
The Tuddenham Tattler

Issue No 55

Mar 1998

GOLDEN CELEBRATIONS

Towards the end of February there was a ring on our doorbell and when we opened the door there stood Joan Smye with an invite to join them for "Drinks and nibbles" on Saturday, 7th March. We were told at the time that we would be joined by Jean and George Felgate and, if fit, Albert Meadows - needless to say we accepted the invitation with alacrity.

It was some few days later on reading the Parish News that we discovered the Church floodlights were being sponsored by Joan and Charles Smye for the weekend of the 7/8th March to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. So we realised we were not going for a quiet "Drinks and nibbles" but in fact to a full blooded anniversary blast!

We duly turned up at the Smye residence on Saturday, 7th March, to celebrate this marvellous occasion which did, in fact, take place on the 6th March, 1948.

The house quickly filled with family and friends who energetically availed themselves of their hosts' splendid hospitality. The evening sped by and we departed for home in the wee small hours fully repleted and very grateful that we had been allowed to share in a very special occasion for two very special

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French Deeds

Tony and Elaine French recently showed me some fascinating documents relating to their house, "The Old Stores", now called "The Manse."

One of the papers dates the building as slightly before 1744. In this year Stephen Plantin agreed a permanent lease from the Lord of the Manor, William Minter, who then owned the land and most of the rest of Tuddenham. Plantin was to pay a yearly rent of one shilling and other services. As he was a wheelwright this presumably meant that he made or repaired the Squire's wheels as required.

I say "slightly before 1744" because the document defines the boundaries of the land and refers to a building "lately erected and built" on the said land.

In January, 1846, the house and business were put up for sale by auction at The Fountain Inn but the reserve was not reached and a few weeks later a private offer of £315 was accepted from J. Chaplin.

The business had expanded with a wheelwright's and a blacksmith's, the latter being run by W. Damant and of course we still have Messrs W. and J. Damant in the village.

In addition to these trades there was now a General Stores on the premises and the sale particulars note that it had been successfully managed for at least 50 years, taking it back to 1796 or earlier.

Miss. Hammond finally closed the shop around 1956 so it had then been serving the village for around 160 years.

The last Squire of Tuddenham, Henry Fairfax Harwood, died in 1927 and much of the property he owned in the village was sold off. He seems to have been a popular and generous man, a benefactor of both Church and Chapel. An old lady, Mrs. "Geranium" Smy, who lived in Geranium Cottage, the Street, always referred to him as My Squire when we first came here in the 1960s, and looked most wistful as she remembered him. He had then been dead for about forty years!

So died the medieval feudal system in this

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Pub Goings On

What excitement at the pub when Doreen and Mike's grand daughter decided to enter the world seven weeks early. We send congratulations to the proud parents, John and Liz, on the birth of their daughter, Julie

Sophie,
w h o
weighed
in at
4½lbs on
Wed.18th
February.



Neighbourhood Watch

The villages around us - and Tuddenham as well - are having a few problems with such things as sheds being broken into, peeping toms and cars having their windows smashed - with, of course, property taken from the car. Should you see or hear any of these things happening, or if you discover they have happened, please ring 999 at once. It is so much better, the police tell us, to do it straight away and not to wait until, say, supper is over or The Bill has finished!

It would be a great feather in Tuddenham's cap if we could be the first to catch these people. Let's try to beat the other local villages with a wave, not of crime, but of crime-busting!

CHURCH FETE

6th June, 1998

POPLAR FARM

Contact Jill
Cruickshank for further
details.

Parish Council Meeting

Thank you to all the members of the public who attended the last meeting on 3rd March.

The Clerk is to contact the Traffic Police about more speed checks in the village. The Council discussed the Lorry Surveys that have been done in this area. The Council undertook to be vigilant for lorries from the new poultry buildings (for which planning approval has been granted) up the Clopton Road as they have undertaken not to pass through the village. Signs are now up for a designated lorry route through Westerfield.

Planning Approval has been given for a domed cover to be erected over their swimming pool by Mr. and Mrs. Gunn and for four new poly tunnels at Reedings Nursery.

The Council registered their thanks to David Lugo for the construction of a splendid sand bin now in place on the bridge. The Clerk has asked Highways to fill it.....

Tony French, at the Chapel, has installed a new light to help make crossing Westerfield Lane safe. Villagers in the audience asked that the Clerk look into installing another road light between the one opposite Keightley Way and the one at the junction between Westerfield Lane and The Street.

The Council again asks that residents whose gardens overhang the path up The Street cut foliage back so that safe passage is possible for pushchairs etc. Similarly the hedges that might impede vehicular traffic on the road. The Clerk has some leaflets on guidance for planning for listed buildings. Do you live in such a house? Please contact me on 785588.

Mr. Harvey has taken on the post of Tree Warden. The Council have asked the Clerk to contact Highways as they feel that the new road markings on the Tuddenham Roundabout are reducing safety for cars and bicycles. Clerk and Margaret Taylor to follow up tree planting near the Iron Removal and Sewage Treatment Works with Anglian Water.

Next meeting is at 7.30pm on 5th May. Do come!

The weekend away was lovely. The grounds around the Hall were beautiful. On the first day (Friday) I was very excited and could not wait for six o'clock. When we got to Hengrave Hall we were showed where we were to sleep. We played a few games then Sister Katie talked to us before we went to the kitchen to have dinner. I was t e r r i b l y exhausted that night and fell asleep almost instantly.

The next morning Katy, Kirsty and I went to explore the grounds. At 8.20 we went to the kitchen for breakfast. Saturday rushed by and the bat hunt came at 9.00; it was not for real bats only for cardboard ones but it was a lot of fun. The candle light service in the Church was something I will not forget.

When Sunday came and we had to go I was reluctant to leave the beautiful and peaceful place that had been my home for the weekend.

When I was home I was happy to see Mum and Dad and my brother and sister. I had missed them. I hope I can go again, another time.

Annie Hall

Just under a year ago, the Chapel Sunday Club kids, accompanied by six adults, had an away weekend at Kilburn, North West London. We stayed adjacent to the main Kilburn High Road, with the Tube next door. Travelling into the City on Saturday we mingled with the multitudes of tourists and visitors, returning home late on Sunday afternoon.

The other Friday evening, about

seven thirty pm, as we entered the grounds of Hengrave Hall, a few miles west of Bury St. Edmunds, my immediate thought were, "What a contrast." Acres of beautiful countryside, the magnificence of Hengrave Hall itself, not forgetting a few yards from the house, the ancient Church with its curious round Saxon tower.

Hengrave Hall Weekend

Ed, Hazel and Peter, who came to

London with us, took the responsibility for arranging the whole weekend - and it was superb.

After we settled into our dormitories, followed by a time of "getting to know each other", the programme said, "Night Bearings." We proceeded with torches, under the light of a full moon and the occasional owl flying overhead, to explore the grounds finishing up at the large kitchen for supper. Jacket potatoes and fillings tasted delicious. There was an atmosphere over the whole place and it reminded me very much of the Enid Blyton's Famous Five Adventures, especially as we were surrounded by youngsters.

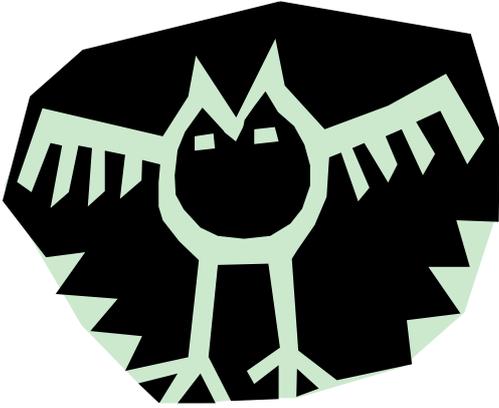
Under the title, "Cooks and Cleaning", small groups were designated their particular responsibilities and this worked very well.

On Saturday morning following ten minutes, "quiet time" and breakfast the programme featured "Arts and Crafts." This included very artistic blow painting, the making of candle holders (the reason became apparent later that night) while some of the girls prepared

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apple crumble for dinner. After tea and bics an hour in the gym and a very energetic game of hockey we were ready for our ploughman's lunch. The Hengrave Hall community is an ecumenical group working for



reconciliation at all levels, but especially for Christian unity, and we were taken on a guided tour of the main building, built in 1525, by Sister Katie.

The day continued with swimming in Bury St. Edmunds, an evening pop quiz - involving balloons, darts and damaged walls - and at nine o'clock a torch light bat hunt. Strange to say, sixteen very tame bats had landed in the grounds on walls trees and bushes and were just waiting to be discovered. Saturday evening finished with a candle lit epilogue in the quaint Church with no electric light at all. The candle holders being a very important part of that activity.

Sunday morning arrived so quickly and following the normal start a "Krypton Factor" in the gym tested the ingenuity of the competing teams.

Working in the Hengrave community are a number of young people of various nationalities and Tuddenham was issued with a challenge to compete in a football match. Male and female took part,

many of the girls displaying some technique. It was an exciting game although we lost 2-1. In a quieter vein, this was followed by "Sunday half hour", a time of thought and reflection, prepared by Ed, and completing a very good morning.

A really good Sunday lunch was followed by "afternoon theatre", an opportunity for individual or group talent - from recorder playing to a Smurfs' dance by some of the oldies who couldn't resist the opportunity to dress up and perform - to various dancing items. A let your hair down time.

A Great Night Out

Last Saturday the pub was really buzzing. Full of people some of whom had never been to the Fountain before, some of whom lived miles away. Why? This was as a result of an idea from the Hillman family. They wished to show their appreciation of the way the late Brian was looked after in hospital by raising money to be spent in Somersham Ward. Margaret has written her thoughts for us.

Many thanks to all friends, neighbours and people in the village for their support at our Karaoke Night at the pub. Thank you to all who donated draw prizes of a wide variety including Ipswich Town Football Club which donated two tickets to a league match. John, the landlord, won a bottle of wine which he immediately gave back asking us to auction it. It made £8. John and Doreen served up a very tasty buffet. Several people in the village won draw prizes, I am glad to say. There were plenty of willing singers, some of them surprizes. The evening will have raised in excess of £270 for Somersham Ward which delighted our family.

A video of the evening was made which will be sold for £5, of which £3 will go to Somersham Ward. Already we have orders for six. Together with the money raised in that way and a couple of donations to be collected we feel that even more money will be raised.

I am sure Brian would have enjoyed it. He was a great one to join in any fun. Thank you all for the generosity to make all this possible.

Cambodian Contact

Recently I had the opportunity to read a newspaper printed in the Khmer Rouge Country which has just reached a cease fire in their civil war. It was the Cambodian Daily, sent to Janet and Frank Wells at The Granaries by their younger daughter, Henrietta, who works for the World Health Organisation as a technical adviser on H.I.V. and AIDS. She is now training Government Officers to go into the homes of the sufferers to show the families how to care for the victims instead of sending them to hospital where many die because of the impossibility to give them the necessary care, partly because many of the staff have a great fear of the illness. We, here, take for granted safe water, a good sewage system and the importance of cleanliness.

Henrietta stayed in the capital, Pnom Penh all through the civil war. She seems to be very dedicated in all her work. Little did she think, when she first trained as an occupational therapist, that she would go to Cambodia where life is so different and dangerous.

Weekend at Hengrave Hall

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GEMINI, since October, have been arranging Ghost tours around Ipswich. Tours are every Thursday, from the tourist Information Centre, in St. Stephen's Lane, leaving at 8.00pm. Tickets can be bought either in advance from the Tourist Information Centre, price £3.50, or on the night. Private parties of over ten can arrange a tour on another evening if they wish.

Since October four hundred people have been on the tour, led by Pete Jennings, of Radio Suffolk. It takes in parts of Ipswich that you have probably not seen and ends up in a haunted restaurant. There are, of course, spirit stops on the way. For further details contact Ed Nichols on 785819 or at the office on 212705.

Raving Reporter: I know our editor is very scathing about unnatural happenings such as reports about ghosts. She always an explanation. No matter what she says she cannot convince me that I didn't see a ghost at The Bell Hotel, Norwich. We had booked in for three nights during a bitterly cold Spring so the hotel was very warm. In the middle of the night Ralph woke up to find me sitting bolt upright. "What on earth are you doing?" he said. My reply was "Shhhh, be quiet and she will go away."

"Oh, you are dreaming," he said and turned over. The next morning he asked me what I thought had happened. I told him that I had been awakened by the icy cold atmosphere round the bed.

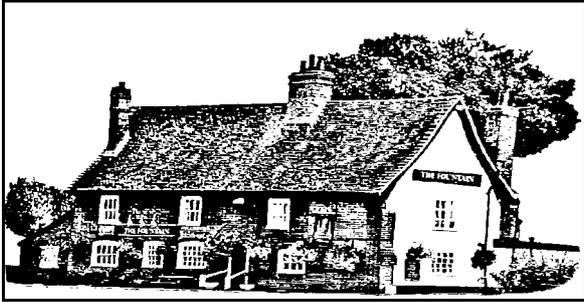
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The programme said "3.15pm - Mr. Mop and Mrs. Tidy - a get the place ready for the next group exercise, leaving it as we had found it, clean and tidy.

About 4.30pm we left for home, sad to say, but with very happy memories of a fun weekend. Thanks to young and old for making it so. Looking forward to the next time.



THE FOUNTAIN INN

Tuddenham St. Martin

Home made food, real ales, Marstons Pedigree & Green King IPA
Darts & Pool free every Tuesday night

March 15th, 8pm Odds 'n Ends - 50/60's pop music

March 22nd, 8pm Kancing Karaoke - entertain yourself

March 29th, 8pm Live & Picking - 50/60's rock

Traditional Jazz every Friday night
featuring Doug Barber

The car boot sales are due to restart in April and will be the first Saturday of each month from 10-12am. Pitches can be booked for £2.50

01473 785377