Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Three things.

Thing 1. Congratulations on your recent appointment as Editor.

Thing 2. Does your contributor POG know (or anybody who knows) anything about the structure known as Oxborough Ferry? I believe it consisted of a wooden platform fixed to a chain enabling users to pull themselves across the river. It was capable of carrying a pony and trap and was used by people living south of the River Wissey who wanted to get to their persons and produce to Oxborough, Gooslerstone and Switham etc etc. The track to the ferry is on the north side of the A 134 about a mile east of Whittington and passes the farm occupied by the late Simon Porter.

Thing 3. Under its section headed Whittington, White’s Norfolk Directory 1845 says: "The hamlet of Whittington where there are 178 inhabitants and where Messrs. Whitbread & Co, the great London brewers have an extensive malt house, with 5 cisterns capable of steeping (whatever that is) 1700 bushels (whatever they are) of barley at one time."

The enclosed map of 1826 (Reproduced here by kind permission of The Larks Press, Dereham) clearly shows the melting’s in the place where their remains are today.

Whites Directory of 1854 gives the name of the melting’s as Fisons, and Kelly’s Directory of 1825 describes Parkard and James Fison’s Ltd Malthouses and Chemical manure manufacturers and Whitbread & Co Malthouses. Surely there weren’t two companies in the village doing the same thing. Can POG throw any light on what the truth of this is?

In the meantime may I, through your columns, thank Mr. Coley for his fascinating insight into gone but not forgotten days.

Thing 4. Does POG know where the causeway land is, about 5 acres, left by Richard Cobnstable towards repairing the causeway extending to Whittington which is now held by the trustees of the parish made under an act passed in 1770?

Roger Warner
Grange Farm, Whittington.

Editors note:-
Thanks Roger, this is very interesting and by coincidence POG has dealt with the same subject. See page 6.

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NORTHWOLD & WHITTINGTON VILLAGE LIFE
Issue: March 2005
Copy date for the next issue is: 2nd March 2005
Copy@northwold.net
Tel: 01366 728233

The Voltz in Practice

A Session With
The Voltz
Or a mature man’s guide to modern rock music.

At 11 am on a Saturday morning I am standing outside Methwold Social Club where I have come to listen, film and interview our local Rock Band, THE VOLTZ. I am here by prior arrangement with Mick Waring a member of the band. Father Tony had just delivered the equipment and as I entered the hall they were busy assembling all the gear that these Bands use. The band consists of four members And it came into being through Mick and Owen sharing the same interest, which was playing the instruments was excellent and then Mick started to sing. I wondered how this quiet reserved lad (Qualities no doubt inherited from his father) could suddenly become such a confident and I suppose you would call it positive singer. What I couldn’t believe was that I was actually enjoying it.

They did the first number again just for me to film, then they did another one to help me out. They had no problem with this, they just did it.

Then it was “Dookey” time. Off the stage and out came the rolls and drinks. After I had collected up all my gear and got ready to leave they lined up and shook hands. In my estimation it is not easy work whether you like this sort of thing or not. But when you are as keen as they are I don’t suppose they worry about that.

They actually did their first “Gig” on 25th September, 2003 in Northwold Village hall for an 18th birthday party. In 2004 they did 27 Gigs which included playing in the new Downham Market precinct to help celebrate the opening of the re-vamped Market Place.

But by far their greatest achievement came in late 2004 when a Nation Wide competition was run by XFM Radio Station in London. This competition was for bands under the age of 18 years. Out of an entry of around 200 bands they were placed Sixth and with another 25 votes they would have been fifth and would have competed in the grand final in London.

In the press and on TV we get plenty about all the bad youngsters who get into trouble and cause all the mayhem. You don’t hear too much about these youngsters like these, but one day, we just might do. They are only 15 and already established . Who knows? One day they may be famous and Village Life will be able to say that we interviewed them first.

The last word came from my wife when I showed her the film I had made. “They’re as good as any you see on the television and better than most (her verdict).

So if you want to book this band you can contact Mick Waring or any of the other members, further details of which can be obtained from Village Life. As to the question, “Are you planning a career in this field,” the answer was definite. “We have got to get the GCSE’s out of the way first.”

So there you are. If you want a Rock Band you know where to go for one.

The Voltz are I don’t suppose you worry about that.

Village Life
**Easter Attractions In Northwold**

Exhibition with “Firefly Silks in the Village Hall on Saturday, 26th and Sunday 27th March.

An exhibition with “Firefly Silks”. Hand Painted Silks and Watercolours. Norma and Alan Ashcroft are partners in a cottage craft based upon “Painting On Silk” known as “Firefly Silks” based at their home in Thetford. Norma initially trained in Haute Couture in London. She has experience in many art forms having worked and taught over 30 years in the world of design and technology. Alan became interested through involvement in craft fairs and demonstrations and he was accepted into the Guild of Silk Painters as a result of his work in the areas of “Watercolour” picture technique and scarf design. They are members of the Guild of Silk Painters and regularly demonstrate the art of Silk Painting around the Eastern Region. They are also members of the Society of Amateur Artists.

They produce a variety of hand painted Silk greetings cards. They also “Hand paint on silk” framed pictures either of set subjects or landscapes. In addition they produce original designed silk scarves, cushions, jackets and waistcoats.

The exhibition is their inaugural event in the Village of Northwold and they hope it will be well supported. Should you not be able to visit this event, they can be found in the Cinema gallery, Aldeburgh, Suffolk over the period 27th May top the 2nd of June

The more information they can give about the caller i.e. gender, age, height, build, clothes and any vehicle they may be using all will help the police in possibly apprehending the caller.

It has come to our attention that a company calling itself the European Environment Agency are cold calling homes by telephone. They are offering to carry out a free safety & security check on your property. They try to play on the householder’s fear of crime by claiming that crime is rife in your area and you will only be safe, if you allow them to make an appointment to come and post code you valuables. Whilst they are in your home, they will try and convince you that you require a very expensive alarm system and possibly an equally expensive fire suppression system.

**Easter Fun At St. Andrew’s**

Why not join us – and bring the family – on Easter Sunday, March 27th in the afternoon. Meet at the Lych Gate at 2.30pm, and follow the trail round the village looking for Easter Sunday “Bunnies”.

Back at the Church for tea and simnel cake from 3pm onwards and the children can search for chocolate Easter Eggs!

Encourage the children to enter the colouring competition – pictures available from 12, West End. Do Join Us!

**Northwold Bowls Club**

Easter Bingo on Good Friday, March 25th at the Sports and Social Club. Doors open 7 pm.

**Church Flowers**

After Easter I shall be taking over responsibility for Church Flowers, from Brenda Ayres, who will be a very hard act to follow. She will continue to be in charge of wedding and funeral flowers.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to help; no expertise is needed, and you do not have to be a churchgoer.

St. Andrew’s is a beautiful church, and flowers make it even more welcoming to the congregation and to the many visitors.

Jackie Elliott (tel. 728571)
Keith MacLeod’s Monthly Report

March 2005 Letter

I am looking out of my window at the remains of last night’s snow and gales, but we are only a few weeks from Easter and although the ground is drenched, the sky is blue and the sun shining strongly. Midwinter seems barely days ago and yet I can already see the promise of Spring and Summer, with some daffodils already out.

It is a busy time for us in the Church. Lent has already started. The General Synod starts its latest sittings as I write — it is a time when we are expected to be thoughtful and caring and to look at all that we have and ask how we can be compassionate and generous.

The Synod (which is the nearest thing the Church of England has to a governing body) is not going to discuss the recently announced impending marriage of Charles and Camilla, although many are convinced that this finally disqualifies Charles from becoming Supreme Governor of the Church, when he accedes to the throne — and by the next Synod the marriage will have been celebrated and then, after the civil ceremony, blessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury himself. Probably most Britons feel that it is about time they got on with it and many, many more would feel that we should be able to imagine how we might possibly have got it wrong.” I hope we have no bigots sitting in the General Synod on either or any side of any of the debates.

I have mostly looked at the question of Women Bishops in the Church of England, which is, in a sense, a private domestic difficulty — but the same general sentiments apply to any debate or dispute about change and Galileo had every confidence that in four hundred years people would be as horrified and amused at the 20th Century Church’s attitude to the inferiority of women as most of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa are now to their attitude to the inferiority of non-white races only 25 years ago.

I write on behalf of your local King’s Lynn and west Norfolk M.E. Support Group. We have been supporting M.E. sufferers in the West Norfolk area since 1997. Two years ago we became a charity in our own right.

Northwold News

Parish Council

It was decided to increase the precept (out of the Parish tax) to £10,250. This is in line with inflation.

The contract for grass cutting was again awarded to Adrian Jenkins.

The following is the contents of a letter received by the Parish Council.

West Norfolk M E Support
Registered Charity No. 1090401

I write on behalf of your local King’s Lynn and west Norfolk M.E. Support Group. We have been supporting M.E. sufferers in the West Norfolk area since 1997. Two years ago we became a charity in our own right.

Northwold Spiritualist Group

We keep in touch with local sufferers by monthly meeting and a monthly newsletter, the latter is of extreme importance as many members are unable to get out for even the monthly meeting.

I am asking your council’s support for a donation, no matter how small to enable us to continue this support for the following year.

Northwold Spiritualist Group

At our evening of Clairvoyance Feb 12th £120 was raised for The Tsunami Appeal Fund. Many thanks to all who made this possible.

Our meetings are open to all who wish to attend. Any enquiries to Eileen Cooper Tel. 10366 728 289.

Forthcoming meetings in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Friday 4th March Carol and Len Minnett
Friday 18th March Billy Mclean
Friday 1st April Jill Rogers
Friday 15th April Peter Fox

There is no such thing as bad breath. All animal droppings are worth investigating, some more than others but all are worth rolling in.

If any reader would like to make a donation the address is as follows: “Sunnymead”, Main Road, Clenchwarton, King’s Lynn, Norfolk. PE34 4AF

Northwold Bowl Club

The sofa or chair is a dog’s spiritual home. It is used as a healing, resting and rejuvenating centre.

Northwold Spiritualist Group

There are two main possibilities for dog’s spiritualised excreta. The first involves a process of excretion, reabsorption and reexcretion. This is often referred to as the “dog is his own litter” type of excretion.

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Northwold – Foulden
Feltwell – Methwold
Methwold Hythe
Mundford

The following amusing item was submitted by Chris Darlow of the Village Life team.

Northwold News Jim Booty

Reports on activities, news and events in and around Northwold

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Feltwell – Methwold
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Northwold Spiritualist Group

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Any form of carpeting is to be used as a napkin, doormat or litter tray.

Wind is an acceptable way of showing appreciation for a meal but don’t blame me for yours.

The sofa or chair is a dog’s spiritual home. It is used as a healing, resting and rejuvenating centre.

A wagging tail, a sideways look, a glint in my eye, means that you have another chance tomorrow to try and make me your life a little bit fuller.

Thanks Chris I know the feeling. Ed
River Watch

By Ivor Hook

Having only recently moved to the village I somewhat unwisely attempted to be merely friendly towards your editor only to quickly “appraised” and told that it is virtually obligatory for newcomers to make regular contributions to the Newsletter. This Northwold tradition seems somewhat strange and most unfair but I have willingly conceded. My only claim to fame is that of coarse fisherman and I am fortunate to be able to enjoy this pastime at least once a week. So regardless of weather I am often up before dawn blending into the scenery alongside a river. Because of my pike fishing I am already very familiar with the river Wissey up to and especially around its upper reaches. This bonus for me to now live so close to it seems somewhat strange and most welcome.

Lots of the wildlife is more difficult to spot at this time of year but the faithful will soon be shooting green again, the dead and yellow waterside reeds will remain motionless for ages. The solitary heron is often overlooked as it can remain motionless for ages. The smell of a fox is always obvious at certain locations even although the culprit is seldom seen. The drab skies can remain motionless for ages. The colourful kingfisher skimming the surface at breakfast speed. The drab skies seem somewhat strange and most unfair if only you dress sensibly. Lots of the wildlife is more difficult to see. By Ivor Hook

Easter Fun At St. Andrew’s

Lots of fun at St. Andrew’s Church Northwold on March 27th - See page two for full details.

From Molly Waring

As some of you are probably aware, I did a charity skydive two years ago and managed to raise £500 for The Anthony Nolan Trust. I was overwhelmed with the amount of donations that I received from people in the village and successfully reached my fundraising target.

I am writing to ask for your help once again! I have recently set myself an additional fundraising target. Obviously £2350 is a lot of money to raise for a charity that has done a vast amount of work they do and to contribute to the work they do and reach my fundraising target.

This competition was submitted by “Sir Rosyton” of Leek Hall. See how many of the cryptic clues you can solve. All the answers are in Birds either UK resident or summer or winter visitors. Answer’s in the next issue.

Answer

1. Batman’ friend
2. Epilobit bird
3. The cost of shaving
4. A chicken on the head
5. Hang out the flags in winter
6. Please lower your head
7. Fast steam engine
8. Sticky paper not one of the enemy
9. Arther’s Dr Who
10. A China man’s mallet
11. The Berkley Square Nurse
12. Turbulent fuel
13. Piddock
14. Cost of crossing a meadow
15. Mr Greedy
16. Scottish musician in the Lewis Strings
17. You may find one in the pear tree
18. This one doesn’t reach the parts another one does
19. A young twinkler
20. Gossiping statues
21. A peaceful tortoise in the stone
22. Message carrier
23. Worn by a judge at an old murder trial
24. The big one at the root
25. Female relative
26. Coarse
27. Female plane
28. Old prisoner
29. Revolving rocks
30. Early morning call
31. Robin Hood’s long johns
32. You need one “Large” size for the turkey
33. Almost eaten for breakfast
34. Most of us have one
35. 6080 ft equals one

This Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 14th April in the Village Hall. This is an open meeting to which you are all invited.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual general meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 14th April in the Village Hall. This is an open meeting to which you are all invited.

March 6th. (Mothering Sunday) 4pm Family service for Mother’s Day
March 13th. 11am Matins
March 20th Palm Sunday. 11am benefice Matins
March 24th Maundy Thursday. Pilgrimage to St Andrew’s Church for coffee and a short service. Do join us! Details to come.

March 25th. Good Friday. 9.30am Procession Of Witness – Stoke Ferry
March 27th Easter Sunday. 11am Holy Communion with Canon Rowseal.

St Andrews Church Northwold

Infrastructure in the National Parks. Before I go to Malaysia I must raise £2350, all of which contributes to Raleigh International’s activities both in the UK and overseas. I will pay for myself to fly out there and grants from the National Lottery and the European Social Fund cover the cost of my food and accommodation (hmmmm).

This is where I need your help! Obviously £2350 is a lot of money to raise and I have until June to raise it all, which is going to be quite a challenge! However, I am determined to reach my target and with your help I can. I would be truly grateful for any donations towards my funds, every little helps!

Raleigh International is a wonderful charity that has done a vast amount of work in many countries over the last twenty-one years, I really would love to contribute to the work they do and reach my fundraising target.

Many Thanks,
Molly Waring
11 West End, Northwold

(For more information on Raleigh’s work go to www.raleigh.org.uk.)
Invitations were also received to visit Hall for the Tastes of Anglia event. Members will be visiting Chilford and we will make further enquiries.

We also discussed arranging to organise lunch visits to local restaurants or pubs, perhaps once a month. This seemed very popular and we will make further enquiries.

Members who visited the theatre Royal to see the musical Jesus Christ Superstar all had a very enjoyable evening.

Our speaker next month is Mr Baker who will tell us all about the Decline and the establishing of her Quiet Garden.

We were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Margaret Stanbridge joins the staff as the secretary in school for eight years.

The half term break is upon us and already we are half way through a school year.

Finally our thanks to Mrs. Pat Cooper who presents the Athena Graham Swimming Awards. This year the winners are Cristina Fonken and Michael Watts with Cristina winning the Shield.

We hope she soon feels at home with us.

Last Friday we held another of our charities mornings but instead of sharing the proceeds as we usually do the children were keen to support the Tsunami Appeal. Children and staff dressed up as children from other countries, either in the colour of a flag or in full costume. We had an amazing selection of places from all over the globe and many children enjoyed learning a little about the country they were representing.

I would like to thank the children, parents, staff and members of the community who generously donated items for us to sell and to also thank Darby’s Nursery for their donation of plants. We raised £273.50 which is a magnificent sum of money.

This week we have been holding a Health and Fitness Week and on Wednesday we visited Brandon Leisure Centre for the whole day. Staff, children and accompanying parents all had a wonderful time and the feedback from everyone has been very positive. We danced, played five-a-side football, played parachute games, jumped on a bouncy castle did aerobics and much, much more. One of the children told me her favourite activity was the bedside football!

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 £17.50p (1 hour), Back massage, £12.50p (half hour). Contact Shelly Farrow on 01366 388835 or 07881 904099.

School Garde Foulens require a motor vehicle mechanic. Heavy Goods Vehicle experience and driving license would be an advantage, but not essential. Please telephone Roger on 01366 328446 or Karen on 01366 328992.
Our Past according to Pog
(a.k.a Mike Coley)

In my first offering I took us back to the most Easterly point of the parish, the Watermill at Dilton. So now I thought it might be a good idea to look at the most Westernly part of the Parish, known as ‘Oxborough Ferry’.

Access to the ‘Ferry’ was via the Lake (farm track) which was known as Ferry Drive. This crosses the main road to Whittington and eventually leads to ‘Ferry Farm’ (not there was, and still is another ‘Ferry Farm’ on the Oxborough side of the River). The whole area, including the farm on our side was known as ‘Si Porters’ (Simon Porter) when I was a child. Across the river the Lake becomes a more substantial byway called ‘Ferry Road’, along it the Ferry-man’s cottage still exists. Although visibly extended now to accommodate the perceived requirements of a modern household, the old part of the cottage is clear to see. In either guise, ancient or modern, it represents a highly desirable home for someone that treasures their privacy. Ferry Road connects with the Oxborough/ Stoke road, to the West of Oxborough Hall.

Watermill Farm and Ferry Farm are about as far apart as you can get in the village, yet they are linked by a singular commonality, the ‘Little River’. Both are situated along the Big River of course but equally important is the fact that they each reside close to the Source, and to the Mouth of the Little River respectively. Another, rather more incidental thing that is in common was, that people swam in the Big River at both locations, and to the Mouth of the Little River respectively. Another, rather more meandering waterway would surely be preferable to the stress and tension created by the more recent proliferation of that urban scourge the ‘White Van Man’. The barges of yeasterday no doubt all posed a constant threat to life and limb as modern transport does. The ‘Want it Now’ culture is here to stay however and so I see little hope of a river revival. However, that picture of serene tranquility will linger in the minds of many for a long time to come I quite sure.

Well that’s about it for this time people, hope you enjoyed it, and don’t forget, if you have a question or something to share I would love to hear from you,

Till next time then ( Tony Robinson, who’s he ?)

Best Wishes, Pog.

Rita’s Ramblings

As I write these months ramblings, winter has finally decided to make an appearance and our familiar landscape is covered with snow and first thing in the morning. Every evening the weather forecasters are on our television screens with tales of gloom and despondency and the next morning we have had a few centimetres settled on the grass and roofs. Sometimes I would say they err on the side of caution and, after studying their charts, predict the worst that Mother Nature could throw at us. Despite the disruption that snow causes I do think it all looks remarkably beautiful when the sun is low in the sky and reflecting off the crystals of ice – the clarity of colour surely rivals most of the diamonds seen in jewellers’ shop windows! Both Amanda and Bonnie have thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the garden chasing each other around, trying to get rid of the snow by eating it and then rolling over on their backs and doing a ‘doggy dance’. This phrase was coined many years ago by a six year old who saw our first dog lying on her back, with all four paws in the air, moving as if trying to get an itch right in the middle of her back. This is all very well – but quite what I have in mind at quarter to seven in the morning!

This week at work we have been subjected to our Examining Board. They visit all air traffic control units about every 15 months or so and sit behind each controller in at least 2 control positions. They make sure that we are adhering to all the many rules and regulations and being as expeditious as possible. It is all similar to when you take your driving test when, during the road test, you never know what the other car drivers on the roads are going to do. Once we have passed the practical examination we are then tested on our understanding of the reasons why we do things in certain ways. It was rather touch and go whether they would be able to complete the visit as the weather has had direct impact on whether aircraft can fly; fortunately the mixture of snow showers and bright sunshine allowed a near normal flying programme and we were all given a clean bill of health. It made the number of hours spent poring over the jobs time well spent.

At the beginning of February, I achieved a New Years resolution when I rejoined the WI. When we first moved to the village 20 years ago, Mary Armstrong came and knocked on my door and invited me to join to go along and give it a try. I became Secretary for a while and then remained a member for a number of years. Unfortunately work then got in the way and I could only get to about 5 meetings during the year: it also meant that I could rarely commit myself to any activities as I could never be sure if I would be able to make them when the time came. When I went into the Village Hall I was very touched by the number of members who welcomed me back with open arms. Thank you to all of you. The monthly meetings are certainly a good way of making new friends and learning something interesting from all the different speakers: I am certainly looking forward to the planned programme.

That’s about all for now; so, until next month, take care.

Rita

Mother’s Day
TREAT YOUR MOTHER TO A SPECIAL MEAL

Easter Weekend
BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

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We also offer a deli counter of traditional cooked hams, such as ham, salami, prosciutto, bacon, pork pies, Cornish pasties, sausage rolls, scotch eggs and much more. On the shelf we have a wide range of cheeses, large selection of Curt’s Lincoln cakes. British cheeses, unsmoked and smoked, dry cured – no added water. A range of English and continental cheeses plus our usual range of cooked meats, once again cut to your requirements by our team of friendly staff.

New friends and learning something interesting from all the different speakers: I am certainly looking forward to the planned programme.

That’s about all for now; so, until next month, take care.

Jasmine Barnett

Thanks...

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me on the Brownie walk in aid of the Norfolk Air Ambulance. I raised £70 in sponsorship.

Thank you very much,

Best Wishes

Rita

Tel: (01842) 878288

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