

Reports of Glensford Meetings - October 2017

William Pretty and Sons

A talk by Roger Kennell

Glensford Local History society has had an excellent start to the new season. Following on from Roy Tricker's talk about the formation of the Diocese of Suffolk, with all the wrangles and deals that that involved, we were pleased to welcome Roger Kennell to our October meeting. He gave a well- researched and interesting talk on the development of William Pretty and Sons, the story of a family business that became a global company.

We learnt about the development of the factories, the enormous one in Ipswich, built in Suffolk white brick and the many smaller outpost factories such as those in Sudbury and Bures. The name of William Pretty had such a good reputation that the name was kept, even after being taken over by Symingtons, Debenhams and Courtaulds. We were treated to family photographs, advertisements of the period and even some examples of corsets. Many of us came away grateful, that we live in an age, when we are not expected to squeeze ourselves into such garments.

An interesting footnote to the talk was the fact that Mrs Edith Pretty, the widow of one of the grandsons of William Pretty was the lady who owned Tranmer House and was responsible for the uncovering of the Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo.