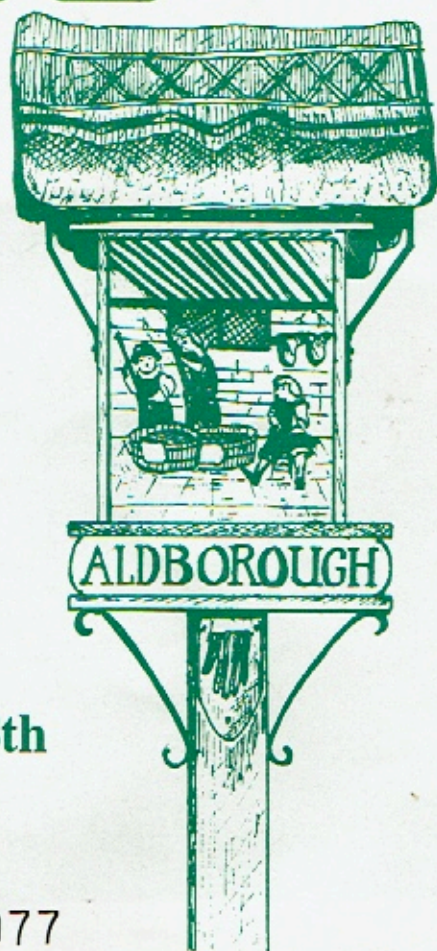


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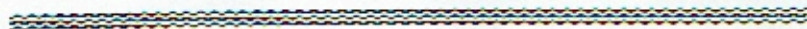
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HISTORY OF ALDBOROUGH VILLAGE

Village history can never be fully proven and apart from legends and casual mentions in Registers, it is mostly heresay, until the early 1800's.

Roman tiles have been found in Aldborough but no competent excavations have taken place.

The Vikings we know a little more about, as it was their custom to name settlements in new territories by the names from their old settlements. In Scandinavia at the present day there is a cluster of villages by the names of Aldbjerg, Thorgarton, Saxthorpe and Korruptic which could be assumed to have been the birthplace of warriors settling at Aldborough, Thurgarton, Saxthorpe and Corpusty. We can then be almost certain in assuming that the invaders settled in these parts.

The Domesday Book in the 11th Century formed under the direction of William, Duke of Normandy, brings to light a wealth of records.

Aldborough is principally in the manor of Hanworth. The area is 795 acres.

The population in 1871 was 333. In 1921 it was 323 and it has varied considerably over the years now standing at some 580 persons in 1983.

The Aldborough Fair is the chief cause of Aldborough's importance. It was granted to the village by King John where it is believed to have been transferred from Thorpe Market. In 1583 William Dyx had a grant of a fair at Aldborough, by Will this was passed to Thomas, Earl of Arundel, who in 1608 conveyed it to Robert Dyx of Alby. In 1781 Armstrong mentions it as a popular meeting place for all and sundry in days gone by.

In the second half of the 19th Century it became purely an occasion for pleasure, but until that time there were horse, livestock and poultry sales, and all kinds of wares were sold. The traditional hiring of servants also took place. The fair was always started by the oldest inhabitants playing a game of Tipcat on the Green.

It is reported that men on the farms would work from 4 o'clock in the morning at 'Haysel' until eight then start out for the fair. In those days drinking booths would be set up by the side of the road in surrounding villages to cheer people on their way. Needless to say, some never reached the fair.

The church of St Mary the Virgin is an ancient building of flint with stone dressing in the early perpendicular style. There are three brass effigies in the nave; a lady with a butterfly headdress, Anne Hereward 1485, Richard Ranes 1493, father of Anne, and a knight in plate armour (Robert Hereward 1483). There is also an inscription to Clement Hereward 1428.

In the 18th Century the tower fell down and in 1906 a turret containing one bell was erected. The church plate includes a chalice and paten dated 1717, the chalice bears the inscription 'This belongs to the Town of Aldboro'. The Rectors and Patrons date from 1303. At this time John de Honyng was the Rector and Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, the Patron. (Registers date from 1538.)

There have been many village industries which unfortunately have now disappeared. Glove making, mentioned in records of the 14th century, died out in the late 19th century. There were tanners and harness makers, basket makers, whip makers, brick makers and milling. There has been a mill since before the Conquest and in 1937 as a seed and corn merchants employed 20 men, 6 lady clerks and had 6 lorries. The Mill was owned and run by Mr Tom Cook, but was converted in 1982 into three dwellings although much of the original shape remains.

From the 1930's when in the village one could find coal merchants, bakers, butchers, blacksmiths, saddlers and harness makers, milliners, grocers, a watchmaker, miller, hairdresser, boot and shoe repairs, post office, doctor, two pubs, 'The Black Boys' being the stopping place for the stage coach to connect with trains to and from Norwich and London in the middle 1800's.

It also had a village school and tradesmen from all the building trades.

Although today most of the different trades and businesses have gone we still have a village to be proud of. We can still boast three provision stores, butcher, post office and boot and clothing store, restaurant, public house, doctor's surgery (and you don't have to make an appointment), school, village hall, community centre, several church groups, many clubs for all age groups including two football clubs and a cricket club - all round a village green that won the best kept village award for two years running.

Most of the information for this brief history was taken from a book 'The History of Aldborough and Thurgarton' written by members of the village in 1937. To all concerned we express our thanks.



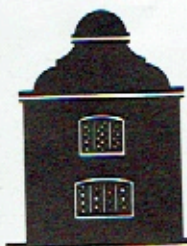
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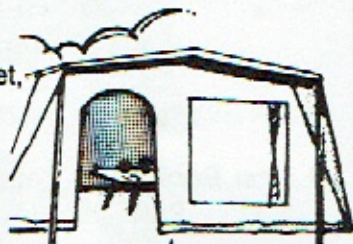
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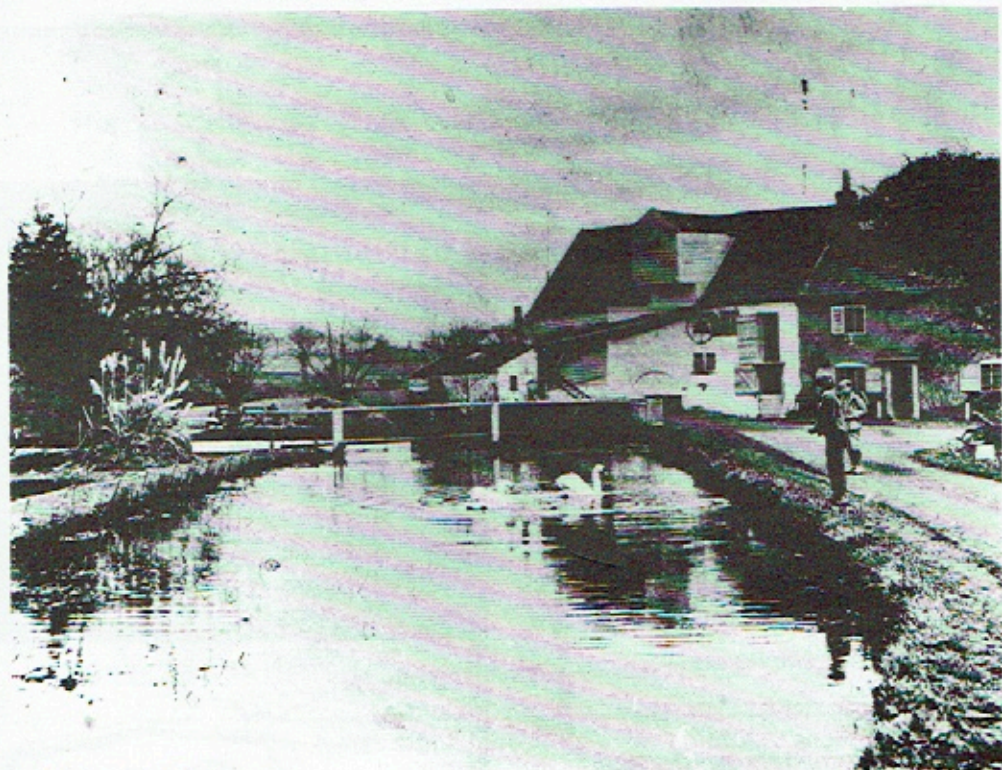


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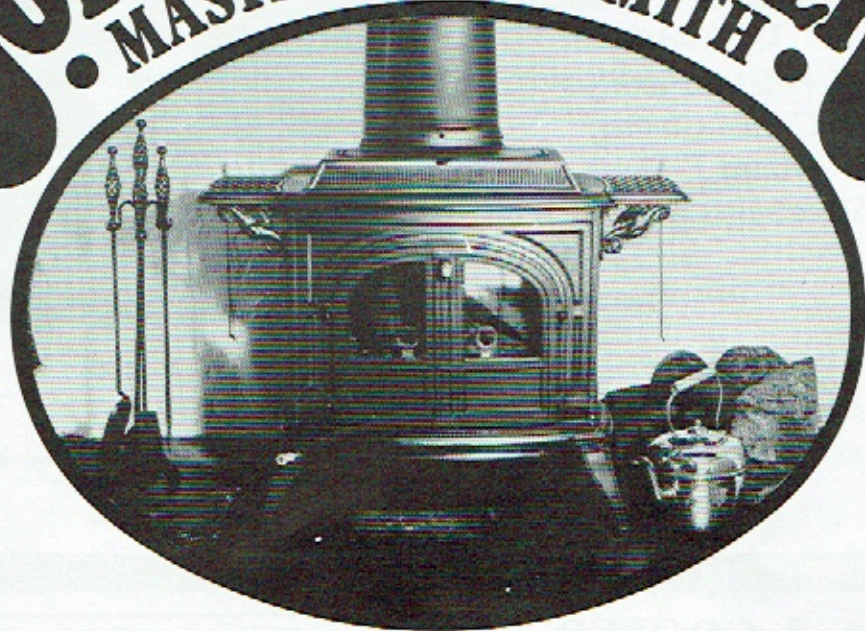
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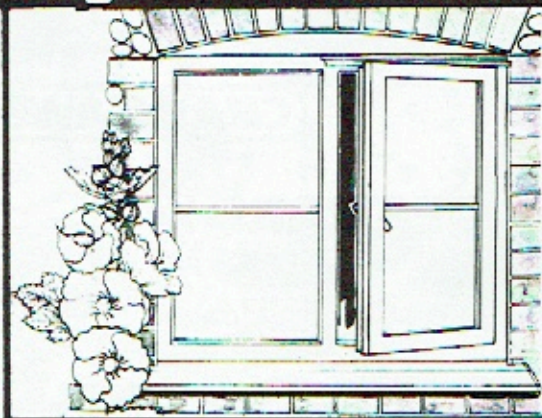
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Contributors to The History of Aldborough

Mr G. W. Hammond

R.A.F. Coltishall Commanding Officer

All other contributors and participants, particularly the residents of Aldborough

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R. Leeds

A. Palmer

C. Turner

Sept. 83



Thank you for coming

