

Their work experience was interrupted by poor weather and they did some sightseeing instead.

Framlingham Castle was a little disappointing. After leaving the castle we went to Ipswich - had a capital dinner at the White Horse and saw an excellent and thrilling film called "The Lady Vanishes".

August 6. Sunday. A friend, Stuart Paul, farmed at Kirton Lodge and Stephen and Peter spent the day there. This was very instructive. Before lunch we saw the sheep and the horses. We saw a 60 guinea Suffolk ram bought for breeding and the ram lambs that were going to be sold: we were shown some of the points of the Suffolk sheep. After lunch saw the Red Polls and walked round by the marsh... I found it very interesting to see such a collection of pedigree Suffolk Sheep, Suffolk Horses and Suffolk Red Polls. The Suffolk Sheep were perhaps most impressive: but the horses were Suffolk punches at their very best. Red Polls are not to me perhaps an ideal commercial breed in these days but they are indigenous to the locality.'



Fig. 5. Sheep are making a comeback in the Sandlings.
A few of her pure bred Suffolk lambs
(photo: Maria Brenchley in 2015)



Fig. 6. Butley Abbey barn. The medieval building
from which rations were dispensed has
recently been restored

*On August 7 farm work resumed. The usual tour before breakfast with King. After breakfast I took Peter into Woodbridge to see Dr Birks about some very bad bites with which he is afflicted. Then on to Dale Farm to see the thrashing machine thrashing oats and a baler baling the straw (Fig. 4). Also saw Tony Sladen and the pigs and a toppler cutting some peas. This is an oldish implement used as a kind of rake and very effective in raking out peas. The Lanz baler is a very useful implement. After lunch went down to Butley Abbey to see the rations mixed... **After tea visited Dr Rendall* at the Priory.** He lives alone in this curious looking house with a front full of coats of arms. He explained these to me. They tell of the situation of the Priory and are almost unique. Date about 1320. He also showed us over the house which contains medieval gothic pieces in the windows - and also two very fine medieval brick ceilings, almond shaped. The garden is very pretty - and an inscription over the gateway leading to it "Sleepless lions guard the [gates?] of Paradise". After this entertaining visit we returned and washed the car. Peter was worse in the evening and retired to bed after supper.'*

August 8. 'The night passed off better than I had at one time anticipated. Peter was much better in the morning... He has been bitten very badly by fleas and was also stung by a bee... I went round before breakfast with King alone... Helped put a presser on to an estate lorry. A presser is a kind of heavy ring roll used for levelling out the tops of the furrow slice and so preventing the grass or weeds underneath from growing. After breakfast Peter and I stayed in the ration sheds, mixing and grinding rations for cattle. Went to Sudbourne after lunch and to Gedgrave Farm with Taylor. Saw some wheat badly lodged in the marshes and another very good crop of Yeoman also on the marshes. Also barley. This year round here Oats are not good, Wheat is not as good as last year and Barley is variable, some good some poor. Read after tea - and had a bath. The weather cleared up and it was quite warm in the afternoon. We need some fine sunny weather!'

August 9. Usual lookaround before breakfast. Rationing after breakfast at Butley. Hammer mill and oat crusher working there: mixed and bagged food for sheep and lambs. After lunch went round with Taylor. Saw Southdown lambs on seeds. Some badly affected with sheep maggot fly and the shepherd was