

Letter to the Editor

From Ron Deacon

What do you think is the worst of mans inventions? I mean apart from weapons of war, from the bow and arrow to the nuclear bomb. Well I reckon it is the Audio Loudspeaker. An invention that has caused misery to countless thousands of people, and have caused more rows with neighbours than any thing else.

Not long before I was born there were no such things, the wireless was there in crystal sets, and you had to listen through earphones. So in those days you could not annoy the neighbours by playing horrible so called music too loud.

Also you could go into any shop in Kings Lynn and not be subjected to what I call “the shrieking woman.” Go in any shop in Lynn today and there she is bawling away, with thumping drums; a horrible racket. I always ask for it to be turned off, only to be told that people like it. I find

that very hard to believe.

Another thing, I can’t go to the cinema now because the noise is always too loud. Symphony concerts are still o.k. as they do not use loudspeakers, the music is just natural, unlike the “music” that is played in Pubs and night clubs. Some Pubs advertise “Live music here tonight” Mostly, or probably all the music isn’t “Live” at all, but fed through these huge loudspeakers.

Even in the Doctors waiting room, (I ask you!) Is this sort of pop music, (if you can call it music) being played. Not very loud I’ll admit, but why have it at all? I once asked the nice lady, if I could have the wireless set. “Oh” she said, “You like that, do you?” “Yes” I replied, “I would like to take it outside, and smash it to bits with a 7 pound hammer” But it is still there.

I suppose the worst thing about loudspeakers is the damage they are doing to young peoples hearing when they (the young people) go to dances and night clubs. I remember being at a

dance, years and years ago, where the “music” was so loud that when I woke up the next morning, my ears where ringing, and I’ve had tinnitus ever since. Goodness knows what these night clubs are like now.

All right; I must admit that I do like to listen to music in the house and in the car, through loudspeakers, but the point is that no body else need hear it, I make sure of that. But when I go out and about, especially in shops and restaurants, I am expected to hear so called music that I hate. It aint fair.

They keep going on a about banning smoking in public places; when can I look forward to all so called “music” being banned as well? Roll on the day.

Village Directory

Last month we asked for all the organisations to furnish us with their details so that we can turn out a village directory. A lot of organisations have responded but some have not. Please let us have them ASAP. Ed



Northwold Village Hall Fund Raising Committee are pleased to announce a forthcoming entertainment On Friday 23rd June they Present : An Evening with Keith Loads.

Keith Loads is a “Norfolk Style” Entertainer who has recently appeared at The Thursford Christmas Extravaganza. He will be supported by local Artistes most of whom will be familiar through past Pantomime and Old Tyme Music Hall productions. It is intended to serve wine and light refreshments during the interval. This is a one night production, consequently tickets will be in short supply. We will keep you up to date in the next issue of Village Life. In the meantime we are looking to provide more evenings of light entertainment, and it is hoped to produce a traditional Pantomime at the appropriate time of the year. If you would like to take part in any of these events, either as a performer or, and this is just as important, as a helper please get in touch with Brenda on 728565, Jackie on 728571 or John and Glenda on 727018, or contact Village Life.

‘There’s Nothing To Do!!!’

On Monday March 6th an open meeting was held for the youth of the village to come and discuss any plans they have about establishing a youth club, or similar ventures in the village. The meeting was held in the church at 7.30 p.m. and was promoted by word of mouth at the ‘bus stops for the High School and a number of posters. The result was... ..nobody turned up!! They were interested, but couldn’t make the doorway!

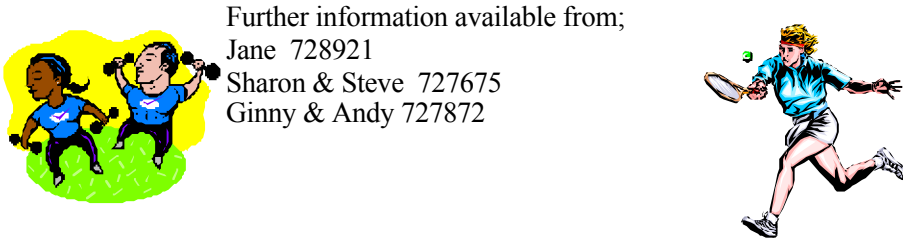
Now, not to be defeated, we are pressing on.

On MONDAY 24TH APRIL the Youth and Community team from King’s Lynn are bringing their mobile resource to Northwold and will park in the SOCIAL CLUB CARPARK FROM 6.30 TO ABOUT 8.00.

Everyone is invited, parents, young people and anyone who might have ideas about the future development of youth based activities is very welcome to pop in for a chat.

There is no formal organisation as yet, just a few interested persons.

If this idea falls flat, then at least we can say we have tried!



Further information available from; Jane 728921 Sharon & Steve 727675 Ginny & Andy 727872

Issue April 2006 Copy date for the next issue is; 23rd April 2006 copy@northwold.net Tel. 01366 728233

School Carnival From Roger Preston

Please note that this year the Carnival Procession will leave Hall Farm at 1pm instead of the usual 2pm

If you want to enter a float or maybe you need a stall please contact me

Are you feeling strong, can you put a team of 5 (maximum) together for a Truck Pull We shall be putting a competition together for the Carnival One timed pull within the main ring If you interested please let me know?

Saturday 6th May 2006 6.30pm We are putting on a FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT Teams £5 (this includes some food)

Roger

Dogs Fouling yet again.

Again we have received complaints about dogs fouling public places. The first complaint comes from Church Lane Whittington and the other one concerning School Lane, and High Street, Northwold. As regards the problem in Whittington, although I do not have the name of the complainant, the offender is apparently aware of the problem they are causing.

In School Lane in Northwold the dogs mess is left where the School Children go to and from School daily. Dogs mess is not only offensive, but can cause blindness in Children. And of course people have to live in these locations. So please clean it up before the District Council starts getting heavy handed and dealing out fines.

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The views expressed in submitted items are not necessarily endorsed by Northwold & Whittington Village Life. Whilst we endeavour to ensure that all information contained in the newsletter is correct, we cannot be held responsible for errors. The Editor reserves the right to refuse or omit items without explanation.

From The Editor

Editorial Policy.

During the month there appeared through my letter box a letter which was anonymous, It was a complaint regarding dog fouling in Whittington, and although I have the greatest sympathy with the writer I regret that I cannot publish an anonymous letter unless I know the identity of the writer. Please could this person identify themselves to me and I will be only too glad to acquaint our readers with the details.

May I through the editorial express sincere thanks from my wife and myself for all the greetings cards, and presents which we received on the occasion of our Ruby Wedding.

Also special thanks to those anonymous souls who took the trouble to decorate our gates and front door in our absence. **It was very much appreciated.**



The above picture shows the Editor and his bride cutting their wedding cake on Saturday, 26th March, 1966, in Hilgay Women's Institute hall. It was freezing cold on the day and it snowed. The next day there was an enormous Fen Blow. So much for Climate Change !!

Church Diary for April, 2006

- 2nd 11am
N o r t h w o l d Holy Communion
- 9.30 am
Wretton Service of the word
- 9th 11am
Northwold. Matins
9. 30am
Wretton. Holy Communion
- 14th (Good Friday.)
2 – 3 pm
Northwold. Devotional
- 16th 11 am.
N o r t h w o l d Holy Communion
- 9.30am
Whittington Holy Communion
- 23rd 11am
Northwold. Matins
- 9.30am
Whittington . Holy Communion
- 30th 11am.
Northwold. Benefice Holy Communion



NORTHWOLD W.I.

The expected speaker was unable to attend our February meeting which attracted an almost full turnout of members and the President, Pat Coles, was in fact very pleased to welcome three new members, bringing our membership up to 32.

After dealing with correspondence including invitations by other Institutes it was reported that the visit to Oklahoma at the Theatre Royal had been greatly enjoyed as also had the Luncheon Club's visit to The George at Methwold. Forthcoming events to be looked forward to are the cookery demo. at Watton, the Food Festival at Chilford Hall and the Group Meeting at Weeting. The venue for our Birthday party in November has also been chosen.

Members were told of the Resolutions being placed before the National Federation for consideration at the AGM to be held in Cardiff later in the year, and Pat reported on the Treasurers Training Day which she

and our Asst.Treasurer had attended. It was also agreed that members would assist with fund raising for the repairs to the Village Hall. As our finances can now exceed £1000. in a year it is necessary for our WI to be registered as a Charity and the formalities for this will be commenced shortly.

It was then time for the evening's entertainment. After hearing some very amusing poems it was time for a light-hearted Quiz arranged by member Ann Howorth. Amid much laughter we attempted to guess the meaning of good old Norfolk words such as Mawkin, Bishy-barney-bee, Tittermatorter and a full-flapper. Many of us were also surprised by the number of garment Care-labels we were unable to identify/ How have we managed to get our washing done?

To end the evening refreshments were served by Rita Nicholls and Brenda Ayres. In March our President gave a warm welcome to two guests who we all hope to see in the future as new members . They certainly timed their

first visit very well as we were all entertained so very well by Gilly Lewis whose anecdotes of her varied and amusing life kept us enthralled and in stitches. She was voted by many as our best speaker for a long time and needless to say we hope to see her again.

Refreshments were served by Mitch Hodges and Betty Akers; the competition for a childhood treasure was won by Betty Akers and Brenda Ayres and Christine Collins celebrated their birthdays.

Next month we are looking forward to greeting an old favourite David Hennassy with his slides of Birds in your Garden.

Answers... Mawkin- a scarecrow. Bishy-barney-bee - a ladybird, Tittermatorter - a see-saw and a Full-flapper - a young bird ready to fly.

Verity

Apologies to the W.I/ for the mistake which occurred in the last edition. Ed

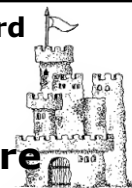
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Remember Joe Newell our round the world reporter. He is currently in Australia but some time ago he sent us this report on his visit to Moscow.

Next stop Moscow and what an assault on the senses it is. Ditch the image of Moscow as a cold, stern and formidable place; for it has shaken off the shackles of its soviet past with alarming ease. Capitalism now reigns supreme in this vibrant, trendy, cosmopolitan centre. Whether you consider this good or bad, it’s certainly an eye opener.

Two landmarks synonymous with Moscow are the Kremlin and Red Square; and there are no two better places to begin a whistlestop tour of this rousing capital. A bastion of Russian and world politics, the Kremlin is probably Russia’s most famous landmark. Dating back to 1150, the Kremlin – or more accurately Kreml – is the Russian word for fortress and, in fact, every town in medieval Russia owned one. The Kremlin that we recognise today was largely built between 1475 and 1516 under the orders of Ivan the Great. Its formidable red walls encompass some of Russia’s most important and influential buildings, including the Assumption Cathedral, Ivan the Great Bell Tower, the State Kremlin Palace and, of course, the former Senate building, now home to the most powerful man in Russia - President Putin.

Joining onto the Kremlin’s northern wall is Red Square, one of the world’s largest and most spectacular city squares. Most people enter Red Square through the Resurrection Gate, where they are greeted with a postcard panorama. 400 metres in front of you is the stunning St Basil’s Cathedral. Built between 1555 and 1561 to celebrate Ivan the Terrible’s taking of the Tatar stronghold of Kazan, St Basil’s Cathedral is one of only a handful of religious structures that survived 1917 revolution. Legend has it, that when Ivan the Terrible first laid eyes on the finished building, he was so impressed that he had the architects responsible blinded so that they could never build anything

comparable.

Also worth a look is Alexandrovsky Gardens, along the Kremlin’s western walls. A hub of activity all year round, but in particular at the height of summer where tourists and locals descend in their droves to drink a bottle or two of the delectable Russian beer Baltika 7. At the Northern end of this park is the much sober area of the Tomb of the Unknown Solider, a poignant cenotaph to the hundreds of thousands of unidentified soldiers slain during the Second World War.

Once you’ve taken in all the history you can stomach, it’s time to enjoy 21st century Russia. And what a disciple of capitalism it has become. Littered with stylish boutiques and trendy cafes, it’s hard to believe that communism ever existed here at all. If shopping’s what you want, Moscow has it in abundance. And if you’ve come for the vodka, you’re sure not to be very far away from a funky bar selling it at ridiculously low prices (vodka is in fact 400% cheaper in Russia than it is in the UK!)

It’s true to say that modern day Moscow is multi-faceted. Whilst the likes of the Kremlin and Red Square reek of history and political power, sights such as the former KGB building and Lenin’s Mausoleum remain as haunting reminders of Russia’s soviet past; whilst the ultra modern Okhotny Ryad shopping mall provides undeniable proof that Moscow has now embraced capitalism with open arms.

Whatever you want from Russia, Moscow can deliver it. Its myriad facades will both firmly reiterate and yet cataclysmically shatter any stereotypes you may have of modern day Russia. If you can get over the petty bureaucracy (that doesn’t allow you to so much as put your hands in your pockets whilst in Red Square) and the seemingly cold veneer of Muscovite hospitality, you should enjoy every second of this awe inspiring capital. I certainly did!

Joe

Thanks Joe. But whatever you do don’t mention Cricket down Under. Ed

Humour Column

A Letter From Grandma Sent in by Jane Luckman

The other day I went to a Christian bookshop and saw a “Hoot if you love Jesus” sticker and I put it in my car. I’m so glad I did- what an uplifting experience followed.

I had stopped at a red light at a busy crossing, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good he is, and I didn’t notice that the lights had changed. It was a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn’t hooted I’d never have noticed.

I found that lots of people love Jesus. While I was sitting there, a man behind me started hooting like crazy and then he leaned out of the window and screamed, “For the love of God, go, go!” What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus. Everyone started hooting! I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these lovely people. I even hooted a few times myself to share in the love.

I saw another man waving in a funny way with only two fingers stuck in the air. When I asked my teenage grandson (sitting beside me) what that meant he said that is was probably an Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well I’ve never met anyone from Hawaii, so I gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing, even he was enjoying the religious experience.

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started to walk towards me. I bet they wanted to pray with me or ask which church I attended. This was when I noticed that the lights had changed and so not wishing to hold anyone up, I gave a cheery smile and waved goodbye to all my new found brothers and sisters and drove off. In the mirror I noticed that I was the only car that got across before the lights changed again. I felt very sad that I had to leave them all behind after all the love we had shared so I slowed down, leaned out of the window and gave them the Hawaiian good luck sign as I drove away.

It is difficult to believe that there are only two weeks left of this term; time seems to pass so quickly these days, or is it that I am getting older!



At the beginning of March we held our first multi-cultural week and focussed on Africa. The children learned a great deal about the continent and we were visited by an African Artist and Storyteller, his infectious enthusiasm was wonderful. All children took part in an African Art Day and made everything from necklaces to shields.

Sporting events have been very much part of the calendar and children took part in cross country running at Weeting, football and netball matches against other local schools and on the 16th March the Annual Football tournament. The trophy was won by Stoke Ferry but the team from Northwold played magnificently and all members of the squad demonstrated a high standard of both skill and sportsmanship. Our particular thanks to Gary Hodder (a coach who will be working in school next term) and Mr Paul Billmen who coaches the children after school on Fridays. Congratulations to Kyle Dyer, our goalkeeper and Man of the Match!

On 7th March we were visited by Hugh Lupton who is a published author and who spent time in school with the children telling stories and discussing writing.

We were delighted to hold a Health and Safety Week and were thrilled that the Fire Service joined us to teach children about fire safety and also Olly

Day with his Road Safety Show. The children gained a great deal from these visits and were complimented on their excellent behaviour.

A huge thank you to Mrs Farrow and Mrs Thomas who, with the support of their families, organised a barn dance. Details of the proceeds will be advised shortly but the school is to be one of the beneficiaries and we are VERY grateful for the generosity of all who supported this event.

The tem will end with a service in the church and the usual Easter Bonnet Parade. May I take this opportunity to wish all who support and take an interest in the school a very happy Easter.

Marion Dawe

Northwold Spiritualist Group

Meetings in The Village Hall on alternate Fridays.

Are you interested or Just Curious ?

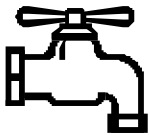
Please contact Eileen Cooper Tel. (01366) 728289 for more information

Meetings for April 2006

7th Jim Lilley.

21st. Peter Fox

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Northwold News from Jim Booty

Village Hall

At the A. G. M of Northwold village hall Committee, Mr Haye and Mr Burton were re-elected Public representatives, and Mr Haye re-elected Chairman. The Treasurer’s report showed income £ 6,368. Expenses, £4481. Balance £1887. The hall owes about £2000 in loans. During 2005 the main hall was stripped, re-plastered and damp proofed, and re decorated. A new ladies toilet was built and new curtains provided. Some of the work was financed by a grant from WREN.

Mrs Sue Spindley is moving to Yorkshire and has resigned as PTA representative. Several donations have been received, and fundraising events are planned including a concert on June 23rd.

Football Tournament

The Annual Northwold Small

Schools football tournament was held on the fendick Field on a miserable, dark, damp cold evening. Results were:-

Northwold 0, Hockwold 0 Hilgay 0, Methwold 0
Northwold 1, Hilgay 0
Hockwold 1, Methwold 0
Northwold 0, Methwold 2 Hilgay 0, Hockwold 4

Weeting 0, Stoke Ferry 2
Shouldham 0, Southery 4
Stoke Ferry 1, Shouldham 0 Weeting 0, Southery 2
Stoke Ferry 3, Southery 0
Shouldham 0, Weeting 1.

Final. Stoke Ferry 1, Hockwold 0.

Forget Me Not Club

Members were entertained by the top class from Northwold School with a play about the Pedlar of Swaffham, and some energetic Molly Dancing.

Parish Council


The War Memorial is to be cleaned and the letters repainted. A new streetyt light is to be placed at the high Street – Church Lane junction. The School project this year is to be on the environment, or nature study. Damage has been caused to a grass cutter by a metal rod left in the grass by vandals. Mr Freemantle was co-opted on to the Council where there is still one vacancy

Produce Show

The annual produce show will be on September 9TH. The schedule will be available in the next village newsletter

Hamish’s Football Pontoon

The Latest Winner was Roy Barnett who wins £39. 30p



The Parishes of St. Andrew’s, Northwold, All Saints, Wretton with Stoke Ferry & Christ Church, Whittington
Reader: Keith MacLeod, West Barn, Ryston Road, West Dereham. Tel. (01366) 500960 or 07766766137 email: keith.macleod@virgin.net

Keith MacLeod’s Monthly Report

It is the middle of March and it is very, very cold – bitter. And we have not had much rain since Christmas at all. But I feel so lucky to live just where I do. I have spent many years living abroad and always knew that England’s gently, green countryside (or that of France, if it comes to that) was what I wanted to come back to in due course. But since living in this part of West Norfolk, I have become even more committed.

What gives me especial pleasure at this time of year is the drive along Ryston Road from the A10 through West Dereham towards Wretton. As I come past Ryston Hall, to the South (on my right), I come to a wood on the right hand side, which, if you stop to look through the hedges is a carpet of white snowdrops, peeping through the deadwood and undergrowth. From here there are two routes. Turning right towards Wroxham and travelling slowly, the carpet of snowdrops continues on the right hand side. On the other hand continuing straight on towards West Dereham and travelling SLOWLY (unfortunately to the annoyance of local drivers), you can peep through the high hedge which guards a copse on the left, a gentle dell, which again is carpeted with snowdrops. And, on the right, high up the bank the snowdrops peep through the deadwood below the young new plantation of trees.

After that you have to do a little driving, heading through West Dereham towards Wretton. After turning right around the old school the road goes straight on until it gently bears to the right to go past the gates of the old West Dereham Abbey. It is the very light copse on the right as the road curves around it that demands that you stop and spend time. I have already referred to carpets of flowers, but this really is one – a mass of snowdrops and aconites that I come to visit several times every Spring. It is s privilege and a delight to live so close to such a beautiful spot.

Maybe I should not have written this, as many more of you will now know where it is. It is fenced, so it is

protected from trampling, but queues of cars would hardly enhance the area. Of course, when you come to read this, they will all have gone and you will have to wait till next year. Maybe you will have forgotten!

Not all is lost for this year however. One of the delights of Norfolk is the prevalence of wild daffodils growing along the country road margins. They can also be seen crowding into the same spots as the snowdrops. Any of our readers who are used to driving into Lynn along the A10 will also know about the delightful field of daffodils on the left hand side of the road just after passing the A134 & Watlington roundabout – they are about to shout out their existence in a swathe of colour.

We see so much ugliness about us, which is almost always – if not always – manmade and we can only marvel at how beautiful nature is by contrast. We are inundated with documentary nature films on the television – the BBC’s Planet Earth extragavanza only being the latest. They are marvellous and full of wonderful sights –also with terrible and sad sights – usually only terrible and sad to our susceptibilities. But however terrible, however sad, they are never ugly.

To those who find it difficult or impossible to believe in a Creator God, I would ask the question Why? Why is all the ugliness manmade? When we make things ugly, we usually do so by destroying what is beautiful. But, as we destroy, we seem to thrive as a species. When the elephants in parts of Namibia start to overwhelm the resources available to them and as they destroy the scrubland, they destroy their own sustenance and a new natural balance follows, as their young survive less often as numbers start to fall and a new balance is achieved. Or they move on, having superficially reduced an area to desert, but it revives after they have gone. By contrast, the dustbowl areas of the southern USA have never recovered from the depredations of mankind in the decades before the Second World War.

I believe in a Creator God, which necessarily involves my belief that He created mankind as well as all else. But we are fundamentally unique in that He did not just give us the animal instincts that elephants have but also Will – self-will. With that we can force massive changes to the natural balance of nature and run the risk of our own total destruction – a concept that we all got used to in the last century – destruction by nuclear holocaust or, now, by uncontrollable climate change. We run these risks through petty and localised greed, unable to join our Wills into a co-operative whole - not deliberately, but through our own little jealousies. This is where the uglinesses come from.

Joyfully, that is not the whole story. No one can sing Franz Biebl’s Ave Maria (as we are currently doing in the KL Festival Choir) and not be astonished at the beauty of what man can make, which an elephant cannot ever aspire to emulate. No one can look at the Millenium Bridge in Newcastle-upon Tyne without being entranced by its grace. Who can watch a Gold Medal ice-dance performance without being struck dumb by its elegance?

Animals protect their young until instinct tells them not to bother any more. Our children are special objects of our love and we behold them as beautiful, whatever anyone else may say.

Where does all this come from? Well I don’t have any doubt, even though I am incapable of properly describing or explaining what or who my Creator God is. I am most sure of Him, not when I try to describe and explain Him, but when I do as I am about to do and walk down to that tiny copse of snowdrops and aconites on the south side of West Dereham, where I only have to stop and look and I know that He is talking to me and softening my cares.

Keith MacLeod
Licensed Lay Minister

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The Nija Levis Health Column

Headaches and NO HANDS® Massage

People come to see me for many different problems and amongst those are headache sufferers. So, this month thought I'd explain how Massage can help.

There are different reasons why headaches occur and as an individual you probably know why. Many of us do not drink enough water so we become dehydrated causing headaches. So it's always good to look at how much you have drunk throughout the day, tea and coffee don't count because they are dehydrating to our bodies, you must drink water throughout the day too. So, that's an easy fix for a headache.

Another very common reason for headaches is tense neck and shoulders. This can be caused by your job especially for those who sit in one place for long periods like at

computers, drivers or for professions that are carrying or handle heavier objects. Most people have a Structural NO HANDS Massage for this type of problem. When muscles are tense and tight they are often very painfully but you can now enjoy a massage where the muscles are loosened and stretched without pain with immediate effects.

Stress can cause us headaches, if we've got something or someone difficult to cope with it becomes a 'headache' or a 'pain in the neck' which leads to a headache. Being aware of what we say can help us realise why we have different aches and pains and then what we actual need to deal with for them to go. So, it's not so much the physical headache which needs sorting but the thing in your life which is being a headache. Now you can have a few different styles of NO HANDS massage to help with this type of problem. Some people choose a Nurturing massage to take time for themselves because they have been doing so much for others and have been neglected. Others will have an Earthing style which is ideal for those who have been so busy and

need to slow down and others are so drained of energy, feeling depleted so they have a Repletion style Massage.

The scalp can become very tight and most of the time we are totally unaware that it is. This can cause headaches especially over the eyes and forehead as well as the whole head area. A tight scalp can restrict the hair growth as hair needs a good blood supply to grow well and tense muscles means the blood flow isn't as efficient as it should be. People with this problem will have NO HANDS Head Massage as part of their treatment session.

It is a delight for me to see how my clients use the powerful touch of NO HANDS so that they can heal themselves however they need too, changing and transforming their lives.

Nija
Nija writes every month about general health problems. More details can be found on her Ad on page 4.

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RITA'S RAMBLINGS

I'm hoping that by the time you get to read this the weather will have become a little more seasonal – like more daily sunshine and fewer frosty nights. Fortunately, the weather has reduced my workload in the garden because Bonnie and I have been rather busy lately. Regular readers will know that Bonnie has been taking me to training classes for some time now and this week we had our 'end of term' exam. For most of the course there have been 6 owners coming with their dogs and about 3 weeks ago a dog and its owner were promoted from the class below. All 7 dogs arrived keen to do their best, but understandably a little nervous. Their owners were also nervous and they just hoped for the best. Once everyone had taken their seats the 'rules' of the evening were explained. Each dog would have just one chance to carry out each exercise and they would be given marks on how well the exercise was performed. When Bonnie's name was called out to go first she was bright eyed and bushy tailed as she approached the starting point for exercise number one. I listened carefully to our instructions and set off with Bonnie walking nicely to heel. Halfway down the hall I was told to get her to sit – and to my relief she did exactly as she was told. The instructions carried on – about turn, turn left, lie down (Bonnie, not me), turn left (well, Bonnie correctly turned left but I tried to turn right by mistake – oops), about turn and finally stop and stand. Unfortunately, Bonnie has always been encouraged to sit down if we stop when she is on her lead and that is exactly what she

did! I started to go and sit down but was told that I needed to do the 'Recall' exercise straight away. I asked Nigel for the 'retrieve toy' – wrong again. Things were not going well for me! Bonnie sat and I started to walk away but of course, I hadn't been told to leave my dog so I stopped and returned to her side. Once I was doing it correctly Bonnie responded by fulfilled her part of the bargain and ran obediently towards me when I called. I'd like to think that it was because she wanted to be with me but I think it had more to do with the nugget of food she received! The final exercise in this section was for me to keep her sitting by my side while I threw her toy and only fetch it back to me when I told her to. Fortunately, she lived up to her breed and did exactly as asked. At this point I have a question – why does a dog keep bringing toys back to their owners who then just throw them away again? Bonnie led me back to my seat and tried to keep my spirits up. She obviously thought she was doing a good job because she received some extra treats – truthfully, it was only to make sure she didn't distract the other owners as they were put through their paces. Once all 7 owners had completed the 3 exercises we were all told to stand around the edge of the hall ready for the 'stay' exercises. Firstly, our dogs had to sit still and watch their owners standing 3feet/a metre away, for a full minute. They then had to do the same thing again but, this time, lying down. Finally, the exercise was repeated a third time with the dogs standing – Bonnie became a polite young dog again and sat down after about 20 seconds. After all this effort we had to take our seats again until

all the points were added up. The results were announced, in time-honoured fashion, in reverse order. Bonnie was delighted when she saw that she had won a beautiful blue rosette – the fact that it meant she had come in second seemed to pass her by. She insisted on wearing it home so that she could show Amber straight away. Doesn't she look pleased in the photograph? Overall, I was extremely pleased with her performance – I will try and make sure I improve before we do the next exam!! But for now, we have moved on to the next class. I wonder what new 'tricks' we will both have to learn.

Until next month, take care.



Bonnie

Rita

Dear Editor Mick

Many of us older residents can remember you and your bride moving into Northwold Police House 40 years ago So:- Congratulations Michael and Pam on your Ruby Wedding.
Anonymous

Our thanks Oh Anonymous One Ed

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Our Past According To POG

Aka Mike Coley



We all recognise instantly the imposing Georgian house (*Sycamore House*) that’s situated in the High Street, almost opposite the Hall Lane junction. But what of it’s secrets, its past, its naming, and what lay beyond its lofty facade twixt it and the river?

Well it’s said that the great house itself got its name from the tree that once grew adjacent to it, across street where later the butchers property would be. Just a little before my time it was owned by a chap called Robert Easling. He owned and lived in the house, but ran a general store from within part of it, which Percy Corston took over at a later date when the old man retired. (*did you see the photo of it when Corston had it?, the picture was reproduced in the excellent 2006 calendar which the playground project produced ?*)

Mr. Corston (*Korky*) was a fine tradesman in his own right and he continued to run the establishment as a general store / come drapers. He later moved, lock stock and barrel across the road where he traded in similar vein until the day he died.

After Corstons moved out of the big house, the shop front was of course removed and the windows and brickwork had to be replaced in a way that would restore the front of the old building to its original glory. It’s amazing how things work out in the end you know, if you look at the front of the building now, you would be hard pressed to see any trace of interruption in the continuity of the structure. This is because the bricks used to do the work were such a good match.

In fact those old bricks had quite an aristocratic history, taken as they were, second hand of course, from the amazing old hall that was the crowning glory of **Didlington Park**, after it had itself been demolished. (*Once the Country seat of Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney. But that’s*

entirely another story for another day)

However, situated behind the looming edifice of **‘Sycamore House’**, were half a dozen terraced cottages that were still occupied when I was a boy. The area was called **‘The Tanyard’** and was reachable for the most part by foot only. Access to it was minimal I remember, it was down a very, very long passageway that was just wide enough to push a bike down.

To take anything larger down to those cottages, it was necessary to seek permission from Mr Easlan to go through his double gates (*which are, or at least some like them, still there today*) and across his property. However the occupants of these old cottages, despite having none of the services we take for granted today, EG Electricity and running water, loved the old place and its generous gardens. They still speak fondly of it even now, citing happy days spent in an idyllic situation.

Cooking of course in those old cottages was, as was pretty well standard back then, by means of the old black leaded range. Despite backing on to **the Little River**, drinking water was drawn from a well. Naturally lighting was by paraffin lamps which illuminated everything with a lovely soft glow.

Paraffin was widely used in homes for lighting, cooking sometimes and extra heating by means of portable paraffin stoves. (*not over popular as they caused a lot of condensation*) Today many of our homes enjoy Oil Fired central heating, (*which would run quite happily on Paraffin incidentally if you knew where to get it* in quantity) but in my childhood pretty well all the shops supplied it and sold it by the gallon. Paraffin was itself an innovation in its day and replaced **Whale Oil** for domestic use. The nearest Whaling fleet to us was in Kings Lynn, where stories of the stink that hung over the town as the result of boiling down the blubber, are well documented.

But back to the **Tanyard**, sadly no-one seems to know anything anymore about the Tannery that must have

existed there at one time and after which the area derived its name. To us, when I was a youngster, the name Tanyard was merely ‘another name’ and its origins were of little or no consequence to anyone.(*tragically this is exactly how our heritage becomes lost and forgotten over time*)

In later times however, in living memory actually (*although not mine*) there had been a small slaughter house down there, owned by Walter Bryant the Butcher who also owned the shop across the road where Catlin’s butchers shop was to be established at a later date.

Tanning is a different trade altogether, just as Butchers are not necessarily Slaughtermen. Therefore, although hides are acquired from the slaughter houses, it’s doubtful in this case that the same firms would have participated in the production of Tanned leather.

Copious quantities of fresh water would be required to dilute the chemicals used in the tanning process and I must remind you that people didn’t generally have water on tap in those days, it would be drawn from a well in most cases. This is where the Little River, and it’s proximity to the tannery would have been of enormous benefit to such a trade. A constant supply of this essential commodity would have made it the ideal location for a specialist business like that.

The old homes that were once located down the Tanyard, like so many in the village, have long since disappeared without trace and the walkway to it has been blocked off now. A small white gate to the right hand side of ‘Sycamore House’ is all that remains to indicate that a thoroughfare ever existed. It gives a clue to the width of the alley but not of course to its length.

Well there y’go together, another tale of yesteryear to fire the imagination, and for some, more memories of what we once had in the village. I’ve gotta go now because all that nostalgia has started me looking forward to looking back again next time. So till then, Best wishes **Pog**

Riverwatch

By Ivor Hook

Spring is coming but it is still somewhat deceptive. A mass of dark clouds roll across the sky but beyond them is a background of almost unreal brightness. Surrounding fields are still waiting the first signs of a new crop. A large flock of crows rise from the ground and wheel off to settle in distant trees. The bushes bordering the river are stark and bare but a closer inspection show catkins and the first signs of sticky buds. Dry dead sedge lays flattened alongside the riverbank. Snowdrops are everywhere and will soon be followed by the daffodils which are often phantom as they appear in really remote places making you wonder who planted them. The recent rain has caused endless mud and puddles making walking difficult. A biting icy wind together with flurries of snow questions the sensibility of being outside. However regardless of everything there is still expectancy for the weeks ahead.

Today alongside the upper reaches of the river Wissey sees a real change. Although long awaited the effect of the recent rain is now obvious. The previously empty dykes now contain water for the first time this winter. They provide an endless flow into the river. The river itself is now much higher and assisted by the wind it almost cascades down the narrow width. It is the same as we reach and pass every meander – there seems no escape from the wind. The rough water looks fierce and it is difficult to imagine any fish in such conditions

but no doubt they have already sought out areas of slack water until normality returns. The weed so prevalent last summer has long disappeared and on a calm day the shingle riverbed is clearly seen. A few minutes of sunshine now lights up everywhere and transforms the whole scene. The meadows become yellow and bright colours are everywhere. There is an instant feeling of well-being. A pair of cock pheasants with their vibrant colours of red, gold and green now highlighted strut about unconcerned by my presence.

Alas a few minutes later the whole picture changes. The sun disappears and a dreary darkness takes over. More sleet and snow seems imminent. Again you realise how important the sun is to our perception. The wind increases in strength and adds to the turbulence on the water. All thoughts of spring now become distant and reality returns. We are reminded that it is still a winter’s day confirming that all the seasons seem to shift further backwards as years go by.

On the return walk the acrid smell of a fox makes you look around for him but he is long gone. Perhaps he has already made his kill and has returned to his lair to enjoy a rabbit dinner. There has been little sign of wildlife today which is not surprising in view of the weather but with the hours of daylight increasing and the brief moments of sunshine we can be reassured that everything is poised to change very soon and that spring is round the corner.

Ivor Hook

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