

Great Finborough Newsletter

No 160 March 1988 Editor: M.J. Baker, 7 Kersey Close, Stowmarket. ☎ 676457

PETTIWARD HALL COMMITTEE

Love it or hate it, you can't help but wonder at the engineering feat which spanned the River Orwell from Wherstead to Nacton. The story of the construction of the Orwell Bridge from sunken foundations to concrete symmetry, will be told in the Hall by Mr. Cooper of Ipswich at 7pm on Thursday 24th March.

Mr. Cooper enjoyed virtually unrestricted access to the construction site and his slide presentation which takes some 2 hours tells the 'unabridged' story. Entrance charge - proceeds to Hall funds - is a megacheap 50p - all welcome.

And now a cry for help. Firstly, Anne Phoenix, who has been the Booking Secretary for two years, is hanging up her diary - if that's the right expression. Anne has done a terrific job (thanks very much Anne) and we now need a new Booking Secretary to take on this important job. Anyone interested? Please let me know.

Secondly, we are preparing to attend to the floor in the main hall. You may have noticed that the surface is down to bear wood and it needs sanding down, vacuuming and sealing to protect it. Nick Skinner is the brains behind the refloorishment and as we intend to do the work ourselves we could use some help - no skills needed. Can you oblige please? Just let Nick or me know - Thanks.

Richard Brice

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

What a pleasant atmosphere is created when a group of friends sit together listening to early memories of one of our founder members. Mrs. Ada Proctor told us of the time when she took water from the village pump for her household use. When a forge and workshop, a stocking factory, butcher's shop, a sweetshop down Valley Lane at Nan True's Cottage as well as our village shop were part of the era of the Squire of Great Finborough.

Miss Mason then vividly created her journey by boat through the icebergs and spouting whales to Canada. How entertainment there could be as simple as gathering in a Canadian Family's front parlour to watch a night blooming plant burst into brief beauty. Her detailed memories introduced characters and scenery of Canada in the thirties and to the family's return to live in the East Anglian resort of Southwold.

Our speaker next month is Mr. Keith Gilbert - 'Improve your Photography'. The competition is 'A Finger Puppet'. That's Thursday, 10th March at 7.30pm in the Pettward Hall. Why don't you join us?

Judy Rolfe, Press Correspondent

PLAYGROUP

The jumble sale held on Saturday 6th February was a great success raising a total of £104.87 for our funds. Many thanks to those who helped or supported us.

Our Easter Bazaar will be held on Saturday 19th March so do come along and try your luck on our Tombola. There will also be cakes, toys and books etc. for a great afternoon out for all the family.

We have recently appointed a new assistant supervisor Wendy Mawson (well done Wendy). We would like to welcome her and also thank her for her help. The two Ronnies have nothing on the two Wendies.

Vivian Brice, Chairman.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Great Finborough and District Branch of the Women's World Day of Prayer welcomes ladies of all denominations to a meeting on Friday, 4th March at 2pm to be held in St. Mary's Church, Buxhall. The speaker is Mrs. Anne Moore of Onehouse and soloist, Heather Rampley of Stowmarket.

Mrs. Sesca Ballard

ST ANDREWS MINI LOTTO

Winners are as follows:

19th Jan (190) Mrs A. Squirrell, Gale Cottage, High Road £4.25
(077) Mr. P. Twitchett, Woolpit £2.80

26th Jan (076) Mr. J. Smith, Edmunds Rd. Stowmarket £4.25
(105) Mrs. J. Flack, 10 High Road, Gt. Fin. £2.85

2nd Feb. (119) Mrs. H. Grimaldi, Campion Cres. Stow, £4.25
(134) Mr. A. Snell, Boundary Cotts, Buxhall £2.85

9th Feb. (172) Miss P. Wyer c/o The Green, Gt. Fin. £4.25
(064) Mr. J. Wright, Abbey Fm Bungalow £2.85

Sums of £7.05, £7.10, £7.10 and £7.10 respectively have been added to the church heating fund.

PRIZE BINGO

The first prize bingo session of the year will be held in the Pettward Hall on Wednesday 16th March commencing at 7pm. Proceeds on this occasion will be for the local Brownie pack. Do come along and support them.

Hilary Smith

St Andrews Church Notes

Regrettably my contribution was a little late this month, owing to an unfortunate collision of deadlines. My son observed the scene silently, then disappeared to record his impressions. I hope you like them.

Lent Group.

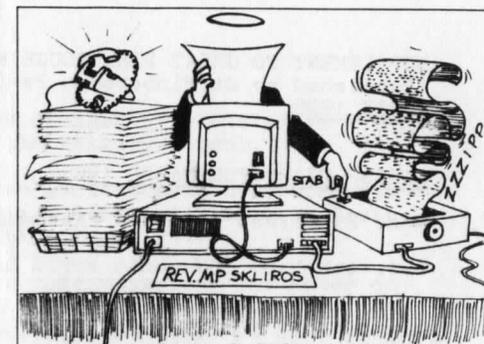
We decided at a recent PCC meeting not to 'do a book' but work on something more topical. What, though? It seems that Douglas Hurd has come to our rescue, with his challenge to the C of E General Synod last week: "what society most desperately needs from the churches today is a clear, definitive and repeated statement of personal morality". Do you agree with the Home Secretary? Come and share your thoughts (if they make good sense, we won't immediately turn round and suggest you should start coming to church!). Perhaps you disagree with him, and think the churches should keep quiet. Come and tell us why. Meetings probably on Thursdays (certainly the first is on 3 March) at 7.30 at The Old Forge. At the first we shall discuss: (a) what should be a sensible pattern of behaviour to set before children and (b) who should teach it - parents, school or Sunday School?

Ah hev sinned, Lawd. Ay-men . . . and . . . yuk.

The pictures of Jimmy Swaggart on our TV screens, bawling for our forgiveness, tears rolling, for his sins of the flesh, seem to have dismayed the entire nation, though for different reasons - some regretting that his and Jimmy Bakker's failings have discredited an otherwise first class, hardhitting means of presenting the modern gospel, others simply curling up with disgust that anyone - religious or not - could be so hypocritical, self-deceiving and, worst of all, blind to the effect that his mawkish antics would have on ordinary, emotionally stable people.

If you imagine that all churchgoers are (secretly at least) in the first category, please do think again. Televangelism at its best and finest has very few redeeming features about it at all. It is but one expression of the pernicious disease of fundamentalism, of which I have written before, which is all the more dangerous because to the ignorant, or the lapsed churchgoer (that covers most!), it seems on the surface to be the real thing - forceful, uncompromising, clear, simple and lots of bible. More careful examination, however, shows that the bible quotes are highly selective, heavily biased towards keeping the hearers emotionally locked in to the preacher (ie dealing with sin, hell, confession and other guilt-inducing ingredients) so that he has control of their minds and their cheque books.

There is no quarrel with the use of emotion as such. Every area of human interest - football, prom concerts, peace rallies, even the deliberate coldbloodedness of Mastermind, is deliberately staged so as to excite our emotions. The quarrel is that at this end of the religious spectrum there is an almost complete absence of self-criticism. One of the best things Freud did was to point out our *almost limitless capacity for self-deception*. If we desperately want something to be, we make it so in our minds, and we assume no one around notices our internal dishonesty. Religious people have been very reluctant to face up to this, reading advertising leaflets and politicians' speeches as critically as anyone, quite rightly, but never stopping to think that their 'answers to prayer' may be equally flawed.



Fundamentalists play for high stakes: the absolute purity and total commitment of the born again, and good luck to them for 'going for it' in this flabby age, but in their zeal they fail to notice the internal tensions of trying to live a whiter-than-white life, the mental corner-cutting they do when they read their bibles, and the exaggeratedly wicked life they allegedly lived before their conversion. And they fail to notice that their friends do **not** fail to notice all this. Other religious outlooks each have their points of weakness: high churchery can lapse into superstition and magic; liberalism into finding a dozen sides to every problem and not doing much about it ("There are plenty of discussion rooms in Hell" wrote CS Lewis!), but at least they laugh at themselves and are aware of them. If caught emerging from a first floor flat in Frith Street, it is a thoroughly bad mark, but it isn't the end of the world, because most churchgoers are well balanced people who are under no illusions about 'the frailty of their human nature'. As a result, perhaps, they don't shout their wares all that loudly. But the gospel is being preached in their churches nevertheless.

The televangelists are coming, so we are told. Remember my checklist above - and beware.

Calendar for March

6 11: Sung Eucharist
13 No service (11am Mothering Sunday service at Onehouse)
20 11: Morning Prayer
27 9.45: Holy Communion (ASB)
The Good Friday service this year is at Harleston

Michael Skliros, Priest-in-Charge Tel: Stowmarket 6776631672844

SUPPLEMENT TO GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER
(Published by Gt. Finborough Parish Council)
MARCH 1988

PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH 1988

Mon. 29th Feb. Schools recommence following half term break
Fri. 4th Mar. Women's World Day of Prayer: St. Mary's Church,
Buxhall 2pm
Thurs. 10th Women's Institute - Pettiward Hall 7.30pm
Weds. 16th Prize Bingo - Pettiward Hall 7pm
Thurs. 17th DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER
Sat. 19th Playgroup Easter Bazaar - Pettiward Hall
Thurs. 24th The Orwell Bridge (slide session) - Pettiward
Hall 7pm
Fri. 25th Annual Parish Meeting - Pettiward Hall 7pm
followed at approx. 8pm by Parish Council
meeting
Sun. 27th Change the clocks! BST is here!
Thurs. 31st Last day of Spring Term
Fri. 1st April Good Friday

--ooOoo--

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.

PARISH COUNCIL

Points from recent meeting

The former village seat which was damaged by vandals has been repaired and put to good use at the Primary School.

The Stowmarket Postmaster has been requested to take steps to bring forward the times of the first mail deliveries in Great Finborough particularly in the Combs Lane area.

The Area Surveyor has been approached concerning the water on the road at the B1115/Combs Lane junction and the problem of surface water collecting outside the Primary School vehicular access gate.

A quotation for remedial work is being sought in the case of the horse chestnut tree on the village green which was damaged in the October hurricane.

A donation of £15 has been made to the Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau. It was decided not to make a donation to the appeal for funds towards the extension of the St. Edmundsbury Cathedral - it was thought better to leave such gifts to individuals.

Council heard of the Hall Committee's thoughts on the next stages of the improvement programme for Pettiward Hall and its desire for a proper car park. It was decided to seek the views of the District Council as to the current situation concerning the land earmarked for car parking in the 1978 Village Plan. This piece of land is situated next to the Valley Lane and adjoining the garden of The Old Forge and is used for agriculture.

Following the 1987 survey, details of listed buildings in the parish are to be obtained from the District Council.

The Hall Committee are to undertake repairs to the damaged noticeboard on the wall near to the main hall door.

A precept of £2,250 was signed for parish rates to be levied in 1988/89. This will be used for routine annual expenditure and also for a contribution to the ongoing improvements of the Pettiward Hall.

A letter requesting that the Public Entertainments licence for the Pettiward Hall restrict the finishing time of public events to 11pm on weekdays was received. Currently the licence permits a closing time of 11.30pm. The writer stressed the effects of late night revelries on the residents in the vicinity. The matter is being looked at by the Hall Committee.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Friday, 25th March 1988 at 7pm and will be followed at approx. 8pm by the next Parish Council meeting.

CHAPLINS OF FINBOROUGH

You will already have read on page one of the "stocking factory" in Great Finborough. This was run by a Mr. Chaplin at The Poplars and his son Mr. C.H. Chaplin of Washbrook near Ipswich, recently inserted a letter to the Editor in the East Anglian Daily Times. With Mr. Chaplin's permission I reproduce the letter below:

"Sir, - We are in the process of researching the Chaplins of Great Finborough, and have already traced the family continuously in the village back to 1607, when a Thomas Chaplin came into the village and married a local girl, a Mary Robhood.

To date, we have not traced where "he" came "from" but it was probably somewhere fairly local in Suffolk.

My grandfather, Charles Chaplin, moved into "The Poplars" High Road, Gt. Finborough in approx. 1870, and all his family were born there, as I was, much later.

Apart from going to school in London, father spent his entire life in the village, and incidentally the only member of the family to die in the house he was born in.

In approx. 1895, when he was 18, he commenced making socks on a hand machine, on his mother's kitchen table. From these very humble beginnings, developed a business which occupied him for his entire life until 1956.

He commenced employing local female labour sometime about 1900, and it was commonplace for a village girl to leave school and work at the "Stockun factory" until she got married. So, in this way, father gave employment to probably over 100 local girls from Gt. Finborough and most of the surrounding villages.

"The Poplars" went out of our ownership in about 1960, and successive owners have completely demolished father's workshop premises, so no trace remains of a lifetimes industry.

We would therefore, be very grateful to hear from any of these ex-employees or stories and details handed down from their mothers and grandmothers; dates anecdotes, photos etc, so that we can build up a history of this once thriving village industry.

C.H.A. Chaplin, White Lodge, Washbrook.

ELECTORAL LIST

The latest electoral list for Great Finborough contains 447 names compared with 429 on the previous list. Surprise, surprise, the most repeated name is SMITH with 16 entries. Next comes PROCTOR with 8 entries, WASPE with 7 entries and MASON, ROBERTS, ROLFE and WRIGHT with 6 entries.

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