

## CHURCH CRAWLERS 2013

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month April – September at 2.15pm.

April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sibton and Bruisyard
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ilketshall St Andrew and Barsham
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sotterley and Henstead
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Outing to Ranworth with lunch at pub near church.
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ufford and Benhall
Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Southwold and Bramfield



We completed our programme, enjoying the fabulous summer weather as we explored some unknown country lanes. We were welcomed in the churches with cool drinks or tea by some very knowledgeable people. The 15<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings in Ilketshall St Andrew were amazing and we learnt about the medieval meaning of The Wheel of Fortune. What goes up must come down and vice versa.

Henstead, a tucked away church (the rest of the village had been burnt down in the 16<sup>th</sup> century) had some interesting Saxon brickwork and an amazing Norman doorway.

An innovation to our programme was an enjoyable day up in Norfolk at Ranworth with its fabulous 15<sup>th</sup> century screen, the cantors desk, the pre Reformation illuminated Antiphoner and the singing rector.

An interesting outing was the comparison between Ufford and Benhall, the first illustrating 19<sup>th</sup> century high church decoration and the latter a very simple, small church complete with its gallery, more reminiscent of a chapel. A good example of two communities following distinctly different forms of the Church of England religion. One always hears tales of the depredations of William Dowsing in the 1640s but at Ufford the churchwardens had the courage to keep him waiting outside the church for two hours!

Not only do we go to some unusual places, but sometimes a flavour of the life and times of our ancestors is there for us to experience.

A plan for 2014 includes a visit to the renowned Old Vicarage garden at East Runton.