

## A Portrait Of A Local Girl

### A Running Commentary



### Who remembers this young Lady?

**Northwold Born and bred** the youngest daughter of Brian and Mary Hull, this is Sharon, now Sharon Billiar who married her husband John 25 years ago. John is sadly away on duty in Iraq being a U.S Serviceman, and we wish him well. They have two children- Michael who will graduate next year and Sarah who is at Buffalo University in America studying to become a Doctor or Surgeon.

Being the youngest of four children Sharon often felt left out of going places. Well she has certainly made up for that now! To name but a few of the countries she has visited and some of them she has lived in are America, Canada, Australia, China, Egypt, Germany, Kenya, Mexico and Turkey.

Sharon, while everything else has been going on in her life has certainly not stood still (Literally) for she has run fifty full marathons worldwide since 1997, not including several half marathons. A full marathon is a foot

race of 26 miles and 385 yards.

The marathons she has taken part in are:-

Berlin, Belfast, Blackpool, Disney Florida, Dublin, Frankfurt, Holland, Monaco to Italy, Minot, Niagara falls, Nottingham, Paris, Prague, Rome, Stratford upon Avon, Texas, Turkey, Washington, Wells Fargo and competing several times over a number of years.

Of course we cannot fail to mention one of her favourites the world famous London Marathon which she has run a mere eight times. Her fastest time being approximately 3 hours 40 minutes which comes well in the time the top Club Runners achieve.

A funny but true story is that she achieved 6<sup>th</sup> place for England in the Amsterdam marathon, but not realising she was in for a placement let another runner pass her, she wondered why spectators were cheering her name!

While in England Sharon joined running clubs including the Brandon Fir Hoppers and the Downham Ryston Runners in which she ran the Norfolk Relay from great Yarmouth to Thetford and from Doiwnham Market Square all the way to the Dover Ferry, on to France and once there, on to Civray, and then all the way back again to Downham. Sharon also coached cross country and track to Middle and High School Pupils for four years.

Phew! Exhausting thinking about it, and she's still running where she now lives in North Dakota .

**This record must certainly be exceptional. I doubt if there are many athletes that can match this. Well Done Sharon ED**

### WITNESS APPEAL - ARMED ROBBERY, NORTHWOLD

Detectives are appealing for witnesses after a hotel worker was threatened at gunpoint during an armed robbery.

The robbery at the Woodland Lodge Hotel on Thetford Road, Northwold, near Thetford, occurred shortly after 11pm last night, Wednesday August 29th

Four masked men, three carrying shotgun-style weapons and another armed with an axe, entered the hotel and threatened the male worker who was ordered to open a safe. The men made off with a quantity of cash, leaving the scene in a dark-coloured "rounded-shaped" saloon car, possibly a Volvo Estate. The victim was uninjured but has been left extremely shaken as a result.

Neither the vehicle nor the offenders were found despite an extensive area search by police units. An investigation has been launched and detectives will be carrying out enquiries.

The four offenders were all white, two were described as "young, slim and athletic" while one offender was described as "fat, with a beer belly" and thought to be approximately 40 years old.

Police spokeswoman Beth Manning said: "This was an extremely frightening incident for the victim who thankfully escaped unhurt.

"We are appealing for any witnesses to suspicious activity or vehicles seen in the area in the run up to the robbery, to the car leaving the scene with the four men or anyone with any further information about this offence to contact police immediately."

Investigating officer Det Con Ian Young can be contacted at Downham Market CID on 0845 456 4567. Alternatively, information can be passed to police anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

## Inside this issue:

Sharon Billiar Armed Robbery	cover
Mayors Civic Awards Editorial	2
St Andrew's Church	3
Marion Dawe 100 Club	4
Musings on Northwold	5
Our Past According to POG	6
River Watch Quiz	7
W I Charities	8
Nija Classified Ads Thank You	9
Doctor Harvest festival Thanks	10
Then and Now	11
Letters Air Ambulance dance	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.

## Editorial

First of all may I apologise for the late publication of Village Life for this month. Unfortunately family circumstances have taken up much of my time and things never come in one's do they ?

As you may have gathered from all the streamers and things adorning my premises that I reached another milestone on 1st September. "Blind 70" it was, when I called the Bingo. I'm not blind but going a bit deaf maybe!!

May I thank all those kind people who sent me gifts and cards to mark the occasion. I am now on what is known as borrowed time, or something of the sort.

During the summer respite we have unfortunately experienced a couple of particularly nasty incidents in the village. One is chronicled on the front page concerning an armed hold up and robbery at Woodlands. The offenders were armed with firearms, and in the present climate who knows what might have happened had someone tried to stop them !!

The use of knives to settle disputes seems to be getting near epidemic proportions in the country generally. Whatever the provocation it cannot be justified, and neither can the excuse of drink be acceptable. And all that has come out of it is harm. A good old fashioned Punch Up and a broken "Snout" is one thing but this is way over the top.

Don't blame the politicians for lack of law and order they have at last banned Foxhunting even if it did takes weeks and weeks of effort

And of course extending opening hours has almost eliminated drink related crime as it would do would't it ?  
Keep paying your taxes!!

Peace be with you

Ed

## Mayor's Civic Awards for Voluntary Service

Nominations for the Annual Mayor's Civic Awards for Voluntary Service are now invited.

The Award Scheme started in 1995 and acknowledges the enormous contribution of people who put a lot of time and effort into voluntary work and volunteers to the Community. In excess of 250 people have become holders of an Award.

The scheme, which is supported by BBC Radio Norfolk, is a well respected and high profile award scheme within the Borough. The present Mayor, Councillor Kathy Mellish said "My first real contact with this award came when as Deputy Mayor last year I was a judge. I was quite struck by the wide variety of volunteers and the huge amount of support they give to the community. Along with my fellow judges I was quite humbled by all that I read about the nominees and felt proud to be involved in the scheme. I am really looking forward to reading this year's nominations. Over the past few months I have met many volunteers through my role as Deputy Mayor and then as Mayor and I have been astounded at all that goes on about which I really found I knew little. This scheme is a small way in which the Borough can say 'thank you' and I do urge people to make nominations so that those who give so generously of their time may be recognised".

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Civics Officer, The Town Hall, Kings Lynn, PE30 5DQ (01553 762124) or by e-mail on civics.officer@west-norfolk.gov.uk They can also be downloaded from the Mayoral section on the Borough Council's web site.

For any further information, contact Penny Harrison, the Civics Officer at The Town Hall, King's Lynn on 01553 762124

## 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

# St. Andrew's Church

## St Andrews's Church Benefice Service July 29<sup>th</sup>

Being the fifth Sunday in the month, July 29<sup>th</sup> saw the second of the combined services held by the five churches in the newly created Benefice of Grimshoe, which are:-

St Mary's, Feltwell – St James' Hockwold – St Mary's Weeting – St Georges, Methwold and St Adrew's, Northwold.

The venerable Jim Rowe, a former Archdeacon of Wisbech was the Celebrant, who with is wife, Mary renewed friendships made here at the time of the previous inter-regnum.

The Church was really full and looked it's best, with (As usual), beautiful flower arrangements.

The mood was joyous, the hymns old favourites and the singing lusty!

We celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the church clock – enjoying a glass of wine and a piece of delicious "Clock Cake" – **and to round off the occasion, we took the opportunity to thank Janet for over twenty years playing the organ for services, and presented her with several gifts to show our appreciation.**

**Once on a time, the Church was full every Sunday**

## Church Events to bear in mind

**Harvest Thanksgiving** On September 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am with Canon Rowsell

**St Andrew's Bazaar** in the Village hall on November 24<sup>th</sup>

**Toy Service** in the Church on December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Tree festival** on December 9<sup>th</sup>

Christingle on December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Joint Benefice Service on December 30<sup>th</sup> in St James', Methwold

## Forthcoming Services

### September

2<sup>nd</sup> 11 am Holy Communion  
Rev Beech

9<sup>th</sup> 11am Matins  
Keith McCleod

16<sup>th</sup> 8am Holy Communion  
Rev Nicoll

23<sup>rd</sup> 11am Matins. Rev Knightly  
or Ruth Knightley

30<sup>th</sup> 11am Harvest  
Thanksgiving  
Canon Rowsell

### October

7<sup>th</sup>. 11 am Holy Communion Rev  
Blackhall.

## Bible Study

The Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays from 10 am until noon at 21, Church Lane and it is led by the Reverend Angela Nicoll.

We are a friendly, informal group, and very much enjoy our meetings and the lively discussions they generate.

We shall start again in the autumn and will welcome new members – so do consider joining us. Date of starting to be announced later on. If you are interested please contact :-

Robbie on 728275 or Jane on 727921

## Pet Service

On Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in spite of the unsettled weather, a good number of pets and their owners took part happily (and peacefully) in the occasion to celebrate the pleasure we enjoy with or pets.

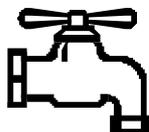
The Rev. Angela Nicoll retold the colourful tale of Noah's Ark, and we all introduced our pets to each other. We made a "friendship" paper chain bearing our names and the names of our pets, and each child took home a small model of an animal to remind them of the event.

We sang with enthusiasm some appropriate songs and Janet played the organ for us.

A very happy event altogether.



## **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

# Goodbye!

It is with mixed feelings that I say goodbye to Northwold and the school as the outgoing headteacher. It seems hard to believe I have been here for almost five years. I am excited about the new challenge I face in September but I would like to share with you all some of my reflections on headship in general and headship here in particular.

I started teaching in the northeast of England a very long time ago and relocated to Norfolk as my first child was born. I have taught in a variety of schools large and small and held many different responsibilities within schools but whilst each of the schools I have worked in has been special Northwold has been extra special, just ask the children! I have told them that they attend the best school in Norfolk as I passionately believe that all children should believe that they have the best, that is not to say any other school is not the best, I would expect children attending any school should believe their school to be the best.

As a young teacher I had high ideals about making a difference in the lives of those I encountered, I have aged but those ideals remain the same. Many of you will remember with affection and admiration some of your teachers. If the children of Northwold can remember me with some affection and that I always did my best for them (even if it meant reprimanding them) then that is reward enough.

I would like to pay tribute to the wonderful staff at the school, and the supportive governors and parent community. Thank you so much for the many gifts and messages of goodwill I have received, I am tremendously touched by your expressions of affection and goodwill. I know you will all make the acting headteacher welcome as you made me so many years ago. When I was interviewed I was presented with a set of 'what ifs'... a set of disasters and scenarios and asked what I would do, they all happened and I have dealt with them all, even the ones that have kept me awake at night. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the children. They have given me so

much pleasure, I have had the privilege of watching them grow and learn and they will remain in my memory for a very long time.

God Bless you all.

**Marion Dawe**

## Bowls Club 100 Club Draw

### July 2007:

Catharine Cater      £ 20

Graham Jones      £ 15

June Jones      £ 10

### August 2007:

Ralph Cully      £ 50

Dick Barrett      £ 25

Toni Hay      £ 15

**Sylvia**



**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](mailto: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**

### **Nija Levis Advanced NO HANDS® Massage Practitioner**

Transforming Touch - Transforming Lives

Do you want

Looser Shoulders, Neck and Back, 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  
to Transform any area of your Life.**



**For bookings and further information  
Ring Nija on Northwold 727243**

靈氣

## Musings on Life in Northwold

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been a Northwold resident all my life (so far), and I thought it was time to speak out and remind everyone just how lucky we are to live in such a lovely village.

I was born in the village, one of a family of nine. Most have moved away but my mother and sister still live in the same street as me and we get to chat over the hedge fairly regularly. It's nice to keep your family close by isn't it?

Unlike a lot of today's youngsters, I'm not one for sitting indoors all day long. Come rain or shine I like to get out and about at least once every day to stretch my legs. It is my experience that this is the best way to meet new friends and keep up with all the comings and goings of village life. During the week I usually stick to the roads, passing by the school where I like to chat with the kids as they come and go. But, of course, they have important lessons to get to and I have to wander on and leave them to their studies.

This whole village has a friendly atmosphere to it. Everyone speaks when they pass by, many calling my name and hailing me from quite a distance. Being fairly short I sometimes can't see exactly where the shouts have come from, so if I seem to have ignored you in the past then I'm sorry.

The allotments seem to me to be a sort of 'spy headquarters' for the village! Even though their tenants appear to be busy weeding, raking and sowing, I'm convinced it is impossible to pass by them without your movements being logged! The

only exception is old Mr Billmen who sometimes seems to miss me, but then I'm never quite sure if that is due to his advancing years or the fact that, despite his great faith in me, I have never quite lived up to his expectations!

Over time I have built up a host of acquaintances and it is an unusual day when I don't meet up with at least two or three of them on my route. As with everyone I suppose, we don't always see eye to eye. More often than not I'm of a friendly disposition and ready for a bit of a lark, but some days some people just don't seem in the mood! "Oh, well," says I, "See you tomorrow and we'll try again". I'm happy to forgive and forget. In fact, I think I may have earned myself a bit of a reputation as an affable fool, but there are many worse ways to go through life!

Now as nice as our village is, it makes your feet sore walking round the pavements every day, so come the weekend I like to expand my horizons a little and venture down onto the Common. If you've never been down there then you don't know what you're missing! Best time to go is quite early in the morning, with the dew still on the grass and the rabbits still sitting, unsuspectingly, out in the open. Now some people may castigate me for this, but I find an ideal way to keep fit is to creep through the hedge and run as fast as I can in pursuit of those rabbits! You'll probably be pleased to hear that I've not actually caught any and have no idea what to do with one if I did; but as a morning work-out you can't beat it.

The Common is a wonderful refuge from the stresses of modern life! Follow the track down Ingham's

Lane, past all those hairy Highland cattle and by the time you get to the far end the sounds of modern life have receded. All you can hear around you are the sounds of birdsong and small mammals rustling in the undergrowth. Louder rustles in the undergrowth usually herald the arrival, at warp speed, of young Seamus Parfitt. You have to keep your wits about you because his direction and velocity of approach are infinitely variable and you can be bowled over by his enthusiasm before you have a chance to say hello. However, like me, he only lives for fun and we get on very well, although I sometimes think he may be leading me astray? Just lately though, he's been seen in the company of Miss Saffy Luckman who possesses a far calmer demeanour. Perhaps some of her influence will rub off on us?... But there again, perhaps not!

Running through the Common is the river. It changes every day; sometimes deep and dark, other times shallow and full of fish, with a multitude of insects buzzing around it. Whatever mood it is in, I take a daily swim in it. Yes, I may come home a little smelly, but I swear it keeps me fit and healthy. I'd recommend it to any of you!

After a long stroll round the Common, taking in a fair degree of exercising, I'm more than happy to chill out in the garden and watch the comings and goings of other villagers as they pass by my gate. If you see me sat there watching you as you progress up Methwold Road, please call out hello as you pass.

You can't miss me! I'm a small, brown and white Springer Spaniel and my name's Olly.

**R.J.FENDICK**

**01366 728852**

**SEPTIC TANKS EMPTIED  
DRAINS CLEARED**

**SAND & GRAVEL DELIVERED**

**RUBBISH REMOVED**

**Northwold Rockery Stone**

**At Bryan Cater's**

**Suppliers of Natural Stone Paving  
Circles, Setts, Rockery Stone, Cobbles,  
Pebbles and much more**

**Check our Prices !**

[www.bryancater.co.uk](http://www.bryancater.co.uk)

**The Poplars, Thetford Road, Northwold, Thetford  
Norfolk IP26 5LW Tel 01366 728342**

## Our Past According To POG Aka Mike Coley



I continually refer back to the old Didlington Estate as I can't over emphasise the importance of the place to our community and the impact it had upon everyone locally all those years ago. As I've mentioned before it was the country seat of Lord **Amherst of Hackney** at one time, being referred to then as **Didlington Park**. It was renowned for fine herds of White Deer that roamed the grounds for the delight of the owners and their visitors alike. Pinnacle of the estates many treasure was the fine old hall which had previously been owned by the **Lady William Cecil**. In Amherst's time however it really flourished and became the favourite haunt of many British and foreign dignitaries, including amongst others lords, ladies and foreign potentates from far flung places in the empire. It offered its guests unsurpassed hospitality, comfort and seclusion as well as a myriad of points of interest to all who came to stay, high on the list were activities that included superb fishing, abundant field sports and other diverse pursuits to suit all and sundry in fact. Many of these individuals became regular guests of his lordship and I believe they were actually queuing up to be invited to stay again and again. The royals were prominent amongst them and it is said that at least one elderly Queen was a regular visitor, attending amongst other attractions the convalescent home in Northwold. (*I'll investigate that further for you and write about it at some future date.*)

So yes, just another of the many amenities that our village had to its name in days gone by, one of which was indeed the old **Cottage Hospital/Convalescent home**, long since closed down of course, but it was situated in the house which still stands at the junction of Hovells Lane and High Street. It was always faced by a substantial wall and by all accounts it encircled some very attractive gardens that were always well kept as they undoubtedly added to the appeal of the place. The wall was relatively recently renovated (perhaps *50 or so years ago*) having previously been fitted with a number of rings to which horses and their like would have been

tethered when visitors came to call. What a shame those ancient rings were not replaced at the time, or at the very least retained for the interest of subsequent generations. Then again there were so many things that were simply cast aside as being worthless and of no interest years ago, whereas today we would consider them to be priceless treasures. From the year 1814a.d. Northwold had its very own fire engine, (*probably hand drawn in those days as it would have been quicker than coupling it up to the horses*) complete with buckets made of leather.

However, by the time of my childhood, when my first hand memory of that place clicked in, the old house had become a private dwelling and it was occupied by an old gent called Lionel Bell, a really great feller to stop and have a quick mardle with, (*although frequently not so very quick when you got him started on a topic that he enjoyed, like for instance his tales of his own military service abroad during the first world war.*)

Something amazing happened at that time which I remember vividly, something that -has since passed into the folklore of our village, the like of which would not, and could not be easily forgotten. Some have referred to it as a **'Fireball'** whilst others have called it a **'Thunderbolt'** (*is there actually a difference? I have no idea*)

However, what I do know is that old Lionel was sitting by his hearth in the kitchen when a lightening strike occurred. In those days the old people would always say,

*"leave yours doors open whenever there's a thunderstorm."* (*a natural phenomenon of course but known as a 'Tempest' throughout Norfolk.*) Call it what you will, it smashed through his roof and on down through the house, knocking the old boy off his kitchen chair before exiting via the open back door.

One other of his artefacts that was damaged in that incident was when a large brass coal-scuttle that he kept by the fireplace was hit and sent spinning right out of the house, amidst all the other commotion which lasted only a matter of seconds but which wreaked absolute havoc in its wake.

The resultant hole in the roof that was left behind by the impact was quite

enormous and could be seen from the road by anyone that happened to pass by. It just emphasised the fact that the advice that was dished out by the old folk (*and there was plenty of it*) was well worth listening too, (*of course there were plenty of people around that scoffed at what they saw as 'Old Wives Tales' even then*) non-the-less it was certainly lucky for Lionel that he had taken the advice on board and had left his back door wide open on that particular day anyway..

Another, rather less spectacular event, although equally frightening I'm quite sure, happened in my own home when we lived at Hebron House in the High Street. I remember sitting in our kitchen along with my Granddad, making a round of toast for our mid-morning breakfast, propped against the bars of our old coal fired range with the aid of an ancient toasting fork as usual. There happened to be a thunderstorm that day as well, when the lightning struck and came through the kitchen window, passing right through the glass and knocking the fork, bread and all flying right across the room. (*and yes, our back door was definitely wide-open*) The toast that was made by those old coal fires was absolutely lovely, the bread having been baked by Jack Lister across the way. It would have been all the more tasty when spread with lashings of dripping and then sprinkled with course salt, *Mmmm, Yummy.*

Not surprisingly there are plenty of other tales of close encounters with the celestial firework display that are simply waiting to fill these pages, like the time that our church tower was badly damaged by lightning.' But hold yew hard old bewties ' , like they always say "*all good things are worth waiting for*" and I'm sure that little bit of history will prove to be none the less so.

Take care of each other till we chat again because I am already **Looking Forward to Looking Back** at some of the other little gems that pop into my mind from time to time and which I thrill to share with you on a regular basis. The very next time is already looming large and so, till then my dear's,

**Best Wishes**

**Pog**

# River Watch

By Ivor Hook

**Rain, rain and more rain.** It should be summer but something has gone seriously wrong!

It is early evening and there is a welcome respite between the downpours. I know its only short lived as the forecast continues to be really poor but it seems like a good time to visit my dear old friend the river Wissey. Water boots are essential as the river has badly overflowed and even normal puddles have grown into lakes. The flooded pathways mean frequent detours and dykes to jump to find a way through. The river is like a torrent and seems much too fast for the resident swans. They are fighting a losing battle to hold station in mid-water and it is easy to imagine them exhausted with paddling and being swept downstream and eventually out to sea! The black and white Canadian geese are more sensible and large numbers have made a temporary encampment in a field of sugar beet until normality returns. Their usual accompaniment of noise has been dampened by the weather as all is strangely quiet. Low storm clouds fill the sky and there is a lonely morbid feeling. The wind is quite strong and spent branches speed down the river suggesting that damage has been caused by the swollen waters further upstream.

Hot and happy days will no doubt eventually return but regardless of weather the river and surrounds still

hold a fascinating attraction. There is always something new and different to see and thus the urge to always go and look.

The light is beginning to disappear so I cut across the meadows for the general direction of home. A high-pitched wave of swifts swoop down just inches above the top of the tall grass and maintain their low level flight far into the distance. I find a track with overgrown bushes and trees resembling a long passage. The prolonged rain has caused rapid growth and overgrown brambles are a real nuisance and difficult to see and avoid. The surroundings are now becoming darker - dusk is turning to night. Suddenly a barn owl glides across my path. Its flight is like slow motion. Its white under colouring makes it appear quite ghostly. I instinctively slow my pace and then a minute or so later I find the same owl perched on a gatepost intently studying the many molehills in an adjoining field. She is hunting and waiting for any movement. She looks at me by turning her head a full half circle but keeping her body motionless. We both stare at each other - she in defiance and me in surprise. Then she flaps away and the white shape fades into the gloom.

Barn owls can often be seen at this time of day. They are very territorial so if you see one there is an excellent chance of repeating the sighting at the same time the next day. The riverside has a plentiful supply of mice and rats and moles and shrews so my owl has the perfect place to find food. In fact she has now been seen on several occasions and once in flight with a large rat in her talons.

My evening's entertainment is still not finished as I then encounter a swarm of bats. They are virtually unseen and seem to deliberately target me by flying really low just skimming my head. For some reason they have an attraction for people but I do not return the fascination. The inevitable rain suddenly returns in a fury but I don't care - it is unable to spoil my evening as the call of the river Wissey has yet again provided me with immense pleasure!

Ivor

---

## The Annual Village Quiz

The Village Hall Fund raising Committee are holding another "Village Quiz Night" on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Last year nineteen teams battled against each other and good fun was enjoyed by everyone.

Most teams represented the many organisations in the village so there was a real rivalry and village honour at stake! Everyone who attended last time will be contacted very shortly.

Full details will appear in the next issue of Village Life but meanwhile please contact John on 727018.

I understand that last year some contestants had a really good time even though the quiz had long finished, and the auctioneer alone is worth attending for !!

Ed

## DIDLINGTON NURSERIES

**Why not visit our walled in garden Nursery for all your trees, shrubs perennials, winter pansies**

**Winter hanging baskets available soon**

**Cut Flowers available**

**Free range eggs**



**Tel. (01842) 878288**

Est. 1962

## **GARY BOYCE**

Traditional Quality  
Butcher and Delicatessen

25a High Street  
Methwold  
(next to Fire Station)

Prime Quality Barley Beef which has been matured for a minimum of 3 weeks. Dingley Dell Pork which has been reared outside in a natural environment. Best British lamb also reared in open fields.

**All meat is direct from local farms Norfolk /Suffolk) and prepared to the highest standard cut to each individual customers requirements**

All our **St Georges** poultry is also local and RSPCA inspected Home made pork sausages and chipolatas, flavoured sausages and beef sausages. Home made 100% Beef burgers, Pork and Apple, Lamb Deli Counter with traditional cooked meats, cooked on the premises Large variety of cheeses both British and Continental.

Dry-cure bacon smoked & unsmoked

Our policy is to buy as much locally as possible

We also offer an extensive range of preserves, spices and pickles. Range of home cooked pastries, fresh bread and fruit and veg. daily, freezer orders taken.

### **Opening times**

**Tues, Thurs, Fri, 8am - 1pm and 2pm - 5.30pm**

**Mon 8.30am - 1pm**

**Sat 7.30am - 1pm**

**Telephone 01366 728512**

# Northwold WI



Women's Institute

The July meeting of the Northwold WI was held in the village hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 27 members.

This month birthdays were celebrated by Pat Coley and Joan Gains

Last month the Lunch Club visited the Beddingfield Arms, not one of our most successful outings. A letter had been received from Mr Booty thanking those members who had provided the Forget-me-not Lunch, which had been very much enjoyed by all. Plans were finalised for the forthcoming outing to Ladies day at Newmarket Races, also for the August meeting which will be an outing to West Acre gardens followed by dinner at Romford House in Swaffham.

The meeting congratulated Brenda Ayres on the marvellous success of her Highland Cattle at the Royal Norfolk Show, 15 rosettes, and 22 rosettes gained from the East of England, the

Royal Show and the Suffolk Show.

The speaker this month was Anita Carpenter who spoke to us about East Anglian Churches and illustrated her talk with many photographs. This month's competition was for an item of Church Memorabilia, first was Rosemary Crisp with some Baptism certificates, second was Jenny Bunyan with an embroidered chalice cloth and third was Ann Howarth with a Swaffham Deanery Magazine

## Notice

The Aunt Agatha's agony column which should have started this month has unfortunately had to be put back until next month for various reasons.

However if you have a personal problem please let Aunt Agatha know via Village Life. We have had some letters already but there must be people out there requiring delicate advice and guidance.

Just don't take it too serious that's all!!

## Allotment Rents & Education Grants

**Allotment rents are due!** The Clerk will be at the main gate on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October between 2.00 and 2.30 to collect the rents (£3.00 per annum). There are still some allotments available for rent, if you are interested contact –

Beryl Quilter  
3 Hovells Lane  
Northwold

Tel: 01366 727472

## Education Grants

Grants are available to students of Further Education, University, College and other specialised courses.

Please apply, in writing, to Beryl Quilter at the above address. (closing date 1<sup>st</sup> November)

## LYNFORD HALL HOTEL

Mundford  
Near Thetford  
Norfolk IP26 5HW  
Telephone 01842 878351

*Please call for details  
of seasonal events  
planned to take place  
throughout the year.*

RESTAURANT MEALS  
BAR FOOD  
SENIOR CITIZEN SPECIALS



*For Quality & Service  
Fixing Service Offered*

Established  
over 19 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  
Color Gas Stockists*

WEST END  
NORTHWOLD  
NORFOLK IP26 5LE

**01366 728673**

*All major credit cards accepted*



Including CATs  
and diesels



## 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**

# The Nija Levis Health Column

## Skin Care

Although I am a No Hands Massage Therapist I am also qualified in other Holistic Therapies and Beauty Therapy. As I've become more advanced in No Hands and seen how powerful it can be I now only use this therapy for healing. However, I have many clients who have Beauty Treatments most of which are Facial Treatments. So I thought I'd explain this month how Facials can benefit your skin.

Many think that Facials are just about applying cream and taking it off again and unfortunately some are like this but a proper Facial involves the correct face, neck and shoulder massage which varies depending on the type of skin and muscle tone and what many people want is extraction. Extraction is where the pores are cleaned removing dirt and blackheads from the pores. As much as the skin is cleaned if you have open pores and blackheads but don't remove them then the pores will stay open. So having extraction in a facial removes the dirt out of the pores allowing the pores to shrink. Even large blackheads and the hole they leave behind will disappear with having extraction in a facial.

Another common problem which occurs with a drier skin is something called Milia. Milia are small white hard lumps normally found around the eyes and on the cheeks. I've had many clients who have told me that they've been told they cannot be removed. This is not true, Milia can be removed by a skilled Beauty Therapist either with a mirolance or electrolysis needle if the Milia is on the eyelid. Milia are more difficult to remove because they are formed by the skins natural oil becoming trapped between the layers of the skin.

Many of the facials I do are Anti-Aging. You can have this type of facial from about the age of thirty. This facial is a lifting and firming treatment which uses an algae mask.

This mask cleanses, stimulates the blood circulation, firms, nourishes and regenerates. Fine lines and wrinkles are softened especially with regular treatments however, there is an immediate effect even after one treatment.

If you'd like to experience a facial I'm offering a £10.00 discount valid until 12<sup>th</sup> October. Ring for more information.

**Nija**

## A Big Thank You

Through the wide distribution of the very popular Village Life and with the kind permission of the editorial staff my family, Husband Alan and I would like to say a "Big Thank You" to all the people, (Friends and acquaintances) from Northwold and the surrounding villages who have sent me greetings cards, flowers and other expressions of sympathy following my recent spell in hospital after major surgery.

I am sure you will all be pleased to know that I am now at home recovering with the prospect of up to 6 months rest and recuperation. As I have been unable to speak to everyone individually I hope that the Village Life will assist me in thanking everyone for their great kindness to me and my family. Whilst Alan and I have only lived in Northwold for two and a half years we have found friendliness from our neighbours and a warmth of spirit which has certainly shone through on this occasion.

**Sandra and Alan Aspinall of 83,  
West End, Northwold.**

## Classified Ad

### **Versa - Tile**

for all your tiling needs.  
Mosaic - natural stone - slate and all ceramics.

### **Andrew Waters.**

Over 25 years experience  
Tel Mobile 07767 343691

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

**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.

### **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.

### **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

**Lose 2-5lbs a week** using natural products. Free telephone assessment with an advisor.

Dietworks (0845) 1662157

### **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

## WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR THINK THIS MONTH?

### **Would you like to join me in not rearing pigs?**

A friend of mine has drawn my attention to the fact that a farmer near Liphook has received a payment from the Rural Payments Agency for not rearing pigs. I expect this is the porcine equivalent of "setaside". I do not know the details and I am sure there are good reasons for the payment. However, you can't help the mind wandering. I wonder what would happen if several of us joined Nigel Johnson-Hill of Liphook in writing to Rt Hon David Milliband, MP., Secretary of State, Department for Elimination of Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 17, Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR along the following lines:

"I would like to join the business of not rearing pigs. My friend has just received a cheque for £3,000 for not rearing 50 pigs and I think I would be good at not rearing pigs so I would like to give it a try.

As I have no experience in not rearing pigs, during my first year in business, I would confine myself to not rearing 4,000 pigs which should give me a DEFRA income of £240,000. As I become more experienced in not rearing pigs, I could increase the number of pigs not reared to 40,000, giving me a DEFRA income of £2.4 million per annum.

I would expect to receive tradable carbon credits in respect of all the pigs not producing methane and, as my non pigs will not require feeding with cereals, could I claim payments for not growing the cereals for the pigs not to eat?

Obviously, as government grants are involved, it will be necessary to keep accurate records of the number of pigs not reared and I wonder whether you run any courses which would teach me how to do that?

I wonder whether we would receive a reply.

### **Fun with the English language**

It is two or three years since we played with English, so let us have some more fun. The following phrases really play with our language and I hope you enjoy them:

I wondered why the ball was getting

bigger – then it hit me!  
Police were called to a nursery school where a three year old was resisting a rest.

A man had his entire left hand side cut off in an accident. He's all right now.

A short fortune teller escaped from prison. Now, he is a small medium at large.

The dead batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

If you take a laptop computer on a run, you could jog your memory.

A bicycle cannot stand alone. It is two tired.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

A backward poet writes inverse.

He has a photographic memory which has never been developed.

When you have seen one shopping centre, you have seen a mall.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

When she saw her first grey hair, she thought she'd dye.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

### **Sad times:**

One of our sons, Scott, lives in Enfield. When visiting, we take his son to the park where we sail electric boats, eat ice cream and take him to the climbing frames and slides play area. He flies about on the climbing frames while I hang around (metaphorically) and watch. A four year old girl near me climbed too high up the climbing frame and frightened herself, wanting to get down. As I put my arms up to lift her down, her mother appeared at a run from the other side of the playground, shouting "Don't you touch my daughter, you pervert!" before lifting her down herself. I was mightily upset by this and, although I said nothing, it flashed through my mind that I have 9 grandchildren and have spent the last 44 years in medicine, treating and caring for children as part of the job. I have spoken to other Grandfathers, many of whom tell a similar tale and are frightened of contact with other people's children. IS NOT THIS A TRAGEDY?

Best wishes to you all

**Ian G. Nisbet**

## St Andrew's Church Harvest Thanksgiving

The Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 11 am conducted by Canon Rowsell. This will be followed by a traditional Harvest Thanksgiving lunch in the village hall at approximately 12.30 pm

Tickets for the lunch are £4 for adults and £1.50p for children and are available from the Church wardens.

Hope to see you there – Children are very welcome

## Letter of Thanks

**I Yvonne Bidwell (Vonnie)** would like to thank everyone for help, presents, flowers and cards for me while I was in Hospital.

I would like to say they were very much appreciated. Also thanks to Tracey, Chelsea and Lewis for their help in looking after granddad and I now I am home. Also to my special friend Janet Allen for all she has done and is doing, ironing, company etc.

Also my husband Ted, as I know I am a bad patient, I don't like doing and being able to do nothing.

Once again Thank You and love to all. Hugs and kisses Chelsea and Lewis. Couldn't cope without you and Mummy.

xxxxxxx

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year the St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival will be on Sunday 9th December.

Will anyone wishing to sponsor and decorate a tree please ring Brenda (728565) or Jackie (728571), no later than 1ST NOVEMBER.

# Then And Now

The latest in this series is a view of High Street looking from the end of Odd fellows Row towards Chapel corner



*Northwold, The High Street*

The date of this photograph is uncertain. All I know is that is from the Victorian Era, but that spanned quite a time. Note the mass of doors in Odd Fellow's Row from the time when it was just that, a row of cottages.

The entrance to Common Drove on the right is almost identical, but note that there is no sign of the entrance to St. Andrew's Close, but what appears to be a wall. instead The old Red Lion pub where Ken and Joy Cookson now live is more pronounced.

The wall at the end of Odd Fellows row is different. There are no cables whatsoever so it must pre electricity



Taken in August 2007 this picture shows clearly how times have changed as regards the standard of dwellings., there being perhaps only half as many doors and windows, and these are of modern design. The window at the end of the row facing the camera has also been replaced by a larger one. Some of the chimney pots have also gone, and the usual overhead cables are prominent. It would seem that at some time the roofs have been renovated as they seem to be in better repair. It is also probable that in this photograph the surface of the road is metalled. And there is a lot more if you look closely!

**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](http://www.raygribble.co.uk)



**County Graphics**

Graphic Reproduction & Print Specialists

Tel: 01842 819500 Fax: 01842 819679  
E.mail: [sales@county-graphics.co.uk](mailto: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.*

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir  
I was interested in Pog's reference to Cold Harbour Farm in his last article. My parents lived in Cold Harbour Lane in Brixton, London and I later came across the name "Cold Harbour" in several other places – far away from any kind of water. So I investigated and finally discovered that it is derived from the French Col D'abres, meaning – "A hill with trees". That makes much more sense.

**Jane Luckman**

### **Editorial comment:**

Jane has discussed this with me before and of course she is correct. A "Col" is a pass between two peaks or a gap in a ridge, and an Arbour is a shady shelter in a garden covered with plants or it can mean a tree because the middle English word was "Erber" which was altered through the influence of Latin to "Arbour". The D' is the French for "of", leaving us with Col D'Arbour ,a hill with trees.

It wouldn't be long before Col D'about became Cold Harbour.

The word Arboreal means pertaining to or resembling a tree, or living in a tree.

And of course at Lynford the Forestry Commission have what is known as an Arboretum.

But who on earth all those years ago called a location by a foreign name when most people could not read and write. It's interesting!

So that just about solves old Pog's problem. Ed

## Editorial Clanger

**The Dance in aid of Air Ambulance to be held in The Sports And Social Club is on September 28th. In the previous edition the date was left off in error.**

**To remind you that tickets are £ 5 and the event is from 8 30 pm until midnight**

**Humblest apologies Ed**

## A Message Of Thanks From Della And David Germany

We would like to thank all the people who offered us help and assistance after our car was written off on the A134 opposite the garage on 28th December last year.

Special thanks to Harry & Heather ( w h a t a w a y t o meet again).

The outcome of this incident was that the other driver was offered and accepted the opportunity to complete a driver safety course as an alternative to a court hearing, so hopefully some good will have come out of this .

**Della & David Germany**

PS A big hello to all our old friends in N o r t h w o l d .

## **THE CROWN INN**

**EXCELLENT FOOD AND FINE ALES.**

**OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 11.30AM ONWARDS**

**EXCEPT TUESDAYS WHEN WE ARE CLOSED ALL DAY**

**SUNDAY LUNCH FROM 12 NOON TO 4 PM**

**EVENING MEALS SERVED EVERY DAY.**

**EXCEPT TUESDAYS AND SUNDAYS**

**LUNCH EVERY DAY EXCEPT TUESDAY**

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH 1ST WEDNESDAY EVERY**

**MONTH, 2 COURSES £ 5. 95P**

**COME AND ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THIS**

**HISTORIC INN**

**TEL 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**