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# The Tuddenham Tattler

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Issue No 53

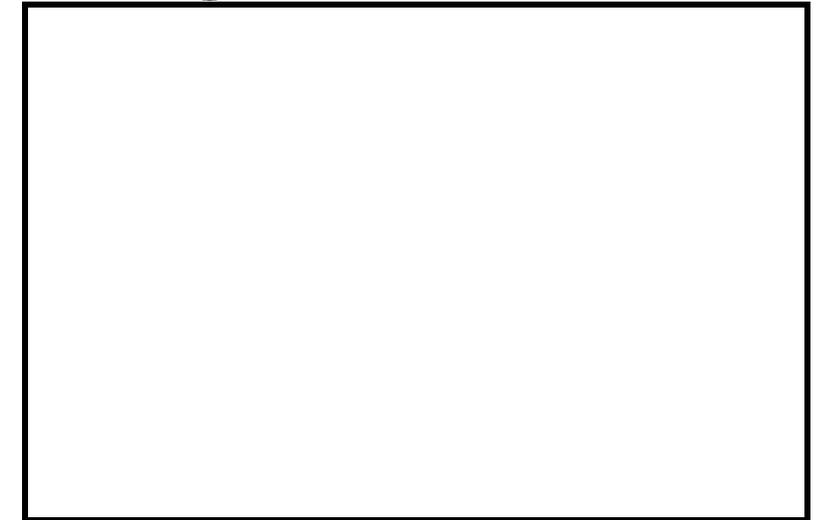
Dec 1997

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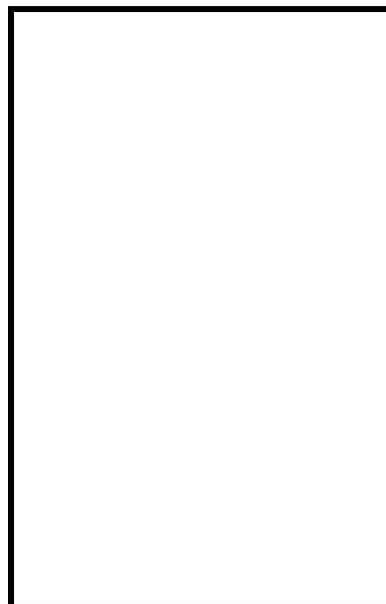
## Pretty Polly in Pub

Welcome to the new family at The Fountain, John and Doreen Clements, and their son John. In their youth, they were originally from Great Bromley and Ardleigh, and after a very busy time in Clacton-on-Sea, wanted to return to village life. To quote Doreen, "We fell in love with pub as soon as we walked in," quite something as they had looked at dozens of other pubs. Their two dogs, Bessie, a border collie, and Mollie, a dachshund, seemed to have settled well, but on the day I called in the cat, Tibbs, hadn't ventured out from under the bed. The last pet which may have arrived by the time you read this, is Cyril, a large African Grey parrot, a great talker. Unfortunately he can't appear in the bar because of the Health and Safety Act but I'm sure he'll welcome visitors .

Doreen was very pleased to hear that the mobile library visits the village, parking conveniently near them, as she is an avid reader. John is particularly interested in birds and at the moment is in the process of selling his pet shop. Their son's girlfriend, Liz, will be helping in



the pub this busy time. All the bookings taken by the previous landlord are being honoured - they're booked up for Christmas Day lunch and other parties. Musical bookings also have to be honoured but they have various ideas of their own for 1998, O.A.P. special lunches being one of them along with others which they hope to put into practise. Doreen stressed real home



cooking is her intention. They'd welcome any suggestions and advice which would help them to realise their dream of making The Fountain, once again, a real village pub.

*Personal message from Doreen and John: We very much want to meet you all.*

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## Tuddenham St. Martin Carpet Bowls Club

For those of you who are either new to the village or have been here for some time, I would like to inform you that there is a carpet bowls club that meets at the village hall every Monday evening at 7pm (subject to away games.)

This game can be played and enjoyed by all ages - we have approximately 40 members ranging from eight years to retirement age with a good proportion of both ladies and gents.

The club enters a team in both the Winter and Summer Leagues and following a successful Summer programme we came out as league winners.

We are always on the lookout for new members so if anyone is interested in coming along to either have a look or to take part they would be most welcome.

**Any further enquiries?  
Contact Ray Soames on 727676.**

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## Happy Birthday

Oscar Wilde said, "I am not young enough to know everything," so anyone mentioned in this section is moving *further* away from being all knowing! The rest of you have no excuse for fluffing your answers at the Tattler Quiz....

So, happy birthday first to Noel Peck on Christmas Day. He has reached a special age..... Can you guess why his Mum chose *that* name?!

James Nicholls and Emma Burn are celebrating a birthday as is Oliver Todd.

## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Have you heard that on the first Thursday night of every month a group of Tuddenham Ladies meet at The Fountain for an informal get together? We catch up on all the local news and have other "intellectual discussions". It is a great way to get to meet new neighbours and catch up with old friends.

**Why not give it a try next  
month - phone Leigh on  
785600**

# On The Chain Gang

coffee and Erica brought out her "hoggin" tarts.

Here comes the technical bit ..... concentrate.....

*The first task was to cut back the undergrowth alongside the path. The path could then be dug out and levelled to the regulation 1.2m width (or some such precise width ordained by those who know best).*

*Boarding was then used to support the sides of the path where necessary to stop them collapsing and to form steps at regular intervals. A*

*n a r r o w dumper was used to move the hoggin from the top of Back Lane. The hoggin was then spread out a n d compacted with a plate vibrator.*

*(Continued on page 4 )))4)*

Up on the hill here it is very easy to glide along on one's normal routine and I missed posters proclaiming a three-line whip to work on a chain-gang. Fortunately Bill Pipe rang up to remind me (sorry, ask politely if I'd like to help on the forth-coming Sunday); how could I refuse!

The Back Lane is a convenient way to get up to the Church and on through to Green Lane without having to use the road. It has, of late, been getting very difficult to navigate as undergrowth encroached onto the increasingly rutted track - AWD wellies had become essential after any sort of rain. The Parish Council enlisted the help of the Greenways Project to provide help and expertise to re-instate the path.

By the time I rolled up there was an impressive group already working hard under the direction of the Greenways team. I had arrived just in time to show willing and work up a sweat before Sandy came round offering

(Continued from page 3)

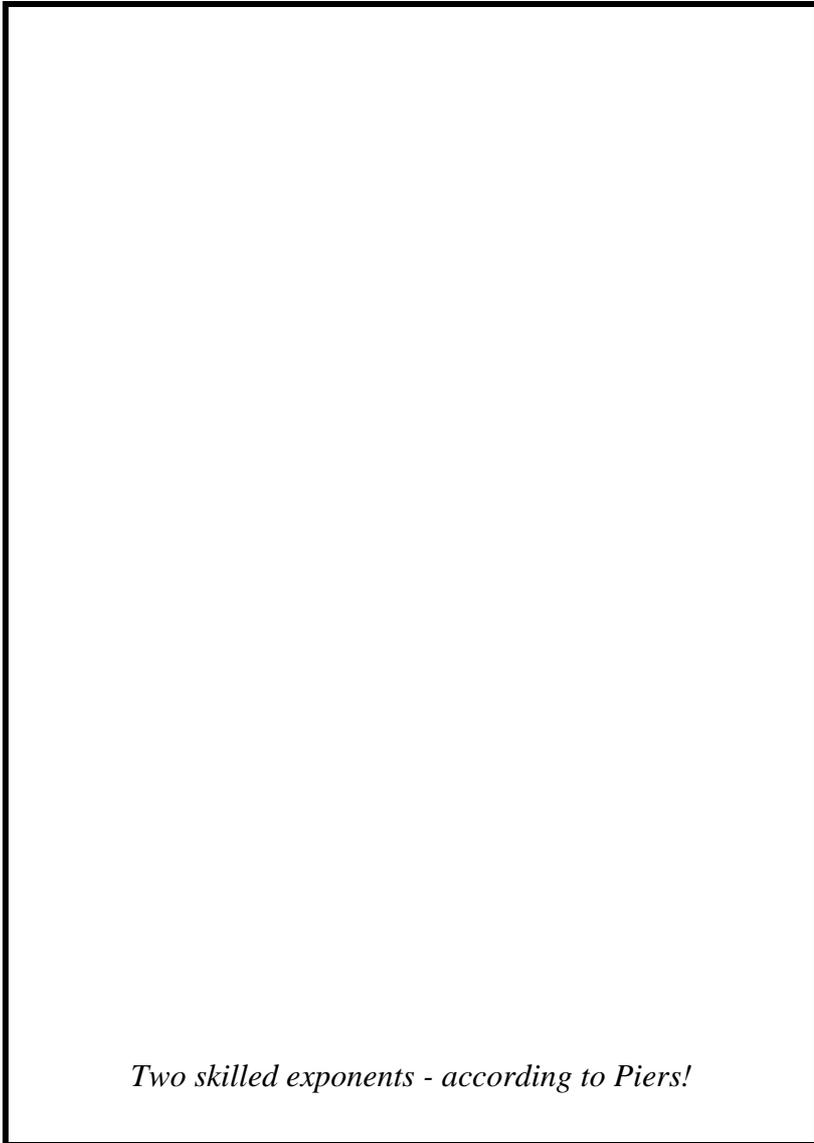
By lunch time the basic levelling and clearing had been done, so after lunch the main task was shifting hoggin. If you fancied

and working hard. Thank you to those who planned and organised it all.

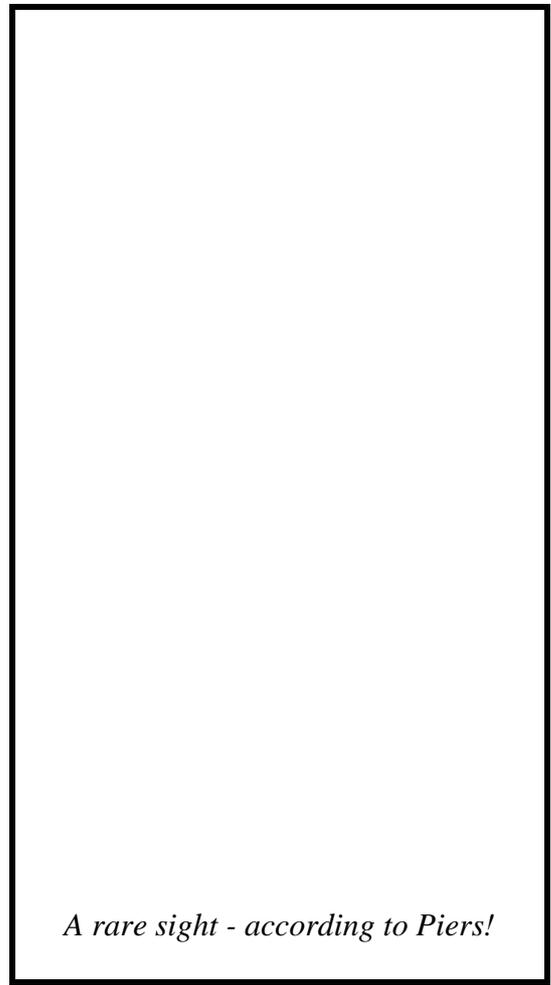
*Piers Robinette*

*Editor: Of course you realise there were many more people than those mentioned by Piers. It's a pity we haven't got a group photograph, but we were all so busy, all the time - except for Piers...*

*So, thank you to Philip Harvey, Peter Woods, Andrew West, Paul Lopez, Ralph Taylor, David Lugo, Bill Pipe, John Wyles, John Parry and son, Sandy Burn, Piers Robinette, Katy and William Lopez and , of course, the Greenways' volunteers, led by James Baker. Thanks also to our photographers - Piers, and*



*Two skilled exponents - according to Piers!*



*A rare sight - according to Piers!*

standing around chatting between shovelling a little hoggin then you worked at the top loading the dumper, otherwise you worked at the bottom spreading and compacting - my chosen location of course. I did wander up at one point to marvel at how skilled tasks can be made to look easy - the art of propping one's body up with a spade will not be lost while we have skilled exponents like Bill Pipe and David Lugo in the village.

It was an enjoyable day and it was good to see so many people out there helping



# St. Martin's News

Life after Henry - even though temporary....

Ministers have been arranged to conduct Sunday morning worship through to January, 1998.

Dec. 14th,	9.30	<i>Family Communion</i>
Dec. 21st,	9.30	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	18.30	<i>Nine Lessons and Carols</i>
Dec. 24th,	23.30	<i>Midnight Communion</i>
Dec. 25th,	10.00	<i>Family Service &amp; Communion</i>
Dec. 28th,	10.30	<i>Combined Service at Tuddenham</i>
Jan. 4th,	08.00	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	09.30	<i>Family Service</i>
Jan. 11th,	09.30	<i>Family Communion</i>
Jan. 18th,	09.30	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
Jan. 25th,	09.30	<i>Family Communion</i>

Recent discussions on the future of the benefice



were fully explained during the meeting of the three Parochial Church Councils with the Bishop of Dunwich, the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean and the Lay Council Chairman. It is likely that it will be

the New Year before anything concrete can even be decided. In the meantime the Property Board is letting the Rectory on a short term lease which can be quickly terminated should the need arise. The alternatives are that we could be joined into a larger benefice of churches, possibly six, in the Woodbridge Deanery, or we could remain in the Ipswich Deanery and have a priest with a diocesan job in addition to ministering to the three villages. The latter would be more favourable to us but we

shall have to wait and see. We will keep you as well informed as possible.

Any pastoral needs, requiring a priest, or the use of the Church, should be communicated to either of the Church Wardens; Alan Forsdike and myself, or our treasurer, Dr. Arthur.

If you wish to sponsor the floodlights over a weekend, for some special event, the booking, £5, can be made by either phoning me on 785296, or by contacting Dr. Arthur.

Gift Day resulted in £689 to which was added a further £85 from Jackie Lugo's Bring and Buy stall, which was very gratifying. We wish to say a big thank you to all who continue to support us, the donors and buyers at the stall. We were lucky with the weather, dreech (Editor: *Is this Scottish for ?!\$%\*+?*) but mild. Envelopes are still coming through the letter flap and the latest reckoning is about £950.

The fourth Alpha Course will begin in the New Year as will a Beta Course.

All are most welcome to any of our services.

*Jim Punton*

# Christmas Remembered

Recently I chatted with five ladies who have lived in the village for many years. I asked them if they remembered anything about past Christmas times in the village. Nancy Pitcher, Peggy Moore, Margaret Whinney and Joyce Offord all remembered the Christmas parties for the Chapel Sunday School children. They were held at what is now known as Brickfield House, owned by Doug and Joan Bloomfield. George Farnish, the local butcher and his wife, lived there then and were very active in Chapel activities. The party was held in a building at the back of the house. Now only the high wall of the building is left. No one dressed up for the party, they just wore their Sunday best. Peggy, who lived next door, remembers her mother cooking their own poultry in a large Dutch oven. Her mother made mouth pies and Peggy remembers "popping next door to buy lard for them." Mrs. Farnish always put the money into a large black tin, there were no tills in those days.

Nothing special happened in the village, everyone had a real family Christmas.

Margaret and Joyce lived in a row of cottages on Church Hill, facing the Church. There are no remains of those cottages today. Everyone took pride in whitening their steps and hanging crisp curtains. The night soil men did not visit Tuddenham so in most gardens there was a special hole in which the contents of the privvy were buried, quite a job after lots of Christmas visitors.

Amy North, Nancy and Margaret remember the parties at Giles' (the famous cartoonist) farmhouse and visiting other houses where some "got boozed up" says Amy. She often found her husband, Harry, in the gooseberry bushes after a particularly

good party.

One Christmas, Harry and others from the village, went shooting with Giles but got nothing. As they returned to the farmhouse they saw a rat. Harry shot it and immediately Giles said, "I'll draw that." The same evening he took the drawing down to the pub and gave it to Harry. It was a decorated rat on a serving plate together with a menu saying, "No pheasants" and the caption of *Christmas dinner at Harry North's, 1951*.

This has just been a taste of village memories. If any of you can remember anything of times past in Tuddenham please let us know and we will come and visit you. We are extremely interested in preserving stories of the way Tuddenham was.

*Roving Reporter*



## Silly Sayings

"Sympathy is what women give in exchange for the full details."

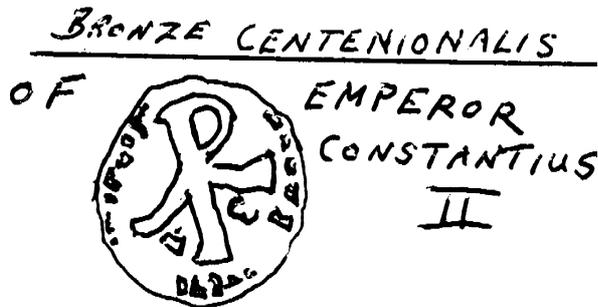
"I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said I didn't know." - Mark Twain

"Its a damn poor mind that can only think of one way to follow directions."

"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today because if you do it today and like it,

# Found in the Fields

...but not likely to be claimed as the owner has been dead about 1700 years.



Over the years Margaret and I have occasionally seen men using metal detectors in local fields, and when possible have asked them what they have found. Sometimes they have been reluctant to give much information but Mr. Mick Seager, of Ipswich, whom we recently saw, along Reedings Lane, was not like that. He said he had found many pieces of Roman, Anglo Saxon and Medieval Origin - coins, bronze brooches, belt buckles etc. Even a small figurine representing Baccus, one of the Roman demi gods famed for his love of wines and women.

Who knows what might still be lying just under the soil, for these artefacts are usually not more than four inches deep. We know that a hoard of Romano British, silver coins plus a gold ring were found in a pot in the Clopton Road sandpits more than fifty years ago. Ipswich museum has these.

Tuddenham, however, is not well known as a Roman settlement but it is on the route from Colchester to Burgh and Wickham Market when they were active. We have always had a good water supply

so we can imagine that settlers would have been interested in our fertile, sheltered valley.

Mr. Seager invited us to attend the next meeting of Ipswich and District Detector Club, so Erica kindly chauffeured me there while Margaret did the baby sitting.

We met a merry band down there near the Railway Station and were shown a table set out with the "Finds of the Month" from all over East Anglia, all sorts of fascinating things from a 1920s enamelled sign for "Lodge Spark Plugs" to a silver gilt "Posy ring" inscribed, "A FRENDES GIFTE".

On the subject of gifts, Erica was given a Roman coin found in Tuddenham recently. I didn't get one, I'm not the right shape! It is fourth Century, probably of the reign of Constantius II. On one side is a helmeted Emperor's head, while the other has a Christian symbol which I have attempted to draw.

Detectorists have not always had a good reputation; a few have given the hobby a bad name by unauthorised searching of fields at night and unexplained holes have appeared in likely places. A few years ago much of the beautiful Ixworth treasure turned up in the United States and we can only guess how it got there.

However, the Ipswich group work in close liaison with the County Archaeological Service who usually attend the meetings and often give talks, as for instance will Mr. John Newman in January.

If anyone would like more information or wishes to attend a meeting please speak to me.

*Ralph Taylor 785314*

# Parish Council Meeting

This was a cold and wintery evening but Councillors had important matters to discuss - not least, the precept, that is the monies requested from your Council Tax to pay for Parish Council projects and expenses, oh, and to pay me, your Clerk.

The Council expressed its gratitude to James Baker of the Greenways Project and his band of volunteers for their work on the Back Lane. Have you seen it since the clear up? The Council also thanked all the village volunteers who helped to get the job done in record time with minimum fuss and maximum fun!

The Council asked the Clerk to speak again with the village policeman, P.C. Brian Malster, about getting more speed checks in the village. This has been done, so **WATCH OUT!**

The audit has now been completed for the council and the financial statement is printed in this issue of The Tattler for your information as suggested by our auditors.

Mr. Philip Harvey has been elected the new Vice Chairman for the Parish Council now that Mr. Bill Pipe has become the Chairman.

Results on the Planning Applications for

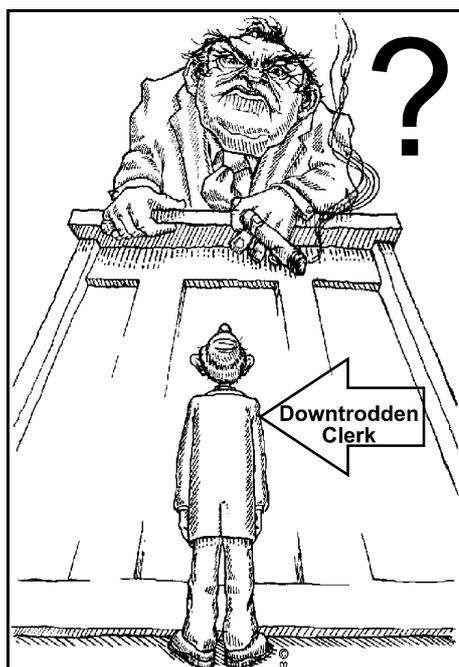
Hillbrow Farm poultry buildings and the parking spaces either end of Bridge End Cottages are still awaited. Mr. Rees is to attend a site meeting on behalf of the Council at the Hillbrow Farm on 15th December when the Development Control Sub-committee will inspect the area. Our District Councillor, Mr. Ivan Jowers, has also been invited.

After several enquiries in the village the Clerk has asked Mr. French about the lighting outside the Chapel. If any villagers are unhappy about lighting in this area will they please contact me on 785588.

Mr. David Lugo has kindly offered to construct a Salt and Sand bin to go near the bridge. This will save the Council buying one at around £100. Thank you David! The Council were very satisfied with the grass cutting in the village since it has been done by Mr. Robert Cooper and have asked him to continue next year. The Clerk is to contact several residents about "overhanging gardens" impeding passage up The Street for pedestrians.

The precept was £2485, slightly up on last year's £2345. **The next meeting is 3rd March at 7.30 in the Village Hall. You are welcome to attend.**

*Parish Clerk, 785588*



**Wanted**  
Old Fashioned

## Tuddenham Chapel

## I.T.V.

The Chapel has a Christmas Evening Service on Sunday, 14th December, at 6.15pm. This will include music, drama, singing, carols and brass.

On Friday, 19th December at 6.30pm Terry Green will host a Christmas Celebration followed by refreshments.

Sunday, 21st December brings a carol service at 11.00am.



The other date for your calendar is 22nd December when the T.A. D.P.O.L.E.s (and any others) carol singers will be out around the village. They will be accompanied

by a brass ensemble and will start from the Chapel at 7.00pm. If you wish to join in please come along and bring a lantern or torch. Music will be supplied.

### Christmas Mincemeat Flapjacks

15oz porridge oats

8oz mincemeat

11oz golden syrup

6oz butter or margarine

Pre heat oven to 350° F, 180° C.

Grease 9"x13" swiss roll tin - makes 24, will freeze.

Melt fat and add mincemeat and syrup. Add oats and stir well. Pour into tin, pressing down with back of spoon. Bake in centre of oven for about 25 minutes until golden brown.

It is important to remove from oven while the oats are still soft in the centre of the tin. Cut into fingers while still hot and allow to cool before removing from the tin.

*Editor: thanks to Pauline Kerridge for this festive recipe - its even Veggie friendly!*

On the bus the other day I overheard a conversation, "Fancy allowing that on tele. Disgraceful." So many people are quick to criticise but slow to act. Sometimes its because they feel they can not remedy the situation.

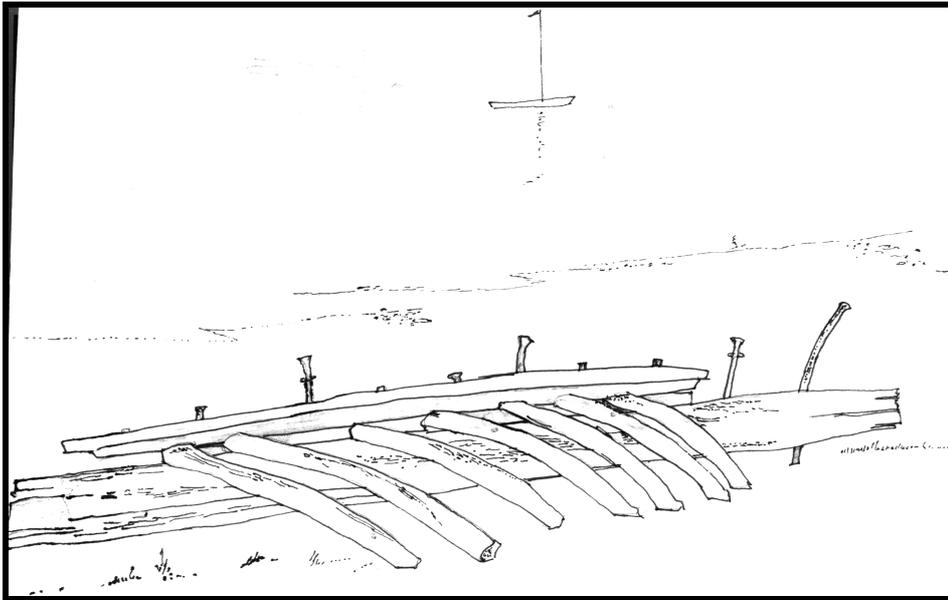
I've often felt like that when I have made a written complaint about something which I consider totally unacceptable on T.V. thinking, "I expect I am the only one." Now I know differently as far as I.T.V. is concerned. They are regulated by the Independent Television Commission, which is a public body responsible for licensing and regulating commercially funded television. Only one complaint is enough for the I. T.C. to investigate. There are viewers' consultative councils which report to the I. T.C. So, if you feel strongly about anything please let me know and I will pass it on at the next meeting.



*R e v i e w i n g*

## Brigs and Futtocks

Over the Summer Ralph Taylor and I went to Bawdsey and looked at the timber remains of a ship which had caught in the nets of Duncan Read, a local fisherman. Have you seen it on the beach? I contacted Stuart Bacon, of Suffolk Underwater Studies, as after long examination our curiosity was raised. Where was it from? How old? How special?



The "Orford Ness Timber", as Stuart called it, is 8.4m long. The large oak/elm timber is part of the keelson of a sailing ship - possibly a schooner or a brig, maybe even a warship. The overall length of the ship is 30m as indicated by the section of the keelson and false keel. There are twelve remaining "futtocks" - what I would call the ribs of the ship. They are held to the keelson with .8m long yellow metal pins and some oak trenails. The timber is affected by Teredo worm leaving calcium based debris in the wood.

Stuart thought it could be a warship from the Battle of Lowestoft (1665) or the Battle of Sole Bay (1672) carrying 30-40 guns.

Sadly, despite the considerable interest in this timber the cost of conservation is too great to allow for its preservation. So, if you want to have a look go to Bawdsey Manor, by road or on the ferry from Felixstowe, before it starts to deteriorate beyond recognition. Apparently, many such timbers end up as decorative features in houses or are burnt by anglers....

*Editor*

## Farewell

Denise Read wishes to thank everyone for making her so welcome when she arrived here a couple of years ago. She has now moved to Kirton but will long remember Tuddenham.

*Tuddenham will remember her for her feminine rendition of Maid Marion in last year's pantomime, Robin Hood, as well as her faith in God with all the work she did for the Tuddenham Chapel Youth Club.*

## Teletubbies

The t.t.s seem to have swept the board this Christmas. Have you ever watched them? I have, to find out what all the fuss was about when this programme took the place of a previous child's programme. Many people complained about it. Said it was ridiculous. A waste of time. I found it totally harmless, appealing and often instructive. The strong critics seem to forget that this was meant for *young* children, a quiet sitting down time between attention demanding play. The demand for the toys does seem outrageous but I feel its far more acceptable than some of the horrific toys created as a result of other television shows. The big plus is that they are cuddly and harmless. Not that I shall be buying one. Perhaps you have already done so? If its LaLa, I'd like to borrow her for an

# Anoraks in Fields - The Detectorists!

As residents of Tuddenham you may have seen strange men wandering about in the local fields waving odd-looking sticks about. We are not poachers. We are, in fact, metal detectorists. Now why should we wander around your area? Its because all of England's history is there to find.

There are usually three of us and occasionally four. We are all members of the Ipswich and District Metal Detecting Club and also members of the National Federation of Metal Detectorists. This basically means that we are registered hobbyists, accountable for our actions. We liase with the local archaeologists and report all our finds to land owners. Everything is recorded. Anything sold is split 50/50 with the owner of the soil as settled in our search agreements. We have a £2,000,000 insurance cover so there is no risk to anyone. We are available to help anyone who has lost anything metallic in the soil. If Great Grandad lost his wedding ring in the garden it is still there and we could probably find it for you.

An enquiry to the editor will provide you with a telephone number and someone will be there to help you by the next weekend. The first point to make is that we only search where we have permission to do so. All land belongs to someone and searching without permission is the ultimate sin in our code of conduct! The advantages of our presence to farmers are many.

1. The chance of a rare and valuable find.
2. The removal of rusty iron which

could puncture expensive tyres.

3. The best scare crows he's ever had.

4. Lastly, and most importantly, the knowledge of who farmed the land in the past.

Number four is the main reason why we do what we do.

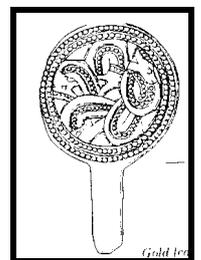
Anyway, that's the adverts over so now the interesting bit. What do we find?

In the last few years we have detected the Tuddenham/Westerfield/Playford triangle and as our machines have improved, so have our finds.

There are several Roman settlements dotted about. Mainly on South facing slopes where there is light soil. We have found lots of coinage, pottery, brooches and other artefacts, the best of which was the head of a statue which was found at Tuddenham Hall.

The next invaders were the Saxons and they have also left their mark. There are three areas in the locality which produce Saxon brooches, usually broken by the plough unfortunately. There have been no Saxon coins as yet.

The best find of this era has been a Foil Die which was used by a Saxon jeweller to decorate his wares. This was bought by The British Museum and is on display there. The farmer concerned his half of the payment. We find Celtic odds and even occasional Bronze Age bits but no complete artefacts of note have appeared yet.



(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

From Saxon times until Tudor, the most prolific coin was the silver penny. The older among us will remember that there were 240 pennies in a pound.

What you may not realise is that one pound in weight of silver produced 240 silver pennies! Change was made by cutting the penny into halves (the halfpenny!) and then in half again to produce farthings (farthings, get it?!) There were gold coins and larger silver coins, but the penny was the mainstay for several hundred years.

Now, if you imagine a small field of about 30 acres, a detector with a seven inch search head, looking for a wafer thin coin of ¾" diameter under 6" of soil, you begin to understand what a needle in a haystack is really all about. Sometimes we can go for hours without any find of historical interest but we are driven to believe that the next signal will be the big one!! We usually have find s bags full of shot gun cartridges, scrap lead, bits of tractors, tin cans from the road and the debris of two thousand years of occupation. Its not all gloom and doom because we genuinely enjoy what we do. Its exercise in wonderful countryside. We see rabbits, hares, deer, foxes, badgers and all the other interesting wildlife. On one foray we even caught a budgerigar in the hedgerow and another time I had a very unexpected close up of a bull. Not recommended!!

In conclusion I would like to say that if you see us, don't be afraid to speak. We have always got time to talk and explain our hobby.

Our sincere thanks to the landowners because if we didn't have their permission we wouldn't be able to enjoy the greatest hobby in the world.

Finds are still coming out of the soil even if it is a bit slowly. They have been in the soil for hundreds of years so what's another year or so!!

*John, Mick and Jack -  
"The Detectorists!"*

## Musical Report

What a mistake! Went to see Cosi fan Tutti and La Boheme this week at The Regent in Ipswich. I never knew it was possible to wreck beautiful music so. The four letter words should have been enough but they went for the jugular with full nudity! Opera was surely never meant to be like this?! So now I have the name "**Music Theatre of London**" etched on my brain as a "*Never again!*"

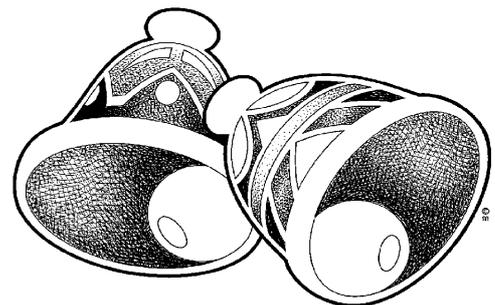
*Editor.*

## Guru Grunts

To protect copyright (or is it copywrite in this case?) the Editor wants to make it clear that the following is separate from the "Silly Sayings" earlier in this issue and in no way connected, which is to say this comes from our Guru who said he would contribute for every issue....

**"Ownership turns sand into gold"**

If anyone out there understands this statement, and bases their life on it, they, too, must be an accountant!!



## Christmas Quiz

When you are feeling full after Christmas dinner we suggest you let "the others" try this quiz which comes courtesy of Andrew West, Church View Cottages. Andrew hasn't given us the answers but then your Tattler Team are brilliant.... I will put them in the next issue (assuming he gives them to me)!!!

The following are sequences. They are **not** mathematical puzzles. Can you give the next one in each sequence?

Examples: M,T,W,T, \_\_\_\_\_ (= Friday)  
S,S,A, (=Winter)

The sequences may be very short or very long but they are all common sequences... in any area of life!

- 1 J,F,M,A,
- 2 N,S,E,
- 3 R,O,Y,G,
- 4 O,T,T,F,
- 5 100,200,400,800,
- 6 A,T,G,C,L,
- 7 T,S,P,H,H,
- 8 R,Y,G,B,B,
- 9 M,V,E,M,
- 10 F,S,T,F,F,
- 11 H,He,Li,Be,B,
- 12 IP,2TD,3FH,4CB,
- 13 E,G,E,G,E,V, (reverse order!)
- 14 I,W,W,M,WM, (local!)



The Tattler  
two Are  
wishing you a  
festive brew  
and presents  
new, a merry  
hew, and many  
a do.

Which is to say....have a super Christmas break and a happy New Year. Our next issue is in February when we will be giving more details on the Panto, and keeping you up to date on village affairs. If you have anything you would like added please phone us on 785314. In the meantime get swatting for the Tattler Quiz on 17th January - see you there!

### Congratulations!

How lovely to hear of a new arrival in the Lay family. Elaine and Jack are proud new grand parents after the birth of Alex, weighing in at 6lb 8oz, to their daughter Suzanne, in Singapore. What an unexpected present for

Editor: Thanks to Andrew for this brain teaser. If you excelled come to the Tattler Quiz, if not come and be the Quiz Master - at least you don't have to answer the questions! Either way, see you on 17th Jan with your pencils sharpened!

#### Wanted:

An old fashioned, material, Wendy House. If you can help please phone 785314.

Thanks to Ralph Taylor for the artwork in this issue. Also to Ed Nicholls for his help at very short notice.