

Great Finborough Newsletter

No 147 February 1987 Editor: M.J. Baker, 7 Kersey Close, Stowmarket. ☎ 676457

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

19 members who braved the fog and frost to attend our January meeting on the 8th were rewarded with a demonstration by Mrs. L.Cass. Using fondant icing she showed how a fruit cake can be iced in a fraction of the time taken with traditional methods. Delicate Christmas roses were created together with roses and primroses, all delicately coloured and very realistic. We are urgently in need of one of our members to represent us on the Pettiward Hall Management Committee. If any member feels they could undertake this please contact the Secretary. The date of our Craft and Produce Show has been fixed for 13th August. Our next meeting is on Thursday, 12th February and is to be a Swedish Evening with slides and refreshments.

Mary Underwood, Press Correspondent

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Sunday services are now held at 2.45pm instead of 6.30pm until the end of March. The Women's Fellowship meets on Tuesdays 10th and 24th February at 2.30pm.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The newly-formed Great Finborough and District Branch of the Women's World Day of Prayer will be holding its first meeting in the United Reformed Church on Friday 6th March at 2.15pm. The Speaker will be Rev.Daphne Lloyd of Needham Market.

COMMUNITY QUIZ

The Suffolk Community Quiz, Area 2 Group A Quarter Finals were held in the Pettiward Hall on Monday, 19th January before a large and appreciative audience. Mr.Peter Twitchett was the Questionmaster.

In the first match, Great Finborough lost to Ashfield by 128 points to 168. Ashfield were the team which knocked Great Finborough out of the competition last year. The home team consisted of: Brenda Grimaldi (Captain), Trudy Gray, John Miller and Trevor Waspe.

Offton & Willisham beat the Locoboys from the Ipswich Locomotive Working Mens Club by 130 points to 86 in the second match.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The new Register of Electors comes into force on 16th February and this will determine eligibility for voting until 15th February 1988. It would seem from all the speculation in the media that it will be the basis for an important national poll besides the regular District and Parish Council elections in May.

PARISH MEETING

The Parish Meeting is the opportunity of all electors in the parish to meet and discuss affairs affecting the parish. The public and press may also attend. The current form of meeting was created by Statute in 1894 but it is the successor of meetings of parishioners going back many hundreds of years. Before 1894 such meetings were often closely connected to the affairs of the Church (meetings of the Vestry).

The oldest Minutes in my possession goes back to 1901 when the Parish Meeting was held in the "Club Room" on Monday, 4th March with the Chairman being Rev.J.Hancox. The sole business at that meeting was the election of Parish Councillors. This procedure lasted until the Representation of the Peoples Act 1950 which extended the normal ballot to Parish Council elections.

There is no page for 1902. In the following year Rev.J.Housecroft was elected Chairman. The business then consisted of examining the accounts of the former Town Estate Charity and the balance sheet of the East Stow Union, the body which dealt with the poor. A new Parish Council was elected at the 1904 meeting and this consisted of Messrs J.B.Driver, J.Blake, W.Scarff, S.Baker, F.Baker, C.Ransom and Rev.J.Housecroft whose name has been deleted for some unknown reason.

The Chairman in 1906 was a one Charles Chaplin. In the following year there was a rap over the knuckles for the trustees of the Town Estate Charity for not producing any vouchers to support their accounts. A new Parish Council was also elected and there were four newcomers: Messrs. E.Terry, G.Musgrave, F.Grimwood and E.Quinton.

In 1908 the meeting considered the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 which placed a duty on Parish Councils to provide allotments should sufficient parishioners require them. It is recorded that there had been no applications. However in 1909 there is a reference to the Clerk laying before the meeting "a copy of the allotments"! The Council elected in 1910 saw one new name: Harry Nunn.

In 1911 the meeting considered "the question of a footpath for the children in Valley Lane" and "the footbridge at the bottom of Mr.Boulter's long meadow". Charles Pettiward signed these minutes for the first time. The 1912 meeting carried two resolutions relating to communications: "that the official name of Gt.Finborough telegraph office should be Finborough and not Gt.Finborough as hitherto" and "that the Finborough Sub-Office be made a Telephone Call Office".

In 1913 we begin to see more detail as to the composition of the Parish Council elected in that year: William Scarff (Carpenter), Harry Harper (Chauffeur), Charles Ransom (Horseman), Edward Quinton (Smith), Frederick Grimwood (Grocer Assitant) and George Middleton (Gardener). The Chairman, Charles Pettiward "asked" that the new Council should have their first meeting on 16th April.

PARISH MEETING (CONTINUED)

Charles Pettiward was Chairman again in 1914 when "the accounts of the Town Charity were not provided as ordered by the Act and the Clerk was requested to fetch them. The Vicar who is Chairman of the Trustees could not be found".

New technology was on the horizon in a note "Re Stow D.C. fire engine: the Finborough (sic) Parish Meeting have considered the proposal of the Stowmarket UDC with regard to a Steam Fire Engine and have to say that while the Council are prepared to make some contribution to the scheme, they are not, in the absence of a definite information, prepared to fix any sum". It shows that the recently-formed body of the Parish Council was still regarded as inferior to the older established meeting of parishioners.

In 1915 the Clerk was absent "on account of a slight accident".

(To be continued)

Clerk to the Parish Council

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council has a right to be consulted (along with certain other bodies) about development proposals which are the subject of planning applications submitted to the Mid Suffolk District Council. It is the District Council which has the power to grant or refuse the application - the Parish Council can only bring the attention of the District Council to local information and local feelings on the proposal. There is nothing to stop the Parish Council making a recommendation one way or the other about a particular application - but it does not have the final say on the matter.

Great Finborough Parish Council has a standing committee appointed to consider each application received. It usually meets outside of the premises which is the subject of the proposed development. A notice of the date, time and place of this meeting is posted on the Pettiward Hall noticeboard together with details of the nature of the application. In addition, the Council usually leaves a note at each of the immediately neighbouring properties alerting the owner to the existence of the planning application.

During 1986 the Council received only four planning applications - the first not until July. There were two applications involving garages, one for the erection of stables and one for the use of part of Green Farm as a coal merchants yard.

Clerk to the Parish Council

WHAT IS CARPET BOWLS?

Carpet bowls is a game for all ages and can be played in almost any indoor venue. The basic principles of the game are like those for the outdoor flat green bowls but have been specifically designed for small indoor areas. The total area needed to play the game in comfort is 40 feet by 12 feet. It is played on a carpet which can be rolled up for storage, measuring between 30 and 33 feet in length and between 6 feet and 6 feet 6 inches in width. Clear space is required at each end to enable the bowls to be delivered. A spar or hoop 18 inches in diameter is placed in the centre of the carpet to prevent 'straight bowling'. A set of equipment, including jack, bowls and carpet costs around £350. A grant may be available from the Community Council for Suffolk towards the cost.

Such a game would be rather interesting in the Pettiward Hall. With such a slope the home team has a definite advantage! Mind you, both teams would have difficulty keeping the bowls on the mat when bowling towards the stage.

M.J.Baker

PARISH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 1987

Sunday 1st	St.Andrews: 11am Sung Eucharist with choir URC 2.45pm
Sunday 8th	URC 2.45pm
Tuesday 10th	Women's Fellowship at URC 2.30pm
Thursday 12th	WI - Pettiward Hall 7.30
Saturday 14th	(St.Valentine's Day) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (March material)
Sunday 15th	St.Andrews: 11am Morning Prayer with choir URC 2.45pm
Sunday 22nd	St.Andrews: 9.45am Holy Communion URC 2.45pm
Monday 23rd	Half Term for schools all week
Tuesday 24th	Women's Fellowship - URC 2.30pm

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.

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