

Great Finborough Newsletter

No 172 MARCH 1989 Editor: M.J. Baker, 20 Shakespeare Rd, Stowmarket IP14 1TJ. Tel: 676457.

PETTIWARD HALL

We have a new Booking Secretary. With effect from 1st March 1989, Mrs. Linda Graves will be taking over the diary. Linda, who lives at 1 White Horse House (opposite the Hall) tel. Stow. 677803 should be contacted in future for all bookings of either the Hall or items for outside hire e.g. trestle tables or cutlery.

And now to dates

Finborough Alcoholics Recreation Team (don't even think about the mnemonic, or should it be pneumonic?) are letting off steam - well I think it's steam! - in the Hall on Saturday 18th March, when the Fat Band are coming to make the Hall rock. The live music will be supported by a disco and there will be a licensed bar (Stan from the Chestnut Horse) and a draw. Tickets at £4 each are currently on sale from Len Phoenix, the Pub, me and others, but hurry as they are going very quickly. Proceeds to Hall funds.

Finally, the Fifth Great Great Finborough 50/50 Auction will be in the Hall on Saturday 15th April at 2pm, once again under the expert hammer of Hubert Mitson. This is a chance to dig out all those unwanted goodies from cluttering up the shed, attic, garage, storehouse, cupboards, spare bedroom etc. and turn them into cash. We'll sell them for you to the highest bidder and return 50% of the proceeds to you - we keep the other 50% for Hall funds. Full details next month, but if you have something to sell and you can't store it, let me know on Stow. 676249 and we'll shift it now.

Richard Brice

PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup Easter Bazaar/Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday 11th March 2pm to 4pm in the Pettward Hall. There will be a Tombola, cakes, jumble, toys and book stalls. If anybody has any items, toys, books etc. to give, please contact Wendy Porley on Stow. 677526 or Vivian Brice on Stow. 676249 or bring it along to the Hall during a playgroup session (Weds, Thurs, Fri, a.m.).

Jane Pearson (Chairman)

PRIZE BINGO

Prize bingo sessions for 1989 are commencing on Wednesday 15th March at 7pm in the Pettward Hall. Proceeds on this occasion will be for the local Brownie Pack, so do come along and support them.

I look forward to seeing you all then.

Hilary Smith

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We had a good evening with Miss Colsell of The Museum of East Anglian Life as our Speaker. She gave us a resume of her role as Assistant Curator including tasks ranging from the day to day running of a complex attracting many thousands of visitors, to planning special events and cataloguing and selecting a wide variety of items offered to the Museum by the public. As storage is a problem, the Museum concentrates on those items either made or mainly used in East Anglia. Miss Colsell displayed a selection of small items from the Museum and a quiz, in the form of multi-choice questions, made us guess their use. Questions like "Is this small circle of iron a. a quoit, b. a hub cap or c. the remains of a leg iron?" It all proved informative and fun.

The Book Club is reading Winifred Foley's 'A Child in the Forest'. If you wish to join us, Stella Fraser can probably direct you to one of the five copies we have from the library. We meet at Trudy Gray's, The Old Police House, on Monday, 13th March at 8.15pm.

The Group Meeting at Combs Hall, 16th March at 7.30pm has Patrick- Astrologer as the Speaker, and each WI is staging ten items of craft made by the members, to provide a display for us to enjoy.

The County Annual Meeting is at Pakefield on 21st March, and the main speaker for the day is the internationally renowned artist, David Shepherd. The WI has organised coaches for members who wish to go to this event.

If all this sounds interesting and you feel you would like to join us, why not come along when we meet on Thursday, 9th March at 7.30pm in the Pettward Hall. Our speaker will be Mrs. M. Pinckard on 'Spices - their history and use'. The competition will be a 6" x 8" collage on an Indian theme.

Judy Rolfe, Press Correspondent

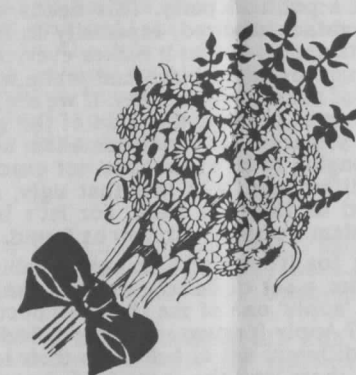
COMMUNITY ALARM SYSTEM

As part of its service to the Community, the Mid Suffolk District Council has embarked on the establishment of an alarm system which can offer security to the elderly or infirm either living alone or who may need to call for assistance. The system gives 24 hour cover, every day of the year. It operates on a British Telecom telephone line and links to the Council's central control and the signal is activated either by a push button on the phone provided or remotely from a pendant which can be worn by the user. The District Council then contacts friends, relatives, doctors or emergency after ascertaining from the user who is required. Details can be obtained from Mid Suffolk on tele.720711. (Housing Manager).

St Andrew's Church



Mothering Sunday Family Service at 11 a.m.



All ages welcome!

St Andrews Church

From the Registers

Feb 7 George Studd, aged 77 years. R.I.P.
Feb 22 Zoe Smith, aged 3 years. R.I.P.

Calendar for March

3 Women's World Day of Prayer - 2.30pm
5 **Mothering Sunday Service at 11**
19 Palm Sunday Morning Prayer at 11
24 A 1 hour Service for Good Friday at 10
25 2.30: Michael Harking & Trudie Whiting. Wedding.
26 **Easter Day Communion (ASB) at 9.45**

Generous Spirits

There was recently an anonymous gift of steel mesh grilles to fit over the stained glass windows in the church and prevent them from vandalism.

Wire grilles are very expensive, but not likely to be admired or even easily noticed; nor are they glamorous, but if one thinks of the irreparable damage that can be wrought in a few minutes on a church by a gang of hooligans, one realises how much we owe to this benefactor. In view of the size of the gift, its anonymity and its unglamorous nature, I reckon this to be one of the most christian acts of generosity any church could receive.

A day or so after this gift was announced at Communion, another anonymous donation of £100 was given to St Andrews Church. *Thank you, both, very much.*

Muslim Musings

Stories of Iranian teenagers running unarmed at Iraqi machine guns and to certain death made us wonder in a rather horrified way what this Islam could be that could inspire such fanaticism. Now that slightly appalled fascination has turned to loathing as the regime there has called loudly and emotionally for the death of a British subject on British soil.

It is yet another reminder that fundamentalism is a pernicious virus, whether it is in Islam or Christianity, or even in a political party. This needs saying, because today fundamentalism is on the whole rather admired, especially in East Anglia. It is often thought of as 'true Christianity'. Its appeal is that it makes everything so simple. Sure it does, by reducing a clearly complex world to black and white, with no shades of grey allowed, and most of us live most of the time in the grey, if we are honest. It also offers a bogus certainty, which is just not ours to have, this side of the grave; and it is indeed this desperate longing for certainty that makes fundamentalism actually a neurosis, not a virtue at all. Worst of all, the longing to be **right** does not exactly make for easy and open dialogue with those who differ, and it is just that ugly, self-righteous side of fundamentalism that has angered us this last week. For let's be clear - it is fundamentalism that is the bogey, not Islam - wherever it may be found.

Islam in fact has a lot going for it - chiefly, in my humble view, because (like Judaism) it is a way of life and not a set of beliefs, as christianity tends to be. When disaster or tragedy strikes us, we 'apply' one of the christian doctrines to the situation, like elastoplast. Spouse unfaithful? Apply forgiveness. Caught fiddling? Apply penitence. Sacked? Have faith! Some have a different set of beliefs in their lockers and some have none at all, ie are unbelievers. But there isn't the sharp (and absurd) distinction between believers and non-believers in Islam, as we have in our religion. In the same way that admiring good losers and sympathising with underdogs is part of our whole English view of life - no big deal, it's deep in our makeup, we all feel that way, more or less - just so, acceptance of Allah's providence and mercy is to a Muslim as basic as breathing. To have a religion so close that it is a way of life, rather than a clutch of beliefs to be argued about, is quite a thought for this time of Lent, when we try and practise a bit of self-examination. 'O for a closer walk with God', said the hymn writer. The christian faith *can* be a way of life. Perhaps we need the Muslims to show us how it's done.

Michael Skliros Tel: 677663/672844

ST.ANDREWS MINI-LOTTO

Prize winners are as follows:

17th Jan	(189) Mrs.M.Chaplin, Church Close	£4.50
	(086) Mrs.B.Wright, Abbey House	£3.00
24th Jan	(178) Mrs.S.Cooper, Poy Street, Rattlesden	£4.50
	(203) Mrs.D.Podmore, Middlefield Drive	£3.00
31st Jan	(128) Mrs.G.Mason, The Chestnuts	£4.50
	(116) Mrs.J.Turner, Cottesmore, Leics.	£3.00
7th Feb	(181) Mrs.B.Wyer, The Green	£4.50
	(118) Mr.A.Grimaldi, Campion Cres. Stow.	£3.00
14th Feb	(090) Mr.K.Sullivan, Ascham Road, Cambridge	£4.50
	(098) Mrs.D.Jeffrey, Oak Close	£3.00

The sum of £7.50 has been added each week to Church funds.

Hilary Smith

BUS SERVICE

As from 8th March, the weekly bus service to Bury St.Edmunds on Wednesdays is being run by Stowmarket Taxis who will be taking over from Squirrels Coaches.

SINGLE HOUSING

Jane Garnham of the Mid Suffolk Campaign for Single Housing (COSH) has written to the Parish Council asking for assistance in coordinating and collating information on all aspects of single housing in the Mid Suffolk area. It is intended to use the information to assist in initiating community action and projects concerning housing for single people. If you know of anyone in difficulties or can provide any information please contact Jane on Diss 8901089 (24 hour AnswerPhone).

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Pettward Hall on Wednesday, 22nd March 1989 at 8.30pm following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.30pm.

The Parish Meeting will contain all the usual reports from village organisations as well as comments from the County and District Councillors who have been invited to attend. Any organisation wishing to present a report may do so at the appropriate point on the night.

In addition, the Parish Meeting gives any elector the right to give their comments or views on matters affecting the parish so please do come along.

PARISH COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

Points from the recent meeting

The principal topic of discussion was the draft scheme for recreation facilities in Great Finborough drawn up by the District Council. They would consist of a car park (mainly for use by people attending the Pettiward Hall), a children's play area, a floodlit hard-surface area, a football pitch and a general open space. These would be situated on land currently owned by the District Council between Middlefield Drive and Valley Lane. Along with the draft scheme there were some vague indications of financial assistance provided the District Council could pursue its plans to extend the current size of the Middlefield Drive site. The Council decided to obtain firmer information on the matter before proceeding further consideration. It must be stressed that the Parish Council has an initial objective of providing a car park for Pettiward Hall users but would wish to ensure that land which has been designated for recreation in the Village Plan can be secured to be used for that purpose should a suitable opportunity arise.

Brian Smith has become one of the Council's representative trustees on the Great Finborough United Charity.

FROM THE FILES

Tower inscription (answer to last moth's question)

The inscription around St. Andrews Church tower is "The Apostles, The Prophets, The Martyrs, Praise the Lord" is written in stone letters below the spire.

From Newsletter No.4

Since Christmas more and more people have been attending (Youth) Club meetings on Wednesday nights. The First Great Finborough and District Global Invitational Mixed Bicycle Trial and Cyclorama took place on a rugged nin-mile course in the locality and a sum of £125 was raised for various purposes in the parish.

The Primary School raised £119 from its School Fair held on 1st March - a record at the time.

There were about a dozen people attending each Monday night the bell-ringing sessions under the watchful eye of Martin Bishop.

Deadline for April issue material - Thursday 16th March 1989

The Great Finborough Newsletter is published by Great Finborough Parish Council and delivered free of charge to all houses in the parish.