

# Great Finborough Newsletter

No 140 July 1986

Editor: M.J. Baker, 7 Kersey Close, Stowmarket. ☎ 676457

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Points from the Annual Meeting

Dr. Smith and Mr. M. Lloyd were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

It was agreed in principle to enter a team to represent the village in the County Quiz 1986/87.

**Bus services:** The County Surveyor had written asking if the Council had any suggestions for additional bus services to the parish other than those already running. The Council felt that existing services were adequate in the circumstances and that no additional services could realistically be suggested. It was considered that most residents had direct access to a private motor vehicle and that those without this facility appeared to cope with the problem of transport.

Construction of the internal access steps into the Lower Room together with a metal handrail and wooden panels, and fitting of the fire door between the kitchen and the Lower Room at the Pettward Hall had cost £453.79 including VAT. This sum was paid from the amount set aside for Hall improvements.

The next Council meeting will be held on Friday, 25th July.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### A Visit to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village

On June 6th we went to West Stow. We went by coach and on the coach Mr. Twitchett asked us to look out for churches, horses and houses older than the one we live in. It took a long time to get there, so when we did get there we were glad to get out of the coach. To get to the Anglo-Saxon village we had to walk down a path with trees on each side. When we got to the village there was a man to show us around. His name was Mr. Baxter. He was very interested in his job.

The houses were made of oak trees. The people who made up the houses again even used an axe because they thought that the original builders would have used one. At one time some people decided to live in one of the houses to see if that was the sort of thing the Anglo-Saxons would use, but about 2 o'clock in the morning the house was set alight, but it was not too bad.

They are building a house which is going to have furniture and other things in. Anglo-Saxons were farmers. All they had for weapons were spears and if you were rich you had a sword. When you died, if you were a lady you had all your beads and brooches buried, but if you were a man you were buried with a spear. If you were rich, and had a sword you were buried with the sword.

Jessica Steel, aged 9 years.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

Friday morning at playtime we got our coats and bags and got on the coach to go to West Stow. When we were going along we were looking for houses older than our own and horses and churches. I found 137 houses and Tamara found eight churches. When we got to West Stow we met a man called Mr. Baxter.

We went to see the houses that anglo-saxons used to live in long ago; the roofs were thatched, most of them were made with reeds; the sides were made with oak. The dark wood was the oldest because it had dried out. The first house we went in did not have walls except the back and front, the rest was thatched. It was the first one that was built. There was a beam in it. Some houses were made with large oak trees, some with small and some with medium. Most of them were made with medium oak trees. Oak is the strongest kind of wood.

The next one we went in was a proper house. It had one door in it. Some of the houses had seats. The second one the people who owned West Stow slept in. It had a hearth in it. One night at two o'clock they woke up and the house was on fire; it was because the hearth had a crack in it, so when they got a crack in it now they fill it in. The third house we went in had a bench and a table in it. The fourth house we went in had two doors and seats in it.

Mr. Baxter passed round a sword, a shield and a spear. The shield was heavy. The sword was only a toy one. We heard some anglo-saxon music because the fourth was really a hall. The archaeologists found two clues: they found a pit and two holes where posts had been.

When we came out we saw some lambs. Then we saw a house that was being made. On the way home we looked out for tractors, schools and lorries that can be taken apart. When we got back it was ten past two. Mrs. Seamon came with us.

Melanie Howe, aged 9 years.

It was Friday morning and I was very excited. I was going to West Stow to look at an anglo-saxon village. It was very good. When we got to school we had to do ten minutes SMP before we went. When ten minutes had passed we had to get our coats and lunch and then go to the toilet, then we walked to the coach. I was a partner to Rebecca. When we were in the coach we counted horses, old houses and churches. When we got to West Stow Mr. Alan Baxter showed us around.

There were lots of anglo-saxon houses which were all made differently. The people who had once lived there were all farmers. They did not fight, so only one man was rich enough to have a sword over his grave; most had a spear. All the ladies had brooches and necklaces, bracelets and lots of other things. It was about two thousand years ago when people stopped living there. They lived just like we do except that their houses were different, but they had furniture like us. They were very clever. It was an archaeologist who found it all out; the first clue they found was a deep pit, the second clue was postholes.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

A whole family lived together in a group of houses: there would usually be an aunt, uncle, dad, mum, children, grandma, grandad and cousins all together. They had a house for grandma and grandad, another for aunt and uncle, then two or three or maybe more houses for every single child, then mum and dad would live in another house. The children would share a group of houses together, but one year there would be less, so every year there were a few more gone because they were all dying as there were diseases going around. They had a language of their own, which would be very hard to learn. Their swords would take us two hands and all our strength to lift up and their shields were heavy too, but not as heavy as a real sword and the spear is quite light.

Afterwards we had lunch and went back to the coach. On the way back we counted big lorries, tractors and schools. When we got back we sun-bathed outside, then we went inside and Mr. Twitchett asked us about the village. Then we got our coats and went home. Later, when I went to piano lesson, I told my teacher where I had been and she said she takes her dog there a lot.

Alexandra Ravenscroft, aged 8 years.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Those of you who were unable to come to our June meeting really missed a treat when we welcomed Mrs. S. Bond from Buxhall with a cookery demonstration with a difference. Not the sort of dishes for the calorie conscious but the presentation of Eclairs, Profiteroles, Pavlova and Ratatouille pasties was very attractive and the smoked salmon puffs were delicious.

The July meeting will be at Judy Rolfe's Bridge Farm and please note we will start at 7pm. Please bring a garden chair in anticipation of a warm summer evening.

Mary Underwood, Press Correspondent.

## GREAT FINBOROUGH FETE

Although the meeting called to form a 1986 Fete Committee was unattended, both Mr. J. Sinclair of St. George's School and myself feel that many organisations within the village would like the opportunity to run a stall again this year. Therefore I will do my best with any help forthcoming to organise a fete broadly on the same lines as last year i.e. stalls, car boot sale, tug of war competition etc. and with the caravan rally attending from the next field.

During the next month I will be asking for help and ideas and perhaps we can again get the nucleus of a committee formed. The Fete will be held on Saturday, 23rd August at 2 pm. Do please support it.

F.W.E. Smith, R.B.L.

#### YESTERDAY'S MINUTES

This is the fifth in a series of articles reviewing the Parish Council minutes of the past. We resume at the March 1953 meeting.

The Clerk (Mr.J.Cooper) had resigned and Mr.A.E.Lane was appointed in his stead. He was instructed to obtain an estimate of the cost of repairing the Black Fen footbridge and handrails. This footbridge is on the path running between Great Finborough Parish Church and Buxhall. The eventual cost was £10-18-0d.

There had been a delay in dealing with the survey of rights of way in the parish.

The amounts collected for the King George VI Memorial Fund in the boxes left at the pub, the shop and with the Vicar amounted to £3-4-0d. A collection had also been made for the Lord Mayor of London's National Flood Relief Fund. It should be remembered that the East Coast was severely hit by floods earlier in the year.

Membership of the Parish Councils Association cost ten shillings and this was increased to £1 in the following year. The cost for 1986/87 is £41.

Civil Defence occupied the minds of government in those days: the Rural District Council sought names of suitable persons who might agree to act as local billeting officers for evacuees.

At the July 1953 meeting the Clerk reported that the Pettward Hall Management Committee proposed to charge the Council 2/6d for the Committee Room and £1 for the Main Hall on each occasion of use. This seemed to upset the Councillors as the Council responded by suggesting a joint meeting of the Council and the Committee "to discuss matters pertaining to the running of the Hall."

A letter of thanks was sent to Mr.P.Sydney as Chairman of the Coronation Committee for the successful arrangements made in connection with the celebrations on the occasion of the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

It was agreed to accept the offer of Mr.G.Francis to undertake annually the cutting of the village green and verges at the rate of three shillings (15p) per hour, this arrangement continuing for a period of five years. A protest was made to the East Suffolk County Council about the growth at the roadsides because of the absence of the village lengthsman.  
(to be continued...)

---ooOoo---

The deadline for the August edition is Wednesday 16th July 1986.