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# MONKS ELEIGH REGENCY FAIR

10 September 1994



Good luck to the hoof & the horn  
Good luck to the flock & the fleece  
Good luck to the grower of corn  
With blessing of plenty & peace



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See page 7

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## Acknowledgements

This booklet has been produced by the Monks Eleigh Regency Fair Committee, 8 Lower Byfield, Monks Eleigh.

The Monks Eleigh Regency Fair Committee are  
P Barton, Chairman; M Barton, Treasurer; P Duguid, Procession and Playlets;  
M McKeon, Exhibition; G Gould, Brochure; L Gould, Publicity;  
S Beckett, A Beckett, S Roberts and L Farthing, Stalls; M Coll, Costumes;  
L Cocker, Site Coordinator; C Groom, School Liason;  
B Grant, Flowers and Vegetables Exhibition and Barn Dance;  
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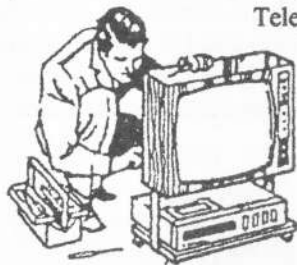


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## Welcome

5

Dear Friends,

As chairman of the Monks Eleigh Regency Fair Committee, which was set up by the Monks Eleigh History Group, I have great pleasure in inviting you to come to our Fair at Monks Eleigh on Saturday 10th September 1994. I can assure you of a warm welcome.

We hope to share the enjoyment of the Fair with neighbouring villagers and friends from further afield.

More and more people are becoming interested in historic events, especially local ones. This encouraged us to set the Fair in the period from Waterloo to the enthronement of Queen Victoria. It is an interesting period of British history when many things were changing, also it is well documented and not too long ago.

We aim to provide a day of interest, perhaps education, and above all FUN.

The Fair will start with a Procession through the village to the School Playground where various activities will be presented during the afternoon. The exhibition comprises five or six aspects of life in Suffolk at that time. There will be stalls of local work, and demonstrations. There will be a flower display in our beautiful St. Peter's Church.

We, the villagers will dress in the costume of the period, come and join us!

SO, DO PLEASE MAKE A FIRM DATE TO COME TO  
MONKS ELEIGH ON SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER.

Yours sincerely

*Peter Barton*

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TURNPIKE ROAD  
From SCOLE BRIDGE to BURY.  
NOTICE is hereby given, That an adjourned  
Meeting of the Trustees of the said Road will be held  
on Thursday the 10th day of March next, at the Crown  
Inn, in Botesdale, at Eleven o'clock before Noon.  
By Order,  
JAMES AMYS, Clerk to the Trust,  
Botesdale, 16th February, 1825.

FISHING.  
WHEREAS great Depredations have been  
committed on the River WAVENEY, by Persons  
not authorised taking and destroying the Fish:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,  
That any Person or Persons found Fishing for, or taking or  
destroying any Fish, (not being legally authorised so to do)  
within the Liberties, Rights, Royalties, Manors, and Swan  
Marks of his Grace the DUKE of NORFOLK, on the said  
River Waveney, will be prosecuted according to Law, with-  
out further Notice.

By Order,  
SAMUEL SMITH,  
Balliff of the said Liberties, &c.  
Sungay, Feb. 24, 1825.

CAPITAL OAK TIMBER,  
Of large Dimensions,  
Particularly calculated for Naval Purposes.

MESSRS. BROOKS have received Instruc-  
tions to SELL by AUCTION, early in March (unless  
in the mean time disposed of by Private Contract) 230 OAK  
TIMBER TREES, standing in the Woods in the neighbour-  
hood of Bildeston, Suffolk, 12 miles from Ipswich.

For further particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to  
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7

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a magnum of Champagne.



Each booklet has a unique number printed on the cover.  
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WITH THE CHANCE OF OTHER CAPITALS,  
Risk only 40 Shillings,  
11 DECEMBER!

CARROLL the Contractor,

Begs to inform the Public that all Purchasers between  
the 20th of November and 11th of December will be al-  
lowed to return their Tickets or Shares after taking the  
chance of the Next Day, when a Prize of £5,000 at least  
is sure to be drawn, and nearly the whole of the Money  
will be given back, by which the risk of loss is reduced  
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EIGHTH .....	7.6
SIXTEENTH .....	4.0

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3 . . . . .		5,000
1 . . . . .		2,000
1 . . . . .		1,000
3 . . . . .		500
3 . . . . .		300
4 . . . . .		200

Besides others of £100, £50, &c. &c. and

NOT TWO BLANKS TO A PRIZE  
All to be drawn in Two Days, 11th and 20th December.

Tickets and Shares are Selling at CARROLL's Fort-  
nite Office, 19, Cornhill, and 26, OXFORD STREET,  
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Sudbury Coach  
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Thanks to the Nobility and their Friends in general for  
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SPREAD EAGLE OFFICE,  
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at Nine o'clock, calling at the GREEN DRAGON, BISHOP-  
GATE, & SPREAD EAGLE, GRACE CHURCH STREET, (where  
PASSENGERS & PARCELS are booked) and will arrive  
in Piccadilly at Half-past Six o'clock in the Afternoon, re-  
turning from thence every Morning at Eight, Spread Eagle,  
Grace Church Street, a Quarter before Nine, and Green  
Dragon, Bishopgate Street, at Nine, as usual, Sundays  
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THE SUDBURY COACH  
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at Twelve, and calls at the SPREAD EAGLE, GRACE CHURCH  
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In eighteen hundred ten and six,  
 Old England's Glory some would fix,  
 Peace throughout Europe, Royal Marriages.  
 New streets, new palaces & new carriages,  
 New stars, new ribbons & new crosses.  
 A courage new whate'er the loss is -  
 Splendid new bridges, splendid lights  
 And columns destined for our knights!  
 Sounds not this well? Then who would think  
 We stood on ruin's very brink?  
 For now the picture but capsize  
 And view it with your proper eyes.  
 In London flashy shops behold,  
 And new bazaars, but nothing sold;  
 In every street a carpet out  
 That shows my lady on her route  
 To spend her poor remains in France  
 And teach her children how to dance.  
 Then to the country - farmers breaking,  
 Clothiers half ruined, landlords quaking.  
 A solemn gloom. No sun, no hay day,  
 Betwixt this very hour & Lady,  
 The corn too laid, & some say rotting,  
 The Luddites up in arms & plotting -  
 The panic general, & the stocks  
 As flat almost as the new docks -  
 Then a subscription by the great,  
 Lest all our poor should emigrate,  
 A boon that seems so sure a test  
 Of apprehension for the rest,  
 But last & worst, a ministry in doubt,  
 Too weak to stand, too strong to be thrown out.

*from The Bury & Norwich Post 11/12/1816.*

### Outside our corner of Suffolk great things were happening in Britain & the World.

**REVOLTS** were taking place in Greece, Portugal, Spain, India, Burma, Poland, France, Serbia, & Rumania. The American War of Independence had ended & the liberation of Latin-America beginning.

**THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION** was turning Britain into an urban country. The textile industry was becoming mechanised. Canals, turnpikes, fast coaches & then railways were built. Gas lighting, Davy's miner's lamp, long brooms to sweep chimneys were all of this period, & a Mr. Faraday was experimenting with electricity.

**TRADE UNIONS** were replacing the Luddites. Tolpuddle occurred in 1834.

**CO-OPERATIVE CONCEPTS** were introduced by Robert Owens & Coke at Holkam.

**THE REFORM** was led by Burdett, Cobbett, Hunt & Cartwright to bring wide scale suffrage, with an end to corruption, tithes, & taxation to pay for pensioners, placemen etc. The movement succeeded only partially & was superseded by Chartism at the end of this period.

**AGRICULTURE** was depressed, with famine in Ireland & parts of England,

especially Suffolk. Agricultural labourers replaced peasants, due to enclosures.

**LIBERAL & CONSERVATIVE PARTIES** developed from the Whigs & Tories during this time.

**AGRARIAN REVOLT** occurred in 1816, 1822, & 1830 to 31 (Swing). Burning of farms & hay stacks, threats, violence & collection of money from the rich, animal maiming, & tree destruction were common.

**THE NEW POOR LAWS** were introduced, but did not help the poor.

**CRIME** grew with poverty especially poaching. Punishment was severe. Hanging & transportation were frequent punishments. New prisons were built.

**HUMANITARIANISM.** Many people tried to improve single sectors of society e.g. prisons, child labour, slavery etc.

**METHODISM** grew amongst the poor.

**EPIDEMICS.** Cholera, smallpox, typhoid, typhus & severe influenza occurred.

**PRIME MINISTERS.** Liverpool, Canning, Wellington, Peel, Gray & Melbourne.

**MONARCHS.** Geo III (regency) till 1820, Geo IV till 1830, Wm. IV till 1837 then Victoria.

### It is against this background that local events took place.

**1815** Mr. Dakin of Bildeston gets 6 months for stealing 14lb. of sugar.

Monks Eleigh-Chelsworth bridge down.

**1816** John Beer of Lt. Waldingfield to spend 2 months in gaol for contemptuous behaviour in church on Christmas day.

Turnpikes & Stagecoaches. 'Breakfast in

Bury, Dine in London' (Advertisement).

William Green, hung for stealing sheep in Lavenham.

Fires near Bury, at Kettlebaston (barn, owned by Beachcroft, a Londoner) and Martlesham Hall.

Ben & James Buxton gaoled for riotous

assembly and machine destroying at Rattlesden.

Large gangs rob Stonham Aspal including the Hall at night.

Threshing machine destroyed at Bury.

Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk meets magistrates to put down riots.

At Ipswich 30 rioters sentenced.

At Bury rioters & threshing machine breakers from Stoke by Clare, Wattisham & Rattlesden sentenced.

1817 Troops in Stowmarket for the assizes.

1818 Wm. Osborne, servant to Mr. Abraham Cawston, of Shimpling Hall, fined 10s. by Rev. J. G. Smyth, for driving his master's wagon on Monks Eleigh highway, with 'a plough line the thriller, having no-one to guide the horses.'

Bull baiting. A man is killed in Bildeston.

Lavenham revives markets for grain, butter & cheese.

1819 Wm. Man, John, & John Clark committed to gaol by Rev. JG Smyth, the former for stealing fowls, the

property of Mr. Woodgate of Milden & Mr. Scarfe of Monks Eleigh, & the said John Clark is charged with receiving the fowls knowing them to be stolen.

1820 Hadleigh asks for a Bow St. Runner as crime increasing in Suffolk.

Clare Bank goes insolvent.

Lavenham to erect an obelisk with the names of Queen's supporters.

Great fire at oil mill at Higham.

1821 Sudbury town meeting wants moderate Reform.

Letter in the Press stating that the bridge between Monks Eleigh & Chelworth has blown down since last December. The magistrate, a reverend gent living in Chelworth has done nothing, because he wants the expense put on the county. After the letter he tried to obtain costs from county. When these were not obtained, he proposed that no more ads. should be placed in the Bury Post.

Another letter in the press asks why should Monks Eleigh & Chelworth be exempt from costs which other parishes have to pay. The bridge was rebuilt by October.

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J. L. PULVERMACHER, Inventor, &c., 78, Oxford Street, London, adjoining Princess's Theatre.

Wool processing trade declining in Suffolk.

Henry Frost, weaver, sold wife, in Bury, to Rb. Whiting for 2s. The new bridegroom pursued by many angry women.

Gas light for Ipswich.

Cricket: Needham v Stow.

Sudbury silk trade improving.

1822 For Sale: Water Furrow's Farm at Stackwood, Monks Eleigh.

Agricultural distress. Meetings held in Suffolk.

Threshing machines smashed nr. Diss. Machines broken at Eye.

Fires at Eye & Diss. Bury gaol, built for 60, holds 200, incl. 69 poachers.

Meetings about Reform in Suffolk, e.g. Aldeburgh has 2 voters.

'About half past eight o'clock on Wednesday morning a fire broke out in the thatched roof of some tenements adjacent to the premises of Mr. Samuel Baker of Monks Eleigh; spread to three other cottages, the property of Mr. B. & a straw house; & they were all consumed. The flakes of fire were carried by the wind to a barn in the yard, and that was also consumed, & some clover seed with-in it; nor was it without the greatest exertions that an extensive range of other buildings was saved. Three engines were on the spot, but the raging element was not subdued till 4 in the afternoon. The cause of the catastrophe cannot be conjectured, as there was but one small fire in the cottage first burnt, & not in the part where the flames broke out! A part of the property was insured in the Suffolk Fire Office.'

Stonham Aspal 500 machine breakers assemble. Suffolk villagers in communication. Yeomanry called out.

'Murder has become absolutely common.'

Meeting of Suffolk magistrates to 'adopt decisive action against incendiaries. Some executions for incendiarism.

Bury fair has fashions, merchandise & a ball for 440.

'A desperate affray took place in the coverts of Sir Henry Banbury, Bart., at Milden Hall on Saturday night. 15 to 20 poachers attacked the gamekeepers.'

1823 Lavenham Fair was 'full of horses'. Also 'pickpockets on the alert'.

Court found use of Ballingdon Common by Freeman of Sudbury was legal.

At Bury, in the last 10 days windows smashed, shutters forced in, lamps broken & carried away, & gates removed.

Smallpox spreading from Haverhill.

1824 Ipswich Steam Navigation has a regular service from Ipswich to London.

Woman dies in Groton Workhouse in appalling conditions.

Isaac & John Johnson fined for poaching with a dragnet in Brent Eleigh.

1825 A List of men who have not joined the East Suffolk Regiment of Militia upon being embodied for training.

NAME AGE SIZE WHERE BORN  
LAST PLACE OF RES. TRADE  
DESCRIPTION ENLISTED.

TOWN COUNTY COMPLEXION  
EYES HAIR VISAGE From what a) sub-  
division b) parish. Date of attestation  
Substitution.

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Thomas Alliston, 17, 5'8½", Monks, Leigh. Suffolk. Labourer Ruddy Brown Hazel Oval Blything Wrentham 31 Jan 1824 Sub.

George Burnham, 19, 5'6½", Monks Leigh, Suffolk. Wattisham, Suffolk. Labourer Sallow Light Brown Grey Round Blything Chediston 13 Jan 1821.

Whoever apprehends either of the above deserters and lodges them in any of his Majesty's gaols is entitled to TWENTY SHILLINGS REWARD to be paid by P.H. Jas. Case. Clerk gen. meetings to the treasurer of the county, on giving notice to the commanding officer.

1826 Anti-slavery petition going round Bury.

*'Either to Church or Parliament, If you desire a seat.*

*With beer & gin to hearts content Each free elector you must treat.'*

Sudbury electors of John Wilkes have not had their expenses paid. Ald. Waithman, a Reform MP, presents a petition from the voters stating that Wilkes has swindled them. John Wilkes charged with forgery of £1,500.

Still many Suffolk fires.

Kersey & Groton argue about who pays

**TEETH.**  
TEETH. — 110, REGENT Street, & 33, Ludgate Hill, are Messrs. GABRIEL'S, the old established Dentists, addresses — patentees of the IMPROVED shaded MINERAL TEETH and FLEXIBLE GUMS, fitted on their newly-adapted principle of self-adhesion, without springs, wires, or any operation. They are composed of best materials, with first-class workmanship, and are supplied at charges lower than any advertised. Established 1804. Particularly observe the numbers. And at 134, Duke Street, Liverpool.

for a pauper.

Mr. Roam of Kersey was assaulted & robbed by Sarah Barnes & her gang on the King's Highway. They are transported for life.

Lavenham Methodist Sunday School Outing.

*'May Sunday Schools increase around,  
Till not a village shall be found,  
Where not a child but what is taught,  
To mind religion as it ought.'*

Sudbury riots, enclosure wall knocked down.

Smallpox in Bury.

John Mann, hanged for highway robbery at Hadleigh. He was a poacher since 16. Buried at Kersey.

Tom Meeking of Lavenham, looking for nuts in the woods at Brent, shot in the leg by a spring gun.

1827 Many convictions for poaching.

Lavenham Shrove Fair. 'Some acts of violence were committed by 5 young men from Hitcham... such as breaking windows & lawless pursuits'.

First Ansell child found dead in a field. Murder by persons unknown.

Many coach accidents in Suffolk.

'We are happy to report that the poor of this county are receiving weekly gifts of bread which must be very acceptable this season of the year.'

Many Lavenham unemployed due to decline in wool industry.

Poaching in the coverts of Sir Felix Agar at Brent Eleigh. 20 people apprehended & taken to Lavenham where they were confined in an Inn. They were rescued

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by the crowd, & a violent fight took place.

'Two men are committed to our gaol on charge of assault, but 150 others concerned absconded.'

More fires in East Anglia.

**1828** John Wilkes, the disqualified Sudbury MP leaves hurriedly for Bruges.

Suffolk elections - 'In some instances however, a little delicacy was introduced: 7 sovereigns in an orange, and the same number into loaves and Suffolk cheeses... Many of the electors took money from one candidate and then voted for the other; and in some instances took bribes from both parties and voted for neither!

Maria Marten's body found in the Red Barn, Polstead. Her boy friend, Corder, hanged for her murder.

George Partridge kills another Ansell boy near Milden. Confessed to killing both two Ansell boys at the behest of the (Ansell ?) girl with whom he was consorting.

Sam Proctor gaoled for trespassing in a wood in Monks Eleigh & damaging a fence.

**1829** In Edwardstone, Tom & Ben Whymark transported for stealing a watch, & Gleed, Thorn & Pryke transported for stealing shoes.

Heavy flooding stops fire-raising in E. Anglia. Tree damaging now common.

Riots in Bungay & Otley.

Stonham mob stop threshing machine working, similarly at Ashbocking.

Smuggling from Ipswich to the Continent.

Body snatchers in Chelmsford.

J. Johnson charged with stealing a sow from Peter Gage, butcher of Monks Eleigh.

Meeting in Bildeston, for repeal of the malt tax.

Horses of Mr. Holmes of Monks Eleigh poisoned. £100 reward offered for the conviction of offenders.

**1830** Isaac Johnson & others convicted, mainly by the informer, Baker.

Jas. Theobald convicted of wounding the horse of Farmer Giblin of Gt. Waldingfield.

Cobbett visits Bury. He states that this county, gifted above all others, is the most distressed.

Incendiarism, violent crimes, theft & poaching now too numerous to detail.


Bridge Farm, Monks Eleigh, near The Lion, for sale, also Slough Farm.

**1831** Reform petition in Bury & meeting in Ipswich.

A police force planned for Suffolk.

Swing revolt comes to Suffolk. Much sympathy for poor.

Many country side meetings of farm workers.



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27, Cratched Friars, Mark Lane.

Riot in Melford, ring leaders gaoled.

At Brent Eleigh Rev. Richard Snape reduces tithes by 10%.

**1832** Abraham Griggs transported for 7 years for goose stealing in Kersey.

Jos. Head given one month for stealing ash & other batlings from Tom Makin of Monks Eleigh.

Swing mutineers still being sentenced. Some hung & over 1000 transported.

Boxted, Polstead, Nayland, Bildeston, Melford & Lavenham all celebrate the Reform.

'Only' 31 cases of cholera in Bury, with 9 deaths.

Ann Andrews, for wilful trespass & spoil, in Monks Eleigh, 21 days in gaol.

**1833** Inquest on Marla Butcher of Brent Eleigh, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  year-old child, left with sister aged 4, died when clothes caught fire.

Bury union of working classes meet.

Both crime & the poor rate in Suffolk is amongst the highest in the country.

Rbt. Baker, imprisoned for one year for obtaining money by false pretences from the overseer of Monks Eleigh. He had £8.10s on him. Rbt. Keeble, miller, gave evidence that Baker bought flour from him. Baker informed against his accomplices when Holmes horses were poisoned.

Lord Fitzroy presents Bury petition complaining about the self election of the borough corporation.

Poor Law. Cosford Union formed from 18 parishes.

Hadleigh meeting to combat incendiarism.

**1834** Harriet Keeble charged with concealment of birth by disposing of dead body of her child. Found innocent.

9000 allotments in Suffolk.

Cockfield terrorised by robber gang, 9 arrests.

**1835** Meeting in the Cock & Bell, Melford, in favour of reform.

Charge of corruption in Ipswich elections.

Ed. Hollocks charged with inciting the lad Wright, to steal a hen from his master, Nathan Holmes. No true bill.

John Goymer gaoled for 3 months for violently assaulting Susan Ann Partridge, dressmaker, & her father Tom of Monks Eleigh.



Wm. Pryke, 2 months gaol for stealing apples in Brent Eleigh.

Ann King, Charlotte & Elizabeth Cutter, for insulting the clerk & governor of Semer workhouse, & Wm. Jacob & Isaac Proctor for refusing to do specified work, being paupers, 21 days in gaol.

**1836** Tom Scarfe, Henry Corder, Ed. Bradstreet, Rb. Gosling, Percy Henry Church & Isaac Seager charged with riot & tumultuous assembly at Cosford Union Workhouse at Semer on the night of 22-12-1836.

At 7.30pm 50 to 100 present with sticks & bludgeons, breaking gates & windows.

The Rev. Mr. Calvert read the riot act. Revs. Cook & Cowley arrived. 3 policemen were present in the workhouse. One had his head cut. There were another 9 police in the neighbourhood.

Horns were blown as the mob attacked the workhouse.

Kersey, a Cosford Guardian, who lived in Hadleigh, was called to the riot, came on horseback, & was pulled to the ground & assaulted by the mob.

Many were sentenced, including Ed. Austin, the ring leader, who blew his horn to assemble the mob (2 years hard labour).

Workhouses circularised that 50 places were provided by government for free emigration to Australia.

Arthur Frost transported for life for maliciously killing a filly in Cockfield.

Sharman, Sheppard, Sawyer & Cooper charged with attempting to demolish Ipswich workhouse. Found not guilty.

Henry Pryke charged with stealing boxes & iron strikes from Tom Hogger of Brent Eleigh.

1837 Gooday v. Musgrove & others. In 1835 some voters were imprisoned in the Rose & Crown, Sudbury till after the polls closed.

Wakely complains about inhumanity in Suffolk Union workhouses.

Cosford Union spends £6000 on the poor, previously it was £19000.

Sudbury Union Workhouse set on fire.

A corporal of the Lancers at Ipswich given 150 lashes for stealing a silver spoon.

Cosford Union Guardians write to the Secretary of State about the great influx of paupers into the workhouse.

787 paupers emigrated from Suffolk in the past year.

Inquest on Elizabeth Hawkins of Monks Eleigh, who drowned herself.

A verdict of derangement was recorded.

Ed. Bailey, late of the Cornard district of Sudbury indicted for embezzling 'at the expense of the poor, the sick & the aged.' Some died. Verdict - Not Guilty.

Eastern Counties Railway reaches Brentwood.

Sudbury. 'The election for this notorious borough took place on Tuesday.' 'The results are most distressing to the working & independent electors of both parties.'... 'At the conclusion of the canvass only 250 votes out of 580 remained to be purchased.' 'The expenditure in 1835 amounted to £35 a man.'

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1834: New Vestry  
1836: Lime trees planted  
1841: New tower clock  
1845: Spire removed from tower

**St Peter's Church**  
(Rector)

# Monks Eleigh

1840's

(not to scale)

Based on Whites Directory 1844,  
O.S. Map 1886, census 1841

## SHOPS

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Public house: The Bull  
Inn: The Lion  
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Maltster  
Thatcher  
Castrator  
Animal Painter  
National School 1834  
Old Workhouse (closed 1834)

## POPULATION

1801 = 542  
1831 = 733  
1841 = 707

## OTHER STATISTICS (1841)

Occupied houses: 145  
Children under 15 years: 130  
Farmers: 8  
Agricultural labourers: 109  
Servants: 29





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## A look at the changes in our wildlife and countryside

by Barbara Hart Appel

The Tithe Map & book of 1840-42 shows there has not been a great deal of change in the way we use the land up to the present day. The 2099 acres in 1840 were divided as follows:

80% arable land  
9% meadow or pasture  
4% woodland  
3% roads and rivers  
2% gardens and orchards to cottages  
1% Cottages  
1% Glebe

80% of the land was arable & was used for mixed farming. No wonder events involving agriculture played an important part at that time, when grain prices fell or there was a bad harvest or the agrarian riots in 1822.

Woodlands covered 77 acres of the parish (4%), as with Suffolk in general (4.4%). Mannay Wood (also Manie, Manna) at 66 acres was the 'manorial wood' owned by the Dean & Chapter of Canterbury, and was rented to Joseph Making at 'The Hall'. It was important to the village as much of the oak & ash was used for building & repair work, such as replacement of wood for the mills, fencing, hurdles, firewood, & many materials used in everyday life. With a stand of trees costing £5 per tree, & 12 shillings (60p) for a cart load of 40 faggots (1771) the wood was a managed asset. In 1848 J Making bought Mannay wood. When it was sold in 1873 it had been cleared & few oaks or stands remained. It was soon ploughed & became arable land.

On part of the 3% roads & rivers stood 5 mills, two water & three windmills (built between 1783 & 1837)<sup>4</sup>, managed or owned by two people. While they must have looked picturesque, they were also an indication of how important cereal growing was in the area. Sir Robert Pocklington owned lower 'Cobbolds' mill & a nearby windmill. John Harris owned one & managed another, between the old Rectory & Manor Farm, plus the upper 'manorial' mill in Mill Lane. Rivers were often diverted to give a good head of water for milling.

The 2% of gardens & orchards with the cottages would have provided much food - we see few orchards remaining today.

Meadow or pasture (9%) would probably have been used far more - with animal grazing when water levels permitted. We would have expected to see more flowers with regular grazing. One record exists for Monks Eleigh - The 1860 'Flora of Suffolk' by Rev. J. S. Henslow M.A. & Edmund Skepper: *Thalictrum* - *Flavum* L. yellow T. 'Meadow Rue' "found in watery places but not very general."

Henslow & Skepper were part of a strong movement of eminent botanists & entomologists visiting or living in Suffolk at that time, who catalogued & recorded. This became very popular amongst certain people & many who catalogued were rectors. Professor of Botany, Rector of Hitcham, Rev J. S. Henslow M.A. (1796-1861) was presented by the crown with the living of Hitcham in 1837 & left

25 years of botanical records when he died. After publication of the book in 1860 Rev. Hind of Honington collected & collated more information & published a supplement. Rectors at Blaxhall, Cockfield, Lavenham, Lawshall & Naughton, with villagers & children of Hitcham school all helped in compiling information. Henslow also left details of how to set up a botanical class in a village school - "Mondays at 3 pm."

Listed in Hitcham in the 1800's were 13 species of orchid, 4 remain today.<sup>1</sup> We might have expected to find a similar number in Monks Eleigh & in 1993 we had 5 species. The 'Botanical Guide' of 1805 recorded 365 botanical species in Suffolk. Today 1200 native plants are listed - 100 of which have disappeared.

Without proper records we cannot say what wildlife existed, but we can surmise that as all life is like an inter-related chain, there was a richer & more varied range of species than we have today with mono-culture.

Other wildlife we can mention - C. J. & James Paget's 1834 Catalogue for Suffolk notes 6 dragonflies. The 1987 - '92 Suffolk Survey shows 21 were breeding.<sup>2</sup>

C.B. Ticehurst's 'History of Birds in Suffolk' (1932) mentions nests of an extinct heronry in Cockfield in 1836. The number of ornithologists & recorded species have all increased in recent years, although our enjoyment of birdlife has changed from the early 1800s & 1900s when rook was 'poor mans pheasant' & moorhen, starling & blackbird - became pie filling! Wood pigeon, pheasant & magpie were not as

common as today, unlike other wildlife.<sup>3</sup>

Our neighbours in Chelsworth kept very good records from 1911 - 1913 of the 'Sparrow & Rat Club'. Both were considered pests & people were paid to kill them. In 1913 the totals were 1,951 rats at 1d each, 1022 sparrows at 1/4d each, 270 eggs (probably sparrow) at 1 1/2d per dozen.<sup>5</sup>

The regular management of woods, coppices, meadows & pasture without the use of herbicide & fertilisers, would all help to provide a rich ground cover of flora & food plants for larvae of butterflies & insects in general. While we had only a small percentage of woodland, it would have been linked by tree-lined lanes & orchards. Even fields not ploughed to the very edge of a road or woodland, & unsprayed, would provide a herb rich habitat for flora & fauna as some of our roadside verges are beginning to show once again today.

## REFERENCES

- 1) 'The Orchids of Suffolk' Martin Sandford 1991
- 2) 'Suffolk Dragonflies' H. Mendel
- 3) 'The Birds of Suffolk' William H. Payn 1932
- 4) 'Suffolk Windmills' Brian Flint
- 5) Supplied by B. Quinlan



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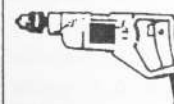
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## The Regency period was a time of many changes in the Church

by Rev. Rex Bird

The Industrial Revolution had given men a new conception of power, but the French Revolution had shown what can happen when power gets into the wrong hands. The Reform of 1832 opened a new era in the social & political life of England. Everyone was beginning to think in terms of 'abuses' & reforms. There were many institutions in as much need of reform as the House of Commons, among them the Church.

The changes which had taken place in the sixteenth century had introduced a number of reforms into the life of the Church, but had left many old evils undisturbed. The chief of these was the inequitable distribution of the Church's wealth. The number of parochial clergy in the early years of the nineteenth century was probably about 16,000, while the total income of the Church was reckoned at some £7,000,000! This sum, if fairly distributed, would have been enough to provide each man with a reasonable living. The division of the Church's income was, however, so inequitable that a few favoured individuals were in enjoyment of considerable fortunes while many of the clergy were in want.

The Bishop of Winchester, for example, was supposed to have an income of £50,000 a year. Bishop Sparke of Ely in 1830 (our own diocesan at that time) was drawing nearly £30,000 for himself, while his two sons & a son-in-law each received about £4,000.

Archbishop Moore died in 1805 leaving over a million pounds, & most bishops were able out of their large stipends, to endow their families handsomely. On the other hand it was reckoned that out of 4,000 curates in

England, about half received less than £60 a year & were hard put to it to make both ends meet.

This sense of grievance which these inequalities aroused was further aggravated by the evils of pluralism & nepotism. By this time, not only the positions of power in the Church, but also the rich livings were almost all in the hands of a few families & were therefore the rewards not of ability but birth. For those born in the purple there was every prospect of rapid preferment & increasing prosperity, but for the humble members of society a poor curacy or ill-paid benefice was the best that could be hoped for. Of course the parochial clergy differed enormously. There were many devoted men of God who carried out their duties with reasonable efficiency. But Parson Woodforde at Westa Lougueville was probably typical of many. He lived the comfortable life of a small country squire, took the necessary services on Sundays, visited where there was sickness, & spent the evenings playing cards or dining with his neighbours. The clergy portrayed in the novels of Jane Austen were either social climbers, like Mr. Collins, or sons of the landed gentry, who were appointed to family livings by their fathers. Edmund Bertram in 'Mansfield Park' rather surprised his friends by announcing his intention of living in his parish. Absenteeism was still regarded as quite normal. Three-fifths of the clergy in 1827 were non-resident.

With absenteeism, general slackness & indifference in Church life it was no wonder that many churches were allowed to fall into decay. But it was not all doom & gloom. It was customary to administer the

Holy Communion quarterly, & these 'Sacramental Sundays' were well observed in the country. Some clergy had an extra celebration on Good Friday.

At the usual Sunday services of Morning or Evening Prayer a battle was now being waged over the question of Hymns versus Psalms. The Evangelists had greatly stimulated the use of hymns as an alternative to the metric psalms, & many hymns had been written for this purpose. Apart from the two Wesleys & William Cowper there were others who believed that the devil should not have all the good tunes, such as 'When Jesus first, at Heaven's command / Descended from His azure throne' to be sung to 'Rule Britannia'! You can imagine this was not to everyone's liking. However in the end the hymn writer triumphed, & the singing of hymns became popular.

Fear of Rome was deep-seated in the English mind. Men believed that there was a clear dividing-line between Catholics & Protestants. They might have been a little puzzled to know where to put the Eastern Orthodox Church, but of that they knew little. In the world which they knew everyone was either a catholic or a protestant, & all members of the Church of England were among the latter.

One of the most pressing problems with which the Church had to deal at that time was education. In 1833 the first grant of public money for the purposes of education had been made, but there were as yet no state schools. The money was administered by two societies representing the Church of England & nonconformists/dissenters. Ignorance led to crime & revolution. More schools had to be built. More children had to be educated. But as soon as plans for more schools were made

trouble began over the religious question. At that time religion was regarded as a vital factor in education. In the face of intransigence on both sides the two rivals proceeded to provide schools of their own persuasion. Thus 'Religion' the keystone of education became the bar to its progress.

It is not difficult to feel with Thomas Arnold, who writing in 1832 said 'The Church as it now stands no human power can save.' It is a pity that the word 'Church' has to do duty for a building & also for the people who meet in that building for worship.

Today, the Church in Monks Eleigh is not limited to a building, but is scattered at its work or play throughout the village & surrounding farm land & nearby towns. The fact is if our beautiful building was destroyed tomorrow the Church would still be here worshipping God, doing its work, & carrying His 'Good News' to a world which so badly needs it.



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## Regency Food

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### Specific East Anglian Food.

Apple dishes e.g. 12 pippins, pared & slit, add lemon, red wine & root ginger. Top with heated nutmegged cream.

Seed Cake. Take 1lb. flour, 1lb butter, 12oz. caster sugar, 4oz. caraway seeds. 6 eggs. Beat butter, dredge in flour, add sugar & mix. Beat eggs, then add to mix & beat again. Bake 2 hrs.

Frumity. Pearl barley, soak 24 hrs. Boil till starch grains burst. Boil/bake 2hrs. Flavour with sugar, honey, raisins, dried fruit, cinnamon, allspice, milk.

Jams were made with cheaply obtained fruit e.g. Blackberry & Elderberry, Rose

hip & Apple, Quince marmalade, Bullace, Damson, Crab apple.

Almond custard.

Onion Dumpling. Suet pastry is rolled, filled with chopped onions, rolled, tied in a cloth & boiled 2 hours.

*This was the main meal of the day.*

Suffolk Rusks. 8oz. flour, 2oz. butter, a heaped teaspoon of baking powder, & an egg. Beat with enough milk to stiffen. Bake in a hot oven till brown. Turn oven off & replace rusks for a short time.

**FOOD TIP** 'Meat tainted to an extreme degree may be speedily restored by washing in cold water, & afterwards in strong camomile tea, after which it may be sprinkled with salt, & used the following day: or if steeped, & well washed in beer, it will make a pure & sweet soup, even after being fly blown.' Mechanics Institute. 1825

*N.B. Our cookery expert recommends that you do not use this recipe even on your worst enemy. Editor*



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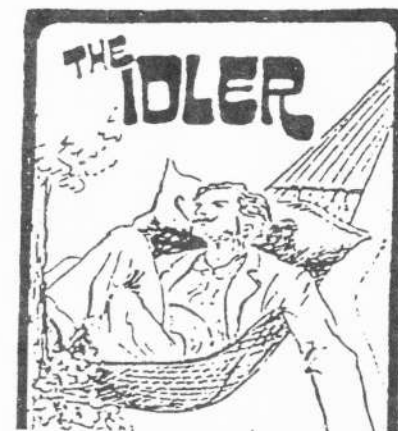
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