

GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER

No. 194 January 1991

Acting Editor: Trudy Gray. Tel: 674819

EDITORIAL

As mentioned in last month's newsletter we are again in search of an editor. *Many thanks* to Serena for her work as editor during the past year. She is expecting her first baby later this year and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her well at this exciting time!

Meanwhile - A NEW EDITOR PLEASE! While I can act in an emergency again (why does it always happen when one is knee-deep in wrapping paper and other Christmas paraphernalia?) I cannot manage as permanent editor. While a word processor is useful it is not essential. If anyone is interested please contact me on Stowmarket 674819 and we can discuss technical or other details. I am happy to accept contributions for the February newsletter (at The Old Police House) and will pass them on to the new editor (who I am sure will volunteer in time!)

Trudy Gray - Acting Editor

ST. ANDREW'S MINI LOTTO

Prize winners are as follows :

27th November

(128) Mrs G Mason, £4.85
The Chestnuts, Gt. Finborough

(192) Mrs D Riseborough, £3.25
The Green, Gt. Finborough

4th December

(201) Mr A Grimwood, £4.85
The Green, Gt. Finborough

(073) Mrs M Mason, £3.25
The Bungalows, Gt. Finborough

11th December

(092) Mr R Scoggins, £4.25
Wattisham

(142) Mrs V Brice £3.25
Rookery Nook, Gt. Finborough

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

Hilary Smith

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the December meeting members celebrated the 71st Birthday of the Institute with some delicious eats provided by members. Afterwards we were entertained by the committee with some acting and singing.

Mrs Rolfe volunteered to be Gt Finborough's delegate at the National Federation of W.I.s' first triennial meeting to be held at the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham. This replaces the Albert Hall Annual Meetings. Mrs Grimaldi was the first winner of the bursary, which was awarded towards the cost of a visit to Denman College where she will be able to study a subject of her choice.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 9th when Trudy Gray will be speaking about her recent trip to Florida. Please note the change to our meeting evenings, now the second WEDNESDAY of the month. Thursday seemed to clash with a number of other events, in particular adult evening classes - perhaps Wednesdays will tempt more people to join us. New members are always welcome.

Berice Jordan



BROWNIES

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to the village for all the support you gave us for our Blue Peter 'Bring and Buy Sale' in aid of the children of Romania. When the Brownies asked if they could hold a sale we thought we'd raise a few pounds but with your help we were able to send £110!

We have had a very busy term. Onehouse Brownies have been meeting with us as they are rather low in numbers. It is lovely meeting together and our Brownies are making new friends. We had a joint Pack Holiday at half term and enjoyed four fun-packed days. Since then Brownies have worked hard for lots of badges including Cook, Safety in the Home, Computer and Book Lover.

At the beginning of December Emma Flack made her Brownie Promise and we now have our first Brownie in the long awaited new uniform.

To end with one last thank you. Thanks to Trevor and to all those who gave us donations for the Holly (and mistletoe) at the Post Office. The money will be spent on equipment for the Pack.

Mary Williams

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

SERVICES FOR JANUARY

- 6 Jan Sung Eucharist at 11am
13 Jan No services at Finborough; Holy Communion at Harleston at 9.30 am; Family Communion at Onehouse at 11am
20 Jan Morning Prayer at 11am
27 Jan Christingle Family Service at 9.45am; Preacher: Mrs Jean Runeckles
3 Feb Sung Eucharist at 11am

Christmastide at St Andrews

Many thank-yous. To Mary Shorland Ball for organising the very successful carol singing party round the village, and to you for contributing so generously: some £70 was raised for a local children's hospice, and about twice that at the carol service, whose proceeds went to the Romanian children's appeal fund. Sorry to sound materialistic, but this was the main purpose of our practising hard and decorating the church so beautifully (thank you to those who did that).

There are always some unexpected scene-stealing moments at Christmas services. For me, both happened at Gt Finborough. One was the small group of mentally handicapped brought over to our Carol Service from Haughley, singing away – mostly in tune, actually, *and* during the carols, but not always! The other was the decent sized group of children at last (*our* children!) who assembled up front to sing Away in a Manger. Sorry about my grumpy remarks in the last Newsletter, but it seems they paid off.

The Decade of Evangelism

This month there starts an attempt at worldwide evangelism, intended to last for the next ten years, and supported worldwide by an amazing mix of churches, from Roman Catholic to black led Pentecostals. So what is it all about? You could say that I have ten years to make you all into good christian boys and girls, but it's not quite as simple as that. (simple!) Obviously the purpose is to promote the gospel, but that is such a personal matter that I don't mind in the least admitting there is wide variation among christians about just what 'the gospel' is, and even more about how to promote it.

Some would even say the good news about Jesus should not be proclaimed publicly at all, but recommended privately, as you would naturally pass on to a friend a good holiday place, say, that you had come across. This is the Islamic method of spreading their faith – "by conversation" – and it doesn't seem to have held them back much.

Others of course favour a more confrontational 'Billy Graham' approach, where all that is needed is to psych ourselves up to proclaim loudly what we know perfectly well has to be said. Others, like myself (and about half the Church of England), are not so sure what has to be said. We are not in the least ashamed to get up on a soapbox on behalf of Jesus, and know that *something* positive has to be done, but are convinced that the 19th century style of hot-gospel and hellfire preaching is not for today, and certainly not for a stable rural community. One would point out the enormous discrepancy between the effort put into conventional mission campaigns and the very few people that are lastingly affected as a result. You don't have to be a professional Sales Manager to realise that something goes horribly wrong somewhere. Perhaps one factor is the generally negative style of the message. Forgiveness and salvation may *seem* to be the key words, but sin and guilt are

the real drumbeats behind mission campaigns. The other is that nowhere does the Jesus that is proclaimed seem to be in the least concerned with the imminent collapse of one's corner shop, or an impending war in the Gulf, or one's wayward son who is doing time in Chelmsford jail. The missionary's Jesus has all too often been an abstract Jesus, detached – and therefore unreal. Billy Graham himself, who for many years refused to be tackled on the acute colour problem in his native South, was big enough to concede this eventually and has moved towards what his followers had referred to contemptuously as 'the social gospel', ie that people's bodies, and living conditions, must be ministered to first before one can preach to their minds and souls.

Enough anyway to assure you that before we embark on any evangelising we will be analysing as best we can why the traditional approach is now inadequate, and to reassure you that we *don't* know all the answers.

At St Andrew's Church we vary quite widely in our different outlooks, but we are convinced that the christian faith is the way to wholeness in this present age, as it always has been. We also detect a dissatisfaction with the purely material and a reaching out for spiritual values – there wouldn't have been 100+ at both Carol Service and Midnight Communion otherwise. What we ask of those who are sympathetic to this is an equally open mind – don't mentally write us off as a stuffy group singing Victorian hymns at a snail's pace, just because that was your last experience of a Church of England church.

We want you – your experiences, your beliefs, and your doubts. We won't sandbag you with dogmas. Softly catchee monkey.

Michael Skliros, Priest-in-Charge ☎ 672844/677663

POINTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

A letter has been received from Mid Suffolk District Council concerning the appointment of someone to act as Tree Warden within the Parish. Duties include monitoring the condition of trees which are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders and taking an active part in promoting Conservation within the village. Further details are available from Malcolm Baker on Stowmarket 676457.

In 1991/92 the Parish Council precept within the Community Charge will be £8.76 per charge payer. This will raise £3,600. The Parish Council

is continuing to raise funds towards the provision of recreation facilities.

At the meeting of the Parish Council in December a grant of £50 was awarded to the Parochial Church Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard. A grant of £25 was made towards the Mid Suffolk Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 22nd January, 7.30 pm at the Pettward Hall.

Malcolm Baker

PETTIWARD HALL

Following our desperate appeal last month it looks as if we will have a Chairman for the Management Committee in the New Year, and a new Secretary. The Committee will be meeting early in January when hopefully these officers will be appointed. Thanks again to Richard Brice, the past-chairman, for his hard work over the past few years. Linda Graves remains as Booking Secretary and can be contacted on Stowmarket 677803, thanks to her for continuing this essential job. Mrs Brenda Wyer of the Green is now a key holder (together with Mrs Proctor).

In addition to those who serve on the Management Committee (which is not everyone's cup of tea!) it would be helpful to have a note of names of those who could be available for the odd job that needs doing about the hall from time to time. Thanks recently are due to Maurice Lloyd, Brian Smith and Herman Sparkes for recent repairs (if there are names omitted my apologies!). Thanks also to Mrs Cotton, our regular cleaner – unseen by the majority of the hall users!

Trudy Gray

CANDLESTICK CLUB

Members of the Candlestick Club would like to express their thanks to Mrs Castel and her helpers for the excellent dinner she provided for the closing meeting of 1990. Thanks are also extended to the Old Buckingham School band members who gave us an outstanding performance of 'The Pirates of Penzance'.

We shall restart our activities on Thursday 4th April and will be taking this opportunity to welcome any new members who may be 60

Years Young. If interested please contact the President Mrs H Smith (Stow 615492) or H Sparkes (Secretary - Stow 677269)

Herman Sparkes

FRIENDS OF GREAT FINBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thanks to all who have supported our many activities over the past term. These have ranged from our Christmas Bazaar, Beetle Drive to the Sponsored Matchbox fill. Since September approximately £700 has been raised towards the main project of the year which is the purchase of additional Fiction books (last year we concentrated on improving the range of non-fiction material in the library). Funds have also been used for the purchase of musical instruments and a workbench.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

From the first Great Finborough newsletter of December 1974, itself quoting a legacy of more than 100 years before that:

Carrying on Charitable Traditions

"Great Finborough is fortunate in having had sufficient benevolent forebears so that three charities distribute gifts annually at Christmas. They are: The Roger Pettiward Charity, The William Hatten Charity and the largest - The Great Finborough Town Estates Charities. All distribute gifts to the aged and poor in the parish who now receive money but who used to receive such items as clothing and

fuel. The change in emphasis is amply shown by the Roger Pettiward Charity.

"Roger Pettiward, who died in 1833, left by his will the income from Government Stock which was to be used by the owner of Finborough Hall, the vicar and churchwardens, to purchase:

"a good brown greatcoat for six poor widowers and a good red cloak for six poor widows of the parish of Great Finborough, the oldest if of good character to him the preference" . . . and a further part . . . "laid out in purchasing 1lb. of good tea and 1lb. of tobacco for the poor women and men in the Hundred Union of Stow" . . . and a further part . . . "laid out in purchasing of coals to be given to the poor widows and six of the oldest poor widowers of the parish of Great Finborough".

"The occupier of Finborough Hall is requested to supply each of the twelve recipients on New Year's Day with a biscuit and a glass of wine. The ceremony is now carried out on December 31st as new Year's Day is a Public Holiday."

Side door, please, but you're probably too late for this year. Reprints from old Newsletters can be interesting, but **personal reminiscences** are better. Who will tell us of the old days?

Forthcoming events (back to 1990!):

Saturday 19th January Jumble Sale at the School
If you have any jumble you would like collected please contact Trudy Gray (Stow 674819) or Ann Phoenix (Stow 674396).

Friday 8th February Beetle Drive, 7pm at the School

Trudy Gray

*Happy
New
Year!*