

Editor:

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THE VILLAGE HALL CLOCK by John Grimaldi

The clock, which was presented as a memorial for Mr. Hubert Quinton in May, 1979 and now belongs in the Pettward Hall, is of local origin.

An eight day English wall clock (sometimes called station or school clocks), it was made by the local firm of G. Tydeman, Stowmarket, between 1850 and 1870. It has a spring driven fusee movement; the connection between the spring barrel and the fusee is by steel line though the original line may have been of catgut. The excellent timekeeping of this type of clock is due to its escapement of steel pallets engaging in a brass escape wheel and controlled by a pendulum. When I restored the movement of this clock in 1978 there was so little wear all that was required was cleaning, polishing and the replacement of the fusee line and a suspension spring. I think this indicates the superb quality of both materials and workmanship during the latter part of the 19th century.

How the clock came to Great Finborough I do not know but it first appeared in 1920 when the Rev. Fitzpatrick had it hung in the parish church where it remained until about 1940 when the Rev. Jones, who apparently did not like the clock, had it removed to the vestry. It remained there in a state of disrepair until 1978 when it was given to me for restoration by the Rev. Wake, and then to the Pettward Hall Committee for Hubert Quinton's memorial. It is now wound each week by Dr. Smith and is once again a working part of Great Finborough.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Thursday 17th Jan Open meeting in Pettward Hall 8 pm
Wives and Friends welcome

Thursday 21st Feb Committee Meeting in Club Room

Rev. Wake, Hon. Secretary

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Council meeting will be in the Pettward Hall on Friday, 25th January commencing at 7.30 pm.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Sunday 20th Jan	8 am HC (please note time)
	11 am MP at Harleston
Sunday 27th Jan	10 am Family Service
Sunday 3rd Feb	11 am MP
Sunday 10th Feb	9 am HC
Sunday 17th Feb	11 am HC
Weds 20th Feb	7 pm Special Service (Ash Wednesday)

Christmas Report

The School Carol Service was at Buxhall this year and was recorded on tape; if anyone would like to borrow the tape please let me know. All went very well and the staff and children are to be congratulated. In Finborough, a party organised by Dr. Smith went carol-singing round the village on the 23rd and raised £20 for the Children's Society; the Church Carol Service that morning sent another £10. The Christmas Eve service was much the same as last year with 50 communicants and the Family Service on Christmas Day was well supported too. A special thank you to the ladies who decorated the church.

The New Year

From now until Easter we shall continue the present scheme of services which are well supported by a comparatively small number which hardly reflects the potential of a village of our size, a potential that shows itself at Christmas (for instance) when double our normal numbers make their communion. What keeps them away during the other months? - the form of service? - the time of services? - other attractions? - or just plain lack of committment?

There are many new forms of worship available - modern settings for hymns and psalms etc. - but we need people to make them work well - people who want to worship God regularly and enjoyably for themselves and for others, people who are not afraid to try new ways of worship, people who can lead others in singing or playing music (organ or piano).

We have been asked by the Bishop to plan ahead for 2 to 3 years; what do you want the Church in Finborough to be by the mid 1980s? An over-50s Club sufficient unto itself following the thought-forms and language of a past age and of negligible influence in the life of the village? or can you help it become a living, lively company of people of all ages, committed to Christ and his work in the community?

There will be small groups working on this during Lent, with a public meeting before Easter to provide ideas to put before the annual church meeting after Easter, Let me know your thoughts on this.

Hugh Wake, Vicar

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