

Dave's Kitchen
By our resident Chef
David Wheatley

Pork sausage and puff pastry
plait

Ingredients:

- 1. 50g/2oz butter
- 2. 1/2 garlic clove crushed
- 3.15ml/1tbsp chopped thyme
- 4. 450g/1lb assorted wild mushrooms sliced
- 5. 50g/2oz fresh white bread crumbs
- 6.75ml/5 tsp chopped parsley
- 7. 350g/12oz puff pastry (buy the ready made its a lot easier)
- 8. 675g/11/2lb pork sausages or sausage meat

- 9. 1 egg beaten with a pinch of salt
- 10. Salt and black pepper

Serves 4

- 1. Melt the butter in a large frying pan and soften the garlic thyme and mushrooms gently for 5 -6 minutes. When the mushrooms juices begin to run increase the heat to drive off the liquid then stir in the breadcrumbs, parsley and seasoning.
 - 2. Roll out the pastry on a floured surface to a 36cm x25 cm/ 14in x10 in rectangle. place on a large baking tray sheet. Skin the sausages if you have bought sausages. place half of the sausage meat in a 13cm/5in strip along the centre of the pastry. cover with the mushroom mixture, then with the rest of the sausage meat.
 - 3. Make a series of slanting 2.5cm/1in cuts in the pastry on either side of the filling, and fold each end of the pastry over the filling.
- Moisten the pastry with beaten egg

and then cross the top with alternate strips of pastry from each side. Allow the plait to rest for 40 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180c /350f . Brush the plait with a little more egg and bake for 1 hour.

Northwold Forget
Me Not Club

The forget Me not Club is open to residents over the age of 55 years. However despite the increasing population which is over 55 the Club is getting very short of members. Why this should be is a mystery. There are plenty of activities organised on a regular basis with entertainments, talks and a general friendly get together. On 11 March, Organist Reggie Rose will be here conducting an Easter service which he does every year.

So if you are eligible by age contact Joyce Barrett on 728793 for details on how to become a member.
You may be pleasantly surprised !



For those of you who read Village Life, and I believe a lot of you do you will find on page 8 an obituary to common sense. It came to me via e mail, and at first it appeared to be a joke but when you read it carefully it is far from funny. If you haven't read it yet read it now and then come back to this editorial, because if The Sunday Express is to be believed this sort of thing is shortly to get a lot worse. Legislation called "Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act" which is primarily designed to protect children and young persons against Paedophiles and covers young people up to the age of 18 years, is due to come into force later this year.

Apparently what this means is that everyone involved in running a sports match, E.g. Football or Cricket will need to have a costly Criminal Records Bureau check And undertake a three hour Child Protection Course, whatever that entails. Then of course there are the youth Clubs and Brownies. All the sort of things that do nothing but good for the community. If and when this legislation is passed It will mean that the persons running these organisations will have to be vetted by these faceless persons, and their Criminal record or absence of it will be checked.

In my experience many paedophiles get away with interfering with children for years, sometimes never getting found out. I know, I have seen it at first hand, not sat on my backside and read it in a book somewhere.

Back in the 1970's Northwold had a football team which played in the Lynn and District League on a Saturday. To my recollection there were regularly at least 5 or maybe 6 youngsters of school age playing. And very promising some of them were. The Cricket Team regularly had a fair sprinkling of youngsters, mostly recruited from Methwold High School by Alan Mitchell when he taught there. And then of course there was the St Johns. The examples are endless.

If this legislation comes to pass it will not in itself prevent any of these activities from taking place because in theory all you have to do is abide by the legislation. In practice things are different. Village sport is in a parlous enough state as it is without this on top of everything else. In my experience what is most likely to happen is that people will shy away from doing the sort of things that they have done for years without interference from "do gooders." It



won't happen straight away because it never does, but in time volunteers will get fewer and organisations and sports clubs will just fold up.

It is hoped that with enough pressure put in the right quarter this proposed legislation will be put somewhere out of harms way. (Suggestions welcome)

Perhaps the great thinking ones would prefer our youngsters to remain safely indoors probably on their computers surfing the internet and possibly being groomed by some paedophile without having the slightest idea what is going on.

And of course this legislation doesn't cover gangs of youngsters roaming the streets and breaking Church windows etc because there is nothing for them to do. That's someone else's problem!

If you don't like the sound of this let your M P know your views. That is what he gets paid for. Remember He is our paid servant, not the other way round.

If not, as it says in the obituary on page 8 "Join the majority and do nothing"

Ed.

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Saturday 15 March
Northwold Village Hall

The travelling exhibition of The Breckland Society's Vernacular Architecture Project can be seen at Northwold Village Hall on Saturday 15 March. Entitled The Vernacular Architecture of the Norfolk & Suffolk Brecks, the exhibition is the final element of a three-year-long Heritage Lottery-funded project.

Concerned by the impact of modern development on the region's towns

and villages, the Breckland Society proposed a study of local architectural styles and in August 2004 was awarded a £25,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant through the Local Heritage Initiative. Over forty volunteers surveyed nearly 1,000 pre-1920 buildings across the Brecks, recording their building materials and key features. The Society also organized a series of workshops demonstrating the use of traditional building materials such as chalk and flint.

The exhibition and a report

showcasing the survey's results were launched at Santon Downham Village Hall in July 2007 The report and the exhibition panels examine the history of Breckland architecture and the different styles and types of building found in the area.

The exhibition consists of a series of large panels featuring important aspects of the local built heritage and drawing attention to the wealth of decorative features present in the local vernacular style. the exhibition date. Sat 15 March 11am to 4pm.

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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.

A Message From Northwold Brownines

Dear Village Life,

I would like to send out a big thank you, to Santa and his wonderful band of helpers.

The extremely generous donation of £148.35, was a wonderful and much appreciated surprise.

As you may be aware, we receive no Government funding and therefore have to fundraise throughout the year.

The money raised is then used to subsidise activities, pay for books and badges, craft materials and equipment.

It also enables us to take the brownies, to Pantomime at Hunstanton every year as their Christmas present.

So as you can see the money will be well used, and the large brownie smiles and laughter will be thanks to all of you.

With love and heartfelt gratitude,
Brown owl, Emma, Hannah B, Lauren, Rebecca, Aggie, Abbie, Amber, Kitty, Emily, Eleanor, Abigail, Kennedy, Georgina, Hannah M, Kya, Katie, and Lily. xxxxxxxxxx

Hunt for Haylock

Hidden in this issue is a picture of John Haylock.

Can you find him?

Success For Our Young ballet Dancers

Ballet and Tap Examination Results:-

On Sunday 27th January 2008 pupils from Amanda's Dancing School, who attend lessons every Wednesday at Northwold Village Hall, took ballet and tap dancing examinations.

Many congratulations to the following successful candidates:

Megan Billmen, Tahli Burlingham, Lily Butters, Evie Chaplin, Bethany Morgan, Kiannah Naruszewicz, Jenna Ramsey, Laura Raven, Phoebe Seffelaar, Georgina Simonds, Tallulah Stocking, Caitlyn Watkins, Rhiannon Weatherley, Roxy Wellard, Tegan Wellard, Chloe Wharf, Abigail Whiting, Jade Williams, Ella Wortley.

And congratulations to you all from Village Life. Keep up the good work!

Bowls Club 100 Club draw for February 2008

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R. Preston £ 25

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Sylvia

Derek Johnson

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The Nija Morgan health Column

No Hands® Massage Centre

I'm now in my fifth year of practising No Hands Massage and have spent the last year promoting No Hands. At all the events I've been I've received much excitement over No Hands with everyone wanting to try it.

I now want to continue this awareness so I am opening a No Hands Massage Centre next month in Brandon.

I will be joined at the Centre by another No Hands Practitioner, Karen Clarke, and our aim is to continue promoting No Hands in this area.

I do hope many of you attend the opening day which I'll announce in next issue, or you can ring me for further details. Gerry, the founder of No Hands will be at the opening day doing some treatments, chatting to people and may be reading some of his

new book, the first novel ever written about massage.

There will be other treatments at the centre one of which is Hot Stone Therapy and this will be demonstrated on the day as will crystal healing. I'll explain more about the opening day next issue.

I'd like to thank everyone who has taken the plunge and tried No Hands and I'm sure you will love having your massage at the new Centre. It will be very much your centre for your treatment and also somewhere to relax and stay for a while in the chill out room with a cuppa if you choose.

The Centre will also have a shop part and I will be selling crafts, spiritual items, crystals, jewellery etc. If there are any crafts people in the village who would like an outlet for what you make please give me a ring, 01366 727243.

Nija

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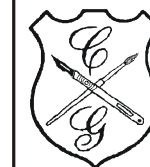
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Northwold Little Normans Pre School

Thank you to everyone that made cakes and attended the coffee morning on Wednesday 13th February in the Sports & Social Club. A total of £45.00 was raised for the Pre-School Funds. A special thank you to Claire, Holly & Sharon for running the event.

We had a visit from the Oral Hygienist on Thursday 24th January. The children were shown how to brush their teeth properly. All the children that stay for lunch now have their own toothbrush at school where they can brush their teeth after lunch.

The children enjoyed a special sing time with Mr Hothersall, the primary school head teacher in February. He bought his guitar and the children met Hammond the Frog. Thank you Mr Hothersall.

Thank you to Karen and Robert Muir for donating a new Digital Camera. Jane & Terry Hassey have donated a mini Maypole and I am sure the children will have a lot of fun learning the Maypole dances.

We have had a grow box made and purchased a mini green house this month, so the children can grow their own fruit & vegetables. Any donations of compost would be gratefully received. If you can help please contact the Pre-School on 728804 and we will arrange to collect it from you.

School closes for the Easter Holiday on Thursday 20th March and reopens on Tuesday 8th April 2008.

Karen Muir Steve Freemantle Administrator

The Northwold Art group held 2 Life drawing workshops with Norfolk Artist Bob Larkin as tutor at the Village hall on 1st December and 26th January. The workshops were attended by 10 –12 members who spent the day happily endeavouring to capture the poses presented by Judy the model. Lunch . which was provided by the Art group and catered by Glenda Burton and Patsy Hood was well received. After full meal and a glass or two of wine, the poses didn’t seem so difficult. Both days ended with a review of everyone’s work. By Bob

We hope to repeat this experience as soon as possible and for information on all our demonstrations and workshops please –hone either |Glenda or Patsy on 727018 or 727582 respectively

NORTHWOLD YOUTH CLUB

As usual, the Youth Club has enjoyed a variety of themed evenings during January and February.

Whilst some members were busy on their school trip, others enjoyed an energetic evening of indoor games. The recently purchased table-tennis equipment proved very popular amongst all age groups.

Bernie Bartlett nearly lost his voice as caller at the next event – Bingo! There were lots of “oohs” and “aaahs” from children realising their numbers were close ... but not close enough to win the one of the many prizes on offer.

At the presentation “Prison Me No Way” given by Mike Wabe, an active Prison Officer, all the members were quite stunned at how tough prison life really is – not at all like “H Block” or “Prison Break” on TV.

Our future schedule includes a visit from Foolhardy Circus for a workshop, which will be for *registered* Youth Club Members. Santa, his Helpers and Northwold Villagers have sponsored this event.

Don’t forget, the Youth Club has made their Table Tennis tables available for use to other members of the community on Friday evenings at the Sports and Social Club. Why not make it a family evening with Mum and Dad on the full size and children on the ¾ size tables!

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Northwold Spiritualist Meetings for March and early April 2008 March 14th David Taylor March 28th Brian May April 5th Gay Harrison Clairvoyance Evening Northwold Spiritualists meet every other Friday in Northwold Village Hall. Call Eileen on 728289 for more information

St Andrew's Church

Easter Sunday Fun on March 23rd

As well as the 11 am Holy Communion Service to celebrate the most important day in the Church’s year, why not join us from 2. 30pm when there will be fun for all the family. At 2. 30. Quiz trail round the Village

3 pm tea and Simnel cake

4pm Easter Egg Hunt

Enter the “Decorate a hard boiled egg” competition

All entries must be labelled with your name, age and phone number and be left on the table in the Church on Saturday 22nd.

The Annual General Meeting of St. Andrew’s Church Parochial Church Council will be held on Thursday, April 17th from 7. 30pm in the Church. This is an open meeting that all may attend

Coffee Morning

There will be a coffee morning in the Church on Wednesday April 2nd with a raffle, stalls and light refreshments. It’s a good opportunity to meet friends and enjoy a sit-down for a change!. The proceeds will be shared between the Bishop’s Lent Appeal – (This year for the leprosy mission) and Diocese

of Ely Committee for Family and social Welfare. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Church services for March and early April

March 2nd. Mothering Sunday 11 am Holy Communion. Rev Kightley

9th Passion Sunday 11am Matins Keith McLeod

16th Palm Sunday 11am Matins Ruth Kightley

21st Good Friday 2.0 – 3pm Service Rev Nicoll

23rd Easter Day 11am Holy Communion Canon Rowsell

30th 10 45am. At St Mary’s Church, Weeting Benefice service

April 6th 11am Holy Communion Rev A. Nicoll

April 13th 11 am Matins Keith McCleod

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 NORTHWOLD TENNIS CLUB Ever fancied playing tennis but not sure where to play? Why not come along to our Open Days on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th April, 2pm-4pm. Meet some of our members and have a game of tennis. All abilities and ages welcome. Rackets will be available. We hold weekly club nights for both junior members and adults, where you can play tennis in a relaxed atmosphere. Annual membership fees are: Adult: £30 Student: £20 Junior (under 16): £7.50 Family: £65 For more information, please call: Beverley Young (01366) 727656 Rebecca Ashley (01366) 328604



The February meeting was held on Tuesday 12th and was attended by 24 members. Sharon Freemantle finalised details for the proposed visit to the whiskey distillery and end of the month lunch group. She then asked if someone else would be prepared to take over responsibility for organising the monthly lunch outings as she was no longer able to undertake this responsibility due to other village commitments. Much to her surprise and delight Meg Brown and Chris Nye were both eager to take over this task. (If only volunteers were always that easy to come by) Sharon also asked for some of the members to help at the Youth club on 19th March when the children would be making Easter Bonnets.

The Community Chest project was under way and those involved had several ideas which were being put into action. Names were taken for those who would be going to the

Breckland group meeting, which will be held in Mundford on Thursday, April 3rd. The speaker for the evening will be "Britain's top Mrs Mopp"

The speaker this month was Gail Loopwitz who gave a most interesting talk on Dichroic jewellery. We all listened carefully, as the differences between, Stained Glass, Painted Glass and Dichroic glass were explained. We examined samples of differently coloured glass and were fascinated as Gail described the different skills and methods that she uses to produce her beautiful jewellery, platters and window hangings.

Some members tried their hand at cutting and shaping pieces of glass and many of us signed up for her open studio day and workshops.

The competition this month was "My favourite piece of jewellery" and was judged by our guest Speaker, Gail Loopwitz. In first place was Teresa Waller, second was Ann Howarth and third Pauline Cundy.

The meeting next month will take place on Tuesday 11th March, starting at 7.15 pm in the Village hall. New members and visitors will be made most welcome

The Village hall

The Village Hall in Northwold has seen some welcome changes over the last couple of weeks.

First of all, following energetic fund-raising, a new range cooker has been purchased and installed providing much needed cooking facilities.

Visitors to the hall can now also look forward to a more comfortable seat on one of the 90 new chairs. The purchase of these new chairs has been made possible thanks to the generosity of 54 individuals and 7 groups within Northwold who responded to a request to "Sponsor a chair".

Ann Howarth

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WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR THINK THIS MONTH?

Tomorrow's doctors:

One of my roles in retirement is to carry out some of the examinations of medical students, assessing their knowledge, not examining them physically! This all takes place at The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Faculty of Medicine and, to be honest, I find the experience very stimulating and my knowledge levels benefit as I have to study hard beforehand to keep one step ahead of the students I am examining. We had a couple of sessions before Christmas, one of which was hilarious and well worth sharing with you.

The course in Norwich differs from many others. The students do not spend the first two years isolated from live patients studying Anatomy and Physiology. They are exposed to patients from Day one of their training, meeting patients on the wards and in general practice. Each term, they will study a different subject, such as gastroenterology, neurology, the respiratory system, etc. Last term, they had been studying the cardiovascular system and my role in the examination was to supervise each student while they examined a real live patient's cardiovascular system, discussing their findings, the diagnosis and the possible treatments. We also were experimenting with a dummy which, at the touch of a button, could have any one of 30 problems with his heart for the student to discover.

I arrived at 8am to discover that Harvey, the dummy, was dead. It would not breathe and its heart would not beat. An engineer was summoned and the cabinet underneath was opened to reveal a vast array of tubes, pumps and electronics which were soon coaxed into life and, once again, Harvey could breathe and have a heartbeat, together with 30 assorted cardiological problems! Harvey is an American dummy, bolted motionless to his table, staring at the ceiling with the worst pair of thyroid pop-eyes I have ever seen. His hands cannot be moved for examination and he cannot be sat up to listen to the back of his chest so his use is somewhat limited. Whatever you do or say to him, he just lies there, staring pop-eyed at the ceiling.

In the morning session, I had live patients for the students to examine and, in the afternoon, I had Harvey as the "patient". Because Harvey is experimental, the students had the option of whether or not to take that part of the exam. If they did, the results of the live and dummy sessions would be amalgamated. Unfortunately for them, most students opted to avoid Harvey.

The morning session was a disaster. The students go through their entire course in groups of six or eight, encouraging each other, sharing study, testing each other and so on. It is a good idea and it works well until some student leads all the others down a wrong path. The cardiovascular examination carries 26 marks, 1 of which is awarded for talking to the patient and keeping them informed of what is happening. The students had placed vast overemphasis on this and the examination, for which the student is allowed only 10 minutes, would go something as follows:

"Good Morning, Mr Peabody. I am a second year medical student and I have been asked to examine your cardiovascular system today. Would that be all right?" Patient, being paid to lie on the bed with his shirt off, grunts in the affirmative. *"Would it be OK to call you by your Christian name?"* Patient, primed by me, tells them that this would not be acceptable. *"I have to tell you that everything I find during the examination will be treated with total confidence but I would be grateful for your permission for me to share my findings with the examiner"* Patient grunts OK and I wonder when the student will get on with the examination. *"I need to look at your hands to check for splinter haemorrhages would that be OK?"* Grunt Yes. *"I need to take your pulse - do you have a problem with your shoulder?"* Student then checks pulse and raises the arm to feel for a collapsing pulse. *"I need to look at your neck to check what we call the JVP - this tells us whether you have heart failure or not"* Patient, who knows more about his clinical condition than any of us, starts to look alarmed. This goes on and, before the student has even lifted their stethoscope, the time has run out. So, they get their one mark for talking to the patient but lose 12 by not finding the diagnosis and all that would follow from that.

The afternoon was different. Those

students who did brave the dummy came in one at a time, *"Good afternoon, Mr Harvey, I am a second year medical student....."* and so it went on. However, with the best will in the world, the students could not talk to the unresponsive, ceiling staring exophthalmic dummy as much as they talked to the human patient. As a result, they all completed the examination, got the diagnosis correct because Harvey had cardiac murmurs you could hear from the end of the bed, and managed to obtain between 22 and 24 marks out of 26. As Del Boy says, "He who dares wins".

As they were only second year students, they have time to sort themselves out and modern statistical methods ensure that nobody fails overall, so that's all right then!

Here is your homework for the month: When a doctor has his stethoscope in his ears, all conversation is completely muffled and it is impossible to hear what anyone is saying. Keep an eye on the medical soaps and see how many doctors carry on a conversation with ears full of stethoscope **while listening to the patient's chest.**

Best wishes to you all

Ian G. Nisbet.

Northwold School
Carnival
Saturday 14th June
2008
Parade starts from
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Theme for this year is

ALL IN A DAYS WORK

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Roger Preston

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Obituary
Common Sense

"Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as; Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (Don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies; (Adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6 year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using a

mouthwash after lunch; a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Elastoplast to a student; but could not inform Parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common sense lost the will to live as the ten Commandments became contraband, Churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to

realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and trust, his wife, discretion, His daughter, responsibility; and his son, reason.

He is survived buy his 4 step brothers; I know my rights; I want it now; Someone else is to blame, and I'm a Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. It you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Sadly we'll probably never see his like again!

RIP

Riverwatch

by Ivor Hook

A sheet of black noise soared and dipped and circled providing an impressive flying display. The rooks were enjoying the wind and testing their skills just above the treetops. On the ground a newly ploughed field was waiting for the next stage of farming process. The morning was bitter and stark. It was still icy cold from the overnight sub-zero temperatures and the river running along the bottom end looked far from inviting. The borders of sedge reeds bent double in the wind and the surface of the water resembled a rough sea. A row of tall skeletal trees skirted the long field and every year provided residence for the itinerant birds. The trees stood out against the grey skyline in silhouette and displayed numerous nests perched in the upper most branches.

Either exhausted by flying or from their continual cawing the multitude of rooks alighted onto the field. They commenced their quest for food and soon found grubs and worms aplenty in the new topsoil. The instant banquet heralded the arrival of even more rooks and soon the field was awash with activity. At intervals the birds would abandon their feeding to merely strut about with heads held high looking just like a convention of undertakers dressed in shiny black coats and tails. Then in their well-rehearsed way they would flap and clatter and all but take to flight always to return to their feasting. All the time just a few select birds on the perimeter patrolled and performed the role of

sentries ready to raise the alarm if any danger threatened.

Beside the river and in stark contrast nothing was happening. All wildlife had long ago taken sanctuary under the ground or inside the hedgerows and would remain so until the warmer weather reappeared. Giant cobwebs decorated with frost hung in shrouds as if someone had joined up as much undergrowth as possible with a continuous delicate pattern. The grassy riverbank was crisp and crunchy and showed the heavy imprints of large boots, which went in one direction only confirming that someone was still ahead. Suddenly a flash of emerald green disappeared down the river and signalled the perennial kingfisher. For a moment the mood was uplifted. Around the next bend of the river was my fishing pal. Alien-like he sat inert and bent over with a light powdering of frost covering his back and cap and you could easily have imagined that he had spent the night alongside the river. In truth he had arrived only shortly before me but already his pike floats were riding the waves.

To add to the seasonal delights heavy rain with sleet funnelled down the river and despite thermal underwear and many layers of clothing the cold gnawed at exposed fingers to question common sense. Pike fishing can be slow and today would be no exception. However we were staying for the day and our carefully positioned red-eyed herrings up and down the river would surely work eventually.

To pass away the hours it seemed a

good idea to also tempt a few roach but alas we only had bait for the pike. However the rooks were still feeding fast and furious so (silly us!) worms galore were only a few paces away. Before long a shoal of silver roach had been found and we now knew that by the end of the day the pike would also circum. Thus two solitary fishermen and several hundred rooks in a remote freezing cold field alongside the good old river Wissey could easily have been overlooked if the world had stopped and started again. But fear not, all concerned were completely preoccupied and the cold weather almost forgotten!

Ivor

Missing Village
Hall Table Cloths.

The Village hall is missing 6 red and white check table cloths from the kitchen.

It is most likely that some good Samaritan took them home to wash after the Harvest supper.

If you have them could you let us have them back please as we need them shortly for Winston's entertainment night.

Thanks in anticipation.

Village Hall Committee

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Our Past According To POG Aka Mike Coley



Our Past According To POG Aka Mike Coley

It is something that we tend to notice more these days, yet something that doesn’t actually register as we hear it all the time in everyday conversation, but more so I suspect because of hearing it on the TV and Radio. That’s changes to our language, the way words are expressed in general usage. It’s not a particularly delightful thing to listen to for most of us and I imagine the only people who would get any sort of satisfaction from it would be those that try to copy what someone else had said or those that are trying to impress someone else. It’s a real pain for the rest of us to have to hear but we mustn’t forget that it has always been that way. Perhaps the biggest shock to our collective systems in more recent years came with the London overspill scheme of the 1960s. It started for us in Thetford and later Kings Lynn. This hit us like an invasion from Mars, they looked a lot like us it’s true, but they were anything but the same as us in other respects, like the way they spoke, there manners and their attitudes generally.

When I moved to Dersingham after getting married I discovered that the overspill had hit Lynn like a bombshell too. In complete contrast, in one old book that I read years ago, it actually stated that firms and employers in London would always employ a Norfolk Man in preference to any other, for their honesty, reliability and hard working attitudes. Something that’s still largely true I’m glad to say although it’s become sadly diluted as the indigenous population began intermarrying with all manner of folk from elsewhere as never before.

In days long before all that, there had been a trend which permeated the whole country, one that meant that words beginning with ‘V’ were pronounced as if it were a ‘W’, as can be found in much of ‘Charles Dickens’ work. That meant that people like my granddad and his

contemporaries would I remember often say things like, “Oh ah, **that’s Wery** nice” and not ‘very’ nice, incidentally that habit lasted in Norfolk longer than almost any other area. And here’s something else, I have to tell you that we have never rolled the ‘R’ in our words as they tend to do in the West Country, but pronounce the ‘**R**’ as more akin to ‘**AH**’. I’ve noticed that the large, newish house on the field near to the crossroads along the Methwold Road, (*which we all knew as ‘the 4 cross ways’*) is called ‘**Winyards**’, is it too simplistic to suppose that the owners may have recognised our previous linguistic habit? and maybe recognised the vocal connection with **Vine House** (now called Northwold Manor?) and of course Vine Cottages, all of which were indeed named after a particularly fine Grape Vine.

Before all this there were differences in the way words were written down, words that included a ‘W’ for example, showed it as exactly that, ‘ **UU** ’ until the ‘W’ that we know today became the generally accepted symbol for that letter. We have all seen the writing in our churches, old bibles and on memorials that show words with a double ‘SS’ as being written, not with 2 Ss but with 2 Fs- EG, ‘ff’. We all recognise this arcane, somewhat idiosyncratic practice of course but tend not to think about how these change ever came about in the first place. Well I may be considered as something of an expert in my field, but sadly that’s not one of them so I can’t really help you to discover more I’m afraid, but it’s interesting I’m sure you’ll agree.

I referred to my Granddad a bit earlier, Jack (*John actually*) Shipp, (*not to be confused with Billy Shipp the baker* .) He was in fact a Cranwich Man and there’s a brass plaque in Cranwich church upon which his name appears, commemorating the local men that went abroad to fight in the first world war. He and others always spoke the name of their village as ‘**Cranice**’ and not as most do today as ‘Cran-ich’. There are a lot of examples like that around, like Foul-den, pronounced ‘**Fow-den**’ and not at all like those people do that nearly strangle themselves trying to make it sound posher. Others like ‘**Cly**’ rather than ‘Cley’ as in Cockley Cly or as **Cly** Next The Sea (*‘Cley’ sounds completely*

mealy mouthed to yokels like us.) and there’s Marham of course which is, and always has been pronounced ‘**Marram**’ (*until the posher RAF version made it start with ‘Mar’*) Throughout the County you will find many, many more as the dialect is not easily written down but it tends to be a far more phonetic way of speaking (*but by no means always*) that suit us to a tee.

If in doubt, try just a couple these old Norfolk place names on for size, **Ingoldisthorpe** (spoken *Inglesthorpe*) **Stifkey** (spoken *Stukey*) (*hence the famous cockles from that place, Stukey Blues*) **Happisburge** (spoken *Hazeburrer*) *and on the outskirts of Norwich there’s Costessey* (*spoken Cossy*) *and Colney* (*spoken Coney*) And there are plenty more like that I assure you, so don’t let anyone be sniffy about the way something’s pronounced, you’ll be a long time impressing us if you do.

Back to my Granddad then, dear old ‘Jack’ (*retired by this time*) loved to spend time with other old boys like him, just having a mardle together. He spent quite a bit of his free time chatting to old Jock Mortimer who lived a couple of doors away, where they would trim each other’s hair and do running repairs on their boots, (*pretty well everyone practiced to some extent the skill of boot mending back then, in fact people quickly learned to fix just about anything themselves in those days.*). **Jock Mortimer** was related to **Wendy Lavender**, (*her uncle actually*) and his wife ‘**Eva**’ worked as an assistant to ‘Chrissie Filby’ who owned the ‘Top Shop’, a general store opposite the church and one of eight such establishments in Northwold, quite apart from the three Butchers shops 2 Bakeries and various other trades that thrived back then.

Chrissie Filby not only ran the ‘**Top Shop**’, which had previously included ‘Millenary’ as a major part of their wares when it was owned by ‘**Harrison and Christmas**’. Chrissie also led the local Girl Guide pack who’s banner was kept near the alter in the church. She worked together with **Winnie Bloomfield** who was

‘Brown Owl’ to the Brownies. The girls held their meetings, between field trips of course (*usually on the field opposite*) at the **Manor House**. That was back in the days that it was still a great house and an asset to the village, rather than the sad eyesore it’s deteriorated into today.

Well that’s about it for another month my bewties, hope you enjoyed reading about it as much as I did Writing about it, it brought back lot of memories and as always it’s inspired me to keep **Look Forward to Looking Back** with you all again very soon.

Take care together, ‘til next month at the very least,

POG

Community Computer

The Village computer is now fully working and available for use at the Village Hall..

Anyone wishing to use the computer should contact Mr.Jim Booty to arrange access.

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School Report



As Half Term becomes a distant memory the staff and children at school are busy knuckling down to some hard work. As we approach Easter, the preparations are in full swing for SATs and the children, especially those in Year 6, begin to set targets for themselves and strive very hard to achieve them.

It says a great deal for the enthusiasm of both staff and children that, at this intensely busy time, there has been such a wonderful uptake of our extra curricular clubs. I have been amazed at the interest children have shown in the guitar. I had 26 guitars in my office last Tuesday (I am considering opening a shop!) which represents a quarter of the children in the whole school. Similarly, Miss Webster and I with our Netball and Football Clubs respectively, worked with about half of the school on Wednesday lunchtime. It really makes a difference when we are able to offer clubs outside of school hours, and it feels very rewarding to have the opportunities taken up in such numbers.

In the same vein, our PTFA put on a Horse Race evening last Saturday (this just goes to show how late I am with this copy – sorry Mick!) It was a great success and, I understand, has raised over £500 for the school. My thanks go out to all the PTFA members who made this happen. We are so grateful at school for the help and support that the PTFA provides both financially and in many other ways. I would like to add that the PTFA are always looking for more people to join them.

The time commitment need not be great and the work is of such enormous value. Judging by Saturday night, it can be immense fun into the bargain.

Recently at school we have welcomed some inspiring visitors. Laura, from the charity ‘Young Carers’ joined us last week to discuss the plight of children who undertake a caring role in their households. We were all very moved and have determined to put our minds to raising some money for the cause in our next Charity Day. A coach from King’s Lynn has been to visit us with some exciting Football coaching and will work with each class over the next few weeks. I was very pleased to meet the Bishop’s visitor, Martin Fisher, who has a very good relationship with the school and entertained us with an interesting assembly.

As February makes its way swiftly into March, we wish you all the very best from The Norman School.

Rob Hothersall

Hockwold Country Fair

On Sunday June 1st 2008 Hockwold are holding their Country Fair at Wilton Farm in the Main street.

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