



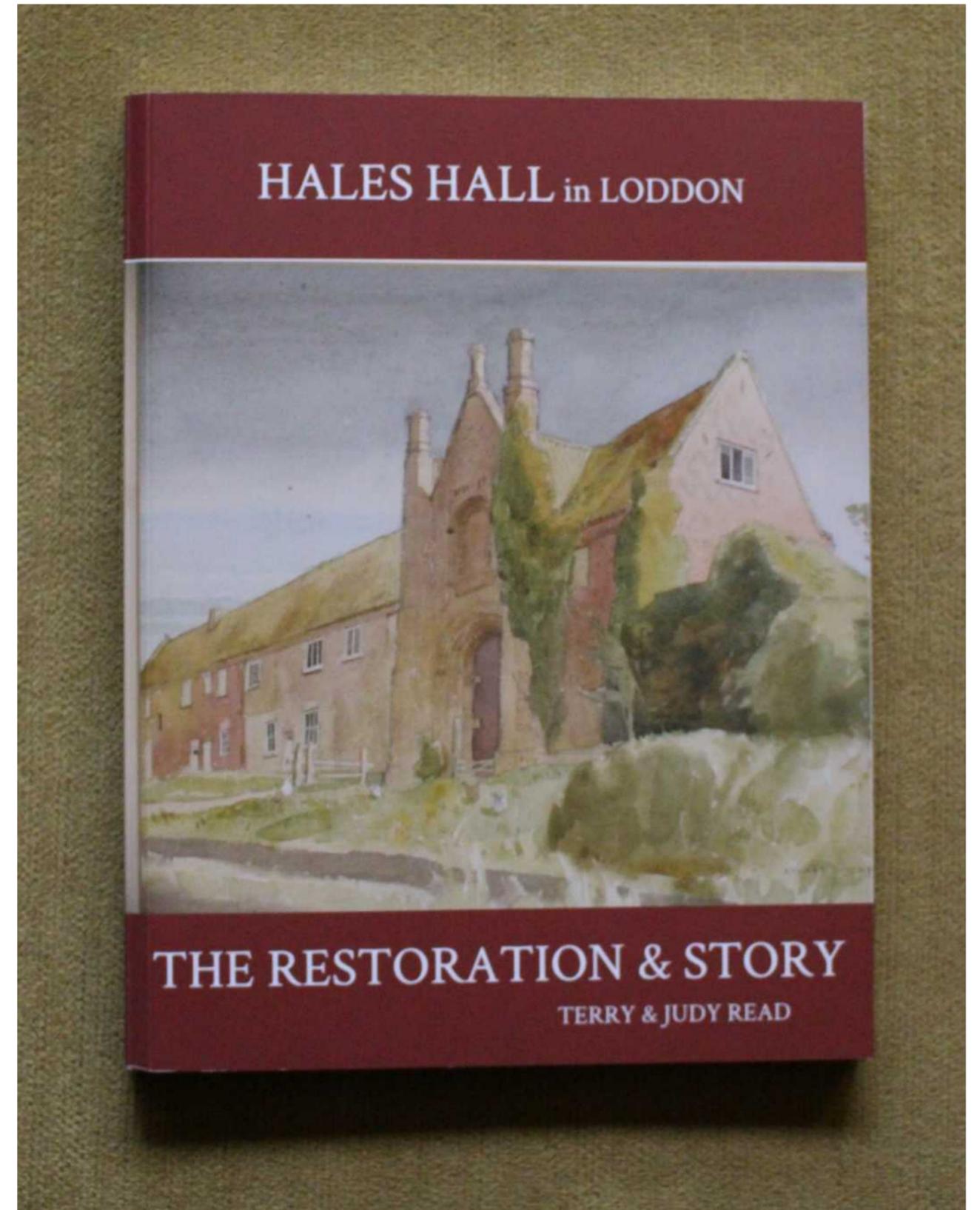
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“HALES HALL IN LODDON”

**IS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON
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HALES HALL..... A picture seen in an art gallery in 1967 of a crumbling group of historic buildings, provided the inspiration for Terry and Judy Read to take on this rather large piece of Norfolk's heritage and bring it back to life.

‘HALES HALL In LODDON’.

The book they have written describing the forty years of care, dedicated to the unique Grade 1 remains of a once great Norfolk House, that this remarkable couple – a horticulturist and his wife, a former fashion model – decided should be rescued from dereliction, and made into a home for their young family and Nursery business.



Foreword by Professor Martin Biddle CBE. FSA.

THE STORY of how this was achieved with the help of a small team of dedicated craftsmen, is inspiring, – although the authors took this enormous project as quite normal! They believed this was just a larger edition of the cottage they had previously restored! They planned meticulously, had generous support, and a grant for structural work, from the Historic Buildings Council, now Historic England, which made the project feasible.



HALES HALL has a distinguished history. Being the home in the 13th.century of Alice de Hales, whose father Sir Roger was the Coroner for Norfolk. Thomas de Brotherton, Edward 2nd.s half- brother, fell in love and married her (with-out Royal permission!), and after his death she became Duchess of Suffolk. The enigmatic lawyer James Hobart arrived in 1478, and was Henry 7th's.Attorney-General for twenty one years. How-ever by the late fifteen hundreds, this powerful Catholic family fell out of favour. Fines as recusants, together with family squabbles, led to their eventual downfall, and their great house was demolished. The stables were converted to a farmhouse, but the barn continued to hold the estate's harvest until 1970

BECAUSE of the large scale, the Read's were able to make both house and barn available to charities for fund raising activities, one of which involved a visit from HRH Prince Charles, who flew in. They eventually converted and thatched the Great Barn- with the help of their 2 sons- into a popular wedding venue, with bookings for up to 3 years!



THEY were encouraged to turn their mass of records and photographs into a book by an old friend, Ian Dunn FSA, who has also edited and contributed to it. This is a book written from heartfelt experience, and brings to life the mediaeval bricks and mortar that they rescued from dereliction in the nick of time.

