



# Great Finborough Newsletter

No 177 August 1989. Editor: M.J. Baker, 20 Shakespeare Rd, Stowmarket IP14 1TJ. Tel: 676457.

## PETTIWARD HALL

We still have a vacancy for a Secretary on the Management Committee - main duties are preparing agendas and minutes of the six or so meetings the Committee has each year. Anyone interested please let me (676249) or Trudy Gray know. Only qualification needed is interest!

Saturday 5th August is a workday in the Hall. We have decided to clear out the Lower Room and give the floor in the main hall some attention. Can you help? The more volunteers we have, the less there will be for everyone to do. Please turn up if you can from 9.30am.

Richard Brice

## SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

There is still a vacancy for the Great Finborough VCP School crossing attendant. It is important that this post is filled as soon as possible. Hours of work are 8.20 - 9am and 3.10 - 3.30pm each school day and pay is £13.55 per week. If you are interested, please phone Bury St. Edmunds 763141 ext.2447 during normal working hours.

## CREAM TEAS

Come along to Westlegate, Church Road on Saturday 12th August at 3pm. There you can enjoy a delicious Cream Tea. Home-made scones and strawberry jam with cream, a variety of home-made cakes and a lovely cup of tea. There will be stalls selling home-made cakes and jam, plants, books and bric-a-brac. You might even be lucky and win one of the draw prizes. Everyone welcome.

Judy Rolfe, WI Press Correspondent

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church Anniversary will, D.V., be held on Sunday 20th August. The Rev.A.Lewis will preach at 2.30pm to be followed by Communion. We would welcome old and new friends to this service to give thanks to God for his wonderful ways in maintaining the church over the years with a small congregation.

The Church is holding a Flower Festival on 23rd, 24th and 25th September combining with the Harvest Festival.

Sesca Ballard

## PRIZE BINGO

The local branch of the WI will be the recipients of the cash raised at the next Prize Bingo on Wednesday, 16th August at 7pm. Do come along and join in this ever-popular game with the chance of winning a prize or two.

Hilary Smith

GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1989  
PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT

## VICTORIAN SCHOOL LIFE.

My name is Thomas. I'm 9 years old. I go to Great Finborough School. The year is 1889. I am standing in the playground. The bell is ringing. I am carrying 3 pence in my pocket and I am carrying a wicker basket with my packed lunch in it. I line up in a long line and walk into the school. I walk into my classroom and sit down at my desk. Laurence sits in the desk next to me. Then the teacher, Mr. Brainless, walks in. After him is someone who is late. Mr. Brainless sits down at his desk. He then takes the register out of the top drawer of his desk and starts calling the register, "Tamsyn Pennington?"; "Yes, sir" and so on. Then we line up in a line and one by one give him our 3 pence, the school fee. Then we stand up and sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and the Vicar, Mr. Pettward, walks in, followed by his daughters to give us holy scripture lesson. Then we sing again and they leave the class. Next we do writing in our copybook; we had to write the letters from A to Z twenty times using a pen and ink; it is very boring. Then we read. Each person had a turn to stand up and read out loud a page from our book to Mr. Brainless. Next we had a small history lesson about the ancient Greeks of Greece. Then the dictation teacher, Mr. Picworth, walks up and down looking at our work. We had to write out what he said. He said "The platapus of the underwater burrows in New South Wales, Australia".

Then Sir Harry Codhaven came in and talked about geography and animal life of Scandinavia. Then he leaves and Mr. Brainless walks back in and says "It is break". We then line up and march out. I have my dinner, some cheese and bread and some cold tea. I play with Laurence Bougle and Thomas Paka. We play tag. Then a boy called William Strong went up to another boy called Giles Tabley, who is talking to yet another, Christopher Crackpot. William pushed Christopher over. Then William and Giles start fighting. Then their teacher, Mr. Picworth, walks on to the scene and gets Giles and William in. When we come in Sir Harry Codhaven does some more geography with us. When he leaves Mr. Brainless walks in and we have another song. Then we try and practise reciting a poem; it was difficult. Then we lined up in two lines, one for boys and one for girls. Then two people walked in. One was Mrs. Walker, who came to do sewing with the girls. The other is Colonel Edmund Spencer, who won the Victoria Cross in the Crimean War; he takes the boys for Army practice in the school yard. We marched up and down, but I dropped my stick which I used as a gun eight times. So the Headmaster came out and I went in his office and he gave me the cane on my hand. Then when I went in my classroom Mr. Brainless walked in and we practised some more of the poem; at the end we stood up and said the poem out loud; after that we sang a song, said a prayer and went home.

Thomas Gray

Following the school outing to Frinton the children wrote:

Excited children in the playground  
 Teachers dashing everywhere.  
 Up the steps we go  
 Oh! We're off!  
 Thomas Gray and James Cracknell chatting all the way  
 We see a sign - Oh! Frinton, Yeah!  
 I can see the sea - Yeah!  
 We're there  
 We went for a walk  
 Down to the beach  
 Up again  
 Played some games  
 "Right", said Mr. Sykes  
 "First one to get me wins 10p".  
 Nobody caught him.  
 Children hungry as can be  
 Dash to get their lunch  
 Lunch gone.  
 Quick as lightning  
 All dabs down to the beach  
 Shoes and socks everywhere  
 People in the sea  
 Screaming girls  
 Yuck! People finding slimy jellyfish  
 A few photos of the school together  
 Back up on the field  
 Up the steep steps  
 And off we go  
 Back to school.  
 Children scurrying off the bus  
 Telling Mums all about it.  
 Good old Frinton!

Rebecca Taylor, aged 9 yrs.

Starting school....  
 Time to go  
 People talking  
 Teachers dashing about  
 Windy roads, twisty roads  
 Bus overtaking  
 Half way there now!  
 Oh! goodie, we're here  
 We have a walk  
 We play games  
 We go down to the beach  
 We all do sand pictures  
 We go back to the coach  
 It has gone.  
 We play team games  
 We have our lunch  
 We go down to the beach  
 Some of us paddle  
 Some of us swim  
 Time to go back to the coach  
 Off we go.  
 Goodbye Frinton!

Emma Brice, aged 7 yrs.



In the playground  
 All excited  
 Here is the bus  
 On we get  
 Time to go  
 Round the bendy roads  
 People talking  
 The bus slows down  
 We're there  
 Off the bus  
 Games to play  
 Things to see  
 On the beach  
 The sea is cold  
 LOvely sand  
 Cold ice cream  
 Here is the bus  
 Time to go  
 On the bus  
 Back to school  
 What a lovely day out.

Kelly Porley, aged 8 yrs.

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#### For Sale

Superb Victorian mahogany chest of drawers, at present in church vestry. Valued approx £135. Contact Dr Brian Smith, tel: 612131.

#### From the July Registers

8 Geraint Birch & Andrea Hebblewhite - married  
 16 Joe Leonard Bloomfield - christened  
 22 Jonathan Tetley & Anita Proctor - married

#### Next month's Calendar

(30 July 10.30 Benefice Service at Harleston)  
 August 6 11: Sung Eucharist (Prayer Book) + Baptism  
 20 11: Morning Prayer  
 21 7.45: PCC Meeting. If you have something to say about our church life, let a PCC member know in good time for the meeting.  
 27 11: Holy Communion (ASB). Note the change of time. This is to fit in with Onehouse's FUCHSIA FESTIVAL, which is being held in their church from 10-7 on the Saturday and Sunday of that weekend.

(continued on back page)

#### ST.ANDREWS MINI-LOTTO

Prize-winners are as follows:

20th June	(107) Mrs.J.Flack, The Bungalows	£4.65
	(144) Mr.J.Williams, Town Farm	£3.10
27th June	(195) Mr.A.Buckle, The Chestnuts	£4.65
	(192) Mrs.D.Riseborough, The Green	£3.10
4th July	(099) Mr. T.Taylor, Post Office	£4.65
	(171) Mr.M.Wyer, The Green	£3.10
11th July	(185) Mr.H.Sparkes, The Chestnuts	£4.65
	(063) Mrs.K.Allen, The Bungalows	£3.10

The sum of £7.75 has been added each week to Church funds.

Hilary Smith

#### SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

The annual sponsored cycle ride takes place from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 9th September. This is an opportunity to help with the maintenance of historic churches in Suffolk and our own church, which continues to need repairs. In recent gales the windows high up in the spire were blown out and their repair will be a major expense. Other urgent repairs are being done as we slowly raise the necessary cash.

The cycle ride is a pleasant, friendly affair which can be taken at your own speed and for as long or short a time as you can spare. Refreshments are available at most churches that you visit.

Please try to join us - it is a very enjoyable day (or half day) out. Sponsorship forms are available from me together with a list of churches open for the event.

B.A.Smith, The Old Forge

P.S. As a bonus, a cycle marking service free of charge at several churches including Stowmarket United Reformed Church, is being provided by the Police.

#### CANDLESTICK CLUB

Our July meeting was a mystery tour kindly arranged for us by the Buxhall Community Council. On a lovely warm evening we travelled to our ultimate destination - Walton-on-the-Naze. Some members enjoyed a stroll on an almost deserted beach and some were seen to have a paddle!! Our thanks are due to Mim Pamment and Keith Proctor for all their hard work in arranging a very pleasant evening. Don't forget at our August meeting there will be a bring and buy stall. I hope members will support this as one of our fund-raisers.

Mary Underwood, Hon.Sec.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

As there was a large amount of material from the Primary School this month it has been decided to enclose this excellent contribution in a supplement to this Newsletter.

## PARISH DIARY FOR AUGUST 1989

Sat.5th      Pettiward Hall working day: 9.30am  
Ancient Men Morris Dancers, Chestnut Horse 11.30am

Sat 12th      Cream teas, Westlegate, 3pm

Weds. 16th   Prize Bingo, 7pm   Pettiward Hall

Sun.20th      URQ Church Anniversary 2.30pm

Mon.28th      (Bank Holiday)

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Late News: A sum of £52 was raised for Pettiward Hall funds at the Prize Bingo held on 19th July.

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### **Parliament's No to Twice Married Vicars**

Yes, I quite enjoyed writing that headline! It refers of course to the House of Commons' recent dead-of-night vote against ordaining clergy who have been through a divorce, in spite of the proposal having been debated for years by Church Synods and finally having their official approval. How dare a crowd of agnostics mess about with the purely internal affairs of the Church of England, howled the Church Times, especially by having the vote in the early hours of the morning, when enough antis can always be marshalled to see anything off. Because it was a badly put together motion, replied the opponents, mainly because it did not make at all clear what criteria should apply. Ordain a divorcee, even when he is the plainly guilty party? And how many divorces is a parson allowed? Seven, or seventy times seven? If you want a divorce, get ordained first, is the black humour circulating in Church House. This of course could only happen in a State Church, about which there is much silly and uninformed chat, chiefly about the C of E's possessions (it sold its Paddington brothels decades ago, as soon as it realised how the buildings were being used). On 'church treasures', if someone bequeathed you a precious heirloom, would your first act be to sprint round the corner and flog it? But that is just what some of our critics, with high moral tone, are urging us to do! The charges of sleepiness against the C of E are also a bit glib. Any church which tries to maintain a presence in every village in the land (and minister to every person, regardless of their beliefs, or lack of them) is bound to be spread a bit thin. The C of E is no better than any other Church - that's silly talk - but neither is it any worse.

On the 'divorced Revs' issue, I'm not sure. It does seem a bit thick to have our affairs regulated by people who are often not even nominally Anglican. But there are benefits from being the Established Church, so perhaps we should take the rough with the smooth. On the actual issue, I reject totally the idea that we clergy must live lives beyond criticism in order to 'set an example', even though many folk say that is what they want of us. It would make us into prize prigs, for one thing. For another, since clergy do suffer all the human frailties anyway, it would make them cover these up, in order to fulfil the laity's need for human idols. Believe God, and let it all hang out, I say. But I'm not convinced about the Church's reasoning either - that divorced clergy are better able to understand people's marriage traumas. It's superficially appealing, but is it always true? Must all those working with drug addicts and alcoholics be 'ex-' themselves. Better surely to have strong compassion and a very clear head. Also ex's are always liable to read their own experiences into situations they meet, which is not good social practice. Just as all marriages are different, so are all divorces.

Michael Skliros, Priest-in-Charge. Tel 677663/672844

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