

# JOSSELIN JOURNAL

ISSUE NO: 10 AUTUMN 1996

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOSSELIN SOCIETY



## Bury St Edmunds Sunday 19th May 1996

SCELYNE JOSLIN  
OUR 5TH OFFICIAL VISIT AS A SOCIETY

SCELIN JOSSELIN  
SCELYNE  
SCELIN

FULL REPORT  
INSIDE BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS BY  
CHAIRMAN BILL







# THE SOCIETY'S VISIT TO BURY ST EDMUNDS

Report by Bill Joscelyne, Chairman

**S**unday 19th May was a chilly and overcast morning for our Josselin Society visit to Bury St. Edmunds at 11.15 am, organised for us by Ben Joscelyne and his wife Mary with the help of Derek and Diane Kirby.

My wife Peggy and I consulted the map and I had persuaded her that it would take us two hours to travel from South Ockendon to Bury St. Edmunds. This we achieved with time to spare, but by the time we had circled the town a couple of times and found a place to park on a large car park in front of a hotel opposite the entrance to the abbey, we only just arrived in time. Ben had supplied us with maps including a layout of the town, but I got a little exasperated trying to drive, look at the map and road signs at the same time and without my reading glasses, it was more by luck (and directions from locals) that we made it.

I was not sure where we were to meet the rest of our group, but when we got out of the car we were greeted by our secretary Ann's husband Dave

on the far side of the road, waving his arms. I had seen him but not recognised him to start with, which accounted for his mumbled comments, which I will not repeat!

We were soon joined by the rest of our group which now numbered 26, a very good turnout considering we are only a small society. We were very pleased to assemble in the Information Centre where it was warm and we were introduced

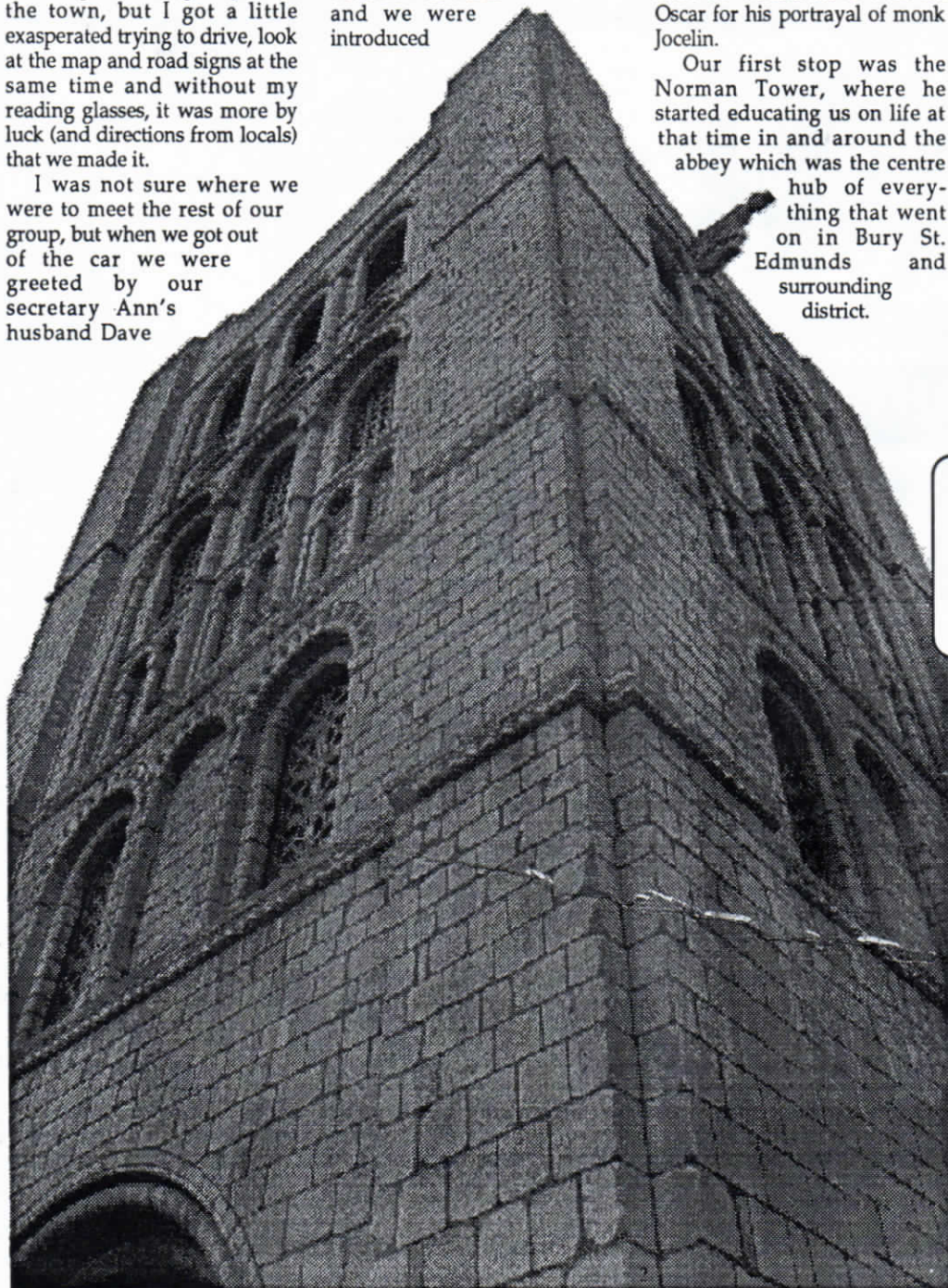
to our guide, Brother Jocelin of Brakelond, who was a monk of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey between 1173 and 1202. This fellow was dressed in black sackcloth habit, open sandals (bare legs) and an imitation hairpiece complete with bald centre. I think we were all rather amused to start with by his appearance and the way he spoke 'welcome my brothers and sisters, welcome' but I am sure he would have won an Oscar for his portrayal of monk Jocelin.

Our first stop was the Norman Tower, where he started educating us on life at that time in and around the abbey which was the centre hub of everything that went on in Bury St. Edmunds and surrounding district.

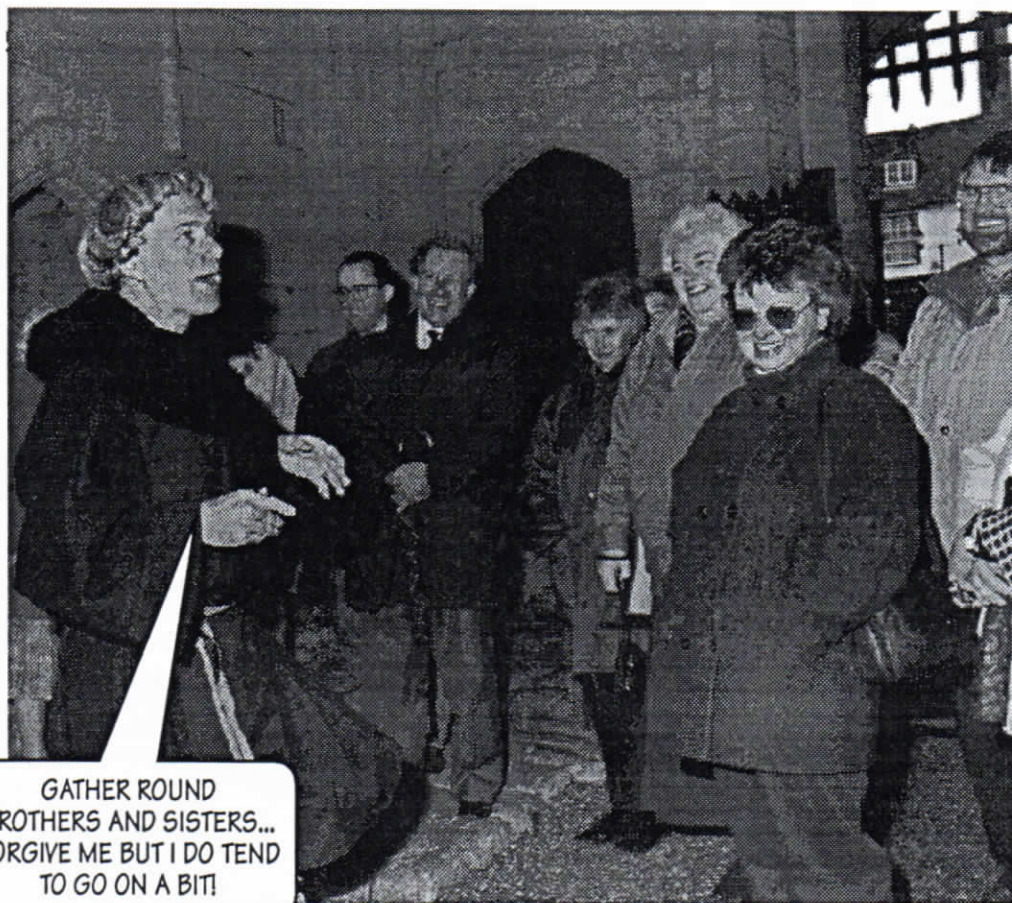
The abbey was one of the most wealthy landowners in Suffolk and Abbot Samson 'what a wonderful and great man he is' (exclaimed Brother Jocelin) acted as Kings Vicegerent, and entertained kings, judges, earls and other high ranking personage from home and abroad.

Jocelin was born mid 12th century in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, in the quarter called 'Brakelond'. He became a monk there in 1173 and was chaplain and close companion of the Abbot 'what a wonderful and great etc; etc' and promoted to guest master, a position he was not happy to perform as it required him to request guests to leave the bed linen when they departed, (such an embarrassment for one of his sensitivity). By 1180 he was made chaplain to the Prior, and appointed chaplain to Samson when he was elected Abbot in 1182, remaining with him 'day and night' for six years. They traveled all over the country on

ISN'T THIS A WONDERFULL  
EXAMPLE OF NORMAN  
ARCHITECTURE? FAR  
SUPERIOR TO THAT  
MODERN 16TH CENTURY  
RUBBISH OVER THERE!







GATHER ROUND  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS...  
FORGIVE ME BUT I DO TEND  
TO GO ON A BIT!

foot and on horseback attending meetings. The monastery was the centre of political power and influence for 500 years.

The monks lived under a vow of silence in unheated buildings only being allowed to converse for a short period each day in a room warmed by the kitchens below, they never ate four footed animals, consuming only 'fish, fowl and birds of the air'.

After about 15 minutes in the company of our guide, I think many of our group began to believe that he really was the monk Jocelin in a strange sort of way, with his wringing of hands and his humble and pious attitude, not to mention his scathing criticism of 'the vulgar modern 16th and 17th century architecture springing up everywhere' completely at odds with the solid superior lines of the Norman structures of his day! He must have devoted a great deal of time studying Jocelin's Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds, (translated by Diana Greenway & Jane Sayers) and other works of that period to be able to answer our questions so easily.

Our tour lasted approximately one hour and at the end Ben thanked him for his excellent performance and advised us we were running a

little late for our next venue, 'The Crown' an olde-world timbered public house where we had booked lunch in Hartest.

We all returned to our cars, and although we were not together we had the map and full instructions supplied by Ben, so what could go wrong? Well first I missed a turning which resulted in getting involved in Bury St. Edmunds complicated one way system, and by the time we reached the outskirts of the town on our own having survived many encounters with Captain Hornblower frantically making semaphore signals, I mistook the A134 going to Sudbury for the A143 which would have put us on the right road, B1066 for Hartest. (How on earth has this fellow remained chairman I can hear you asking?) Anyway I cut across through country lanes, almost colliding with another idiot who was trying to drive like a rally driver and arrived at The Crown half way through the group's meal in a room reserved for us. After a touch of the 'Amber Nectar' supplied by Dave, we enjoyed a lovely meal of roast beef and veg; followed by a sweet.

After the meal we had a short committee meeting and ended our organised day at 3.30 pm. Ben and Co; had

recommended a tour for those who were interested and were not committed to a long journey home which included a visit to Long Melford and church where there is a stained

glass window memorial to Sir Ralph Jocelin, who was Lord Mayor of London in the 15th century and also Lavenham, which is a village of nearly all old and interesting houses and tea shops and a very fine church. Peg and I have visited these villages more than once during research into my own ancestors so we therefore made our way home from Hartest, (without getting lost!)

It was a great day out, enjoyed by everyone I think and my thanks go to the organisers Ben, Mary, Derek and Diane, (it wasn't their fault that the old fool got lost), and thanks to all those who attended.

Maybe there is a sequel which can be supplied by those who remained for the rest of the day's activities, if so, then send it to me for publication in the next newsletter.

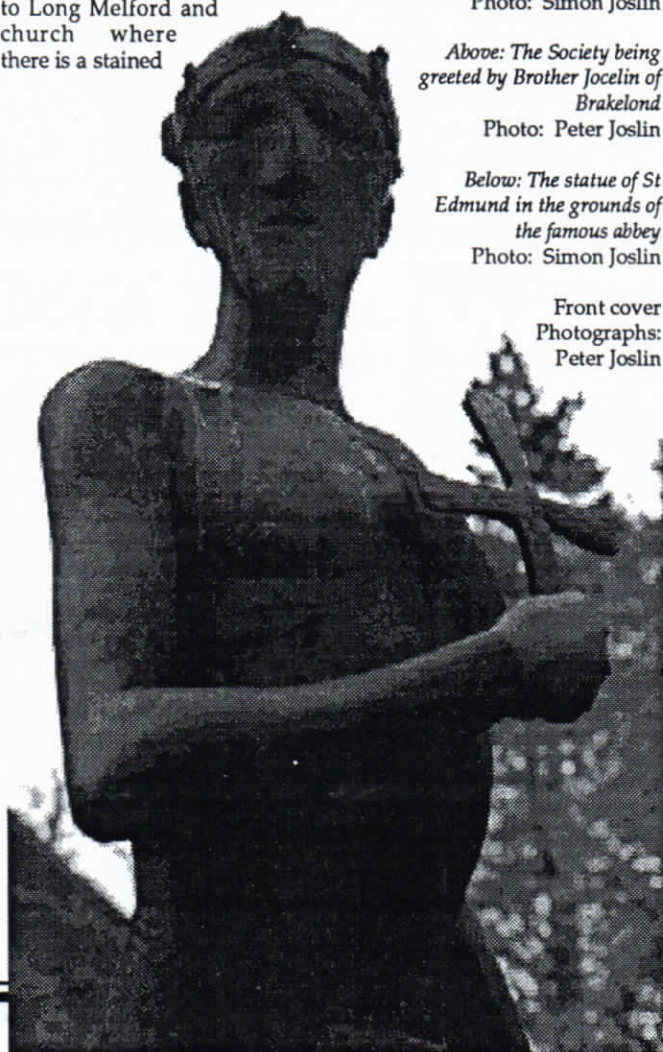
Chairman Bill

Opposite: the Norman tower  
Photo: Simon Joslin

Above: The Society being  
greeted by Brother Jocelin of  
Brakelond  
Photo: Peter Joslin

Below: The statue of St  
Edmund in the grounds of  
the famous abbey  
Photo: Simon Joslin

Front cover  
Photographs:  
Peter Joslin







## CID MAN WON THE 'BOBBIES' VC

**I**nch by inch a young detective climbed a fire escape as burning fragments fell around him scorching his clothes. He was defying one of the biggest fires in London to rescue a trapped woman. the year was 1910.

And later at St James Palace King George V heard how burly six footer Det-Sgt Joseph Joslin defied death twice to bring the seriously burned woman to safety.

The fire was at Arding and Hobbs, Clapham. The woman died from her burns later. For his bravery, Det-Sgt Joslin received the Albert medal from King George, the policeman's equivalent to the VC.

He played his part in the dramatic Sydney street siege and was well known in the police courts for his regular tally of some of London's toughest crooks.

Whenever a child was lost or the ordinary folk of New Cross or Dulwich were in trouble, Det-Sgt Joslin was first on the scene.

On Wednesday the grand-old man of the South London Beat was buried at Dagenham after 42 years retirement at Wingletye-Lane, Hornchurch, he was 93.

Fifteen years ago his widowed daughter Florence Tinklin came to look after him...and found he didn't need any help.

'He looked after our 200 foot garden alone,' said Mrs Tinklin. 'and he kept the house clean and tidy. I stayed just the same to lighten some of his duties!'

Up until Christmas, the tall upright figure of the old CID man was a familiar sight in the garden. 'The open air was his life,' said his daughter. 'He thrived on hard work and life out of doors.'

When retirement came in 1921, Mr Joslin took up farming in Horton. With only his son's help, he looked after 620 fruit trees, pigs, ducks and chickens, but he sold up in the 1926 slump.

'The last big job he tackled' said his daughter 'was a 40 year old plum tree, he pulled it up by himself just before Christmas and in a few weeks had chopped up the trunk for firewood'



When he died in a nursing home last week, doctors told Mrs Tinklin his heart was strong, he had no illness, nothing was wrong in fact except old age.

Romford Leader  
May 17 1963

## INFORMATION REQUIRED

We have received a request from member No. 62 Mrs Marcia B.A. Josling for information about her late husbands family tree, are there any members who may be able to help?, if so she can be contacted at the following address:

Mrs Marcia B.A. Josling, P.O. Box 166 Kumeu, West Auckland - 1250, New Zealand

## NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased  
to welcome 3  
new members

Muriel Joslin  
of Stockport

Paul Michael  
Joslin & Wife  
Kathleen  
of Pangbourne

## CAN YOU HELP?

In H.V. Morton's book entitled 'In Search of England', he records a motor car journey around England, and writes about the interesting people and places he encountered during his travels.

In his narrative he visits Kenilworth on page 270 and on page 273 meets a vicar who shows him an alabaster knight, spurred and in full mail in his church. He is told by the vicar that this memorial was to Sir Gervais Jocelyn who led a party of locals on the third Crusade. There are coats of arms on the walls, and an old helmet hanging high up on a nail.

I visited two churches in Kenilworth, the local reference library and wrote to their local historian but no one was able to help me locate Sir Gervais.

Has anyone information about this knight please?, the book was first published 2nd June 1927.

Bill Joscelyne

## NEW ADDITIONS

It is with great pleasure we can announce the births of twins: Jayne Ann and Elizabeth Ruth, on the 19th July 1995 in Northampton, to Peter and Barbara Joscelyne, Membership No 19 Also Emma Louise on the 4th January 1996 in Southampton to Andrew and Wendy Joscelyne, Membership No. 21.

Congratulations to the parents from the Josselin Society,

Editors note: This now brings the total to ten grandchildren for Chairman Bill





**T**he following three pages are reproductions of charts showing the lineage of Jocelyn, Earl of Roden and Josselyn of Horkesly Essex, sheets 2&3, together with the ancestry and first recorded Joscelyne noted as Count Joscelyne of Brabant, with links to other noble families through marriage, on sheet 1. These charts have been compiled by W.F. Joscelyne (member No. 2), with help from information supplied by our late President A.W. Joscelyne (No. 15). The charts depicted here have been reduced from originals measuring 1.180 x 0.830m down to 0.430 x 0.280m by C.W. Joslin (No. 28) and high quality reduced copies may be obtained from him at 61, Wentworth Avenue, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. N1S 1G8, or plain paper photostat copies from myself:

(W.F. Joscelyne (member No. 2)  
74 Celandine Close, South Ockendon. RM15 6JA  
for 8p per copy plus first or second class postage  
in England

---

---







Original compiled by W. J. Lane (type), South Okechobee, Kansas. A. A. W. Lane (type), Lehigh, New Jersey, May 1958.  
Revised into Cane Brown by C. W. Justice, Cambridge, Canada, August 1995.





# DID YOU KNOW WE HAD A ST. GILBERT JOCELIN?



**G**ilbert of Sempringham (Lincolnshire) 1083?- 1189, Founder of the order that bears his name, was born about 1083. His father, Jocelin, was a wealthy Norman Knight, his mother an Englishwoman of lower rank.

The family estates were in or near Lincolnshire. Of an ungainly figure, and showing no promise of military vigour, Gilbert, as he himself told his followers, was treated with contempt at home. Then he was sent to literature, at which after a time he worked vigorously and went to France. Here he ultimately became a teacher and acquired a great reputation for learning. While still a young man he returned home to England and began to instruct the boys and girls of his neighbourhood in the rudiments of learning. The churches of Sempringham and Tynnington being void, were presented to him by his father and though there was some opposition to Jocelin's right of appointment, Gilbert retained both livings.

His labours now attracted the notice of Robert Bloet, Bishop of Lincoln, in whose house he ministered as clerk. Later he lived in the court of Robert's successor, Alexander, and the economy thus effected enabled him to give his Tynnington income to the poor.

Worldly honours and riches he despised and refused the archdeaconry of Lincoln which was offered to him with considerable advantages. It was probably some time before he took deacons orders and strongly against his will that he became priest in the reign of King Henry I.

At this time Gilbert founded his order intended primarily for women and started with seven young virgins, who voluntarily left the world to shut themselves up in solitary habitation adjoining the north wall of the church of St. Andrew at Sempringham, and submitted to his government and spiritual directions. Their apartment had one door, kept locked, and their diet and relief received through a window. For the assistance of these he appointed certain lay sisters, and for the outward service of the house, certain lay brothers. These clerks were intended to take part of the care of government of his nunneries off him and were the original canons of this order. These canons were to live in separate habitation and never to have any access to that of the nuns unless for the administration of some sacrament, and only before many

witnesses but the same church to serve both. Yet they had two rules, the nuns St. Benedict and the canons St. Augustin, with some special orders.

As the news of Gilbert's piety spread, his example was followed by wealthy nobles and finally by Henry II. By the advice of William, abbot of Rievaulx, Gilbert crossed the channel to obtain the papal sanction he had drawn up to govern his followers.

The advancing years made him anxious to lay aside his responsibility, he visited France, leaving his flock under the care of his 'chief friends' the Cistercians. At the great Cistercian assembly at Cîteaux (Sept 1147-1148) he met Eugenius III, who grieved that it was now too late to make him archbishop of York. On this occasion or another Gilbert acquired the friendship of St. Bernard and St. Malachy, famous archbishop of Armagh, from each of which he received an abbot's staff.

On returning home Gilbert completed arrangements for the ordination of some of his canons and revised the rules of his order. Later he found a successor in an old pupil, Roger of Sempringham, provost of Malton Church. To Roger, Gilbert vowed obedience and received a canonical habit at his hands.

St Gilbert, although chief of this order, lived with as much hardship in fasting and watching and all other austerities as the meanest of them all. He abstained wholly from flesh, unless in sickness, and from fish also in Lent and Advent.

In the reign of King Henry II, he fell into great troubles because he sided with Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, openly sending him money during his exile in France. For this he was called before the King's curia in London. Things might have fared ill with him had not messengers arrived from the king, who was abroad with orders to reserve Gilbert for the royal judgement. Gilbert was held in such regard that when he came to court the king used to visit him, Queen Eleanor and her sons esteemed him highly and when Henry heard of his death during the war against his rebellious children he broke out 'I knew he must be dead because of the ills

that have increased upon me'.

Gilbert's later years were troubled by the evil conduct of two of his most trusted servants, Gerard and Ogger Carpenter. This Ogger with his poverty-stricken parents and three brothers, Gilbert had brought up from his boyhood. His rapacity and ingratitude brought on his patron a reprimand from Pope Alexander III and the old man had to write to Rome in his own defence. Nearly all the English bishops wrote in the same strain, as did also Henry II, who refused the bribes of Gilbert's enemies, though admitting the lax discipline into which the new order had fallen.

Gilbert grew feeble from old age but when he was over a hundred years his eyesight alone failed him, spending his days either hearing something read or in prayer or spiritual discourses.

He received extreme unction on the night of Christmas 1188 in 'Kaaddeneia' Abbey, then fearing lest his body should be detained for burial elsewhere, had himself carried by by-paths to Sempringham, 'the head of his

monasteries'. Here the rulers of all his churches came to receive his last blessing. Then with only his successor by his couch, he remained in a kind of stupor from which he woke repeating the words 'He has dispersed, he has given to the poor,' Psalm 112, v 9. 'This is your duty for the future,' he added to the watcher at his side. The next morning he died about matins, Saturday 4 February 1189. He was buried four days after wrapped in his priest's robes between the great altars of St. Mary and St. Andrew at Sempringham. King John and many other nobles and people of all qualities numbering over 2,000 visited his tomb (9 January 1202, and after due enquiries he was canonised by Pope Innocent III (11 January 1202), largely owing to the efforts of Archbishop Hubert and many other prelates and nobles.

During his lifetime Gilbert had founded thirteen 'conventual churches' and at his death his order numbered 700 men and 1500 'sisters'. Gilbertine houses are listed below.

**Gilbert Josceline** (different spelling in another record) of Sempringham was rector at Torrington (Tynnington)

**Hacconby** - Local church has modern glass portraying St. Gilbert of Sempringham.

**Cadney** - One mile away stands Newstead Priory Farm, a small Gilbertine house by Henry II.

**Ewerby** - Near by is the site of Haveholme Priory, a Gilbertine house founded in 1139.

**Horbling** - Church built by monks of Sempringham.

**Lincoln** - Just outside the city, a Gilbertine Priory of St. Catherine's where the body of Queen Eleanor was embalmed by the nuns.

**North Ormsby** - Site of Gilbertine Priory founded mid 12th Century.

**Norton Disney** - Church belonged to Sempringham Priory.

**The writings of monk Robert Manning** - started at Sempringham Priory in 1288 (started writing 1303) 35 years later he was canon of Sixhills, Gilbertine Priory near Market Rasen. His book 'Story of England' written in rhyme.

**Alvingham** - Gilbertine Priory.

**Gilbert of Sempringham** - in glass at Billingsborough in east window of south aisle.

**West of Billingham** - Half a mile along road to Digby is site of Catley Priory, third in importance of the Gilbertine houses. Green mould in a field is all that is left.

**Bullington** - Gilbertine Priory founded in the reign of Stephen by Simon de Kyme. A mile from the village is a pillar of stones eight feet high in a wood which marks the place.

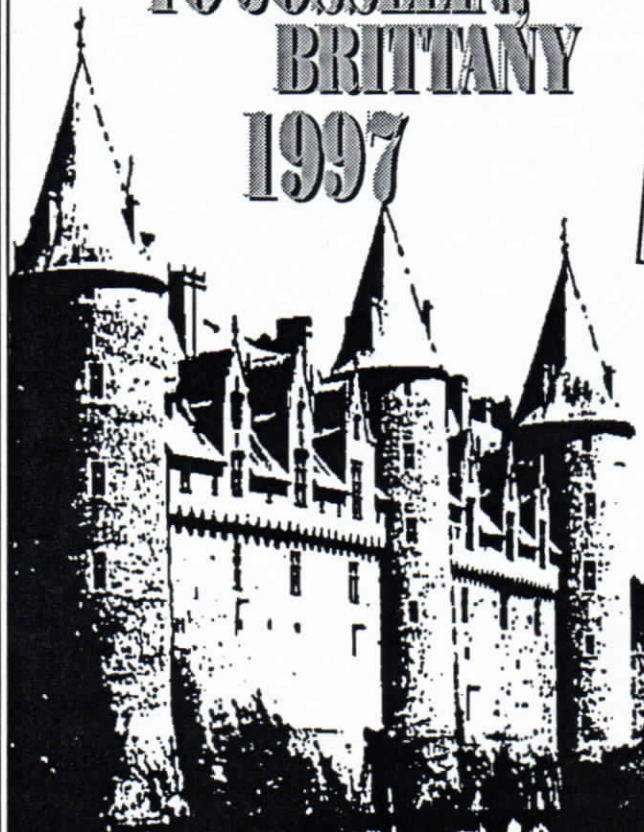
**Redbourne** - Small Gilbertine house called Tunstall Priory, founded 12th Century.

**WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW?**  
If any of our Josceline Society members can visit these sites and take photographs or visit local reference libraries to obtain information, I would be grateful if they would inform me of their results.  
Bill Josceline (Editor)





## PROPOSED VISIT TO JOSSELIN, BRITTANY 1997



We plan to stage another visit to this picturesque little town that bears the family name, the first visit to Josselin in 1994 was a resounding success and was enjoyed by all who attended, when the arrangements are finalised we will make an announcement concerning dates etc, in the meantime anyone who is interested should notify by post our secretary Ann Thompson  
2 Baron Street, Fenton,  
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 3PH

## Oi Josso!

An unusual surname such as ours is an ideal target for those who have the habit of applying nicknames, Jos and Josso being the most obvious. There must be members who were victims of this treatment during their school days and early working life, we thought it would be interesting to hear of any stories of members nicknames and how they got them. For instance, a few years ago there was a motor technician who wrote regular columns in motor magazines under the name Joss Joselyn. I was given his address as C.J. Joselyn, Tanglewood, Hurstleigh Close, Redhill, Surrey, but my letter to him in 1991 was returned as not known. Does anyone know of him? please send any anecdotes relating to this topic to our editor Bill Joscelyne, 74 Celandine Close, South Ockendon, Essex RM15 6JA



## OUR THANKS

Many thanks to those members who helped out with articles and pictures in this our tenth issue, in particular Peter Joslin of Heysham who's excellent photography of the society's visit to Bury St Edmunds will certainly bring back a few memories to those who were present.

It is this kind of contribution that is vital to the Josselin Journal, it is you, the readers who make the magazine possible, without your stories, articles there would be nothing to publish so please send in anything you can that may be of interest, if you have any pictures to accompany your articles don't hesitate to submit them we promise to look after them.

Goodbye for now

Any articles, pictures etc for publication in the Josselin Journal should be sent to the Editor: Bill Joscelyne,  
74 Celandine Close, South Ockendon. RM15 6JA

The views expressed in the articles published in this newsletter are those of the individuals concerned and in no way reflect those of the editorial policy of the Josselin Society in general