

Many Thanks

We would like to express our thanks to Kim and her team at the Rainbow Riding School for putting on such a wonderful Halloween Party.

Around 30 children all came beautifully dressed or should I say scarily dressed, and the horses and ponies were also dressed up in the appropriate costumes, we had a fairy, a devil, an old maid and a princess and many more, you had to be there to see it !

Great fun was had by all children, adults and horses with plenty of sweets, food and games.

Many thanks Kim for a great night.
Mandy, Victoria and Emily Lavender

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The Editor and his team would like to wish all our residents a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year



And what better way to start getting into the Christmas spirit than to come to the Church on Sunday 9th December at 6. 30 pm to celebrate the Christmas Tree festival with carols stories, Poems, music and all the things that make for this traditional celebration. Judging by the last two years it will be advisable to get there in good time as the Church will no doubt be full to overflowing. There are 25 trees this year which will be illuminated for the festival as usual. Joe will be starting the event in the traditional way just as he did last year which was nothing short of brilliant, and all done in the light of the trees . **Should be a good night !!!!**



Regrettably Winston says sorry he won't be there, as he is busy revealing his identity on page 10



And while we are on the subject of forthcoming events in the Church we mustn't forget that very important event

The Christingle Service

Which will be held this year on Sunday 16th December at 4pm.

If your child would like to receive a Christingle at the Service, please see jenny Langley for a Donation Envelope before the 12th December.

Contact Telephone numbers are 728831 and 727687

All proceeds go to Quidenham Children's Hospice

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Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

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Hay.....	Large Bale £3.00	<u>OPEN EVERY DAY 7.30AM-6.30PM</u>
Straw.....	Large Bale £2.00	

Look out for Santa!

We can expect to have a visit from Father Christmas and his sleigh on the evening of Wednesday 19th December. He'll be starting his journey from Hall Farm, travelling along West End, Glebe Close, High Street, Hovells Lane, Church Lane, School Lane, Normandy Close and Methwold Road.

So just listen out for the music as he comes round ringing his bell and shouting Ho! Ho! Ho! (Noisy devil). Or why not come out and join in. Any money that Santa's helpers collect of course goes to charity.

(You never know he might be accompanied by bulls!)

Little Normans Pre School

Little Normans Pre-School wishes to thank everyone who came out and supported its Prize Bingo, which was held at the Northwold Sports & Social Club on 23 November 2007 at 7:30pm. A great time was had by all. Amount raised will be announced at a later date.

Our Christmas Nativity Play takes place on Friday 14 December at Methwold Social Club. Times and costume requirements info to follow. There will be a raffle, and donations of

prizes would be gratefully received.

The Children’s Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday 18 December at Northwold Sports & Social Club.

There will also be a clown, entertainers, party food and a visit from Father Christmas.

Little Normans Pre-School takes this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

School re-opens on Monday 7 January 2008.

Thanks

Ann wishes to thank everyone for being so kind and support my mother in her recent break in. Once again thank you.

Ann Oakey

Congratulations
Congratulations to Paul and Nija
On the occasion of their recent wedding.

Best wishes from all at Village Life

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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.

Editorial

And so yet another year has just about flown by.

It never fails to amuse me when things go wrong during the year or we "get wrong with someone" that - "This is the happy new year we all wished each other in January" whilst the unpleasantness runs riot as it does sometimes.

This has not been a good year as far as the village is concerned. We are suddenly witnessing at first hand the kind of crime, which I personally am all too familiar with. When you are young you can shrug these things off very quickly, but when you are the victim of this sort of crime and over the age of retiring, then it can become a life shattering experience and sometimes the victims life is ruined to some extent for ever.

There is little doubt that the Country is falling into a state of lawlessness when we read of gangs ruling estates in towns and in some cases shooting either each other or innocent bystanders with guns they shouldn't have, or stabbing people with knives. Perhaps someone can explain why an ordinary carving knife needs a sharp point in the first place.

Still I'm sure the Law is doing it's best. We frequently get the old speed camera on the main road collecting a little more for the treasury to do heaven knows what with. "Still get the accidents though"

So there you go!! I just thought I would cheer everybody up and get them in a jolly mood for Christmas.

And I wish you all a happy new year but..... "I wouldn't bank on it" **Ed**

Don't forget
we do not
publish in
January but
keep the
material
coming in
just the same.

Northwold Playground Project

On behalf on the Northwold Playground Project I would like to thank everyone that came along and supported us at our Christmas Hall of Stalls on Friday 16th November. We filled the Sports & Social Club with various craft, card, jewellery, gift & chocolate stalls giving people the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping in the village. Thornton's Chocolate's also came and gave us a demonstration on icing and wrapping and kindly shared out a few sample chocolates. A thank you also goes to the Sports & Social Club for the use of their facilities. The whole evening raised a total of £349.00. Once again, we must thank everyone for their support, the evening was a great success.

Our fundraising efforts will continue in 2008, when will hopefully have notification of the recent grant that we have applied for. If this application is successful we will be able to give the 0-5 year olds a similar play area to the one already purchased for the older children. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
to you all.

Tina Billmen

On behalf of
Northwold Playground Project

Derek Johnson
PROPERTY & LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Interior & exterior painting, wood or UPVC fascia boards
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Trees & conifers trimmed or removed
Hedges, bushes and ivy trimmed
Fencing & decking, landscape maintenance
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The Nija Morgan Health Column

Healing Synergy

When I was in Morocco in October, my honeymoon so I'm now Nija Morgan, I had a Massage. I like to see how treatments are given in other countries plus us No Hands Massage Therapists are know as Touch Junkies. Anyway the massage was lovely to have but nothing different basically it was a Swedish Massage with a set routine. Afterwards I felt for the girl who had given me the massage wondering how many massages she gave a day and how I was benefiting from the massage but she was not. I felt a bit uncomfortable about that. When I have my No Hands Massage Treatment I know that my Practitioner is also benefiting from giving me the Massage as I do when I massage my clients, this is Healing Synergy. To perform a No Hands Massage we move our bodies in a certain way, to the onlooker it looks like a workout or a dance or yoga or even tai chi and most comment that it looks like hard work but like any exercise to do a No Hands

Massage is actually energising. That's why when I do exhibitions I can work constantly and have other Therapists suggesting that I must be very tired by all the people I've treated that day. I am always very energised and I do get a buzz out of how people react to No Hands when they see it for the first time. When I did a day at Mundford Village Hall I had quite a few of my existing clients attend and even though they've had many massages from me they where amazed to see how I actually did the Massage. Some of them have got more out of their massage since because I think their understanding of No Hands has deepen from that day. I think the reason is that they have seen that No Hands is about Practitioner and Client actually working together to achieve the outcomes, that's the Practitioner doing the bodywork and the client doing the releasing so they can heal. The more clients breathe, really feel the massage and let go the more I respond with the body work I'm am doing.

This is part of what makes No Hands so powerful that although Practitioner and Client clearly have their own work to do throughout the massage session, that work creates a unique way of working together which is beneficial to us both. I find it very inspirational to see people making changes in whatever area they need too by using No Hands as a support to do that. My No Hands journey of giving, receiving and learning, especially being on the Mastery Programme has been and still is the most powerful experience I've ever had with the most support I've ever received. I've learnt quite a few other therapies yet none have been to the depth which can be achieved with No Hands.

I can't think of a better gift to give someone for Christmas which is truly an experience for them or even yourself so I'm giving a £10.00 discount of vouchers bought for Christmas.

Nija

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Winston Norfolk's Well Known Singing Farmer will be appearing at The Village Hall on Saturday 8th March 2008.

Tickets will be available initially from John Burton on 01366 727018 They have not been printed yet but bearing in mind that this man is very popular it is probable that the tickets will be sold long before the event .

If you want more information with a view to reserving tickets etc please Telephone John on 728233.

Sponsor a Chair Appeal

Below are listed the names of those who have so far sponsored a chair

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Northwold Dance Club
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Northwold Women's Institute
Mr and Mrs Philpot
The Price family
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Jane Rabett
Michael, Karen, Edward and Toby Rickard
Mr Storey
Mrs Storey
Teresa Waller
David Waller
Tim Elliott
Jackie Elliott
Eileen Hiles
John Haylock
Gold Blade Productions
Ann Howarth
Mike Howarth
Six Sponsors wish to remain anonymous.
This List is growing longer by the week. So why not be part of it. After all we all use the hall at some time or other and the old chairs have served us well for over 40 years.
I have all the information at Village Life **Ed**

St Andrew's Church Church Diary for December 2007

Sunday 2nd
11 am Holy Communion
Rev Blackall
Friday 7th
10 am. Crib and toy service
Rev Nicholl
Sunday 9th
6. 30pm Tree festival
Martin Chilvers
Sunday 16th
8am Holy Communion
Rev Nicholl
4pm Christingle service
Canon Rowsell
Sunday 23rd
11am Matins.
Canon Rowsell
Christmas Eve
11. 30 pm Holy Communion
Canon Rowsell
Christmas day.
11am Matins
Keith Mcleod
Sunday 30th
9. 30 am Deanery Holy Communion
Rev Beech

See the Trees

An alternative "Coffee Morning" for a chance to see the spectacular decorated Christmas Trees – all illuminated. Join us on Tuesday, December 18th Between 10. 30 am and 12 noon. Enjoy a glass of sherry and a mince pie.

Proceeds will be used to cover the cost of the trees!!

Carnations for Christmas

We will be having a display of carnations on the altar again this Christmas. It has become something of a tradition for several families in the village to make a donation towards this in memory of a loved one.

If you would like to remember someone in this way, please let Brenda Ayres or Jackie Elliot know by the 18th December. Thank you

St Andrew's Church Annual Bazaar

The Bazaar on Saturday 24th November was very happy day

K.C.'s Carriages brought our V I P ,Lord Romney, High Sheriff of Norfolk, to "Open" the event in great style, and with him Father Christmas who retired to his Grotto to prepare for his many visitors.

There were several new stalls and competitions as well as the traditional ones, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who helped in any way at all – including the setting up and the clearing away.

The very grand total was £1,400

Well Done Everyone!!

Jane Luckman

NORTHWOLD YOUTH CLUB

For a short while, you could hear a pin drop at the last Youth Club while members were busy making different types of decorations for the Christmas Tree in St Andrews. Everyone concentrated really hard on making toilet rolls look like angels, paper plates like poinsettias, and stars and lanterns glitter. We may well be hoovering up glitter for some time to come in the Sports and Social Club!

During the evening we held a raffle in aid of Children in Need. The Club raised £16. Well done everyone.

Sally and Cristina recently represented the Youth Club at the Village Remembrance Service. We would like to say a special thank you to these two members for carrying out the task so well.

By the time you read this article we will have had our Annual General Meeting, during which the members elect their Management Committee. The committee comprises adult members (usually the Helpers) and up to six young members and is responsible for ensuring the Club meets the members' needs and planning possible future events.

On the same evening as the AGM we hold the Annual Quiz, hosted by Quiz Master Ann Howarth. If last year's quiz was anything to go by, this should be good fun!

There will only be one Youth Club during December, but that will be the Christmas Party so more fun, food and frolics to look forward to! There's never a dull moment at the Club.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our young members, helpers and supporters,

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November 5th

Yes It actually happened on November 5th which is commonly known as Guy Fawkes Night.

A few allotment holders thought it a good idea to accumulate their garden rubbish and dispose of it in the traditional way with a bonfire, held courtesy of Dave Wheatley and Tracey (Who's allotment the fire was piled on.)

The editor and John Burton spent most of the day getting the fire prepared, and lots of eats and drinks were provided. How could we fail to have a good feed with Dave, the resident Chef of Village Life in charge of the "Field kitchen".

Mike Wilkinson sent the attached report along with some pictures which he took on the night.

"A few allotment neighbours gathered on a bonfire night with-a-difference to share a few hot morsels, and some thoughts about the season.

It was a chill wind from the north west



Celebrating in the traditional way

that fanned the flames of a bonfire that bade farewell to a large mound of weeds which had gathered from some of the allotment strips.

Despite the lack of rain the weeds were still a little damp and some of us became shrouded in the thick fog that was the blinding smoke leeward of the fire. I now have some idea of the danger our fire service encounter when entering smoke filled buildings. The evening was a refreshing end to a busy day with the opportunity to meet people we had only seen in the distance. I would like

to thank Michael(Ed.) and friends for



Our one exploding firework inviting and welcoming us to the bonfire evening and hope we don't leave it a whole year to meet and greet again."

Mike

We thought about making this an annual event. All the rubbish from the allotments could be disposed of in one go and make an evening of it

Ed

We're well into the second half of the Autumn term now and winter drawers on! The build-up to Christmas is gathering momentum, but there is no sign yet of that last-minute pre-performance panic that grips all teachers and teaching assistants (and head teachers) the week before the event (in our case, look out for signs of serious staff stress round about 7th December!)

The week before half term saw that terrible attack on one of our near neighbours who was savagely mistreated and robbed by three cowardly attackers in her own home. The school community rallied round to help extremely quickly, holding a non-uniform day later the same week and raising £385, which four of our children (one from each class) were able to present to the lady in question later the same day. Such generosity from all the parents, children, staff, governors and other members of the community did much to restore our faith in human nature – when one watches the news it's very easy to think the world is seething with criminals and terrorists round every corner, but in fact the vast majority of us are kind and honest folk who quickly act to help others in need. This is particularly so here in Northwold – as Caroline Whiting, our Chair of Governors, said at the time "Northwold as a community, and the school as part of that community, always comes together and helps people out."

The following day, some of the children and myself appeared on BBC Look East, so we each had five seconds of fame. Andy Warhol, who Class 3 have been studying, said that "In the future, everyone will have 15 minutes of fame" which means we still have 14 minutes and 55 seconds to go. (In later life, Warhol said that what he meant was "Everybody will be famous in 15 minutes", but at that point he was fed up with being asked constantly about his original quotation so came up with something silly to stop people asking!)

As I write, (the 19th – always a happy



day in Norfolk schools because it's pay day) Mrs Stanbridge has brought in today's post, including an envelope addressed to "The Headmaster" which was postmarked in Peterborough with no post code (but it still got here – good old Royal Mail). It contains a £5 note and an unsigned letter with no address which reads "Please can you pass the enclosed £5 to the lady who was robbed. Thank you." Isn't that great? As one of our caretakers, Doreen Randell, just said "It just goes to show how many wonderful people there are out there".

Be warned, however – we've since heard of another burglary in the village one evening when the house owners had popped out for a couple of hours. A flat-screen television and other valuable items were stolen, so it just goes to show how vigilant we all have to be, wherever we live, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The week before last saw Martin Fisher, the Bishop's Visitor, spending the day with us once again. Martin rounded off his visit with another memorable assembly which included him reciting by memory a hugely long poem about a family of dogs who buy a pet human for Christmas and don't treat it very well! Brilliant though the poem was, with an important message for us all, even more awesome was Martin's ability to memorise it. At my age, I have a job remembering what day of the week it is!

Last week, Reverend Angela Nicholl gave a lovely assembly about Remembrance Sunday. Angela has kindly agreed to lead out Christmas service in St Andrew's Church at 9.30am on the last day of term, Wednesday 19th December. If you would like to attend, please contact Mrs Stanbridge in the school office (728241)

Last Friday was Children in Need day when, in return for another non-uniform day, the children were asked to bring in any loose change they had, or which they could wheedle out of their parents, grandparents, etc. The idea was to see how long a 'money line' we could make in the

school hall, with the end result being 76.17m and almost £140 in cash. The money line also included 2 Euros, 5 Spanish pesetas, 2 US dimes, 5 French cents (from the time of francs) and a replica coin from the time of Elizabeth 1st!! A special mention and thanks need to be given to Lewis Stevenson in Class 4 who sent away (on my computer!) to Children in Need for his own pack of information and as a result raised £26 on his own (almost – his mum helped and also provided a prize). Well done, Lewis, and Lewis's mum.

This Monday morning, as I entered our hallowed portals, Jim Booty was waiting to tell me that moles had attacked our playing field for the first time in living memory. I can actually see the mole-hills clearly from my office, through the mist, a hundred yards away. They look huge, so I fear a Northwold mole is as big as a small pig! When we first moved to Norfolk and lived in Quidenham, moles attacked our pristine lawn days after moving in! The same thing happened on Sporle First School's playing field shortly after I became Acting Head there. They're following me around and getting bigger all the time!

The Mundford mole-man cometh this Friday to gas them out as long as it's not raining. Presumably if it's raining we just have to block up both ends of the run and hope they drown! Watch this space.

So, it's now all downhill to Christmas and daily the corridors and classrooms are ringing with the sounds of a huge range of Christmas songs. Glitter, cotton wool, crepe paper, silver foil, perhaps a donkey head or two, glue, tea towels, to name but a few, will shortly be festooned in every available work-space and clogging the cleaners' Hoover. Ho! Ho! Ho! The joys of Christmas!

All the best

Richard Ogilvie

Thanks once again for another very comprehensive article. As I have said before the School is the most important thing in the Village Ed

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Northwold Care Group

It has come to our attention that new people in the village are not aware of the Northwold Care Group. There are three main functions of the Care Group. These are the Lunch Club, The Hospital Car Scheme and the Nursing Equipment Store.

Lunch Club

This meets on the second Monday in each month in the Village Hall at 12 noon. Volunteers from the village provide a two-course, home cooked meal, together with a glass of wine and a cup of tea or coffee, for the sum of £2. This enables people to get together and have a chat over a nice meal. Those unable to travel to the Village Hall can be collected by car. We have spaces for more people to attend so if you would like more details please ring either Ann Howarth on

727772 or Mr Booty on 728515.

Car Scheme

There are various volunteers in the village who take patients to the Hospitals (King's Lynn, Norwich, Papworth etc) the Dentist, The Surgeries, Eye Clinic etc for a nominal fee, if they are unable to get to these places themselves. Please contact Mr Booty if this scheme would be of help to you, as Mr Booty is the Co-ordinator for the scheme. Also, the scheme does need more volunteer drivers, please, and petrol costs are covered.

Nursing Equipment

There is a store in the village of nursing equipment for anyone who wishes to borrow certain items. (Walking frames, toilet seats, etc - items for the disabled) Please contact Mr Booty for details.

Northwold Art Group

On Sunday 18th November thirty-one members and their partners from the Northwold Art Group went on a Coach trip to the Castle Museum at Norwich to see the Watercolours and Drawings from the Collection of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

A total of 73 exhibits from her collection were on show embracing artists as diverse as Thomas Gainsborough and John Bratby. From the first portrait of Queen Elizabeth as the young Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon aged seven years, to watercolours marking her 100th birthday, the exhibition is a wonderful record of both her private and public life.

The trip was enjoyed by everyone and we look forward to more Museum and Gallery visits in the future.

Glenda and Patsy

Northwold W.I. Then and Now

Northwold WI Celebrate their 70th Birthday

On the evening of 13th November, more than 30 members of the Northwold WI visited the Mulberry restaurant in Thetford to celebrate the group's 70th birthday. The evening was a great success with almost everyone enjoying a delicious meal, unfortunately an administrative error in the kitchen resulted in one member's meal being far from ideal!

There was a great deal of happy chatter and reminiscing followed by a birthday raffle and the promise of a birthday cake at the December meeting!



W1 dining 21st century Style

Thanks again to Charlie Askew we have some press cuttings of the W I 21st Birthday. Unfortunately the cuttings were not too clear on being scanned so I have re typed them word for word. Ed

Dominic Writes

Judging from all accounts our Women's Institute had a very good time at their 21st birthday party. There were 21 founder members present and it was most appropriate that the real founder of the branch, Miss Goodrich was able to come along and see her child's coming of age party.

There will be changes in the local W.I. at the elections next month. Miss G. Barber has been treasurer for all the 21 years (And I believe, has had a large share in the production of a birthday cake each year), but she has signified her wish to hand over to some other member. Likewise Mrs Eyles, who has served long and well, would like to see some other member installed as president.



MRS. M. GOODRICH, who founded Northwold Women's Institute 21 years ago, lights the candles on a cake at the branch's birthday party on Monday. On the left is Mrs. G. Barber, treasurer, who made the cake, and on the right the president, Mrs. M. Eyles. (20 Nov.)

Northwold's 21st Anniversary
Members of Northwold Women's Institute celebrated the 21st birthday anniversary. Mrs J.V.Eyles the president welcomed Mrs W. Sanderson, V.C.O, a member of the county executive committee and Miss M. Goodrich who was the founder of the branch. The latter was presented with a bouquet by Mrs W. Card, Mrs Hartley presented the president and the secretary, Miss A.Brunton with a vase of flowers and also gave out the month's birthday buttonholes.

Miss G. Barber, who is resigning from her post as treasurer which she has held since the W. I started, received a box of chocolates in appreciation of her years of service. The birthday cake was made, iced and decorated by Miss Barber and Miss Goodrich lighted the 21 candles.

It is believed that Miss Barber has been connected closely with the making of every birthday cake in the history of the branch.

Entertainers from Lynn provided an enjoyable programme.

Gary Boyce Shop opening times Christmas and New Year

Mon 17th Dec. Closed
Tues 18th 8am - 1pm 2pm 5.30
Weds 19th 8am 1 pm 2pm - 5.30
Thurs. 20th 8am - 1pm 2pm-5.30
Friday 21st Sat 22nd Closed
Sun 23rd 7.30am -5pm
Mon 24th 7.30am - 2pm
Tuesday 25 - Friday 28 Inclusive Closed
Sat 29th 7. 30am - 5pm
Sun 30th 7.30 am - 5pm
Monday 31st to Thursday 3rd Incl Closed.

This is published to help the community not as an advert. Ed

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Our Past According To POG Aka Mike Coley



“Hold yew hard together, just in case you’d forgot tha’s ommus Chrissmas agen I thought I better gi’yer suff’n a bit seasonal f’ra change”. Well it crossed my mind that perhaps a few fairy lights could be a nice subject for us to have a bit of a mardle about today, especially if those lights happened to be counted in their millions and if they were particularly special lights by virtue of them being entirely natural in origin. The lights I refer to sparkle and gleam underfoot as a result of naturally occurring Phosphorus in the liquefied mud. Beautiful undoubtedly, **But beware**, like all magnificent sights there are the inevitable words of caution attached to help the unwary avoid the inbuilt pitfalls that are potentially fatal to the unwary who dare to flout the warnings given and who falsely imagine themselves equipped to cope in this totally alien environment without proper guidance. You know, this is not only a great chance for me to share with you the glory of this amazingly beautiful quirk of nature, something I hasten to say which is by no means unique to me incidentally, although I would hazard a guess that it remains something that few will have experienced for themselves. But hang on dear friends, there’s more to come, much more because I also want to tell you of the heart stopping adventure that unfolded for me in the middle of that night, something that I have never forgotten and which I always imagined to have been the price to be paid for my impetuosity in engaging in something that began as a visual spectacular and which culminated in my playing a starring roll in a scary scene from a Hammer-like House of Horror film. (*help*,)

All this occurred very much in Nelson Country incidentally, merely a stones throw from the village of his birth in fact, indeed one of the 7 Burnham’s actually. This one lays next to the sea, being separated from it by an exhilarating walk across open meadows, quickly followed by an exhausting trek up and down the steep and muddy sides of the many deep and irregular creeks which score the land and which have to be negotiated in order to cross that vast salt marsh. This veritable marathon is finally concluded by surmounting the dunes that separate the marsh from the beach.

The initial object of this expedition (*escapade as it turned out*) was to shoot myself a brace of duck for the pot from the evening flight. Later to catch some fine fat sea trout to sell to the hotels in and around Burnham Market before making our laborious way home. A friend of mine, local to the area was my companion on this occasion, as he had been so many times previously. I have to say that his knowledge of the creatures that frequent this place and of the actual terrain was and is far superior to mine and I had the utmost confidence in his guidance. We carried our shotguns during the outward journey and then, after making the desired kill we came upon that warm and dry place where we maintained a secret store were we were able to hide our firearms whilst embarking on the second part of our trip. It was also the place where we stored our 40 yards or so of haul netting snugly out of sight during the day. So we proceeded to swap our guns for these new tools of the trade and continued out towards the sea.

We first laid the nets out neatly on the beach, ready for the anticipated action that was to come. Only then did we retire back into the dunes where we planned to grab a couple of hours of shut-eye before the rigours of the next stage of our plan could begin. It was lovely, the sound of gently lapping waves on the shore, combined with the natural tiredness that laid easily upon us following the rigours of our previous exertions during the day. All this made sleep the more easily achievable at that time. At last the time came, it was when we determined to swim abreast out into the open sea, towing our net behind us as it opened out as planned in the form of a great horseshoe shaped funnel which ultimately lead into a sack-like trap just waiting for the unsuspecting haul of fish to swim into it.

If you have ever swum into the see at night, you will be aware that the light, such as it is, plays all manner of tricks with the mind as well as with your vision. Swimming some 40 yards from the nearest human being gives quite a degree of seclusion as you strike out for the distant horizon, normally an ideal situation for mulling over ones thoughts. The thoughts that were going through my mind on this occasion however were not the normal positive images that usually dwell in my subconscious, but were those that were inspired by a recent visit to Sheffield of all places, where I was booked to work during the early part of that week. Working away from home has

its drawbacks, especially if, like me you happen to be a non-drinker. The evenings tend to be mind numbingly long and tedious affairs. On this occasion however I was looking forward to visiting the local cinema which happened to be screening the latest blockbuster of the day, **‘JAWS’**. I was suitably impressed by the performance and took those screen images back home with me.

How-sum-ever, back to the North Norfolk coast, where I was manually trawling for Sea Trout and Mullet. You know, with the eye-line necessarily at water level you tend to see a split level picture of everything and although the waves are quite small, they take on a new significance in your mind. The crest of each looking more and more like the fin of a Great White Shark. **‘Preposterous’** I hear you say, and I would normally agree with you but in this instance, having spent all my time giving myself the sternest of stern talking’s to, I was in danger of loosing the argument. Then it happened, the grand finale, I was physically **attacked** in open water by something very large and compared with me, immensely powerful. It struck me so hard that it winded me completely and then, in a flurry of activity it went on to rip the net I was towing to shreds. I dropped my load and tried to make a dash for the shore, *‘joke’* have you ever tried to escape from water in a hurry? Don’t bother it’s futile.

Well needles to say I survived the encounter, later discovering that my attacker had **not** been a man-eating shark at all but a pretty large **Seal** (*well they get quite big too you know*) That encounter had a lasting effect on me and as much as I had loved the activity previously I confess that I never repeated the exercise after that night. (*call me a scairdy cat if you like*)

Well my dears, do have a wonderful Christmas and try not to eat too much festive pudding lest you end up with a body like mine (*heaven forbid*) rest assured that I shall be **Looking forward** to **Looking Back** with you all again for the fourth year of my droning on with more of Pogs piffle” (*can you stand it for another year I ask?*) . **Anyway, do Please Accept These, My Sincerest Seasonal Greetings,**

Ivor Hook has gone away for Christmas and has rented out his house to his friend Cliff Hanger. Cliff has been messing about on Ivor's Computer and come up with this offering. Thanks Cliff A Christmas Mystery

It was a long time ago in the village of Northwold and all was not well!

The vicar was at the rectory preparing his sermon for the carol service. The Bishop was to attend and it was beginning to frustrate him. He was desperate for something new to preach but inspiration refused to come. In temper he stabbed his paper knife into the desktop and reached yet again for his decanter of whisky.

The bell ringers were having their weekly practice and it had sounded terrible. Some new recruits were being unfairly blamed for the disastrous evening. It was freezing cold and they were all vehemently arguing with each other. The usually placid Bell Captain was in a bellowing rage. Unbeknown to the others he had locked the door of the church tower and was about to demand they all remain until the ringing improved.

The Village Squire had just returned home to the Manor House from a days hunting with fellow landowners. Everyone had finished with a fine bag

of game apart from himself. Gout had troubled him all day and was his excuse for shooting everywhere but straight! He screamed at his manservant who had laid out the wrong smoking jacket for his evening meal. He was unusually nervous, as he was about to dine the attractive widow from the shop next door.

The landlord of the Crown Inn was seldom sober but he was normally harmless. However the shooting party had used his hostelry for their lunch. They had enjoyed a dozen or more bottles of his best brandy but they had deliberately short-changed him when settling the bill. He had hoped for a handsome tip but instead he was now deeper in debt. He sat behind the bar sobbing with his head in his hands.

The farmer’s promiscuous daughter was pregnant again. She had been knitting the baby’s layette when the grocer’s delivery boy had let slip that the beloved boyfriend was already betrothed. She put on her topcoat and armed with a pair of knitting needles hurried through the snow down the High Street.

The village poacher had been asleep all day. Last week he had beaten up his poor feeble wife with the butt of his two bore. She was nursing a broken arm and bad bruising so she was unable to carry out her laundry work. She did the washing and ironing for most of the large houses in the village. Anxious for comfort she had become too friendly with one of her wealthy employers.

A while later with snow falling heavily and in front of the Village Hall there lay a body curled up in a

ball. There was a pool of blood around the head and all signs of life had expired. **There had been murder in the sleepy village of Northwold!**

The village policeman was fast asleep in front of a log fire when there was a loud banging on his front door. Very reluctantly he stirred and answered the summons. In rushed several people all shouting that there had been a terrible tragedy down the road. He gathered up his helmet and whistle and followed them out into the night.

To be continued at a later date. By Cliff Hanger

A Letter From Audrey Crisp

Dear Editor

In last month's Village Life, Pog mentioned my Father, George Crisp planting a variety of fir trees around his house, which is correct.

However they were planted to shelter the house in bad weather when I was very small.

I was born in 1925 so it was a long time after the war, and not connected with the First World war.

All the best

Audrey Crisp.

Nice to hear from you Audrey and we hope you are well. Pog definitely did put this obvious mistake in his last article. maybe he couldn't see the wood for the trees!
Ed

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