

Memorabilia C.D.'s List inside

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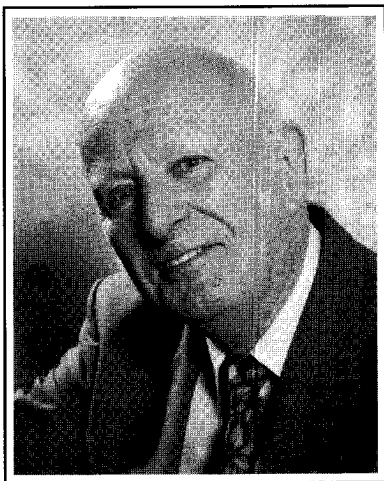
The Merry Mawkin

Newsletter of Friends of Norfolk Dialect

The Chairman Reports: —

With Nelsonmania growing in intensity as we approach the pivotal months of September and October (Birthday and Trafalgar) this issue of our Newsletter is unashamedly Nelson orientated.

Books on one of our most famous sons seem to be appearing every week and the opportunity has been taken to review six of them. Whilst much information is repeated, in one form or another, in all of them the meticulous research which has been carried out by the authors has produced some fascinating facts on the character of a man we have perhaps only thought of in a maritime sense.



For the first time his private and professional lives have been dissected as never before. It perhaps should not come as a surprise to learn that sexual dalliances, and political intrigue were just as rife in Nelson's time as they are today — just read the Sunday tabloids! Just think what today's papers would make of our greatest admiral living with what one author has described as a "superior call girl", a jilted wife and a very public three-way relationship between seducer, seduced and a pliant husband. Just goes to show there is nothing new under the sun!

We were honoured when our Secretary was invited down to the National Maritime Museum to read through some of the hundreds of hitherto undiscovered Nelson letters, 507 of which have appeared in Dr. Colin White's book, reviewed on page?

On a totally different subject it is pleasing to report that our first recordings of Norfolk dialect and reminiscences are now on sale. The recordings are unedited versions of the interviews with the intention that in due course all will be edited under 'theme' subjects, such as Farming, Family life and Fishing. Details on page 16.

(continued over)

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Our recording programme is continuing and it will always be helpful if readers can suggest likely candidates (with their permission of course) who might be willing to share their knowledge of dialect with us. Please contact me or any Committee member — details on the back cover.

We enjoyed contributing to the success of the Harleston and Waveney Festival and it is heartening and encouraging to know that our involvement in introducing an understanding and appreciation of Norfolk dialect into local schools is now proceeding with FOND acting in partnership with the Children's Services Unit of the Norfolk Education Service.

Ours is truly a world-wide web! www.norfolkdialect.com

by **Pauline Dodd**, e-mail co-ordinator

It is heartening to record that by the end of the first week in June we had received 19,766 visits to our website, the latest batch including one from Bartek in Poland and one from Hilary in Western Australia.

Bartek has been studying English and says:-

"Your web site has helped me to get knowledge about the Norfolk Dialect for which I thank you."

Hilary is a Speech Therapist, or Speech Pathologist as she is known in Oz. She told us her sister lives in Costessey, going on to say:-

"this made me think about the local pronunciation "Oud Cossy". I wonder where the name comes from. Originally it would have been pronounced as spelt. However, I expect the locals' penchant for cluster reduction (dropping the medial 's') just as small children often say 'top' instead of 'stop', and glotalising the medial 't' (as a Londoner might say butter as bu'er) changed the pronunciation until it evolved as it is now. New generations hearing the word and learning to say it long before they read it, would not be aware that any reduction or glotalisation ever occurred. By the way, some of you may be interested to know that the village of Potter Heigham is pronounced Potterum (with the medial 't' glotalised). Regards to all, Hilary."

Jane Evans sought our help in providing the meaning of the following Norfolk words: Hanser (*a heron*), Jacob (*a frog*), Live long (*a dandelion*) and Frapes.

The first three posed no problems, but we had to do a bit of head-scratching on "Frapes". We can only think that Jane has put in an unnecessary 'r' because the word "Frapes" is a good old Norfolk word for gooseberries — ***unless you can tell us otherwise!***

Terence Ward tells us he believes that Lilius Rider Haggard's book *The Rabbit Skin Cap* is about a distant relative of his, possibly on his grandmother's side. His father's copy has been lost and he would like to know where he can find a copy of the book. Can anyone help him? His Email address is t.tward@btinternet.com



Letters from the past

*Courtesy of the Eastern Daily Press:
from "Broad Norfolk", a selection of readers' letters published in 1949*

I have always thought that the perfect example of the Norfolk use of the word *do* is: "She don't do as she oughter do — do she wouldn't do as she do do". MBH.

Patient to Doctor:- "Doctor, do I need some more physic? Do I do do you do me up some".

A small boy, asked if his mother knew of a meeting replied "Do she did she couldn't have went, she's some tidily queer." AGG

The new owner of a mansion and grounds retained the services of an old gardener. Walking one of the several paths through the shrubberies one day the owner remarked on the hollow sound of their footsteps in a certain place, and suggested there might be an old well below. "I dornt think so sir" replied the gardener, "This is a werry old house — Tubular period I've heerd say, and I wunt mind bettin there's one o' them subgeranium passages about here somewhere".
Q, Norwich

My uncle used to say to my husband "What, are you a-going to do a bit of shimmick-in (shoemaking)" We used to laugh and he used to say "Thas right because thar say 'shimmickers shop' over the door. P.Mollett

I think it extremely doubtful if the following remark, made by a man entering a public-house with an empty pipe and pouch, would be understood outside Norfolk — "Heya got inny bacci onya inni onya." D.J.Marjoram, North Walsham

To go for a walk is to "hit the rud", but to hunt for any straying animals is to go "trooling arter 'em"

A rather cheeky domestic was once told by her mistress that she had "enough brass in her face to make a copper kettle". The maid at once replied "And there's enough water in your ole head to fill it". One of Five.

On hearing of the death of King Edward VII a farm worker who showed distress at the news observed "If you'd a told me afore it wouldn't ha come so sudden".
J. Gunston, Guist

A mother whose boy had been away from school for several days sent a note to the teacher with the following excuse:- "Keptathometogoataterin".
E. Frank Scott

Nelson Events Diary

Events to celebrate Nelson's Bi-Centenary started in April; these will obviously continue throughout the year, and we thought some readers might be interested in knowing some of the major events taking place between now and then.

NELSON AND THE WALPOLES

Special exhibition. Nelson often visited his godfather and cousins at **Wolterton Hall**. Display of documents/pictures and objects. Open by appointment during Hall Open Days. *Contact Laurel Walpole on 01263 584175.*

PASTON COLLEGE

Exhibition telling story of Nelson's school; artefacts and pictures that link him with the school and some of the mementoes produced after he became famous. Free entry but *check opening times with Peter Mayne on 01692 402334.*

HMS VICTORY OAK GALLERY, Lees Yard, Holt

Exhibition of over 200 items recovered from HMS Victory accompanied by programme of talks. Open throughout 2005. Free entry.

Telephone David Burton on 01263 711174 for information and opening times.

NELSON WALKS

3rd and 5th July, Great Yarmouth. *For bookings telephone 01603 222769*

13th and 17th August, Norwich. *For bookings telephone 01603 222769*

EVENTS AT BURNHAM THORPE (NELSON'S BIRTHPLACE)

22nd July - Nelson Lecture and Book signing by Dr. Colin White; (*see review of his book on page 10*) All Saints Church, Burnham Thorpe. 7.30pm

13 August - Review of local boats (anything up to 300 craft) by Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, President of Marine Society & Sea Cadets 11am followed by Reception and Hog Roast. *Tel: 01328 738946 for information and bookings.*

20th. August - Trafalgar Ball in marquee with live band plus visit by MTB 102 the last surviving Royal Navy craft from Dunkirk.

AUTHOR'S TALK

17th August - Martyn Downer talks about his book "Nelson's Purse" (*see page 10*) Big. Blue Sky Gallery, Wells. 6pm. *Tel: 01328 712023 for further information*

QUAY FESTIVAL

10th & 11th September. Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival, South Quay.

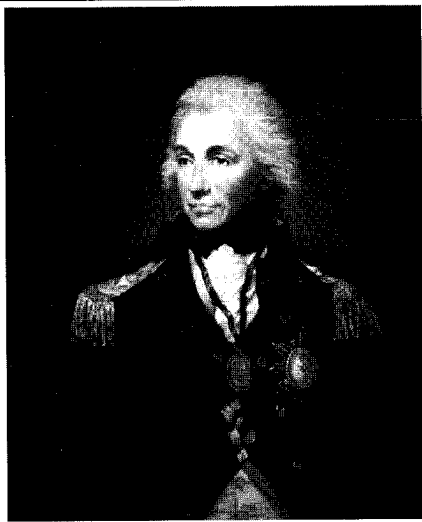
Tel: 01493 846343 for information

MAGICAL EVENING

7th October. Norfolk Nelson Museum, Great Yarmouth 7pm. Magic Lantern evening. *Tel: 01493 850698 for information and booking.*

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Saturday 15th October. Nautically themed concert by North Norfolk Orchestral Society with guest soloists — and including the traditional "audience participation"! St. Peter's Church, Sheringham. 7.30pm.



Lord Nelson

PARADE

16th October. Trafalgar Day Parade, Town Centre, King's Lynn 11am.

Tel: 01553 771441 for details

A TRUE NORFOLKMAN

Thursday 20 October. An illustrated talk by Peter Stibbons, St. Andrews Church Hall, Cromer Road, Sheringham. 7.30pm.

Admission £1.50 including light refreshments.

A THREE DAY EVENT

21-23 October. A three day festival in North Walsham with day and evening

Street events. including a concert, exhibitions, Street fair and fish & chip supper.

Tel: 01692 402966 for information and bookings

ANGLIA SQUARE

21-23 October, Anglia Square, Norwich. Various events such as Theatre in the Square, shop displays. *Tel: 01603 472835 for information.*

MASS CELEBRATION

Haydn's Nelson Mass by Hatcham Orchestra and Gresham School. All Saints Church, Burnham Thorpe; 6pm 22nd October.

Commemorative Church Service. The Bishop of Norwich will preach.

COLLEGE EVENT

22-23 October. Paston College. Nelson, Paston and North Walsham Exhibition 10am to 4pm. *Tel: 01692 402334 for information.*

TIME AND TIDE

17th November. Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth. Trafalgar Time and Tide Speech and Lunch. 12.30pm. *Tel: 01394 272089 for information.*

TRAFALGAR BALL

21st December. The Trafalgar 200 Ball, Assembly House, Norwich. 7pm.

Tel: 01603 626402 for information and bookings.

Other information via Emailing

www.norfolk.gov.uk/nelson

www.west-norfolk.gov.uk nelsoncelebrations

Please note: The above information is given in good faith and is based on information supplied. The Mawkin accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies.

Bournemouth in May by The Boy Colin

Well bor, hare we go agin. Oi hint long bin back from: a weekend away 'long moi ow meartes from moi days in the RAF. We loike ter hav a get targether once a yare ter talk over ow toimes. We're all gittin on a bit now and none onus know was round the corner — fact is we're lorst four onnem since last yare.

Thass a fare ow trek down ter Bournemouth but the gal June druv somme the way ter tearke the wearte orfa moi shoulders. We had a fair run down, a'gettin thare at 3 o'clock on a Friday artemnoon. Blast thass good ter see th'ow boys again, Mind yew, we allus keep repeatin the same ow yarns 'bout how much beer and schnapps we put away in the ow days. Reckon our betta halves get fed up wi hearin onnit.

Jist ter stretch our legs when we got thare we struck orf through Boscombe Gardens and blarst, hent they lorst a lotta pine trees leartly. There wuz dozens o' squirrels runnin about wi no trees ter clamber up. Three onnem follored my missus up the rud. You shoulda sin hare run! She reckon them ow grey squirrels are loike rats ony wi bushy tearles. Yewd athought the weather woulda bin betta down thare but that hulled it down wi rearn on the Sat'day thou that brightened up a'Sunday. Still we wuz gettin wetted inside as well so that dint matter too much. One bloke oi han't sin fer 53 years knew me sune as he clapped eyes on me — reckoned I hent changed but oi dunt know bout that. Oi say "your'e hevvin me on" but he reckoned he wunt.

We had a good dinner and dance on the Sat'day night. Oi got up an give em a few Norfolk yarns — oi woulda said "Squit" but they wunt a'known wot oi ment. Still they hed a good laugh just like they used tew in th ow day when oi used to read 'em "Harbert's News from Dumpton" outta the Dereham and Fakenham way back in 1951.

Roll on the next little ow dew in August. That'll be in Hamburg ter celebrate us handing the Stearshun back to the Luftwaffe in 1955. Reckon we'll sink a few stein o' beer that weekend. Well, hares a fella orf, Cheerio,

The Boy Colin's Quiz

1. When was the Haven Bridge in Great Yarmouth opened?
2. Which public house, whose name has connections with football teams, is about half way between Norwich and King's Lynn?
3. Which actor crashed his biplane last year?
4. Whose statue in Thetford was covered in white paint this year?
5. What is a 'King Harry'?
6. Who recently found her way back to overlook Dereham's High Street?
7. What was the name of the BBC TV film about the Sandringham estate workers who disappeared at Gallipoli in WW1?
8. Which former Norwich City player is now manager of Ipswich Town?
9. For how many years was Henry Blogg coxswain of the Cromer lifeboat?
10. Which previous weather-girl has recently returned to Anglia TV as a news presenter?

(answers on page 17)

RARE NORFOLK WORDS by SID KIPPER Word 4 — THE UNDERGROUND



A lot of people say the reason no-one talks about the underground in Norfolk is due to it being in London. But what do they know? The real reason is some other people would be very red in the face.

Because Norfolk was actually the first place ever to think of having the underground. You see many years ago they reckoned they could join up important places what sounded a bit alike. Like Wroxham and Rockland, and Hickling and Blickling. That way when foreigners got lost and went to the wrong one, they could put them on the underground, get shot of them, and charge them for it into the bargain. So first off they thought they'd better build some stations. So they started digging these great old holes to put them in, so they could have the platforms, and refreshments, and Gents lavatory closed, and duty-free, and the like. Well, I don't have to tell you what happened next. Not if I don't want

to I don't. I'm only doing this voluntary.

Well, alright - what happened next was all the holes filled up with water, which I could have told them, only they never asked, due to me not being born. And the upshoot of that was that's how we got the Norfolk Broads. You've only got to see where they are: Wroxham, Rockland, Hickling, and so on. Alright, I know Blickling Lake isn't strictly a Broad, but that's just because they're posh in Blickling. Anyhow, you might just as well say the same thing about Lake Titicocoa. And if that's not actually a Broad it's definitely abroad, and that's good enough for me.

Of course the people what come up with the idea in the first place were all red in the face, like I said. They were also down in the dumps, which is one of them fungus infections they got from digging in all that damp. So they decided to cover the whole thing up. Which weren't hard, really, 'cause the water had already done that for them. They hushed it up in the press, and decided to say no more about it. But their antecedors are still put out about it, which is one reason why you find so many red-faced people in Norfolk. Another one is the drink.

So there you are. That's it, and all about it. THAT'S why no-one talks about the underground in Norfolk.

Sid Kipper will taking part in two events also involving FOND's very own Keith Skipper:

Oct 2nd. Cromer Pavilion Theatre - "Squit On The Pier" (For BREAK)

Oct 3rd Great Yarmouth - St Georges Theatre

(Recording 'Should The Team Think' for Radio Norfolk)

Sid will be returning to Norfolk theatres in December. Details will appear in the Trunch Trumpet (free from 10 Perseverance Road, Bradford, BD13 1LY) and at www.sidkipper.co.uk

"Norfolk by Adoption" David Whiteley

My name's David Whiteley, I'm 28 years old and I live in Norfolk. I present the BBC One current affairs programme 'Inside Out' and I'm currently working on my 8th series. I'm also a producer and director on the programme.

I first got into broadcasting 10 years ago, getting my first job in the newsroom of my local commercial radio station in my native Essex. It was a baptism of fire, being the new boy, and a trainee journalist. They take no prisoners in hectic newsrooms.

I became a newsreader at the station and then was lucky enough to land a job at the BBC local radio station. After 3 and a half happy years (getting up at 4am for the breakfast shift .. so not THAT happy) I moved into TV. And that's how I ended up here, an Essex boy in Norfolk.

I started reporting for BBC Look East and this was a great vehicle to get me around the county. Coming from Essex one thing you don't realise is just how much of the sky you DON'T see!! That is until you get up the A140 and into Norfolk. Fantastic! It really is a great place, full of great people. I didn't think there were any genuinely friendly people left, until you get to Norfolk. OK, you get the point, you're all lovely!

When I was offered the job presenting Inside Out, it took me at least one second to think about it! And that's when the real fun began and Norfolk's coastline took me to the edge! We make a film about surfing the east coast, and well a year later I haven't stopped surfing. Cromer, Mundesley, Bacton; you name the beach I've surfed it.. In all weathers, and in deepest Winter too! Think one of my lasting memories was sharing the surf at Bacton with a rather over curious seal, January the third this year! The friendly locals say "You're brave!" to which I reply "No, just stupid!"

I have to say that the sea is where I feel most at home, having been brought up a Sea Scout in Essex, it's very natural to me. Either in it or on it, that's home. I fell in love with North Norfolk the moment I went and I get up there when the surfs flat! I have friends who live in Wells and we'll strike out from there to Sheringham, Blakeney, all the places we know so well.

Every year I get asked to host the Wells Harbour Day... always great. I'm almost part of the furniture there now. Few glasses of cider and my commentary gets more and more risqué. Last year the poor old Sheringham Shanty Men had no choice when me and the Harbour Master joined in for the finale! I may not be invited back this year!

Even though Essex is my birthplace, having been in Norfolk 4 years, here feels like home. And there's nothing better than surfing all day and getting home to Thorpe St. Andrew on the river for a pint! Cheers Norfolk!!



Nelson Revealed Book reviews

As we approach the Nelson "season" with events taking place all over the county, so the amount of paper dedicated to recording his growth to manhood, his victories and defeats, his love affairs, machinations in high places and every minutiae of his private life seems to grow daily.

Our editor has sifted through several books on the market and selects six to review.

NELSON - A DREAM OF GLORY. John Sugden. *Jonathan Cape* 2004. 941pp 37 b&w illustrations 7 maps. £20 ISBN: 0-224-06097-X

This epic testimony to years of patient and meticulous research traces Nelson's life from birth in the rectory of Burnham Thorpe on 29 September 1757 to the admiral's humbling defeat at St. Cruz in July 1797. Although then well known throughout the world for his daring, bravery and resourcefulness Nelson still had his brief glory years ahead of him.

His torturous life is revealed for all to see - his desire for acclaim and recognition, his persistent sea-sickness, his almost manic willingness to take risks, his affair with Adelaide Correglia "a superior call girl" of her time willing to "service officers and gentlemen."

This fascinating book is full of detail from which we learn such everyday transactions as Nelson paying £6/12/0 for "silver tishua and striped satin waistcoats, a super fine cloth coat lined with silk and Florentine breeches."

Mention is also made of a suspected venereal infection (never confirmed) and the conclusion that Horatio Nelson was not entirely an inexperienced lover when he left for Canada in the *Albermarle* on 7 April 1782, aged 22.

His character is scrutinised in every detail, from his approach to flogging members of his crew, his acceptance of seeing men blown to pieces by shot, shell and shrapnel and yet revulsion when invited to a 'Bull Feast' in Cadiz watching animals being baited, tortured and slaughtered.

This is a book for all Nelson devotees and those with an interest in our history and how it has been shaped by men such as this son of Norfolk.

The publisher's claim that this biography is a "landmark against which all subsequent books about Nelson will have to be judged" is no idle boast.

NELSON - BRITANNIA'S GOD OF WAR. Andrew Lambert. *Faber and Faber* 2004 446pp. 42 illustrations (13 in colour. 8 maps. £20. ISBN 0-571-21222-0

Norfolkman Andrew Lambert's twenty years of research have resulted in a fascinating and thoroughly readable book which examines in detail, warts and all, the nature and character of our greatest admiral.

He exposes Nelson's vanity, need for recognition, reliance on patronage, the extraordinary three-way relationship between himself, his lover Lady Emma Hamilton and her husband Sir William Hamilton; his involvement in politics, his hypochondriacal tendencies (Nelson suffered from worms!) and above all, reveals a man driven to take risks to achieve his aim of achieving greatness.

Lambert describes battles and tactics in great detail and produces a picture of a

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leader and tactician concerned for the welfare of men under his control and who could inspire them to follow wherever he led. Nelson emerges as a man with an outstanding sense of duty to serve his country even if it cost him his life to achieve it.

Essential reading for all Nelson devotees.

NELSON'S PURSE Martyn Downer. *Bantam Press* 2004. 424pp 75 illustrations (45 in colour) £20 ISBN 0593 051807 *Corgi paperback* £8.99 ISBN 0 552 15085 1

In July 2002 Sotheby's announced the finding of a large cache of material and artefacts directly related to Admiral Nelson. Among the items to be auctioned were letters to and from Nelson and his jilted, wife Francis (Fanny) and his mistress Lady Emma Hamilton. Jewelry, medals, rare guns, swords, porcelain and a leather pouch containing gold coins added to the collection, the latter being blood stained and initially believed to be from Nelson's fatal wound; it was later suggested to be more likely from the body of John Scott, his Secretary, who died on the same spot only minutes previously.

The treasures found belonged to descendants of Alexander Davison who first met Nelson in Canada, went on to become his sole agent for handling prize money for him and his officers (The Band of Brothers) and develop a remarkable friendship, with Nelson becoming increasingly dependent on Davison for advice on all aspects of his domestic and professional affairs. This included inevitable involvement in contacts with both Nelson jilted wife Frances (Fanny) and his new found love Lady Emma Hamilton and her husband Sir William Hamilton.

This is a story of unrequited love on the part of Fanny who loved her husband to the end, the socialisingly shocking relationship with Emma - and her husband, political intrigue, dodgy financial deals, sexual dalliances, strained family relationships (Nelson did not visit his dying father or attend his funeral) and hitherto unforseen correspondence between all the main parties, with Davison acting as a 'go-between' for all of them.

Although this book is essentially bound to the life of Davison it opens a window through which we get glimpses of life at government level during the 18th and 19th centuries, but, more importantly it paints a graphic, personal, picture of the torturous life lived by our greatest naval hero, Viscount Nelson of the Nile and Burnham Thorpe.

NELSON, THE NEW LETTERS Edited by Dr. Colin White. *Boydell & Brewer*. 2005 525pp. 40 maps and illustrations (16 in full colour). £25. ISBN 1 85438 130 9

Editor Colin White has visited 33 Nelson archives worldwide and uncovered well over 1400 hitherto unpublished letters; 507 of them are printed, unedited, in this fascinating new book which is divided into six parts - The Man and the Admiral; The Hero Emerges 1777-1782; Squadron Commanders, Mediterranean 1789-1800; Northern Waters 1801, Commander in Chief, Mediterranean 1803-1805 and The Trafalgar Campaign, January-October 1805.

Tony Clarke, our energetic Secretary, has been invited down to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to preview this superb collection of letters and his

report appears at the end of these reviews. Tony's research clearly shows that Nelson wrote as he spoke; in other words he kept his Norfolk origins alive for all to see. What is particularly rewarding is that Dr. White has retained Nelson's original text without, as the Victorians did, "sanitising" it to conform with what they thought readers ought to see rather than what was on the page.

This is a book to savour and should be on every Norfolk bookshelf. Just as we are proud of him so Nelson obviously prized his honorary appointment as Duke of Bronte by Ferdinand, King of two Sicilies & Infanta of Spain in 1799, incorporating this title with his in all subsequent correspondence.

Dr. Colin White's Nelson 200 Norfolk Tour will bring him to Great Yarmouth on Thursday 21 July, Burnham Thorpe on Friday 22 July and King's Lynn on Saturday 23 July when his lecture will form part of the Lynn Festival.

HORATIO NELSON VICE ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE. David Williams. *The Larks Press. 2000. 22pp. 7 b&w illustrations. £1.40. ISBN 0 948400 88 9*

One of a series of pocket biographies of famous Norfolk people by a respected local company in which the author has skilfully reduced the life of Nelson to some 15 pages of text. Ideal for anyone wanting an introduction to Nelson, his life, times and exploits.

NELSON - I AM MYSELF A NORFOLK MAN. Charles Lewis. *Poppyland Publishing. 2005. 160pp. 92 illustrations (50 in colour). £13.95. ISBN 0 946148 72 4*

This book celebrates Nelson's connections with his home county - his family, his upbringing, schooldays and locations associated with him; in other words a truly local book with the title coming from Nelson's speech on his arrival in Great Yarmouth, accompanied by Lady Emma Hamilton and her husband, Sir William Hamilton, on 6th November 1800 when he said "I am myself a Norfolk man and I glory in being so."

The author has been associated with Norfolk's maritime history for over 30 years, with responsibility for the Maritime Museum of East Anglia and the Nelson Monument, as well as being involved with the creation of the Norfolk Nelson Museum.

Poppyland Publishing's web site, www.poppyland.co.uk provides additional information on the life and times of Nelson.

Tony Clarke's Report

It was a challenge to relish. I had been invited to the National Maritime Museum for a preview of some 500 newly discovered letters written by Norfolk hero, Lord Nelson. My mission - to search for evidence that the great man actually wrote, as he spoke, with a Norfolk accent.

Aware that both English and the Norfolk dialect have come a long way since the end of the 18th century, that Nelson left school and joined the Navy at 12, and that I might have to sift the clues from a mass of naval jargon, I approached the task with some apprehension.

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In the event those clues were not too hard to find. They lurked not so much in the actual words he used as in his sentence construction, phraseology, tenses, and sometimes his spelling.

“Not a man on this ship have ever been on this coast, it blew a strong gale,” was how Nelson described a storm off the Channel Islands in 1793. “I was under the Mortification of ordering the ship to be wore.”

And “Do you cheer up!” was his truly Norfolk advice in November 1800 to a relative with a cash flow problem. “Sensible men will not value you the less for not being at this moment Rich,” he added kindly.

I had been invited to study two large files of typewritten transcripts of the letters by naval historian Dr Colin White, deputy director of the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth, who has been seconded to the National Maritime Museum to chair the Official Nelson Commemorations Committee.

The committee has been co-ordinating the nationwide festivities which will climax with the bicentenary celebrations of Trafalgar.

Dr White's selection of 507 appears in his book *Nelson, The New Letters*. They cover an enormous variety of subjects - factual accounts of life at sea in peace and war, “warts and all” descriptions of foreign postings, strong personal opinions on various people of consequence, forthright criticism of decisions taken by his superiors, instructions concerning such mundane matters as the sale of farm animals, affectionate letters to Lady Emma Hamilton, to friends and to his family.

Nelson scholars will tell you that contemporary accounts by officers who served with him indicate that the great man spoke with a Norfolk accent. But Dr White said editors of previous collections of Nelson letters had sanitised his written work. “They have got in the way,” he said.

To avoid falling into the same trap Dr White transcribed the letters as they were written, almost entirely without punctuation and with capital letters used only on words which the writer wished to emphasise.

“It occurred to me that there were some odd constructions,” said Dr White. “Local dialects were very strong in those days and there was no such thing as a posh accent. You tended to speak in the dialect of the area in which you grew up, even if you were quite far up the pecking order. Even Emma spoke with a Wirral accent to the end of her life.”

Dr White contacted FOND through our web site; hence my trip to London to spend four privileged hours in the presence of a Norfolk hero who came through loud and clear as a man of passion and compassion.

“You will feel as if he is looking over your shoulder,” said Dr White as he let me loose on his files. And that, uncannily, is how it was.

It was as if a famous Norfolk voice from 200 years ago was whispering into my ear. How he would have revelled in this age of e-mails and text messaging!

FOND's president, Professor Peter Trudgill, commented: "It has always been believed that Nelson spoke with a Norfolk accent, but how wonderful to have it confirmed that our hero wrote - and therefore obviously also spoke - using Norfolk dialect grammar as well.

"This gem of a FOND project makes the point very clearly that popular heroes can be speakers of Norfolk just as well as Cockney and Scouse," he added.

Here are a few more quotes from the Nelson letters:

"Capt. Lambert, of the Niger, have been very fortunate. . . ."

Nelson, throughout, spells the words choose as "chuse" and show as "shew", and often uses the phrase "I have wrote."

"I really feel that Buonaparte will be shook from his high situation."

". . . nor indeed do I see what good end can be answered by your arrival in Newfoundland and America when all the harbours are froze up."

Norfolk, with the accent on song Chris Sugden

While those not lucky enough to live in Norfolk are more likely to hear Mummerset than the real thing, there is one national group that regularly enjoys the Norfolk accent. They are the traditional folk song enthusiasts. Because throughout the twentieth century Norfolk was known for the quality of its traditional singing. In the early part of the century it was songs that were collected, rather than singers. Most famously Ralph Vaughan Williams based his Norfolk Rhapsodies on tunes from the Kings Lynn area. But by the middle of the century it was the singers who had come to the fore.

Three singers in particular are still revered, and all of them have recently had posthumous CDs released.

Harry Cox, of Catfield, was called "The Prince of singers" by composer and song collector E J Moeran. Harry appeared regularly on BBC radio programmes in the post war period, and was extensively recorded. A double album of his singing has recently been compiled¹.

Sam Larner, of Winterton, was the man from whom the internationally known version of The Wild Rover was collected (although Sam's singing of it was a good deal subtler). He was a major contributor to the Radio Ballad 'Singing The Fishing', and songs and speech from those recordings are still available².

Walter Pardon, of Knapton, was 'discovered' by the folk scene in the 1970s, when his reputation was spread by the then young singer Peter Bellamy, himself raised in Warham. Walter toured the country, appearing at folk clubs and festivals, and even went to America to sing before the President. He made a number of recordings³.

They all sang in the traditional manner, sometimes called the 'conversational' style.

14 The Merry Mawkin

This can seem harsh or flat on first hearing, but that flatness conceals great subtlety and skill, and all the above were known for the artistry of their singing.

Of course, Norfolk had many other traditional singers, such as Tom Brown, from Caister, some of whom also made recordings. I'm sure it has some still. Indeed, many FOND members probably know a song or two themselves. So I hope to be allowed to return to the subject in a future Merry Mawkin.

I cannot finish, however, without mentioning Sid Kipper - but isn't there a warning about going from the sublime to the ridiculous?

¹ The Bonny Labouring Boy' - Topic Records TSCD512D

² 'Now Is The Time For Fishing' - Topic Records TSCD511

³ 'A World Without Horses' - Topic Records TSCD514

All these albums, plus others, and a lot more information, are available from The East Anglian Traditional Music Trust.

44 Old Street, Haughley, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 3NX.

Phone - 01449 771090

The East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

The East Anglian Traditional Music Trust was formed in June 2000, by John and Katie Howson. Since the late 1970s, John Howson has been recording singers and musicians who remember the old songs and dance tunes popular in days gone by, and for the last twenty years has published these on the Veteran label. These recordings, many of which are 'field recordings' are held in high esteem not just locally, but internationally! In addition to recording, John and Katie are also well-known as performers of this music in their own right, and in the early eighties founded the Old Hat Concert Party which has members from twelve to eighty, and aside from many local appearances has also performed as far afield as Gateshead and Dartmoor.

The East Anglian Traditional Music Trust aims to involve more people in traditional music and song, through a variety of events including workshops, concerts and lectures, and has run several extremely successful projects over the last five years, mainly in Suffolk. This year, however, sees a major project in Norfolk for the first time.

The Playback project started in May with a Traditional Folk Song Day in King's Lynn, featuring songs collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams from the fishermen in 1905. It continues with a day at the Norfolk Museum of Rural Life on July 16th, which should be of interest to anyone curious about Norfolk traditions, as it features a rare instrument, the dulcimer, which in the early twentieth century was very popular in the area between Norwich and Dereham particularly. The day will include demonstrations, concerts, exhibitions and informal music performances. England's two finest exponents of the dulcimer both came from Norfolk - Billy Cooper from Hingham and Billy Bennington from Barford. A CD of Billy Bennington's music, 'The Barford Angel', including talking about how he learned to play, and one or two other yarns, is to be published to

coincide with the day.

Throughout the summer the Playback exhibition, with photographs and information about the musical traditions of Norfolk tours the county: a full schedule can be found on the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust's website at www.eatmt.org.uk.

On October 15th, there is a Fiddle Day held in Shipdham, home to Norfolk's finest traditional fiddle-player, Walter Bulwer, who had a huge influence on the development of English folk music since his recordings were made available in the early 1970s. As well as a practical fiddle workshop and a music session, there will be a chance to hear a talk from Dr Reg Hall, a musician and musicologist who met and played with Walter Bulwer in the 1960s.

The final event of the Playback project is sure to be of interest to local historians as well as musicians. The Norfolk Traditional Music Forum takes place on November 19th in Hingham and includes talks about singers from the Broads, musicians from the Hingham area and the dulcimer in Norfolk, plus displays, exhibitions and discussion groups. The day is being hosted by Malcom Taylor, MBE, librarian from the English Folk Dance and Song Society. In the evening there is a final celebratory concert with a fantastic array of stepdancers, singers and musicians featuring songs and music from Dickleburgh to Blakeney and from Winterton to King's Lynn.

For further information about these events, or any other enquiries, please contact the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust (details on facing page). You can receive a regular newsletter through the post or look at the website for the latest information. For information about recordings, look at the Veteran website www.veteran.co.uk or ring 01449 673695.

Diary dates

June 6-25	Playback exhibition at Fakenham Library
June 27 - July 16	Playback exhibition at Roots of Norfolk, Gressenhall
Saturday 16 July	Dulcimer Day at Roots of Norfolk at Gressenhall.
Dulcimer Day tickets allow entrance to all music events and museum site. Available in advance from EATMT.	
July 18 -23	Playback exhibition at Hunstanton Library
July 26-Aug 14	Playback exhibition at Alby Crafts, Erpingham (in the café)
Aug 15 - 20	Playback exhibition at Sheringham, Library
Aug 22 - Sept 3	Playback exhibition at Great Yarmouth, Library
Sept 5- 17	Playback exhibition at Loddon, T. I. C.
Sept 19 - Oct 1	Playback exhibition at Swaffham, Library
Oct 3- 14	Playback exhibition at Thetford, Library
Oct 15	Fiddle day and exhibition at Shipdham Community Centre. Tickets in advance from EATMT.
Oct 17 - 23	Playback exhibition at Aylsham, Library
Oct 24 - 28	Playback exhibition at Norwich, The Forum
Oct 31- Nov 12	Playback exhibition at Diss, Library
Nov 19	Norfolk Traditional Music Forum and concert at the Lincoln Hall in Hingham. Tickets in advance from EATMT.

Our Recordings go on sale

Master copies of the first 13 recordings made by our team of interviewers have now been deposited with the Norfolk Sound Archive.

We are now offering members the opportunity of acquiring copies of these recordings, warts and all, with no editing of the interviews.

This will done later when the subjects mentioned in the interviews will be collated with the aim of producing edited discs on specific themes — such as Farming, The Seaside, Family Life, Fishing and Wartime Memories.

Details of the Compact Discs currently available are:

DISC NO:	INTERVIEWEE(S)	AREA COVERED	RUNNING TIME
10001	Brian & Nick Eaglen & Jack Kemp	Hingham	56m 34s
10002	Fred Gardiner	Hingham & Kenninghall	57m
10003	Jilly Clarke & Audrey Gosling	Wymondham plus a poem by Maud Coley (Northwold)	45m 21s
10004	Sheila Orford, Eric King & Molly Rockley	Watton, Scoulton, Cranworth, Hingham, Norwich & Great Yarmouth	55m 32s
10005	Michael Parfitt & Leonard Lavender	Northwold	61m
10006	Luke Stanford & Bill Garrod	Reymerston & North Elmham	46m 20s
10007	Mary Huggins	Little Ellingham	49m 26s

All discs are priced at £5 plus 60p postage and packing.

An index of the contents of each disc can be supplied at an extra cost of £1.20

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TELEPHONE

Remember these ?

Mrs Nicholls has written to us from Potter Heigham recalling some good old Norfolk expressions used during her childhood — with appropriate translations!

Stir yur stumps — *get a move on*

Had a good wyadge? — *have you had a good voyage?*

Do yar owle hins lay? — *do your hens lay?*

Time f' whittles — *time to stop for a meal*

H'is gorne orf in his go-ashores — *not in his working clothes*

Yew must a' shuvved the whiffle in — *you have done this too quickly*

Cum on mawther yew tearke s'long a'tidawearstun — *come on young lady (or woman) you are taking a long time to get ready*

She in't agorne t' the water froluca — *she is not going to the regatta*

I dornt hold wi't — *I do not approve of it*

Dunt brotch it yit — *to 'brotch' is to open a container or to present a subject for discussion*

Please let us know if **you** have memories of similar words or phrases in common use in days gone past.

Answers to Boy Colin's Quiz

1. 1930
2. Martin Shaw
3. The Canary and Linnet in Fransham
4. Maharajah Duleep Singh
5. A Goldfinch
6. St. Withburga
7. All the King's Men
8. Joe Royle
9. 38 years
10. Becky Jago

1940s Childhood Memories continued

Jean Eaglen

I can't remember exactly my age, but as we lived 1½ miles from school my mother pushed us to school on her bike. I would stand on the pedals, my brother on the seat and my little sister in the basket chair at the back. Of course mother could bike back home - somewhat different from the 4X4s today! Remember, too, we had to take our gas masks everywhere plus a packed lunch each.

Luckily we did have milk at mid-morning, about a third of a pint. When it was frozen in winter the teacher used to stand the bottles by the open fire. The bottles had cardboard tops with a hole for the straw. Of course we all had our food rationed and we never left anything on our plates!

I can remember Sunday tea was bread and treacle, with some butter if we were lucky. Mother got our milk from the farm in a jug and she kept the cream all week and on Sundays we would shake it up in a jam jar to make some butter. We were often very short of food and ran out of sugar many times. When I was about 6 years old I gave up having sugar in drinks "cause there wern't any I s'puz".

Dick Bagnell-Oakley

"Norfolk is not simply a word that describes a county. 'Norfolk' describes also a language, a humour and a way of life.



Spoken Norfolk has a stout and uniquely resistant quality and only people born in the county are able properly to penetrate it and repeat it with their own tongues.

Just as their language, so also the people of Norfolk are tough, resistant and impenetrable. They guard to themselves the secrets of their language and of their humour.

Yet humour there is in the Norfolk people, riotous and abundant. When you read Norfolk tales, remember that they are tales about a highly observant, subtle and recondite people.

Therefore, always think twice before you laugh at a Norfolk tale — ***the laugh might be on you!***"

Press Gang

After a hectic spring programme, Keith Skipper and his Press Gang entertainers look forward to a busy autumn round of fixtures. To help them warm up they have a summer date in Breckland.

They make a return visit to Elveden Village Hall on Saturday, July 23 to present a show in aid of hall funds. Tickets are £7, including a glass of wine, on 01842 890223.

Autumn fixtures are:

Saturday, September 10 Sheringham, St Andrew's Church Hall, for Save the Children Fund. Tickets £6.50 from Bertram Watts Bookshop in the town or Diana Bullen on 01263 513558

Saturday, September 17 Worstead Queen Elizabeth Hall, for hall funds.

Saturday, September 24 Strumpshaw Steam Museum, for village church roof appeal.

Sunday, October 2 Squit on Cromer Pier (with Sid Kipper) for BREAK. Tickets £11 on 01263 512495

Saturday, October 8 Mardle at the Maddermarket, for EDP We Care Appeal.

Saturday, October 15 Fleggburgh Village Hall, for hall funds.

Saturday, October 22 Wicklewood Village Hall, for hall funds

Scenes from the Harvest Field – Upton, August 1940



FOND OFFICERS

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