

Letter From Dave Wheatley of
Dave's Kitchen Fame

The Fun Of Working On
An Allotment

It is a few months since we took on the vast expanse of the all time consuming pass time, The Allotment. Since this "Spare Time" has a different meaning , that is to say, you have none! As you become engrossed in the books that you have been given to read so that you get the right seeds to plant at the right time to get the best from the time you spend looking after them, then getting on your hands and knees to plant them out and to watch these plants you have lovingly encouraged to blossom into sprouts, cabbages and all other kinds of vegetables that you thought would take a life time to produce. When we took on the allotment we had no idea that it would take over our lives in such a way as to give both of us a vast topic to talk about other then work or what we did in the traffic

jams coming home from work. Since starting on this task we removed 16 wheelbarrow loads of the evil couch grass that even when dry it only just burns; I have also seized up a rotavator with the amount of up and down and side to side machining to get rid of the grass but even if I say so myself we are getting there. We do get advice from the other allotment holders to which we are very grateful and I do get the Michael taken out of me by the gentlemen that frequent the vastness of the allotments with their "ways to do things that would help me to get better crops". I remember well the night that all the members of the gardening crowd had a bon fire at the end of the plot which is now ours. We had a good time, we had some good food and a few very nice drinks. We both hope that the seeds we have planted do well and give us the returns for our hard work so that we can as was requested in the village

magazine "Put some recipes in that are of seasonal nature and are easily prepared and cooked.

David and Tracey took over an allotment which was in a shocking state. Through sheer hard work and determination they have pulled it round to such an extent that it is un recognisable from last year at this time. As it is next to mine I probably appreciate it more than anyone else. Good on yer! Ed

Don't Forget
Northwold Art Club Annual Exhibition in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July 2008
From 10 am until 4 pm on both days.
Come and have a look at the work of some of the local Artists.
You may be pleasantly Surprised

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NORTHWOLD & WHITTINGTON
Village Life

Northwold P T A Carnival

Dear Readers,

First of all I must thank all of you that braved the downpour and stayed until the end of the carnival. Believe it or not it was a great success with a profit of £2000 made on the day.

My thanks go to all those people who helped on the stalls because without you all we could not put on the variety of things that we do on the day.

Northwold is special, there are not many Towns that maintain a Carnival Procession like we still do, and long may it continue. The school is vital to the village and any support we can give will maintain the standard if not better it for the future. All this said my special thanks must go to the committee of the PTFA. They make it easy for me to put things together and no job is to much trouble, things do go like clockwork.

The sponsors also must have a mention, there generosity allows us to put on a varied show each year keeping people interested in what's going on.

The results of the floats were as follows :-

- Adults**
1st Lyons Corner House - Cat Protection League
2nd Day in the Life of a 50's women - WI
3rd Wurzel & Aunt Sally

- Children**
1st The Zoo - Pre School
2nd Circus - Youth Club
3rd Emergency Services - School
- Lastly I thank you all once again and remind you all that we will soon start planning for next year so if you have any thoughts please let us know. Just to keep things straight the date for next year is **Saturday 12th June 2009.**

Roger



Adult winners The Cats Protection League



Sir Royston of Leek Hall



Carnival Queen



The Little Normans

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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

First of all let me say that I am indebted to Pam Eyles for taking so many good pictures of the carnival. Without them I would have been struggling as I was on holiday and missed it.

It seems that Pam took her pictures outside Hall Farm at the start of the procession when the sun was shining. That was before the downpour nearly ruined everything.

Congratulations to Roger and his many helpers for again putting on such a wonderful display. We are one of the few villages left in the County that actually have a Carnival procession, and it doesn't just happen - as anyone who has organised things for nothing will tell you. There is a lot of worry and hard work to be got through as well. So take a pat on the back everyone who was involved.

I wonder sometimes if I am missing a point somewhere. We are being constantly told that our vehicles produce gasses that cause global warming. We must cut down on our emissions (cars that is)

We are also told that growing vegetation inhales carbon dioxide and breathes out oxygen; This is what keeps us alive. So then the County Council employs someone to come round with a large tractor which mows down all the vegetation on the verges, eg. Pinfold Lane which appears to be doing no harm, at the same time belching out harmful gasses.

Is it just me?

Ed.

Don't forget There is no publication in August.

Have a good summer break.

See you in September.

Keep the material coming in though

St Andrew's Church

Pet Service

Calling all Pets
Keep this date Free:-
Sunday, August 24th at 4 pm in St Andrew's Church, Northwold.
Make sure your owners bring you (In your cage or box or on a lead)
This is especially for you so we hope to see you all!!

Church Diary for July and early August

July

6th
11am Holy Communion Rev A Nicoll

13th
11am Matins Mr Keith McCleod

20th
8am Holy Communion Rev D. Kightley

27th
11am matins. Mrs R. Kightley

August

3rd.
11am Holy Communion Rev A Nicoll

Derek Johnson

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Just when Government Statistics are persuading us that crime is on the decrease we get reports of a Highwayman seen in close proximity to the main road. What was he (she) doing there? And not a Policeman in sight to give chase and apprehend him (her).



Fortunately The Three Musketeers turned up in the nick of time and restored law and order amid cries of "All For One And One For All.



No cause for alarm! This was the Rainbows Riding School holding a fancy dress afternoon which appeared to be simply for the fun of it, and what better reason would you want than that?

I was asked at short notice if I could go and take a picture for Village Life. I ended up filming the whole event, and I must admit I have never seen anything quite like it. Everyone was in fancy dress of some description. There was everything from a Red Indian to The Queen of Hearts, Robin Hood and loads more. All performing in the ring on horseback. And then there were the adults all in period costume with big wigs, and men with equally big wigs. In fact it was difficult to recognise anybody.

The judges had the unenviable task of awarding prizes, but for my money they were all winners.

Editor

The Nija Morgan health Column

Free Massage Taster Day

It was great to have so many people come to see me at the carnival unfortunately it was because they were sheltering from the rain. Good old British weather!

Avoiding whatever the weather is doing I've decided to do a free taster at the Centre. I will be doing free massage from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 12th July. Some people feel a little conscious having massage outside whereas at the Centre you will receive your taster session in the treatment room as you would if you where a paying client. So if you would like to feel this massage just turn up on the day, you're also welcome to stay for a while in the chill out room.

Tracey who does the Hot Stone Therapy will also being giving free taster sessions that day too, you're welcome to try both.

The Chill Out Room can also be used at other times. If you feel stressed and need somewhere to escape too, for £5 you can spend an hour or two, we'll make you a drink and you can read any of the self help books or simple just relax and be peaceful in a supportive environment. The Chill Out Room is free for Clients who wish to spend time before or after their Treatment and to anyone accompanying them.

Centre is 42 Thetford Road, Brandon. 01842 814988.

Nija

Don't Forget Village Life doesn't publish in August so they tell me.

But please keep the material coming in. Anything considered as long as it isn't obscene or personal. We will publish it.

Ed.

Organised protest about parking charges in the Forestry

As you may already be aware the Forestry Commission has begun charging for parking in many of the smaller car parks in Thetford Forest Park. This is in addition to approx £200,000 of income from road tolls at High Lodge. The only way to pay is to text your credit or debit card details from the car park or call a national rate phone number on your return home. The whole scheme is administered by an IT company from the United States.

We feel it is unfair not to give any choice of how the fee is paid, especially when many people don't possess a credit or debit card and the additional costs of the text or phone call & other surcharges.

A protest picnic is being arranged for Sunday 13th July where you can join in to send a message back to the Forestry Commission. You will need a picnic, black cloth & parcel tape! We will be meeting in Brandon and meeting details will be publicised closer to the time in EDP & Thetford and Brandon or call 07900 906578 for more details.

Paul Morgan

Northwold Spiritualists Group

Meet in the Village Hall on alternate Fridays at 7. 30 pm and on other special occasions

Meetings for July and early August 2008

4th July

Nick Brown

18th July

Brian May

1st August

Angie Morris

For further enquiries or information call Eileen on (01366)728289

The Latest News from the common Market

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was what the Germans wanted.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as 'Euro-English'.

In the first year, 'S' will replace the soft 'C'. Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard 'C' will be dropped in favour of 'K'. This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome 'PH' will be replaced with 'F'. This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekto to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate spelling.

Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent 'E' in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as

replasing 'TH' with 'Z' and 'W' with 'V'

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary 'O' kan be dropd from vords kontaining 'OU' and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensi bl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

Before we start worrying overmuch about the authenticity of this entry it must be pointed out that there is the possibility that it might be a joke

Lost Property

Two small items of personal jewellery have been lost in the Village possibly on the Recreation Ground or nearby. They are not in themselves valuable but they are of great sentimental value to the owner.

If you do happen to find these items please tell the editor who will arrange for them to be returned to their owner.

LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES DARBY NURSERY STOCK LTD. METHWOLD

Darby Nursery Stock Ltd grows plants for leading garden centres throughout the country and is one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the U.K.

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Whittington Church Fund Raising Event

May I, through your columns, draw the attention of your readers to the fourth annual riverside rides and Whittington Church fund raising event which this year will be held next to the caravan field here at Whittington on the 31st August, 2pm to 5 pm.

It has been decided to include some new features.

The owners of the green narrow boat moored near the fishing pit have kindly offered us a raffle prize of a 3 hour trip to the Jennyns Arms at Denver (The prize is the ride not the boat!).

We will also be organising a duck race. It works like this; You buy from us a small plastic or rubber duck (The sort you play with in the bath) for £2. 50p. We hope to sell as many as possible. Each duck is numbered.

On the day of the fete the ducks are released up stream and swim down the river to the finish. The first duck past the winning line earns for it’s owner

£25.

We aim to sell many of the ducks before the day of the fete so that if for some reason you are unable to attend you can still take part.

Please ring us and place your order, you may of course have more the One.

Contact numbers are:- Jenny 500143, Davina 500517 and I am 500 307.

As well as the stalls there will be the usual; Cromer crab motor boat ride and the punt trips. as one of the organisers of the Wretton All Eras Fete said to me earlier this year, “It will be good”. How right he was. Do come to Whittington on 31 st August.

It will be good!!!!

Roger Warner

OddFellows Friendly Society

The Oddfellows, King’s Lynn & West Norfolk District.

We are arranging a talk and Slide Show in the Methwold Social Club on Monday 15th September 2008 at 8.00pm as below and would be pleased if you can include this in the Northwold Times

The Oddfellows invite you to join them for an evening of nostalgia.

A Slide Show of How We Used to Live 1850 to 1950 – On the Farm, in the Schools, and Your Home

Presented by David Grimes – a local historian

This event is open non-members therefore all villagers with free admission.

WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR THINK THIS MONTH?

Save Our Surgery (update)

Last month, in the Feltwell and Methwold magazines, I wrote about the dangers to local GP surgeries caused by the government’s plans to force GPs into poyclinics. You will have read about these matters in the newspapers and may have signed a BMA petition at your GP surgery. I encouraged patients to write to our MP with their concerns and those who did have received a reply from Christopher Fraser in which he makes it obvious that he and his colleagues are taking this matter extremely seriously and he ends up by saying that he will fight these plans “to save the family doctor service from Gordon Brown’s NHS cuts”.

If you want to read about the Conservatives’ plans for the NHS, go to www.conservatives.com and look for “The patient will see you now, Doctor”. Some Primary Care Trusts are reporting to the General Medical Council GPs whom they accuse of unprofessional conduct for sharing their concerns about polyclinics with the patients and other Primary Care Trusts have started bullying GPs to leave their surgeries and move into polyclinics by threatening to declare their surgeries unfit for purpose, not conforming with Health and Safety regulations, etc. In the face of this, the Government is accusing the British Medical Association, who arranged the recent campaign and petition, of “hysteria and telling lies”. Big brother is in full swing!

About 5 years ago, I expressed great concern about the £12 to £20 billion national database of patient records. When the time comes, your records will be “uploaded” into the database unless you state that you will not allow this. (In the government agenda, this process must, of course, happen before the advent of polyclinics, as these would require the centralisation of medical histories. I have always had extreme concerns about the

security of patient confidentiality in the database and my suggestion that, for the first 12 months, only Government officials and their families should be included in the database to test its security has fallen upon deaf ears. Also, I have always believed that this government would be incapable of creating such a computer database which would be the largest non-military database in the world.

The good new is that *Accenture*, one of the first computer companies to be involved, pulled out in 2006, many other companies have steered well clear of the doomed project and *Fujitsu’s* £896 million contract has just been terminated after months of negotiations had broken down. Fears over security of patient information were paramount in this decision. The Government now acknowledges that the scheme is at least six years behind schedule. This gives us all plenty of time to refuse to have our medical records uploaded. Also, such refusal will help to blow the superclinic idea out of the water. If you wish to know more about opting out, ring 01494 8 8 2 4 5 8 or visit www.thebigoptout.org. You will need to be persistent in the face of opposition but it can be done.

Conundrum of the month:

You visit the garden centre, buy a new pot, a sack of growing medium, two pot roses, a small conifer and a nasty little piece of trailing ivy. You return home and plant it all up in the pot – beautiful! (except for the ivy!). Put the pot in your yard, well away from any real garden, water and feed it well and look at it again in three months. What have you got? Two small roses going a bit straggly, a small conifer, half an acre of nasty ivy covering the ground and climbing eight feet up the wall, **six bluebells and a small piece of bindweed.** Where did they come from? I may have the answer – read on and all will be revealed.

June is a good month for me in the garden. At the beginning of the month, I apply for managerial permission to “deal with” the remains of the bluebells which are defacing

the flower beds. Sometimes, I have to apply on several occasions for this permission but, generally speaking, it is granted around the middle of the month. The certificate issued allows me to pull up the dead stalks to prevent seeding and to remove the soggy, manky heap of green vegetation. Now, while doing this job, I take the opportunity of removing all the weeds, such as bindweed, which have been sheltering under the bluebells since the early Spring. Weeding involves some deep digging and forking around the bluebells and one unfortunate side-effect is that the bluebell bulbs often become loose. So, when I pull on the greenery, it is not unknown for some bluebell bulbs to come up as well – ah well! Now, my compost heap is a temple. It does not receive perennial weeds, anything which contains seeds and, most definitely, not bluebell bulbs, stalks or bindweed! All such garden waste is bagged up and taken to the Crimplesham recycling centre where I tip it all into the garden waste skip. Then what? I suspect that all the garden waste from the recycling centres is collected and converted into bags of compost, or growing medium. Could it be that, when buying the bag of growing medium from the garden centre, I am purchasing my old bluebell bits and segments of convolvulus root, poorly treated and ready to grow? No wonder I have nightmares!

If anyone knows about these things, could they let me know? Management always insists that I buy “proper” compost (Levington, Bowers etc) and certainly no supermarket own brand product, so we should be OK. However, if you look at some of the low peat varieties, there does seem to be a great deal of wood chip, black plastic and assorted vegetation, so who knows?

Best wishes to you all

Ian G. Nisbet

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Refurbishment Of The Village War Memorial

Has everyone in the village been to have a look at the newly refurbished War Memorial ? It not could I suggest that you walk along the High Street and see what a splendid job has been done in laying the new paving stones . The memorial is again a great tribute to the men from this community who died in both world wars and also in later conflicts.

The project has been partly funded by a small grant from a large national company and Northwold W. I. and very generously supported by a local business which provided the paving stones and also the contractor who carried out the work. The work on the gate was done by yet another resident who generously volunteered.

He photograph shows members of Northwold W I committee who are very pleased that the work has been finished in time for the 90th anniversary to mark the end of the Great War. **Ann Howarth**



Open Garden At The Grange Northwold

On Sunday 10th August, Robin and Carole Hood will be opening the gardens at The Grange from 2 pm until 5 pm.
Admission will be £3, with under 12's free.
No dogs please.
Cream teas, Tom bola, Didlington Plant Stall.
Cake Stall, Book stall. Nails by Debbie
Local artist's Sculpture's by Leigh.
Creative ironwork by Ben.
30 acres of walks:-
Japanese Garden
African garden
Fairy garden
Woodland walk
Wild Life pond
Wildflower meadow
Spring garden
Shrubbery
Long border
Arboretum.
All proceeds to Kidney Research

School Report



The greater part of my theme for this month's edition is, as you may guess, The Carnival. Sitting here now on the Monday after the event it is noticeable how there seems to be something missing that has been in the background of my consciousness since my arrival. This is a measure of the expectation and the consistent hard work that the Carnival has brought (no hard work for me I might add – I think I have been let off very lightly as I am the 'newbie' but next year I expect to get my hands dirty) and as a newcomer I have been frankly amazed.

What a magnificent event! What excellent organisation! And, despite the poorly timed and copious rain, what a wonderful turn out! I feel very proud to have been involved in the event and it does the village of Northwold enormous credit that they are able to sustain and improve such an event when many other communities have long ago ceased to generate the interest. You don't need me to tell you that there are some extremely civic minded people in Northwold, and especially within the PTFA of the school, who each year put themselves to a great deal of trouble to bring this about. I firmly hope that they will continue to undertake this burden and that they find others who are willing to give up their time to assist.

Of course an event needs not only to be organised, but also supported too. How fun it was to travel on the floats and be able to wave at the people lining the route. Even though everyone was soaked to the skin later, I still found it hard to count the number of people watching the attractions and giving so generously to the stalls.
Naturally the thing that was of most

interest to me, and of most importance I suppose, to the future of the carnival were the children. It was heart-warming to see how many children were taking part in the floats, with their excellent costumes and 'Carnival' attitude. I am sure that it made the day of all of the bystanders to watch the floats go by.

I would say 'Can we have another one next week?' but I think I might get lynched! What I can say is that I am already looking forward to next year.

In the same way I am also looking forward to the next school year. As we approach the end of this year (5 weeks and 2 days – but who's counting) I can see how hard the staff and children have worked, what they have achieved and what challenges we face in September to make even greater progress.

The summer term is the time for end of year reports, and exam results. A time when we sum up all that has been achieved throughout the year. I certainly feel that alongside the academic progress that the children have made that this community allows children to make great strides forward in citizenship – they are shown a good model of how people can work together to provide something that we can all enjoy and the value of making an effort to benefit everyone.

Northwold – Take a bow!

Rob Hothershall

Thank you to Ray Osbourne for all the pots he has donated to the Pre-School. The children have been making use of them by growing a variety of plants.



The Pre-School children and Tots & Co had their annual summer trip on Friday 6th June to Banham Zoo. Although the weather was unkind to us that day, all the children had a wonderful time. The older Pre-School children that will be starting school in September have started their visits to the Norman Primary School. They are all settling in very well and enjoying their sessions there.

Well done to the Pre-School, whom came first with the best looking float at the Carnival on Saturday 14th June. The children looked fantastic in their costumes. Thank you to everyone that helped with the float, stall and donated prizes. A special 'thank you' to Holly for all her hard work in designing a winning float. We raised approximately £120 for the Pre-School funds.

On Friday 20th June the children did a sponsored Big Toddle for Banardo's. The children had to complete 2 laps of the school field. All the children completed the toddle and were given a sticker and certificate for taking part. The Pre-School will be holding their Sports Day on Wednesday 9th July at 10am (the reserve date is Friday 11th July at 10am if it is raining).

Karen Muir

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NORTHWOLD
YOUTH CLUB

At the end of April, we all had a riotous evening with some Space Hoppers – do you remember them from the seventies??? There were various size hoppers to accommodate the different heights of children taking part in the “races” – some of which were timed and others using skills (or luck!) to negotiate obstacles.

Running alongside these wacky races, some members proved their skills on the junior pool table to attain their “competency certificates”. Special thanks must go to Justin and Adrian McGuirk for “officiating” at this event.

If anyone looked at the Recreation Ground on the evening of 14th May they would have been surprised to see a large number of children (and adults) apparently trying to take off under an extremely large parachute. It is amazing what fun and games can be enjoyed using a multicoloured parachute – especially as the breeze was quite strong that evening and added another dimension to controlling the wayward material! The “Quick Cricket” was also in full swing, along with rounders and the basketball net.

Members did not meet again until mid June as the Circus was in town on a scheduled Club evening. When we did meet, the Circus was still in our thoughts as we prepared for the Carnival – the theme of our float being the variety of performers in the circus. It was all worth the effort as the children gained 2nd place for their float and Aiden awarded 2nd place for his clown outfit. Well done everyone!

The next Youth Club (weather permitting) will be enjoying an agility/team game competition on the Rec. Further details on future activities can be obtained from either Jane on 728921 or Sharron on 727675.

Steve Freemantle

Northwold Art Club

Northwold Art Club had a very entertaining evening recently when Mr Malcolm Brown visited the club. Mr Brown specialises in painting scenes of East Anglia as it was one hundred years ago. However he feels that lots of his paintings – in oil – are unfinished and cannot bring himself to complete them. He brought several of his paintings with him to show us and took us through each stage of development of them. His skies, particularly, were very beautiful, and several of the pictures told a story. Mr Brown kept us amused with several stories of his life in painting and



Malcolm Brown with one of his paintings

various stories behind some of the pictures. Twenty-four members of the club enjoyed the evening immensely. All the members of the club have been working hard to finish paintings for the next **ART CLUB EXHIBITION** to be held in Northwold Village Hall on 12th and 13th July. Admission is free so please come along and see for yourself the talent that is here in the village!

Patsy and Glenda.

<u>Northwold Bowls</u> <u>Club 100 Club Draw</u> <u>for June 2008</u>	
Barry Ayres	£ 20
M. Hull	£ 15
B Cater	£ 10
Sylvia	

F r o m T h e
Borough Council

The annual canvass for the Register of Electors begins at the end of August, when a form and reply paid return envelope will be personally delivered to every property in West Norfolk. Completion and return of the form **is both obligatory & important** because the Register is used not just for electoral purposes but also by many financial service providers dealing with, for example, mortgages, loans or new accounts. Anyone whose name is not on the Register will not only be unable to vote at 2009’s elections but will also be likely to have problems using any service that involves a check of the Register.

The form is intended for the present occupiers of an address. The name of anyone expected to be resident at the address on 15th October and who is already 18, or will reach that age by 30th November 2009, needs to be on the form and the names of anyone no longer at the address crossed out.

Forms received by owners of properties which are either already empty or are expected to be so on 15th October simply need the “Property empty on 15th October” box ticking and returning. This will avoid the issue of reminders.

In the event of any queries when the form arrives, householders can telephone 01553 616773 and any of the electoral staff will be glad to help.

Early return of the form or, better still, confirmation by freephone, internet or SMS (details on the form) will avoid the need for reminders and help to keep costs down.

The Cater Family would like to say a big thank you to the Pre School and Tots and Co for the lovely gifts of flowers and fruit.

River Watch

By Ivor Hook

It was dark but dawn was waiting. A low mist covered the water and the birds had commenced their daily chorus. The moon still commanded the sky but within an hour it would be competing with the sun. There was a glorious peace all about and a heavy dew signalled yet another fine day to follow.

Old Tom had already been up for several hours as darkness was his favourite time to wander the woods and the riverbanks. Most mornings he was out while others were in bed and fast asleep. He was sitting alongside the river Wissey in a spot he knew very well - in fact ever since he was a young boy this was the place he choose for his early morning fishing during the summer months.

As the light increased he began to see his large goose quill float whereas earlier he had merely used his fingers to feel the line for bites. He had an old battered torch but this was seldom used as he managed quite capably without any light. In fact it was often said that Old Tom had a sixth sense that most of us lack. He could call a hare or rabbit to his feet. He could even imitate the mating call of a fox to summon a vixen and with fishing he seldom had a blank day. Although he was reluctant to share his secrets his reputation was well known. Everyone liked Old Tom as he was at one with nature.

No one else was about at this early hour although he knew that work would soon commence in a nearby field to complete the harvesting that had commenced the day before. It had been an ideal mix of weather during the previous months with alternate warm and wet periods and the ears of wheat were fat and bursting with golden grain.

More fish came to the net. The roach were large indeed and all in prime condition so a joy to behold. They seemed in a feeding frenzy. The float would trot along in front of Old Tom and always at the same given point it would pause and dip slightly before completely disappearing under the surface to produce one fine fish after another.

At last the sun peeped over the horizon whereupon the fish stopped feeding. He gently flicked his tackle out a few more times but he knew it was pointless to continue. He had enjoyed exceptional sport and was now looking forward to returning home and to a hearty breakfast. Then he heard someone approaching and a friendly voice hailed him. The farmer had seen Old Tom’s bike down the lane and knew exactly where to find him. The two chatted away and eventually the farmer asked ‘Have you had any luck this morning?’ - ‘No’ replied Old Tom ‘I haven’t had any luck!’

Old Tom packed away his rod and belongings and last of all, with great effort, he pulled his keepnet out of the water. It was heavy and bulging and with the utmost care he returned dozens of beautiful fish back into the river. The farmer looked puzzled and

said ‘I thought you hadn’t had any luck?’ ‘I haven’t!’ replied Old Tom with a grin. ‘I had no luck but I have had over 75 years of experience at where and how to fish. I baited this swim without fishing it for a whole week. I know there is a deep hole immediately in front of me where the fish always collect and feed. I know the really big ones particularly enjoy the red worms that I find on my compost heap and that when the sun rises over the trees they always stop feeding. There was no luck - I knew exactly what was going to happen!’

Ivor

Churchyard
Transformation

Well Done – and Thank You to Alys, Joe, James and Thomas (And Some Mums) – Youth Club members who volunteered to help tidy up the churchyard.

You did a great job! Of course we need to keep up the good work, so if anybody can spare an hour or two to help, please contact Jane on 728921.

We would like to add to the wild flowers already in the Churchyard and make it a really “Nature Friendly” place. It’s surprising how much can be done in a half hour.

Roy Akers will advise us about the best plants to use – in the hope that we can encourage Wild-Life such as butterflies and bees.

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