THORPE HAMLET HISTORY GROUP

Article 21 : WHEN I WAS ON 'FLOG IT'
By Robin Bowling

I arrived at the Cathedral at about 8.30am and was ninth in the queue. The queue continued to get longer and loner and at 9.00am we were ushered into the cathedral and into the cloisters to form another queue. The valuers walked up and down looking at the items people had brought in. As mine were tied to the barrow I had to tell them what it was I had brought as unpacking them in the queue would have been difficult. The valuers put red stickers on the items to be valued first, we were then led into the cathedral and sat down in ordered ranks to obtain our valuations. My position in the queue had in the meantime slipped from ninth to thirty-seventh, but it was soon my turn.



Robin's ship's log

After having the marine pictures valued I decided not to send them to auction, so the valuer, David Fletcher, looked at the ship's log and thought it an unusual item that would be good at the auction. I, along with all the other people who had items for auction, had to wait in a side aisle for filming to start. We were given tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake while we waited. We were called in order to valuation tables to discuss our items and their

history and provenance. I was also asked about my life as a seafarer and the fisherman's gansey that I am normally seen wearing.

When the producers were happy with the filming we were free to go and were told by the BBC staff we would be advised of the auction date by letter. Approximately a month later the auction date arrived and myself and my wife drove to Gaze's Auction Rooms in Diss. We had plenty of time to wander round and view all the lots going to auction as my lot was mid-catalogue.

We checked in with the BBC staff in a side room and I waited for my lot to be auctioned. Just before my item was auctioned I was called into the auction room with Paul Martin and David Fletcher to be filmed as the auction took place. We returned to Norwich after a very pleasant day.



Robin with Paul Martin and David Fletcher at the auction

The programme was first shown on 11th November 2015, and is repeated from time to time and then made available at BBC iPlayer for a month. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06pnh39]