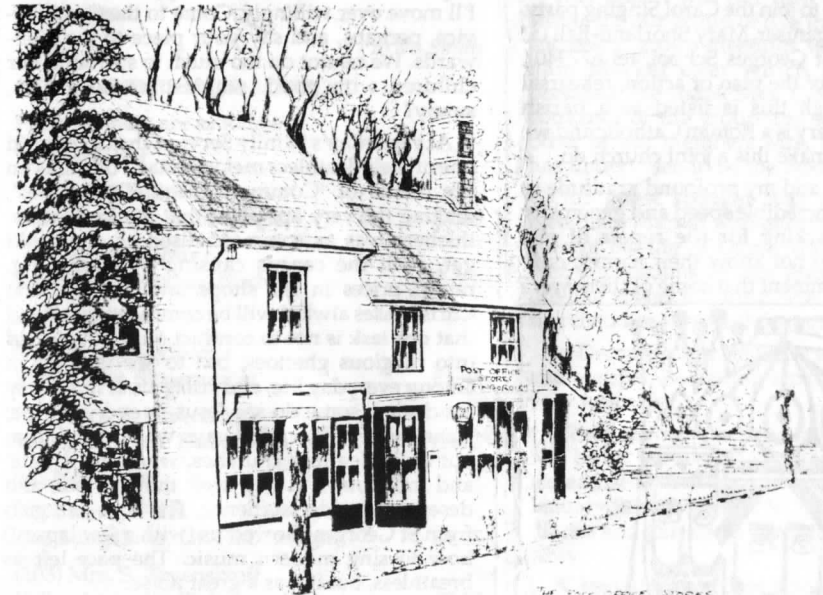


GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER

No. 193 December 1990 Editor: Serena Dolton, 6 Middlefield Drive. Tel: 675182



EDITORIAL

We are looking for a new editor for the Newsletter. We need someone who can type and has their own typewriter or wordprocessor (preferably IBM-compatible). The newsletter only takes up about half an hour a month, so if you think that you can spare the time and would like to help, please contact myself on the above telephone number or Trudy Gray on (Stow) 674819. Free instruction will be given. This is a voluntary task, but there is a possibility of other work, with remuneration, for a suitably equipped home computerist.

Articles for the January Newsletter must be in before Thursday 13th December. This early deadline is due to the Christmas holidays.

I would also like to take this opportunity of wishing everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Serena Dolton, Editor

ST. ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH

Christmas Services and Events

Sat, 1st December at 7.30pm (Pettitward Hall)
Cheese & Wine

Advent Sunday, 2nd December at 11am
Patronal Festival Eucharist
Preacher: Barbara Bilston

Monday, 10th December, starting at 6pm
Carols round the village
in aid of Romanian Children in Need

Sunday 16th December at 6pm
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Collection for Children's Hospice

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

Christmas Day Services
10am Family Service at Onehouse
10.30am Communion at Harleston

Other Services

16 Dec Morning Prayer at 11am

6 Jan Epiphany Sung Eucharist at 11am

If you would like to join the Carol Singing party, do contact the organiser, Mary Shorland-Ball (at The Lodge, by St Georges School, tel 677940), who will advise of the plan of action, rehearsal times etc. Though this is listed as a parish Church event, Mary is a Roman Catholic and we are very glad to make this a joint church do.

I would like to add my profound gratitude to those who with incredible speed and generosity provided the backing for the repair of our Church roof. I do not know their names, only Brian Smith's comment that some of them were



'quite unexpected', but perhaps our heartfelt wish is bearing fruit: that St Andrews should be the church for the whole parish and not just for the specially religious.

My deepest feelings of inadequacy (and they are many) concern the younger generation. Of the eighty children in church at the Family Service yesterday, I believe only *two* were from Great Finborough. Granted many were from St Georges, but they were pretty cheerful about it, and said they enjoyed it. The Guides come to us voluntarily from Stowmarket because they feel welcomed and also like what they find. So, what's to do? The last bishop, in his wisdom, appointed me as a part timer, to look after two other parishes as well as running my own very time-consuming and struggling business, so visiting is virtually impossible. I would like to see

a group of parents start bringing their children on the 4th Sunday and begin taking over the Family Service slot. It's fun – and purposeful – at present, but it's a dreadfully one-man show. I'll move over willingly. Come to the Carol Service, perhaps, and say your piece to me afterwards. We cannot do too much to surround our children with good, wholesome influences, surely?

At yesterday's Family Service, the Guides did one of their deathless melodramas – this time on the theme of 'Commercialised Christmases', making the very apt point that the birth at Bethlehem was as commercialised as one could get, with the census causing overcrowding, raised prices in the shops and all that, that Christmases always will be commercialised and that our task is not to contract out of the world into religious ghettos, but to see the Star in among everyday life, and *rising above it*. As they concluded: some do see Jesus in everyday life; some never will, and always want to pull him out of life (eg into churches, where he is 'safe' and 'religious'). It was well thought out, and deserved a wider audience. The boys and girls from St Georges showed us (with a few lapses!) how to sing modern music. The pace left us breathless, but it was a great noise.

Scene: Morning Assembly at the Primary School last Wednesday. The Priest-in-Charge, valiantly trying to extract a spiritual nugget or two from the Sumo wrestling contest taking place at the top of the Tory Party (which they were mostly aware of), asks: "now, boys and girls, what is *the* most important thing you look for in a leader?" (looking down hard at his feet, to avoid giving them clues by facial expressions etc). David Beattie pipes up: "clean shoes, vicar?"

Michael Skiros, Priest-in-Charge

CHURCH ROOF APPEAL

The response to my appeal letter has been very encouraging. In little over three weeks over £2,500 has been raised and the contractors have been asked to start work. The job involves complete re-roofing of the south side and porch.

We have some way to go before the bill can be paid without short term borrowing, so if anyone intended to respond and has not yet done so, the fund is still open.

I have tried to thank all donors individually, but one or two were anonymous. To them, to any

I have inadvertently omitted, indeed to everyone, a warm and heartfelt 'thank you'. Your generosity has made it possible to start work and, I hope, to finish the job before the end of the year.

Brian Smith

ST. ANDREW'S MINI-LOTTO

Prize-winners are as follows:

23rd October

(186) Mr. J. Smith
Oak Close, Gt. Finborough £4.85

(139) Mr. F. Durrant
Boundary Cottages, Buxhall £3.25

30th October

(114) Mrs. J. Vonberg
Bury Street, Stowmarket £4.85

(072) Mrs. S. Ravenscroft
Valley Lane, Gt. Finborough £3.25

6th November

(107) Mrs. J. Flack
The Bungalows, Gt. Finborough £4.85

(103) Mrs. S. Ravenscroft
Valley Lane, Gt. Finborough £3.25

13th November

(217) Mrs. I. Wright
The Chestnuts, Gt. Finborough £4.85

(182) Mrs. P. Barrell
The Bungalows, Gt. Finborough £3.25

20th November

(174) Mrs. L. Grave
White Horse Cottage, Gt. Finborough £4.85

(081) Mrs. K. Proctor
The Chestnuts, Gt. Finborough £3.25

The sum of £8.10 has been added each week to Church funds.

Hilary Smith

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our Annual Meeting in November we elected eight committee members and Mrs. Pat Smith as our President for a further year.

Mrs. Elizabeth Pyke gave a report on the year's activities which included two theatre

trips, two fund-raising tea-parties, a conducted nature walk and speakers on a wide range of subjects.

This year it was our turn to be the host Institute for our group of five Institutes. Two very successful group meetings were held in Needham Market over which Mrs. Judy Rolfe presided. We thank Mrs. Cass for her work as convenor of the group and are proud that another of our members Mrs. Mary Underwood has undertaken to be the next convenor.

Our guest speaker was Mrs. Baxter from Needham Market who enthralled us with glimpses of the life of Dame Margaret Rutherford. Her impressions of this great actress were so life-like it was uncanny. She had obviously researched her subject thoroughly.

In December our Institute will be 71 years old and we shall be having a party. Visitors will be very welcome.

Next year our meetings in the Pettiward Hall will be on the second Wednesday in the month instead of Thursdays, commencing Wednesday, January 9th at 7.30pm. So make a note in your diaries and join us on a trip to Florida by Trudy Gray.

A very Happy Christmas from Gt. Finborough W.I.

Pat Smith

PRIZE BINGO

During the past eight months £470.30 has been raised for various organisations within the village and I would like to thank everyone for their support. Hopefully, we will resume in March 1991 and I look forward to seeing friends old and new then.

A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all.

Hilary Smith

CHILDREN IN NEED

As you know it was Children in Need Day last Friday and the village did its bit in raising money for them.

Justin Loades sat in a bath of custard and raised £250, a Mystery Auction raised £130, Donations raised £150 and a Raffle raised £60.

Stan and Jean (The Chestnut Horse) would

like to thank everybody for their generosity towards a great evening, the total of which was £680.

I am sure that everybody will also thank Stan and Jean for organising these events, so that Children in Need benefitted from all our donations.

Postscript

We always need more contributions for the Newsletter, but in addition is there anyone that can do us a few line drawings to brighten up the pages?



*Merry
Christmas*