 5 shillings and 4 pence for "*repairing the cansey at Thorney Green*". There are also regular references to "*the rayle cansey*" location unknown but this one was presumably provided with a handrail.

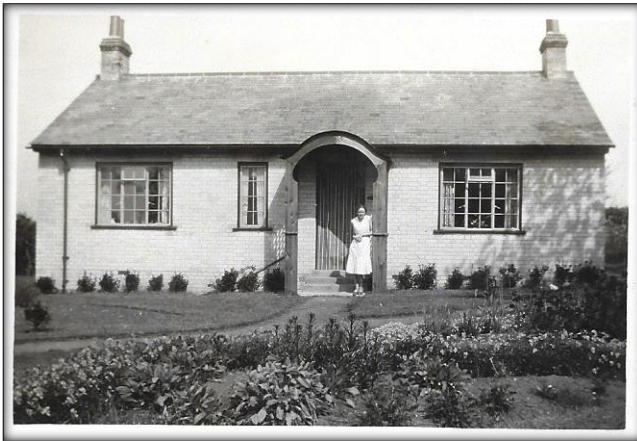
The account book also covers expenses connected with Stowmarket Church, which Stowupland shared, before it had a church of its own and there are references to "the church carnsey" perhaps the raised footway opposite the church beside what is now Station Road still known as The Karnser.

I (Sandra Walker) am intrigued by the reference to a cansey in Saxham Street. There are a few possibilities. Saxham Street has not always started at the corner near Stowupland Hall, sometimes it extended further down the Main Road even past where Freeman's school is today, so was there a cansey where the road floods today outside the school? Alternatively old maps suggest Saxham Street had its own Green, in the area between the Driftway and the Hall, was this the location of our cansey? We may never know but we will keep looking.

If you missed Don Mobley's talk to our group about **The History of US Military Aviation in East Anglia**, Stowmarket LHG have him booked in for April 15th . This is certainly not a boring story of war time aviation so if you missed Don the first time it's definitely worth a trip to Stowmarket or even go a long for a repeat performance - 7.30 @ Stowmarket Community Centre, Hillside, Stowmarket IP14 2BD.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE



Does anyone recognise this house, it was/is called Waveney and associated with the Brame family?