

The Hollond family of Great Ashfield House

October's Family History Talk at the Fromus Centre in Saxmundham was the story of Suffolk's lost palace, Great Ashfield House and the eccentric Hollond Family.

Guest speaker Dave Steward provided a packed room on 20th October with an informative history of both house and its inhabitants, due to his exclusive access to photographs, scrapbooks, letters and household items which had been left behind by the family.

The Hollond family are well-known in the Saxmundham area, they owned Benhall Lodge Estate from 1810 and it is still owned by Hollond descendants today.



The Rev. Edmund Hollond's third son Arthur Edward Hollond (1857-1928) married Beatrice Mary Hoare (1866-1959), a minor, in London in December 1883. She was the daughter of Henry Hoare, the Hoare family being owners of the UK's oldest private-owned bank.



Arthur Hollond bought Ashfield House, situated just a couple of miles

from Badwell Ash, in 1881 and for 108 years it belonged to the same family. Dave Steward carefully took us through the history of the house from 1755, the changes and renovations over the years. He also added a personal touch, his own family's special connection to Ashfield House, that his grandfather was head gardener and his grandmother, the cook!

Dave included a detailed background of both Arthur Hollond and his wife Beatrice before introducing us to their children, sons Henry & Victor, and five daughters Gladys, Phyllis (known as Pansy), Muriel, Ivy (known as Iseult)



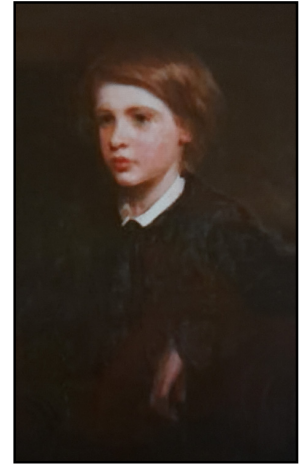
and Elspeth. In the above image they are shown in the garden with their governess.

He mentioned that animals always featured in the children's lives, in their letters and are often seen in photographs with cats, chickens, pigs, goats and a donkey called Opal. Pansy also had a buzzard called Willie. The girls could speak many languages and they were gifted artists, they were 'The Cubs', they called their father 'The Big Brown Bear'. He was often the study for their art.

The girls never married and as each of them passed away only Iseult remained at the house, confining herself to the kitchen with her 25 cats! She moved to Ivy Cottage when she became infirm and died in 1999 at age 101 years.

A very interesting talk, well-illustrated with Hollond family images & their paintings which ended with Dave's ancestral ties to the family.

AVSFHG's Membership Secretary Pat Carter mentioned at the Talk that there were references to a Francis Egbert Hollond in Leiston church, any relation? Subsequent research has found that Francis Egbert Hollond (1860-1953) was the younger brother of Arthur Edward Hollond of Ashfield House. The brothers were the youngest sons of the Rev. Edmund Hollond (1801-1884) of Benhall. Francis lived at Satis House, Yoxford, then Leiston Old Abbey. He left over £80K when he died. Both Arthur and Francis' children died without any surviving issue.

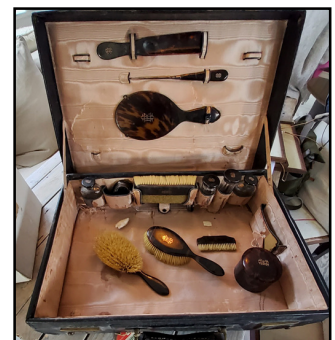


Francis Egbert Hollond

If anyone has any information, images etc about Francis Egbert Hollond who bought Leiston Old Abbey in 1909, or the Hollond family, then please could they get in touch with Jane Evans:

benhallsternfieldhistory@gmail.com

Jane Evans



Benhall Hollond family gents grooming case