

Great East Anglia Run

From our very own Deputy Editor, Graeme :

"Yes, we know, it's that silly season when everyone has decided to take on some mad, dangerous, gruelling (or all three) challenge for charity - and at my company, Catalina Software we didn't want to be left out (well, we did start planning in December 2007)!

This year, we're taking part in the Great East Anglia Run on 4th May to raise money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, and A River Blue (a project for children in Uganda) and we'd be really grateful for your support. We'll try our hardest to finish the run - and we hope you'll be able to give us some financial encouragement that'll make a real difference to someone in the UK or abroad."

Although the run will have taken place before this issue is circulated we are Inviting sponsorship just the same. Graeme will undoubtedly complete the course - Well he did last year although he is of course a year older now. But

seriously It does take a lot of effort and the charities are well worth supporting. You can leave sponsorship or pledge money with me or Graeme at any time, or visit www.justgiving.com/catalina2008

Remember when the Air Ambulance saved Hamish. Thanks in anticipation. Ed



Northwold Spiritualists Meetings for May and early June 2008.

Friday 9th May Rachel Finbow
Friday 23rd May Jackie Coman
Friday 6th June Pamela Romero
For enquiries and further information call Eileen on (01366) 728289

Foulden Summer Fete

Foulden Summer Fete will be held this year on 12th July on the Recreation ground opposite the Village Hall.

Starting at 12 noon and finishing at 4 pm.

Attractions include :

Barbeque, Bouncy castle, Stalls, Displays, Dog Show, Car Boot Etc.

For further details contact Jackie Young on (01366)328276

Don't forget... Northwold Carnival Saturday 14th June

It's not too late to enter a float or take any other part - let's make it yet another first class Carnival

Village Life NORTHWOLD & WHITTINGTON

The Last Delivery



Heather and Harry and inset Uncle Pim

After 30 years we have finally called it a day, rolled home the bikes and on March 30th finished delivering to Northwold and Foulden the Sunday papers.

We started doing the rounds when Heather's Uncle Pym gave up because of ill health. Her Dad, Horrie, had helped him for many years and was a familiar sight pushing his papers around in his barrow.

We took on the Sunday rounds as a means of helping to provide pocket money for our rapidly growing family of Wayne, Paula, Dale and Belinda. The children at the time were between 5 and 12 years of age and did a round appropriate to how far their legs could walk.

Over the years there have been many events and happenings, some good, some funny and some best forgotten. We have been able to help when one of our customers walked straight through a glass door and needed a trip to hospital. When people have needed letters posting or messages delivered to friends down the other end of the village.

We have seen the papers get through in all types of weather, lovely summer mornings, piled on the family sleigh when there has been several inches of snow on the ground and carried in plastic bags under our coats to try and keep the wet out when it has been

pouring with rain.

Although we have done all the delivering ourselves for the past few years now, as none of the family live in the village any more, they have always rallied round and helped out when we have needed them.

It is perhaps another sign of a passing age that no one else has come forward to take on the task of ensuring that the local residents can enjoy their newspapers with their bacon and eggs on a Sunday morning.

We are very grateful to everyone who has expressed their thanks to us over the recent weeks, and to all those who have sent cards and gifts.

Thank you all for the many happy memories we have of our years of service to you. To be able to watch the village come to life as it wakes up on Sunday mornings is a very special feeling and we have enjoyed being able to be part of this for so many years. We will miss seeing you all each week, but rest assured, we will also enjoy a Sunday lay-in without having to worry about getting up at 5.30 am.

Many thanks to you all for your past custom and friendship.

Heather and Harry Everett.

Issue May 2008
Copy date for the next issue is;
25th May 2008
copy@northwold.net
Tel. 01366 728233

A big thank you to Irish John (Breheny) and The Crown Pub for

raising and donating £311.50 to the Pre-School funds. The money donated is going towards updating our outdoor play area ready for the summer.

Congratulations to Claire Goate on completion of her NVQ level 3.

Welcome to all the new children that have joined the Pre-School recently. They have all settled in very well.

On Friday 18th April we held an open afternoon for parents to come and look at their child's learning story. This went very well and the parents enjoyed seeing the work their child has produced during their time at Pre-School.

The children have been very busy making lots of bits for our seaside theme. They have also been practising Maypole Dancing ready for the beginning of May.

If you have a child(ren) of Pre-School age and are interested in the Little Normans Pre-School, feel free to call in for a look around or call Angela Wortley on 728804.

Session Times:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00am– 12pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 12pm & 12pm – 3:00pm

Karen Muir

THE CROWN INN
HOME COOKED FOOD SERVED DAILY 12NOON - 2PM.
AND : 6PM TO 8PM ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY
6PM TO 9PM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY
SENIOR CITIZENS 2 COURSE LUNCH EVERY WEDNESDAY. £ 5.95
ALTERNATE WEDNESDAY QUIZ NITE
TEL. (01366)727317

GRAEME COOPER
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS
INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL, DOMESTIC
01366 727321
FAX 01366 727322
PROSPECT VILLA · 4 WEST END · NORTHWOLD
THETFORD · NORFOLK IP26 5LE

FIREWOOD
STOCK UP FOR WINTER – NOW!
HARDWOOD LOGS
split, dry, seasoned – 8' x 4' trailer load
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
All proceeds towards restoration of
DIDLINGTON PARK NATURE RESERVE
01842 878673

Woodside Gardens MUNDFORD ROAD, CRANWICH TEL: 01842 878741
AFTER HARVEST PRICE CHANGES
Layers Mash/Pellets.....25kg £6.00
Mixed Corn.....20kg £4.50
.....25kg £3.50
Wheat Bunny brunch mix20kg £6.50
Horse & Pony Mix.....20kg £5.50
Horse & Pony Nuts.....20kg £5.50
Hamster Mix.....20kg £7.00
Guinea Pig Mix.....20kg £7.00
Valumix Dog Food.....15kg £10.00
Norfolk Gold Dog Food..20kg £11.50
Hay.....Large Bale £3.00
Straw.....Large Bale £2.00
FOR YOUR FAMILY
FRESH FREE RANGE EGGS HOME PRODUCED
Extra large £1.60 doz.
Large £1.50 doz.
Medium £1.40 doz.
Pullets eggs (small) 60p doz.
WHILE STOCKS LAST
Also available from our Woodside Garden Café, a wide range of meals and snacks, and savoury & fruit pies to TAKEAWAY.
OPEN EVERY DAY 7.30AM-6.30PM

Inside this issue:

The Last Delivery Pre School	cover
Youth Club	2
St. Andrew's Church Cricket Club Theft warning	3
The Church clock	4
School Report	5
Our Past According to POG	6
River Watch Bingo	7
The Clothes Line The Art Group	8
The Doctor	9
Old Football Team Classified Ads Bowl Club 100 Club Church Cleaning	10
Nija Morgan health column Classifieds	11
Great East Anglia Run Foulden Fete	12

The Village Life Team

Editor

Michael Parfitt
copy@northwold.net
Tel. 728233

Deputy Editor

Graeme Whiting
Copy@northwold.net
Tel 727425

Advertising

ads@northwold.net

Circulation Manager

Mark Elwes
circulation@northwold.net
Tel. 728795

Committee

Chair

Carol Sharp
Tel. 728227

Secretary

Position vacant

Treasurer

Geoff Bartram
Tel. 728673

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.

NORTHWOLD YOUTH CLUB

Due to the Easter holidays there has only been one Youth Club meeting to report on this month – but what a meeting! It was the Annual Bowls Competition and reputations were at stake for the winners of last year's competition.

It is only when last year's event is compared with this year that we realise just how far the Club has grown and developed. Due to sheer numbers, this year we had to split the event into a Senior and a Junior Competition. Fortunately, we had been able to buy a Junior bowls mat with funding received last year, so the events could run simultaneously.

Some of the Club Members who won medals and trophies last year can hold their heads high as they managed to gain places this year too – look out Jamie Chestney there's serious competition behind you!

Winners: Callum Adams
and Aiden Bond

Runners Up: Cristina Fonken
and Holly Vowles

Junior Trophy

Winners: Thomas Fonken
and Emily Lavender (runner up '07)
Runners Up: Rebecca Bradford
and Kitty Harris (winner '07)

A big "shout goes out" to Tony and Jill Cater who very kindly provided the trophies, officiated and presented the awards. Thank you for making the evening so successful.

Well done to everyone. It really was a good evening and great fun to watch!

The next meeting will be a games evening when the members will be put through their paces with the pool table we have acquired with grant funding, as well as our new Space Hoppers (Mums and Dads, do you remember those????)

Steve Freemantle



Youth Club Trophy Winners

Northwold Carnival

**Saturday
14th June**

2004

Derek Johnson

PROPERTY & LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Interior & exterior painting, wood or UPVC fascia boards
Guttering repaired, cleaned, replaced
Roofing repairs, damaged tiles replaced
Chimney pots & cowlings fitted
Chimney stacks and general re-pointing
Blocked drains & sinks cleared
General plumbing & drainage
Roof, patio & driveway pressure washing
Trees & conifers trimmed or removed
Hedges, bushes and ivy trimmed
Fencing & decking, landscape maintenance

TELEPHONE 01842 810816

Classified Adverts

E.G. Dack

Approved Electrician, 25 years
Experience. Small Jobs Electrical.
Tel. 01366 728118, Mobile
07766637077

B.R. Garden Services, mini-digger
hire (self-drive or with driver),
holiday home maintenance,
foundations and driveways, grass
cutting service, turf laying and
pruning. 07774 724366.

**Lose 2-5lbs a week using natural
products.** Free telephone assessment
with an advisor.
Dietworks (0845) 1662157

Versa - Tile,

for all your tiling needs. Mosaic -
natural stone - slate and all ceramics.
Andrew Waters.
Over 25 years experience. Tel Mobile
07767 343691.

The Nija Morgan health Column

Successful Opening

I was really pleased with how so many people came along to the opening of the No Hands Massage Centre. We were busy constantly from 12 noon until 5pm with people having free massage and getting to watch and have Gerry, the founder of No Hands, explain what Karen and I were doing and how he developed No Hands Massage.

We had lots of people booking because they felt so different from a 10 minute taster session that they wanted to see what an hour session could do. I saw a lady a week later who had had such a big difference in her posture that everyone she saw the next few days commented on how different she looked and she said she felt the effects for three days, after just having a ten minute session. She lives about 40 miles away and has a very hectic work life where she has to put herself very much on the back burner

and carries a lot on her shoulders, after experiencing No Hands she is going to have this for herself so she can continue to feel lighter, taller and have more energy. Her husband has also booked too.

A lot of having a treatment is to take time out and by doing that you can achieve other outcomes like feeling looser in your body, lighter, happier, calmer, more energy, the list is endless and with No Hands the treatment is enjoyable because there is no pain even though it can be very deep, it can be very gentle too, it all depends on the outcome wanted.

The Centre is open from Tuesday through to Saturday from 10 am, do feel free to call in and have a look and if either Karen or myself are free we may even be able to give you a free taster session. We still have a 35% discount on treatments taken up to the 17th May.

If you'd like to know more you can also ring on 01842 814988.

Nija

PAUL'S TAXI'S

**01366
385885**

Local Runs
Airports, etc.

A.M. Stannard
Stoke Ferry

**Bouncy
Castle Hire**

Suitable for
Ages 1 to 10 years

**Andy's Cars
Taxi Hire**

Tel. 01366 500675
Mob. 07748 412627

**PHILIP
DITTNER**

**HIGH QUALITY
WOODWORK**



FOR ALL YOUR JOINERY NEEDS:
STAIRS, WINDOWS, DOORS, ETC.

The Old Coachhouse & Stables - Common Drove - Northwold

01366 728213

Ray Gribble

Antique Restoration & Traditional Upholstery

All aspects of antique furniture restoration including French
polishing, cabinet repairs and traditional upholstery

Traditional Upholstered Furniture

Footstools, Sofas, Chairs made to commission

Picture Framing & Mirrors

An extensive range of mouldings including hand painted
and gilded finishes

Antique and Reproduction Prints for sale
Vine House, Church Road, Wereham, King's Lynn
01366-500387

www.raygribble.co.uk



County Graphics

Graphic Reproduction & Print Specialists

Tel: 01842 819500 Fax: 01842 819679

E.mail: sales@county-graphics.co.uk

- ◆ Quality Printing
- ◆ Efficient Service
- ◆ Competitive Prices!

*Why not contact us for
a no obligation quotation or
further information on our services.*

Cecil Gould sent in this photograph of Northwold Football team of the 1906 - 1907 season.

Now that is over 100 years ago ! Cecil was surprised that we had a football team as long ago as that.

The names of the players and officials are reproduced below the picture. Some of them are familiar names in the village still. Some have disappeared.

Heavily moustached and ready for play they look quite an impressive outfit.



A prominent Swaffham resident in the group is seated in front on the left. He is Mr W. Cooper, former Superintendent of Police in the town, who at the time was a private constable for Lord Amherst of Hackney.

The others are : Back row - H. Chandler, R. Gould, A Dye, - Gray, A Smith, G Pryer, F. Dye, J. Crisp. Seated – A. Ormston, W. Dye, M. Pearson, G. Jolly, A. Chapman, A. Ward, with W. Cooper and W. Chapman seated in front.

Mr Chandler, the Referee, hailed from Bechamwell. Mr Gray was Schoolmaster at Foul登. Mr Ormiston was son of the head gamekeeper at Didlington and Mr Pearson was a schoolmaster at Northwold.

Classified Adverts

Greenway Interiors
Kitchens, Bathrooms, Plumbing, Carpentry Plastering Decorating 54, Cromwell Road, Weeting. Tel 01842 812567. Mobile 07766013485. Phone today for a free quote
We're not just a company - we care

Graham Smith & Sons
Pest & Vermin Control for homes, farms and businesses. 24hr/7-day service. Local family business (Clover Farm, Mundford) Tel. 01842 879904, Mob. 07946 733188

D W Services
Gardening and T V Aerials. Grass Cutting, Hedge trimming, Tree pruning and general garden work. Also Digital TV aerials fitted, CCTV, Signal boosters etc Tel. 01366 728403 Mobile 07752 587111

D.E.T. T.V. Service - Repairs to TV’s, VCR’s and Microwaves. Fast reliable service. John Clifford. 01842 878486.

Feeling Stressed? Why not treat yourself (Or someone else) to a relaxing massage by a fully qualified Therapist. Fully BABTAC recognised and insured. Gift vouchers available. Body massage £17.50 (1 hour), Back massage, £12.50 (half hour). Contact Shelly Farrow on 01366 328835 or 07881 904099.

Fenland Garage Doors
Proud to say more than half our new customers come to us by recommendation. The area’s most comprehensive range of manual and automatic doors. Plus repairs to all doors, and spares. www.fenlandgaragedoors.co.uk Superb quality doors fitted by a professional, long standing company, with up to 10 years no quibble guarantee. Please phone for a no obligation survey, quotation or for repairs, or take a ride out to our Southery Showroom – you’ll be amazed!! Tel. 01366 378841

St Andrew's Church

In spite of “Christmas” weather, the Easter events all went extremely well.

On Maundy Thursday, the Pilgrims on their way from London to Walsingham, stopped at the Church for rest, refreshment and use of the Loo! By arrangement, the children from The Norman school arrived for their end of term service just before the pilgrims left so that they could hear, from the Pilgrims, just why they were making their long pilgrimage, and after a short prayer, the Pilgrims left, carrying with them the large, wooden cross, and singing as they went. And the school began their end-of–term service.

On Good Friday, the Church by now bereft of flowers, frontal and falls, there was a meditative service of devotion conducted by the Rev. Angela Nichol. We left in silence.

So that the excitement and activity on Easter Saturday morning when the Church was beautifully decorated, marked the change of mood in preparation for Easter Day, when Canon Rowsell officiated at Holy Communion, and a good sized congregation sang traditional Easter Hymns.

In the afternoon, the dreary snow of the morning, mercifully melted and we had plenty of support for the Quiz round the Village, - tea – and Easter Egg Hunt. There were some clever and original entries in the “Decorate a hard

boiled Egg” competition. A good time was had by all.

On Wednesday, April 2nd we had a coffee morning in the Church in aid of the Bishop’s Lent Appeal – which this year, was The Leprosy Mission. We were delighted to find that we raised £126. 60. Thank you so much to all who gave, helped or supported in any way. Rev Griffin from the Leprosy Mission preached at the service on 13th April.

Church Services for May and early June 2008

May		
4th		
11am	Holy Communion.	Rev. J. Terry
11th		
11am	Matins	Rev A Nicoll
25th		
11am	Matins.	Mrs C. Nicholas – Letch
June		
1st		
11am	Holy Communion	Rev D. Kightley
8th		
11am	Matins.	Mrs R. Kightley

THE MATT MORLEY CRICKET TROPHY

The Trophy commemorates Matt Morley, the Northwold Cricketer, who lost his fight with Cancer at the age of 36 last year.

The Northwold Cricket Club held their first Charity Match against Gooderstone for the above trophy on Saturday, 19th April.

Despite the cold, both teams played and enjoyed a good-spirited and competitive game. Northwold proudly gained the Matt Morley Trophy, scoring 171 to Gooderstone’s 86.

In the evening the cricketers held a disco, raffle and auction to raise funds for the St Nicholas Hospice. The total donation to the Hospice was £500.

WATCH OUT! THERE ARE THIEVES ABOUT!

Just a word of warning to all Villagers. The Sports & Social Club has been the recent victim of oil theft. Their tank was emptied.

As oil is no cheap item these days this is a timely reminder to all to make sure their oil tanks are kept as secure as possible.

Church Cleaning

The Annual Church spring clean will take place this year from May 12th to May 17th.

If you can help please come and have a cup of coffee in the Church on Tuesday 6th May at 10. 30 am

Betty Akers

Northwold Bowls Club 100 Club

Draw for March 2008

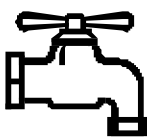
J. Rust £ 20

T Ager £ 15

G Jones £10

Sylvia

MARK ROBERTS Plumbing & Heating



Plumbing & Heating • Boiler Replacement
Central Heating Installation
Bathrooms/Showers • Water Softeners

ALL WORK & MATERIALS GUARANTEED
REFERENCES AVAILABLE

Telephone 01366 727344
Mobile 07887 646587

Theres a milk to suit EVERYONE!

- CREAM - YOGHURTS - FRESH EGGS -
-FLAVOURED MILKS - FRUIT JUICES -
- FIZZY DRINKS - CHEESE WEDGES -
- BREAD - MINERAL WATER -
- CHRISTMAS HAMPERs -

BRIAN WATERS YOUR LOCAL MILKMAN

TEL : 01366 728024
DEPOT : 01284 754720

Northwold ~ Foul登
Feltwell ~ Methwold
Methwold Hythe
Mundford

St Andrew's Church Clock

Stephen Eyles talks about the history of the Church Clock

The year of 2007 may not be significant to many of you but after passing a milestone in my own life I started looking at things around me that had stood the test of time.

One of the villages’ assets that have stood the test of time is the church clock. The internal clock plate reads ‘George Yonge London 1807’. Yonge was not the maker of the clock but a small watch time peace dealer who operated from a shop in the Strand, London from 1776 to 1832. His role was as an agent between clock makers and the prospective buyers.

The clock was made by Thwate and Reed from the borough of Clerkenwell, London. This was an area where many skilled craftsmen worked making individual components as well as assembling the clocks to customer specifications.

In terms of its construction, the clock is a weight operated turret clock with an anchor escapement and a 2.9 meter (114 inches) long pendulum. The hourly striking occurs through a ratchet-type mechanism built inside the frame, the maintaining power lever is driven be a leaf spring. This allows the clock to be rewound without losing any time and safe guards the escapement from damage. All these elements result in an exceptionally well built clock for 200 years ago.

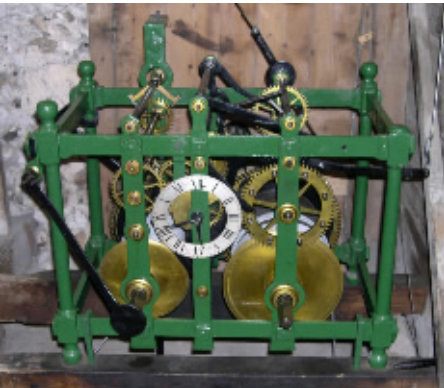
With a trip to London’s Guild Hall library to research our clock further, we found in the Maker Work book entered on the 23rd March 1807 the entry of:

‘To an 8 day church clock to one outside dial, hand and minute to strike the hour on a bell. To a copper dial plate of 5 feet diameter moulded around the edge. To a man days at Northwold to fit the above. Packaging and cartage for the above.’

This enabled us to trace the clock to the Ledger book of 1807. Written within was the cost of the clock when brought by Mr Yonge, £85.00 + cartage £5-2s6d (this is about £6,3100 in today’s money). The parish records log a bill for the clock of £102.14s6d, therefore Mr Yonge made a profit of £12.12s (£848.40p) on reselling the clock.

I hope this is of some interest to the parishioners and visitors to the church. A large picture and text is available in the church for all to see.

Thanks to Ken Sheffield, Oxford and Johnathan Betts, National Maritime Museum in helping me to carry out this research.





Independent Financial Advisers

Nigel Elson Cert PFS

I offer, in the comfort of your own home, independent financial advice on financial planning and products from the whole market place. My aim, for both new and existing clients, is to provide a personal service without obligation.

Tel: 01953 717 132 • Fax: 0871 236 1635
E.Mail: nigel.elson@friendly-finance.co.uk

Walnut Tree Cottage, White Hart Street, East Harling, Norfolk NR16 2NE

An Appointed Representative of Sesame Ltd.

The Woodland Inn
Thetford Road, Northwold
Comfort Inn

Every Friday night 3 course dinner £ 13.50
 Every day lunch 2 course £7.50

Bar & Restaurant open 7 day’s a week,
 Look out for our new Bar Meals & Snacks


3 Course Sunday lunch £10.50
 For Bookings or info call 01366 728888

METCALFE
COPEMAN & PETTEFAR
SOLICITORS - THETFORD

We are an established East Anglian firm offering a friendly, efficient and personal service in all areas of the law from a modern and conveniently located office in a town with free parking.

If you are moving house or wishing to plan for the future by making a Will, or require legal advice, then please call in and see us.

Telephone (01842) 756100



Transforming Touch - Transforming Lives
 Do you want
 Looser Back, Neck & Shoulders, More Energy,
 Happiness, to Slow Down and be Calm, to feel
 stronger, be in control, to be uplifted and inspired, to
 feel physically fit and stress free,
Take Time Out For You Transform any area of your Life.

Nija Morgan **Advanced Practitioner**
For bookings and further information
Ring Northwold 01366 727243

WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR THINK THIS MONTH? MY INTERNET SKILLS AND MANAGEMENT’S TUSSLE WITH A DINOSAUR!

We had arranged to spend 5 days at Center Parcs in Penrith with six of our seven children, their partners and eight of our nine grandchildren, a party of 20 in all. Macho man here was planning to leave at 7am and arrive before lunch but management suggested that we split the journey to prevent tiredness before we met the family! I went on the internet and booked a night in the Cave Castle Hotel in Brough, only 20 miles from Penrith. You will have heard of Brough Moor, a remote, bleak and often snow-ridden area of moorland near Shap and the Scottish border. Center Parcs was booked from Easter Monday soothe journey was to be on Easter Sunday. As you will remember, Easter Sunday was very white first thing, with snow on ice. We endured a hairy journey to church in Methwold, skidding several times and having to take three runs to conquer the hill at the top of Lodge Road. We set of for Brough at noon, had a very pleasant lorry-free journey up the A1 to Scotch Corner, with little snow. As we turned left for Brough, the skies darkened and the snow began to fall. As we progressed, the snow became thicker and thicker and started to lie on the road. A large red shape appeared out of the gloom, travelling in the other direction; near and nearer it came until it transformed into an old London Routemaster ‘bus and slid past before being swallowed up in the snowy gloom. Deannie thought of Harry Potter and I just thought it surreal.

I was wondering whether we were doomed to spend the night in the car, snowbound, when we arrived at Brough (Cumbria). We drove around but could not find the Cave Castle Hotel. We found The Castle Hotel which had a couple of Neanderthals scratching in the doorway and would certainly have been vetoed by management. We decided to ask someone for help, turned a corner and came across half a dozen ‘buses from the 1940s and 1950s, the tail end of an Easter ‘bus rally organised by local enthusiast, Alison Morris. Alison looked at my internet printout and,

within a millisecond, realised that I had booked a hotel in Brough, East Yorkshire, a very long way away. Standing in the falling snow, directing ‘buses (An old *Western* coach from Kilmarnock, an old *Ribble* ‘bus from Manchester and a *Crosville* double-decker similar to my school ‘bus, she pulled out her mobile ‘phone and rapidly found us accommodation at *The Black Swan* in Ravenstone Dale, a nearby village. Alison, who lives in Ravenstone Dale, owns four old coaches and a double-decker from the 40s and 50s and she runs them as service ‘buses, vintage tour ‘buses and, between March and October, she offers conducted tours and a free ride to the farmers’ market in Brough. She trades as *Cumbria Classic Coaches* (0 1 5 3 9 6 2 3 2 5 4 – info@cumbriaclassiccoaches.co.uk –

www.cumbriaclassiccoaches.co.uk) Her coaches are used on the BBC programme “Heartbeat”, based in Goathland. With her husband, she owns runs a signwriting business.

At *The Black Swan*, we were made immediately welcome by Louise Dinnes, who, with her husband, Alan, runs the family hotel. Deannie’s approval was immediately given and we moved in. The room was lovely and warm; Deannie popped into the bathroom and, very soon, there was a managerial shout of alarm. I knew she had not planned to take a shower, which usually causes such shouts, so I was interested to hear what had happened. She told me that, whenever she pulled out the basin plug, there was a mighty “GRRRRRR” from behind the toilet. The same happened when she flushed the loo – “GRRRRR”. It transpired that she had met the dinosaur – not Tyrannosaurus, Plateosaurus, Protoceratops or Ankylosaurus, but a very small dinosaur which lives in a box behind the loo and is called Macerator! Macerator is very useful for this purpose as he likes to digest solid waste matter and drinks a lot of water (the bath water also goes through his box) before passing it down a narrow bore pipe to the main sewage system. The use of such a mini-dinosaur makes it possible to mount a WC against an inside wall,

thus increasing the possibilities when making conversions in old buildings. Of course, there is no need for the hotel owner to feed him but he does get blocked occasionally and this causes problems.

Deannie and I would like to recommend *The Black Swan*. It’s in a tiny village in the middle of nowhere in the Eden Valley, the food is wonderful and the welcome could not be surpassed. (*The Black Swan, Ravenstone Dale 015396 23204 – enquiries@blackswanhotel.com – www.blackswanhotel.com*) Also, it is only a few hundred yards from the Settle to Carlisle railway, there are Alison’s ‘buses to ride on and a whole raft of activities in the local area. To top that, when you return home, nobody will have a clue where you have been, even when you tell them! Journey times from Norfolk: a) via A1 and Scotch Corner 4 hours b) via M6 and A14 7 hours!

A warning for Tom Tom users! I changed my Espace recently and bought a lower spec model which does not have a built-in satellite navigation system. No problem – I purchased a Tom Tom sat nav for just over £100. The distance from Brough to Penrith was 19 miles so, on the Monday morning, well rested and fed, fresh from my failure with the internet booking, I read the instructions for getting to Center Parcs. They had helpfully included their postcode for use by those with sat. navs. Although the road to Penrith was dead straight, I punched in the postcode and followed the sat nav directions. We travelled through blizzards, tiny villages, over cattle grids, through farmyards and up into the moors. The road became narrower and narrower and, just as it petered out in the middle of nowhere, the sat nav announced *You have arrived*. We tried again and ended up in another equally remote spot. Son Scott, who knows about these things, tells me that Tom Tom only reads the first four digits of the postcode and that, in Cumbria, postcode areas are vast, hence the problem!

Journey time Brough to Penrith 2 hours Best wishes to you all

Ian G. Nisbet

No doubt most of us have heard a song called "The Old Rustic Bridge By The Mill". It's Olde English sounding lyrics are as English as they could possibly be. But in actual fact it was written by an American. Frank Fendick has sent in this Poem which again seems English right down to it's roots. Except for one word, "Vacation" it might well have been. In fact like the Old Rustic Bridge By The Mill it is most likely of American origin, and one of the best we have had for some time.

The Clothes Line

A clothes line was a news forecast
To neighbours passing by.
There were no secrets you could keep
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link
For neighbours always knew
If company had stopped on by
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the 'fancy sheets'

And towels upon the line;
You'd see the 'company table cloths'
With intricate design.

The line announced a baby's birth
To folks who lived inside
As brand new infant clothes were hung
So carefully with pride.

The ages of the children could
So readily be known
By watching how the sizes changed
You'd know how much they'd grown.

It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too,
Haphazardly were strung.

It said, 'Gone on vacation now'
When lines hung limp and bare.
It told, 'We're back!' when full lines
Sagged
With not an inch to spare.

New folks in town were scorned upon
If wash was dingy grey,
As neighbours carefully raised their
brows,
And looked the other way..

But clotheslines now are of the past
For dryers make work less.
Now what goes on inside a home
Is anybody's guess.

I really miss that way of life.
It was a friendly sign
When neighbours knew each other
best
By what hung on the line!

Northwold Art Group.

In the wake of the hugely successful first art exhibition of last year we are staging our second one in the Village hall on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July from 10 am to 4pm. Admission is free

School Report

Once again, it has been a busy and productive time in the life of the school. Children from all classes have proudly shown me examples of their work on a daily basis and the frequently changing displays on the walls of our school are testament to the variety of achievements that the children make through their efforts.

A group of children from the school have represented the school at the Cross Country Running event held at Feltwell. They have spent the previous few weeks practicing at a lunchtime club and gave an excellent account of themselves, in both the sporting sense and as ambassadors of the school. We were very proud. More recently our footballers have competed in the Cluster Football Tournament and achieved a creditable third place, winning on penalties in the 3rd and 4th place play-off.

This level of effort comes also in a half term when many people, both adults and children, are fighting off a range of illnesses. I know at first hand how being laid low by illness, accompanied by the unfair and outrageous accusations of 'Man Flu' levelled at me by Mrs Hothersall, can interrupt the momentum needed for effective work and learning. I feel that this makes the achievements of the children all the greater.

The past months have been good ones for history at the Norman School. We have been visited by two teachers representing the Fenland Trust who

have worked with the children to look at the local history of the area, especially exploring Roman Norfolk. Also, Class 3 enjoyed an excellent visit to the Anglo Saxon Village at West Stow, where they were able to look at and think about a range of artefacts from Saxon times, and to investigate the various attempts at the reconstruction of Anglo Saxon house based on the meagre evidence that survives. The children made the most of the opportunity and once again, I was proud to be with them as their behaviour was exemplary.

Mark Ogden, our School Travel Plan Officer has visited us and talked to the School Council about further measures to try and encourage people to make their way to school in a healthier and more environmentally friendly way. The School Council are organising and advertising the 'Steppers' scheme which rewards those who are able to walk to school and encourages those who come by car to think about not driving all the way to school, but shorten the journey enough to allow a five minute walk. I think it is very important to be creative when doing our bit to encourage not only good health but also environmental awareness, and this scheme seems to fit the bill.

We have had the honour of taking part in a new book prize, organised by the Norfolk Library service, called 'Story

Shorts'. This is a prize specifically for shorter children's stories which are more accessible to a wider range of readers. A group of our children have read the shortlisted works and decided on their favourites, their votes being added to those of other schools to decide the winner. Last week the children went to the award ceremony at Fakenham Library where we were entertained by three of the shortlisted authors, Geraldine McCaughrean, Vivian French and Kaye Umansky. The authors shared their experiences and writers hints and tips with the children. I was able to obtain signed books from two of the authors dedicated to the Norman School as a reminder of the day.

Our Easter celebrations were extremely enjoyable. The children contributed to a lovely service in St Andrew's Church. The quality of their prepared pieces and singing was well received by the congregation. At school the Easter Bonnet Parade was a delight, with so much work going into the intricate and creative Bonnet designs. The children who were awarded prizes can be especially proud due to the strength of the competition.

As I write the school is busy preparing for another traditional event, that of the May celebrations. The sound of jolly country dance music is becoming a regular feature around the school and I feel sure that this will be another glorious occasion.

Rob Hothersall

LYNFORD HALL HOTEL

Mundford
Near Thetford
Norfolk IP26 5HW
Telephone 01842 878351

RESTAURANT MEALS
BAR FOOD
SENIOR CITIZEN SPECIALS

For Quality & Service
Fixing Service Offered

Established over 20 years

NORTHWOLD CENTRE

Importers & Retailers of Fine Ceramic Tiles

SPECIAL OFFERS ON WALL & FLOOR
TILES ALWAYS AVAILABLE

01366 728325

The Old Chapel
High Street, Northwold
Norfolk IP26 5NF

LABURNUM GARAGE

Servicing & Repairs to all makes of vehicles
Tyres, Batteries & Exhausts Fitted · MOTs
Cars & Vans Bought and Sold
Car & Gas Stockists

WEST END
NORTHWOLD
NORFOLK IP26 5LE

01366 728673

All major credit cards accepted

Budget Fencing

Suppliers to trade and public
Panels · Posts · Trellis, etc.
at discount prices
Free Estimates · Free Local Deliveries
Fitting Service
Call now for a price list

Mill House Farm, Northwold

01366 727130

R.J.FENDICK

01366 728852

SEPTIC TANKS EMPTIED
DRAINS CLEARED

SAND & GRAVEL DELIVERED

RUBBISH REMOVED

BRYAN CATER

Your Local Independent Coal Merchant

FOR A ROARING
GOOD FIRE THIS
WINTER GIVE US
A CALL.

The Poplars, Thetford Road, Northwold, Thetford, Norfolk.

Tel: 01366 728342

