



Great Finborough Newsletter

No 146 January 1987 Editor: M.J. Baker, 7 Kersey Close, Stowmarket. ☎ 676457

NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO OUR READERS

PARISH COUNCIL

The Council will be raising £2,447 in the 1987/88 financial year by way of parish rates. The parish rate will be 4.9p in the £, the same as in the current year. The amount raised will permit continued support for the improvements planned for the Pettward Hall.

It was agreed to assist in the publicity campaign organised by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils to promote more awareness by the electorate of local councils and their functions. Parish Council elections are due to be held in May 1987.

Mrs.T.Gray, of The Old Police House, is the new Local History Recorder for the parish. Trudy commences her duties on 1st January and succeeds Mrs.Brenda Grimaldi.

The accounts of the Great Finborough United Charity for the year to 30th September 1986 were received for onward transmission to the Suffolk County Council. Mr.J.Miller was re-appointed as one of the two trustees nominated by the Parish Council.

The District Council's offer to pay 100% grant for street cleaning undertaken by the Parish Council in the village street was accepted. Details have yet to be finalised but the work will involve collection of litter each week on the road and footpaths in the village centre.

An appeal is being made to the Road Safety for his assistance in overcoming the traffic problems outside the Primary School at the beginning and end of each school day. School warning lights on the Bildeston side of the school have been suggested as a means of alerting drivers (often speeding drivers) to the foot and car traffic in front of the school. Also, the number of children attending the school has been increasing and consequently there are more cars awaiting the children and this is adding to the congestion.

The local Police Inspector has commenced a policy of giving responsibility of village day-to-day policing to individual constables. In the case of Great Finborough, this is P.C.Cole who will be making regular patrols in the parish.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Pettward Hall on Friday 30th January 1987 at 7.30pm.

Clerk to the Council

POPPY APPEAL

The house-to-house collection in the Great Finborough parish raised a total of £130.56, once again a record and an increase of £15 over 1985. My sincere thanks to all the collectors and those who gave so generously.

F.W.E.Smith Hon.Organiser

ST.ANDREWS CHURCH

1986 Roundup

By the time this appears, Nina Durrant and Steven Payne should have been safely married and the candlelit Christmas worship duly offered.

The Advent Carol Service - a new venture - has taken place, though, and was very well supported, and in many other different ways it has been a most encouraging year:

Our 16 strong choir is firmly established and the village is hearing its church bells again from time to time. What is more to the point, weddings have exactly quadrupled the average for recent years and we have had several donations out of the blue totalling £1200. The Cheese and Wine raised an astonishing £400. No, this is not playing the evangelical 'numbers game'; it is simply a sign (to me) that the village is regarding St.Andrews as their church. That doesn't mean a full church every Sunday. That's not the Anglican way and I wouldn't expect it. We have our core of regulars, of course, but there is a growing number of occasionals, those who come every six weeks or so, which I believe to be one of the strengths of our Church - not a weakness as some would have it. (I suspect these people feel that to attend church more than 2 Sundays running would endanger their amateur status!).

What can they expect when they come? Anglican churches vary wildly these days - some are 'trad & dead', some are 'trad & alive', some are trendy, some youth-orientated, some higher than the Pope, some lower than a snake's belly, at some they speak in strange tongues, or seek to heal illnesses. I hope the keynote of services in your Parish Church is that the 'vibes' are right. This is not pandering to people's whims. Peter was told: "feed my sheep", not blast their unwilling ears with guitars or give them the latest Diktats from General Synod. What seems to be wanted at Finborough is (i) traditional worship (which did alright for our forefathers, and they weren't daft or wicked) and (ii) sermons from the present day which, if sin has to be mentioned, don't go on and on about it and at least reveal a working knowledge of what Freud was driving at - and Darwin and Einstein, for that matter.

There is an incredible correspondence going on in the EADT at present, which I am following with ever-sagging jaw. We have been confidently told that the world began in 4004BC (it didn't) because the Bible tells us so (it doesn't) and the Bible is without error (it isn't), so the facts of e.g. Noah's Ark are all literally accurate (they aren't) etc. etc - all this peppered with selective scriptural texts which no doubt impress those who aren't all that familiar with the whole Bible. The Bible isn't actually at stake. What is really expressed by these well-intentioned folk is a longing for SECURITY, and in christianity they think they have it, by belonging to a 'sound' group of 'saved' people who have God as their president and believe correct things out of an error-free book which dropped out of heaven (written in English of course).

(continued ...)

ST.ANDREWS CHURCH (CONTINUED)

Not to put too fine a point on it, Christ reserved his whitest heat for those who imagined themselves pretty nearly home and dry with God, and in our times, Freud, for all his errors - which were many - has shown us that expressing certainties left right and centre is not the admirable virtue it was once thought, but a neurosis. At the Parish Church, we are hopeful travellers, not arriviers - seeking to be faithful to scripture but also alive in this grey world as is, complete with AIDS, divorce, booze and bouncing cheques, and somehow keep the whole creaking show on the road. There is no certainty this side of the grave. Of that I'm quite certain.

Calendar for January

Sunday 4th	Sung Eucharist at 11am with choir
Sunday 18th	Morning Prayer at 11am with choir
Sunday 25th	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at 9.45 - Preacher: Peter Neale

Christingle services are increasingly popular. Apart from the visual attraction of giving the children oranges and candles, there is the reminder of the work being done for children in need, which is no sentimental matter, as Esther Rantzen's telephone Helpline is reminding us. The collection is for the C of E Children's Society, and we are lucky to have Peter Neale from the Society to give us the talk.

Michael Skliros

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School Playing Field

For some time the school has been very concerned about the misuse of the school playing field.

We are aware that many of the people bordering our field have had to put up with a great deal of nuisance and abuse from those who are no respecters of other people or their property. Amongst the nuisances that we have had reported to us have been motor-bikes and horses ridden across the field, football being played very late at night by the light from car headlamps, dogs being exercised the list seems endless.

We have now re-fenced the playing field and the unofficial path from the Chestnuts to Oak Close has been re-routed. May I make it quite clear that the school playing field is not public property, and permission for children to play there after school hours has been removed.

The school has the power to prosecute any person found making a nuisance of themselves on the playing field. If you, as a neighbour, notice anyone on the school field please do let us know. We will then be in a position to make sure it does not happen again. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence. Let us finish this business by acting together.

P.C.Twitchett, Headmaster

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Some people are starting up a Great Finborough branch of the Conservative Party, covering Buxhall, Harleston and Onehouse as well. The first event will be tea and cakes at 'Bosna', High Road, Great Finborough on Thursday, 15th January from 2.00 to 3.30pm. Also a chance to meet Jenny Lord, the M.P.'s wife. Babies and children very welcome. Tickets 30p (children free) from me at 'Bosna' (tel: 675452). If interested in joining the branch but unable to come on 15th just contact me.

Vanessa Kovacevic

PETTIWARD HALL

The coffee morning conceived and directed by Brenda Wyer raised in excess of £50 for Hall funds - a magnificent effort by all concerned. Many thanks to Brenda and helpers.

You may have seen the superb Christmas decorations on display in the Hall this year. Many of these are new and bought from contributions from organisations which use the Hall. Others were made in their own time and put up and subsequently repaired(!) by Ann Phoenix, Trudy Gray and my own dear wife, whose name for the moment escapes me. Many thanks to them.

And finally, particular thanks as we begin another year to stalwarts, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Proctor for their unsung labours behind the scenes at the Hall. Not only are they keyholders, they also put on the heaters prior to the hirings, and their interest and help is an example to all of us.

Richard Brice

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Birthday and Christmas party was held in an extremely cold Pettward Hall on 11th December. The Hall was beautifully decorated and a glass of hot punch was most welcome. The Cup for the most points gained in competitions during 1986 was presented to Mrs. B. Jordan. A beetle drive helped to warm the spirit if not the body and Mrs. Grimaldi was presented with a basket of fruit as the winner. A buffet supper provided by members was much enjoyed and the birthday cake was made and cut by Mrs. Sheppard.

The programme for 1987 is well in hand and at our meeting on 8th January Mrs. L. Cass will demonstrate sugarcraft.

Notes for your diary: A visit to Henry Watson's pottery at Wattisfield on Thursday, 21st May at 7.30pm and a Craft and Produce Show in August.

Mary Underwood, Press Correspondent

PLAYGROUP

We would like to thank everybody who supported our Christmas Bazaar. We made a profit of £135 approx. The money is being spent on some new chairs.

We would also like to thank Mr. Sinclair for letting the girls from the School help out on Playschool mornings. They are a great help, many thanks.

Playschool will start the new term on 7th January.

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Kim Allen, Hon. Secretary

COMMUNITY QUIZ

Great Finborough has again been entered for the Suffolk Community Quiz and it commences its 1987 campaign in the Pettiward Hall on Monday 19th January at 7.30pm with an Area Quarter-Final match against Ashfield cum Thorpe. There will also be another quarter-final (Locoboys v. Offton & Willisham) following the Great Finborough tie. The Great Finborough team has not yet been finally settled so if anyone other than those already approached wish to be considered please contact me.

Do please make the effort to come and support your team on the night - it makes the world of difference to those taking part to have your encouragement.

M.J. Baker

PARISH DIARY FOR JANUARY 1987

Thursday 1st	NEW YEAR'S DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Sunday 4th	St. Andrews: Sung Eucharist 11am
Tuesday 6th	School re-opens for Spring Term
Wednesday 7th	Playschool re-opens
Thursday 8th	WI - Pettiward Hall
Thursday 15th	Conservative Party event: 'Bosna', High Rd. 2.00 - 3.30pm
Friday 16th	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (February material)
Sunday 18th	St. Andrews: Morning Prayer 11am
Monday 19th	Community Quiz: Pettiward Hall 7.30pm
Sunday 25th	St. Andrews: Christingle Service 9.45am
Friday 30th	Parish Council: Pettiward Hall 7.30pm

If you have anything for future Parish Diaries, please let the Editor know by the deadline date.
Events mentioned in material for publication will automatically be included.