

## **P.F.T.A Northwold Village** **Carnival**

### **This years carnival was a great success**

The amount raised was around £1800 which is a fantastic figure. We really couldn't pull off this event without the help and support of the villagers and parents of Northwold and of course our neighbouring villages. So our thanks to everyone who helped in any way, too many to list and I would hate to miss out any names.

The floats were amazing, lots of work had been put into every one and we had a total of nine floats this year which is great. I know that Jim Booty has printed the winners of floats and costumes in this issue so I will not repeat the information.

The PFTA will be meeting again very soon to discuss next years event!!! Yes already lots of planning has to go into this event if anyone is interested in helping out with running stalls for the day please come and see me, we could do with some more volunteers as many of our parents find it hard work to look after their children and run a stall.

I think once again we have shown what a wonderful village we live in as our carnival received many compliments; please see the letter reproduced on this page from Rosie and Glen, they were the Vikings. Well done to everyone involved, and a big thank you to all those people who spared their time for this event.

**Sheena Randell.**

Vice Chairman P T F A



**Carnival Queen Float**



**Fancy Dress Contestants**



**A Happy Couple Enjoy an Ice Cream**



**Tots & Co. on their float**

**Rosie and Glen Wilkin write about their involvement in the Carnival.**

Hi there,

Just to put into writing how much we enjoyed attending the above event.

From a participants point of view it was well organised, friendly and made a pleasant change from the run of the mill village fete. The parade was also something that most events of this type don't have and obviously the locals enjoy it as they turned out in good numbers to watch. Obviously the weather was a major bonus to all, if a bit too hot mid afternoon, but I think we would have enjoyed things anyway.

One odd thing. As people who normally work at historical sites providing a specialist service for an interested audience, we often find that at village events we get a lot of stupid questions and comments, all the same ones over and over! This didn't happen at Northwold and it was a pleasant surprise. We had quite a bit of interest, especially in the games, and most people showed a genuine interest in our display.

Any criticisms would only be that being in that corner of the field we were with all the car exhibits and perhaps we would have been better sited adjacent the medieval re-enactors or at least not in the middle of the cars. Mind you being a car enthusiast myself I wasn't unduly bothered!

Hoping to hear from you again.

**Glen And Rosie Wilkin**

When you get a letter like this it makes everything seem worthwhile.

As Sheena so rightly says no sooner has one carnival finished than the work begins on the next one. The satisfaction that the organisers get from this is surpassed only by the editor's Glee at Graeme Getting Gunged!

Ed.

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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

It has been one of those months. Sometimes nothing seems to be going on, although thank goodness in Northwold this is rare, and at other times it is hectic.

And so it was this month. The carnival was the usual huge success despite the weather being unusually hot, and a football match going on. They tell me there aren't many villages that turn out a carnival now, but we do and have done for over 25 years I think. It used to be led by a police car but those days are long gone. People used to ask me how I always happened to be on duty on carnival day, and the answer is that more often than not, I wasn't. I just turned out, the same as countless others to support it. Happy days!

So who's idea was it have this concert? But what a night it was! I don't recall a night like that in the village for years. It's a shame that more people couldn't get in but we're working on that. "Keith Loads" was the star, well one of them anyway. He kept the audience laughing non stop for well over an hour. They say he was well supported by "local talent". Well there was John Burton, with an artificial woman and a false moustache which made him look like Saddam Hussein. Mike Coley who's monologues were great. Toni did some excellent monologues, Then Brenda as usual brought the house down.. There was one other performer. All I can say is that thank goodness nobody took a tape recorder or a camera in there. But for me, the best thing about the night was the wonderful community atmosphere, and the food provided by the WI. That was brilliant!

## St Andrew's Church

### Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee Morning at St. Andrew's Church on July 6<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am until noon

Coffee, tea and home made cakes will be available. A bring and buy stall and a raffle'

It's a good opportunity to meet friends and relax for a while. Do Join us!

### Church bazaar meeting

On Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm at 12 west End, there will be a meeting to discuss plans for the St. Andrew's ? bazaar on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Anyone willing to help or come up with suggestions will be welcome!

## Animal Charities and Cat's Protection Stall.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support at the carnival and to all those kind people who gave donations and gifts.

I now have a Big "Thank You" to my team i.e. Jean, Jane and Mary and to the "boys" for their help.

With renewed thanks to you all

**Maureen Maynard.**

## Please Note

Village Life  
does not  
publish in the  
month of  
August.  
Therefore the  
next publication  
is September.

## 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**





**The highlight of the month has to be The Carnival.**

My thanks to all staff, parents, friends and, of course, children who worked so hard to make the whole day a huge success. Congratulations to Victoria Lavender (The Carnival Queen) who performed her duties in style.

On a personal note I was very pleased to see Graeme Whiting 'dunked' as I was running second!

Years Five and Six had another opportunity to demonstrate their Molly Dancing skills on a visit to Ely, where they danced outside the Cathedral. The day concluded with a stop at Brandon Creek to hear the story of the gallows in that place and to dance again.

Key Stage Two children have started new after school clubs, rounders on a Tuesday and cricket on a Wednesday. All the children have enjoyed a singing workshop from a visiting music teacher. We are also working together on a Summer Day when all children will learn about aspects of summer including poetry, science and nature and a variety of other skills.

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June all staff and pupils will participate in a charities event to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind and The Indonesian earthquake.

The children will also have an opportunity to watch and listen to brass instruments in a demonstration at the end of the month in preparation for learning to play instruments next year.

The end of term promises to be very busy and we will have lots to report but we would also like to use this opportunity to invite all friends to the

end of term service in St Andrew's Church at 9.30am on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**Marion Dawe**

## **Playground Project**

Thank you to all who supported the sponsored trail. It was a wonderful day and fun was had by all. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs Langley for supporting the event.

Also a thank you to Mr Booty for opening the new trail.

On carnival day we had a flower stall and we made £51, a big thank you to Diddlington Nursery for their donation. Thank you again for all your support. Lots more fund raising events to follow.

A warm welcome to Karen Agnew-Griffith who took over the position of Chairperson on Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> June 2006

Next meeting Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July at the Sports and Social Club. Any new members always welcome

## **Northwold Spiritualist Group**

meetings on Friday Evenings on the following dates with guest speakers

14<sup>th</sup> July ANGIE CARR

28<sup>th</sup> July STELLA ROGERS

Enquiries: Eileen Cooper on 728289

## **Church Services** **for July 2006**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 11am Northwold Holy Communion  
9.30 am Wretton. Service of the word
- 9<sup>th</sup> 11am. Northwold. Matins  
9.30 am. Wretton. Holy Communion
- 16<sup>th</sup> 8 am. Northwold. Holy Communion  
9.30am. Whittington. Service of the word
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am. Northwold. Matins  
9.30am Whittington. Holy Communion
- 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30am. Benefice at All Saints, Wretton

**Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control, as they say on the wireless, we are unable to print the usual full schedule. Ed.**

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# Northwold News

## By Jim Booty

### Parish Council

At the Annual meeting of Northwold Parish Council Jim Booty was re-elected Chairman, with Rosemary Crisp vice chairman, Mrs Lynch Village hall representative, Mr Day Charities Representative, and Mr Jenkinson Highways representative. Michael Coley was co-opted on to the Council, giving us a full council for the first time for some years.

**Trees on Constable Charity** land have been made safe. There will be no money available for grants from this charity for about 3 years. Northwold and Whittington Churchyards received £280 each for grass cutting.

**Play Equipment.** A grant of £500 was given for the new play equipment

### Northwold Playground Project

A group of parents and friends have

been raising money for new play equipment for the recreation Ground. So far a wobble board, Zig Zag beam, Stilts, Trapeze, Rope Walk, Long Run and Stepping posts have been installed. On Saturday this equipment was officially opened by Jim Booty, Parish Council Chairman, cutting the ribbon. Other items will be supplied later. Grants have been obtained from the Council, the local network fund and WREN

### Northwold Carnival 2006.

Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> was carnival Day in Northwold, with the procession leaving the West End an hour early to avoid the World Cup. Led by the Queen and the Downham Market Twirlettes. The Prize winning floats were:

Adults. 1<sup>st</sup> St Andrew's Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> School Float, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tots and Co.

Fancy Dress;  
Adults. 1<sup>st</sup> Brenda Ayres, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Vainu, 3<sup>rd</sup> John Chaese.

Children. 1<sup>st</sup> Kizzy Vainu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Evie Marshall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tommy Bell.

At the Fendick Field there was a good turn out of stalls and sideshows though the extremely hot weather reduced the crowd. In the Grand Ring there were displays by the Twirlettes, two bands from Downham High School, American Police Dogs, Vikings and a truck pulling contest.

### Village Hall Concert

All seats were sold for an evening entertainment in Northwold village hall organised by Committee members. Toni Arthur-Hay, Michael Coley, Mick Parfitt, John Burton and Brenda Ayres all performed very well supporting the star of the event Keith Loads. The Audience had not laughed so much in years. Refreshments were provided by the W I, and wine was available. Ticket money, Raffle and donations totalled over £ 700 for hall funds.



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## **RITA'S RAMBLINGS**

I cannot believe that another month has flown by already! Midsummer Day has passed and, it could be said, it's downhill till Christmas. I don't think I will go there! We have had some beautifully sunny days; the village carnival was one such day. We had some friends staying with us and one of them joined us to watch the floats go by. We were all really impressed with how much time and effort had gone into their creation. It is not enough to come up with the ideas you have to be able to implement them – so congratulations, and thank you, to everyone for putting on such a lovely procession. When I first came to the village and the subject of the carnival came up at a WI meeting I remember being quite bemused. Coming from my urban background I had never been involved in anything like it before and I had no idea where the floats would come from! On the day appointed for making a start I arrived at Pam Eyles' and my education began. It seems silly now not to have realised that in a farming community the obvious source of floats was tractors, trailers and coal lorries but that's the way it was. So a further 'thank you' must go to all those who offer their vehicles (and do without them for a while before the big day) for our benefit. Having watched the procession we ambled around the field, stopping here and there to enter raffles, seeing what was on display and having an ice cream! The best part was catching up with people whom we hadn't seen for absolutely ages. Without doubt a brilliant

afternoon!

On our return home we all sat outside in the sunshine and enjoyed the first flush of roses blooming nearby. All the plants seem to have shaken off any lingering memories of the cold spring and are flowering well. We may have had some unusual combinations this year but hasn't it been fun? The joy of gardening! When I was talking to my sister recently she suggested that we should go to one of the RHS Shows next year. As she has just started a new job in Manchester we plan to go to Tatton Park next year. I think it has all the hallmarks of being an interesting day out but Nigel is already fretting about how many plants I will bring back and where they will fit into the garden. My response will be to create yet another flowerbed!!! (On a complete tangent, that sentence nearly contained a split infinitive - Star Trek has a lot to answer for!) Elsewhere in the garden the vegetables are doing well, although the dreaded cabbage whites have been visiting the cabbages when my back was turned. Fortunately they seem to have left the cauliflowers alone. I have a week off work shortly and I shall be busy catching up on various jobs. I recently bought a well-known brand of sprayable fence paint. As I have never used it before anything could happen so I had better warn my neighbours to keep their washing well out of the way – just in case. If you see strange coloured objects as you drive through Little London now you will know why. Until next month, take care

**Rita**

## **Mandy Lavender**

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mandy for 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Lots of love from Adrian, Victoria, Emily and all your friends and family  
xx (Hope you love Paris)



### **Northwold Youth Football**

Through my post as Rural Community Sports Coach I have entered an under 10's football team into the South Norfolk Junior Sunday Football League.

Players must be aged 8 or 9 on 1st Sept 2006 to qualify.

The first practice session was held at the Northwold recreation ground on Thurs 29th June.

We're also looking for sponsorship from local businesses (or individuals to help with equipment. For further information, call me on:

07920 504895.

**Gary Hodder**  
Rural Community Sports Coach

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## Our Past According

To POG Aka

Mike Coley



A number of our older properties are of a similar vintage to **Manor Farm** for instance, which proudly displays the date of 1635 on its front for all to see.

That's tremendous, especially when you see modern construction under way. I know for a fact that many of the old properties in our village didn't actually have footings as such, they built them directly onto the earth. That would certainly give today's building regulators a seizure, despite the fact that they're undeniably still standing proudly some hundreds of years later. Compare that with today's housing, which is officially designed to last for less than ½ a century, and I'm sure that like me ( *by no means an architect* ) you'll see this as nothing but a hideously expensive disgrace.

Therefore I shall use **Manor Farmhouse** as the benchmark from which to make the following, ( *non architectural* ) points, all of which can be put into context by mentioning just a very few of the major events that have taken place during the existence of that old property.

Things as diverse as **Civil Conflict, Disease, Disaster, Discovery** and **World Wars**. All of which have erupted and then been resolved, within the lifetime of this, and of all the other old chalk dwellings that still exist in the village from that era.

**Only 15 years before** Manor Farm was built, the Pilgrim Fathers were sailing to North America on the **Mayflower**. There they founded the American community of 'Plymouth Colony' in the year 1620.

**Only 2 years B.M** ( *before Manor/ Farm* ) the man that is accredited with developing the telescope, **Galileo**, was summoned before the church council and sentenced to death for daring to contradict the Bible by stating that the **Earth** went round the **Sun**, and not Vice Versa as the scriptures tell us.

Old Galileo was no mug however and so he saved his bacon by publicly

claiming that he'd got it wrong, but we know different of course. The God fearing men of the church didn't admit to **their** mistake for another 360 years.,

**Some 5 years A.M** ( *after Manor Farm was built* ), Oliver Cromwell came on the scene and started stirring up the trouble and turmoil which culminated in the English Civil War.

In **India**, one of the '*Famous Sights*' that seems to have been around '*for ever*', hadn't even been thought of when '*The Farm*' was put up. Actually the lovely **Taj Mahal** wasn't completed until 1648, **13 years A.M.**

Some **14 Years A.M** in 1649 Cromwell and his mob again, publicly beheaded **King Charles 1<sup>st</sup>** and in so doing, abolished the Monarchy from our shores, ( *at a stroke you might say* ). England was then a republic, ( *heaven help us, we just may have ended up with our own version of 'George Bush' if we'd gone further down that road.* ) Of course the whole thing was short lived, Cromwell died just 9 years later in 1658, and so did his republic. Less than 3 years after Cromwell's death, **Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>**, ( *by public demand* ) was crowned King in 1661, and thereby the Monarchy was re-established once more.

**Less than 30 years A.M** the Plague, spread mainly by Black Rats and Fleas, had wiped out half the population of the country. Perhaps the best known story from that time concerned the Derbyshire Village of **Eyam**, where they underwent self imposed confinement ( *at a terrible personal cost* ) within their own boundaries, so as to prevent the disease from spreading to other communities.

In **1666, 31 years A.M**, the disaster called the '**Great Fire of London**' raged. and devastated much of the City. Coming hard on the heels of the plague, the fire did much to cleanse the area and swept away the detritus that would otherwise have encouraged the reassertion of this and other diseases.

**57 Years A.M**, the Americans were still burning Witches in Salem and

141 innocent souls paid the **ultimate price** of living in a time of fear and ignorance. However, we in Europe subjected many thousands more to the same, or worse fates, frequently instigated on the say-so of mischief-makers and those with personal axes to grind.

The hysteria regarding, and the subsequent persecution of Witches, had ended generally by the mid seventeen hundreds. The law against Witches in Britain however was not actually rescinded **until 1951** ( *316 years A.M* ).

More than **200 A.M.** the **Zambezi river** and **Victoria Falls** amongst other landmarks were being discovered, whilst in 1851 the **Crystal Palace** was erected in London, billed as the newest wonder of the age.

And so it is that History moves on, the tragedies and atrocities that occurred during 2 World Wars are well documented, and we must not lose sight of all those lesser wars which have raged throughout the last century and beyond.

War is terrible and Man-Made of course, but then again so were the endeavours that allowed man **to walk on the Moon**. All these things have taken place while **Manor Farmhouse** has stood stoically by, keeping watch over the street at Northwold's West End.

History is still unfolding all around us, day by day it seems. So let us bear witness to it when it eventually reveals itself, but let's cherish also those reminders that yet remain in our midst, lest we forget what went before.

Let us not wantonly demolish the structural backbone of our proud past, or replace it with flimsy and tasteless boxes that look like something purchased in a 'Homebase' sale. Do keep alive those things that we are rightly proud of, and do keep **Looking forward to Looking back** with me again next time

:  
'til then, **Best wishes Pog**

## Riverwatch

The river has many faces. Today it is idyllic. It is very early morning and as expected no one else is about. The sun is already high and bright and there is a mist over the fields. The birdsong is non-stop but there is no other sound. This is the countryside as it was intended to be. You could be mistaken that there had been rain the night before as the grass is really wet but it is just the dew. Everything is beautiful. There is a melody of green wherever the eye takes you. The sky is hazy but with no sign of clouds. There is a stillness that can only be sensed if you are fortunate to be in the middle of the picture. Indeed it is the perfect picture - alongside the upper reaches of our river.

Perhaps it is rather selfish but no one else being here is part of the joy. The isolation gives you time to freeze the surroundings and note everything at leisure. You feel self important knowing you are the only person enjoying the moment. Such a feeling of well-being is an excellent start for any day and hopefully it will last all day.

To me the river is always the main attraction and within just a short distance it has so many features. There are shallows, deep bends, undercut banks and overhanging trees to name but a few. These all attract different fish and although the river is only narrow the fish are not necessarily small. Large specimens are certainly in residence. But we are not fishing today - merely absorbing the country scene.

A splash interrupts the moment. I turn quickly but only expanding ripples are to be seen. Suddenly the same thing happens again and this time a fish is seen jumping out of the water. Is it performing a ritual as part of late spawning or has it just escaped from a fierce predator - who knows!

The interruption is quickly forgotten and total peace returns. Large numbers of cattle are seen across the meadows. Their return is very welcome. A bird with a large wingspan flies towards me and is soon recognised as a heron. This is his territory. It lands nearby alongside the river and immediately assumes a statue poise. I stare at him challenging him to move but he is determined to win. No doubt he will soon be rewarded and catch his breakfast. Swallows appear and perform a high speed aerial display and then disappear. Meanwhile the river calmly flows along.

The dreamlike laziness continues until the church clock chimes. The early mist is slowly disappearing and another fine day will doubtless follow. Although time is unimportant I head for home. A short cut through thick undergrowth finds my path back. I now have a new energy in my stride knowing I am very fortunate to have such a world of nature on my own doorstep.

**Ivor Hook**

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Friday	8am-1pm, 2pm-5.30pm
Saturday	7.30am-1pm

## The Nija Levis Health Column

### What is your body saying?

Carrying on from last month's article I thought I'd share with you what it can mean when you have a problem with a certain area of your body.

You don't actually need to know which each part relates too, all you have to do is be aware and say – at this moment my body is telling me to be aware of something I need to balance in my life and I will release whatever it is so that my body can heal.

However, it is interesting to know a little of what some of the body areas relate too.

Lets start with the front, back and sides of the body. The right side of the body relates to male issues, the left female issues, the front the future and the back the past. So, if you carry your physical problems all on the right side then there's a good chance you need to

deal with an issue with a man in your life which can be any male or even something about yourself if you're a man. The back of the body can be problems from the past still affecting you or you're living too much in the past and the front can be fear of the future and not moving forward in life.

If you think about what the different body parts do it's easy to see how this relates emotionally.

The Legs carry us forward and give us freedom to move so generally they are about moving forward in some area. Hips are about stability. Arms and hands are about what you are holding onto, normally too tightly. The Colon is about letting go. Heart and chest area about love and acceptance. Eyes are about what we see or don't want to see and ears are about what we hear or don't want to hear. The Head is about what we project to the world. The back is about support, lower normally financial, middle some form of guilt and upper lack of emotional support. The throat is being able to express yourself, your true feelings.

Remember to use the phrase – at this moment in time – when talking about your health or life, this way you allow for change and healing. Again NO HANDS Massage can give you the space and support needed for you to change and transform your life in some way.

**Nija**

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## Keith MacLeod's Monthly Report

This is a busy time in the Church's calendar – not just busy – it is a very important and significant time, as we remember and meditate on the anniversaries we commemorate.

As I write, we are still in the 'season' of Easter, marvelling at the story of the Resurrection of Jesus. Some of us are also marvelling at the story of the Da Vinci Code. Personally I found it a cracking good yarn (moreover I read a first edition, before all the brou-ha-ha started, so I was not influenced by anything except the book). Much as the world of Middle Earth was created by Tolkien and we enter into a belief system as we engross ourselves in the adventures of the Hobbits (except those who cannot stand the stuff, of course), so a world of myth was created by the authors of *The Blood and the Holy Grail* thirty or more years ago and Dan Brown peopled it with some more imagination. Again, purely personally, I agree with the publishers that there is no need for it to be labelled as Fiction, when that is clearly what it is.

So coming back to Church *history*, we are coming away from Easter to the time of The Ascension. This falls on a Thursday and so few people, even committed Christians, spare much time for this festival in their thoughts. But it is fundamentally important to the story – it is, in fact, a necessary part of the story. At the time of Jesus' execution as a criminal, his disciples were distraught and dumbfounded. Whatever they had believed in and of him seemed to have been brushed aside by a real event. Jesus was gone – dead – end of story! But on Easter Sunday, he appears to some of them, apparently alive and in his body – by no means a ghost, despite the unfortunate 16<sup>th</sup> Century translation of Holy Spirit as Holy Ghost, both in the Bible and in the Book of Common Prayer.

For forty days Jesus made it his business, not to preach to the world, but to be with many of his disciples, reaffirming his teaching and proving to them that he was alive and that everything had changed fundamentally for the better. At the end of that time he left them – the Ascension. The whole point of his coming, his staying and his eventual departure was to reaffirm God's Covenant of Love with mankind and then to let mankind try

again to live up to his high standards of live and living.

It is very arguable that we are not doing much better than the ancient Jews did – but we have far less excuse! God's revelation through the life and ministry of Jesus is so much more than his previous revelations of himself to Abraham, Moses, the prophets and the Israelites generally.

Following the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost – the birthday of the Church. This was the day when the disciples (hundreds of them – not just the eleven apostles) were strikingly reminded that Jesus may have left them in body, but the power of God was still with them in Spirit and that from that day forward they had to lead the Church and preach the Good News of Jesus to the world. (if necessary, as St Francis of Assisi had it, using words).

Then following this comes Trinity Sunday. Apart from the time when the Lord spoke to Abraham and then appeared before him as three angels, there is no reference to a Trinity in the Bible. This was a doctrine which grew over the early decades, indeed centuries of the Christian Church. I have not checked when Trinity Sunday entered into the Church's calendar, but it cannot have been in the first two or three hundred years. However, it is now a very important festival, when we ponder on and marvel at our Three in One God.

These three festivals all occur in the three weeks starting with the last week in May. They all relate to mystical events or factors – difficult to explain in few and simple words, even to seriously interested enquirers – impossible to convey to those who are not really interested or are downright opposed to this (or any) religion.

Dan Brown could make the same claims about his book. The opposition to it is from committed Christians who fear that too many will take it at face value and accept that the underlying background is factual, even if the detailed storyline is fiction. Mr Brown could say that nothing is provable – there are just strong inferences – he could claim that his version of the story of Jesus is as likely to be true as the one put about by mainstream Christians. Is the story of Jesus ascending to heaven in a cloud any less fanciful than that the

members of Opus Dei are ready to commit multiple murder in order to maintain the false story of Christianity?

This is an impossible question to answer properly in this short article. But the evidence of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is actually overwhelming. The documentary evidence for it is far greater than the documentary evidence for much of the totally accepted history of the Roman Empire. There is little strong evidence of the Ascension if you do not accept the Resurrection, but if you accept the Resurrection (for which there is strong evidence) then that Jesus disappeared in some way or another a few weeks later is incontrovertible. There is no evidence for the continuing life of a Jesus, who escaped from his crucifixion in some way, married one of his disciples and had children and lived out of sight and out of mind, completely unlike the way he had lived and exposed himself in the previous three years of his ministry.

So, I will continue to read Dan Brown with much enjoyment. I shall continue to read about the archaeological and other evidence that continually emerges of the life and ministry of Jesus, but that will not strengthen or weaken my faith in that Jesus, which is based on what he was and what he taught, not on just which star could have led the Wise Men or where exactly was the tomb in which he was laid or on whether Simon Peter was himself a fisherman or simply ran a fishing business . . .

For me, the festivals we are about to celebrate are and remain important festivals, which we need to celebrate to remind ourselves of the core beliefs of our faith. It is important to have regular dates for them, so that we remember them easily every year, but it does not matter if the dates are themselves inaccurate (the same for Christmas, etc). For those of us who find it hard to remember these festivals as important milestones, I would ask them to try. Remembering the event is a trigger to remembering what it is all about and why we are here.

**Keith MacLeod**

Licensed Lay Minister

# Nancy Mary Collins

(1911-2006)

## A Celebration of her Life

On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 our village church was full to overflowing with relatives and friends who had come from far and wide to join in this celebration and to see Nancy buried in the village burial ground in School Lane, in the grave where her late husband already lay.

Much of what was said at the service described those ancient values and virtues by which Nancy lived. Her daughter Ann, for example, read from Chapter 21 of Proverbs, including these particularly apt verses:

“... Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.  
She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.  
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her...”

Later in the Service her son Arthur paid tribute to all who had cared for her in her last illness. He then told the story of her life:

“... Our mother was born in Okeford Fitzpaine, a picture-postcard Dorset village near Sturminster Newton. She had her kindergarten lessons in the Vicarage. We recently took her back to church there, and then walked over to see her old classroom. The present owners were delighted to meet her and to learn a little bit of the history of their home.

After kindergarten she went to the local Convent School, and then to Lansdown House in Swanage, where she rose to be head girl, showing qualities of leadership which were never subsequently lost. She enjoyed playing tennis and hockey. Like everyone else of her vintage she never had to take a driving test, and on the day when she took out the car for the first time she met her Uncle's steam lorry in the lane and had to ask the

driver to show her how to reverse.

Mother became engaged on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, but at about that time her father died and the wedding was delayed by her family's need to leave the farm, a process in which Nancy helped to sell the hay. Nevertheless in due course she and Harry were married in Okeford church. They honeymooned in Scotland and saw the launching of the Queen Mary. On their return they took up residence at the Collins family farm of Pipplepen, South Perrott, where Father took control as the eldest son. The farm boundary was also the County boundary between Dorset and Somerset.

My sisters and I were all brought up at Pipplepen, with the run of the farm and ponies to ride. In the early days there was no electricity, water was pumped from the well, and our Mother's home cooking depended on an oil stove, on which she regularly produced a full Sunday roast, even though we had attended Mattins at 11 o'clock. Breakfast was always punctually at 8 o'clock. The idea of coming to breakfast in our dressing gowns never crossed our minds. A friend has reminded us that jodhpurs were forbidden at the lunch table, even though the girls had been on their ponies all morning. Yes, there was discipline at home, but we had a wonderful childhood.

Later, on hunting mornings we would leave the house as early as nine for an 11 o'clock meet, all mounted spick and span thanks to our Mothers' organisation. Everything had to be just so, in case we finished up in hospital. It was only Father who managed that - several times - and I am sure that he too was immaculate. In the village Mother collected pennies for the scheme that assured members of a bed in the cottage hospital when they fell ill. This was before the coming of the National Health Service. She ran the church's Free Will Offering scheme, and was a leading light in the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

Then there came the time for a family move away from the West Country. Mother had to leave all her old friends behind, but she just buckled down to

the problem and got on with life. In South West Norfolk she and Father were lucky to be able to rent a house until they bought and built Winyards.

Mother's life in Northwold followed her previous pattern. She was a churchwarden and a school governor for many years, and ran the Free Will Offering scheme for St. Andrew's. She always presided over a successful stall at the annual Bazaar. She visited the sick and old people who might have been ten years her junior. All this reflected her belief that one must do one's best for the local community, and she stood by it all her life.

I think my sisters will join me in thanking her for the way in which she lovingly brought us up. Above all we thank God for her life. We did not choose the reading from Proverbs lightly; it exactly expresses the way we feel about her.”

**The above article was submitted by Arthur Collins, Nancy Collins' Son.**

Those of us who have lived in the village for any length of time will have known Nancy Collins. She was a stalwart of the Church right up until the time when she could no longer physically manage to get about.

Whether or not everybody agreed with her all the time there is little doubt that what she did was done in the certain knowledge that what she was doing was the right thing.

Her kindness to other people was not always common knowledge but it was one of her true qualities.

**Ed**

**I would like to have an obituary column as a regular feature, but of course this cannot be done without the help and consent of the bereaved.**

**It would be nice to know that local well known characters do not pass on without some form of acknowledgement in Village life**

## NORTHWOLD WI



Members have had a couple of active months starting in April with visits to our neighbours at Gt.Cressingham to enjoy an interesting and amusing talk by a retired Judge's Clerk, This was followed by a visit to Feltwell, joining neighbouring Institutes there for an evening with David Boulton and his slides of Norfolk and accompanying music... Arrangements were made for the next Group meeting take place in Thetford in the Autumn

Our own May meeting was primarily to discuss the Resolutions being placed before the National Federation of WIs with the aid of WI Adviser Jenny Wilson and we are particularly keen to promote the carrying of fluorescent jackets in motor cars at all times for use in the event of a breakdown and their cost is so reasonable if "being seen on the road" can save a life.

Our membership here in Northwold has nearly doubled this year to 35 members so we must be doing something right in arranging speakers and outings enjoyable to all. One of the joys is getting involved; several members are taking French lessons, two members have been raising money for charity and we are regularly requested to provide refreshments for various events. Ginnie Robson Hull was very successful with her coffee morning for Multiple Sclerosis and Ann Howarth with her "walk" for MacMillan. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be busy preparing refreshments for the Evening at the Village Hall.

Members Jo Ann Kidd and Ann Howarth combined to put forward Northwold's entry in the "Pride of Norfolk" competition. The judges were here recently and all are waiting to here how we got on having reached the last three in the competition.

In June David Boulton was back

with us again by popular request but with a very different set of Norfolk slides once again proving what a beautiful county Norfolk can be. The evening was particularly enjoyed by our two guests visiting from America who were not disappointed when we started the evening with our rendition of "Jerusalem" which they had been so keen to hear. Our evening ended as usual with a tasty selection of refreshments and a raffle. Members were congratulated on their Carnival entry and thanked for all their hard work – the float was delightful and congratulations on coming second. Thanks were also recorded to those helping on the Stall on the Rec. and to all those who helped.

Next month we expect Douglas Baker and his subject is "The Swing Era". And we are looking forward to our outing to Gooderstone Water Gardens in August.

Verity Lynch

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# The Chef's Kitchen

Recipes from our resident Chef  
**David Wheatley**

## Grilled Lamb Kebabs. (Ideal for barbecues)

Ingredients: (for 10 people)

Lamb, lean and boneless.....2 lb  
Lamb, fat ... .. 1 lb ...  
Butter... .. .6.oz. ...  
Lemons... .. .2. ...

### Method

- 1 Cut meat into 1" cubes. Cut fat into thin slices and then 1" squares. Sprinkle meat and fat with salt and pepper
- 2 Melt the butter then dip the cubes of meat into it
- 3 Arrange meat and fat alternately on skewers beginning and ending with meat
- 4 Cook under hot grille turning until golden brown on all sides
- 5 When cooked sprinkle with lemon juice and serve

Note. Bacon may be used in lieu of lamb fat in which case only the meat

should be seasoned

## Coconut Fish Curry

Ingredients :

1 lb skinless cod, cut into large chunks  
1 tablespoon of Olive Oil  
1 teaspoon cumin seeds  
1 onion, Grated/Finely chopped  
10 grammes (3 and a half oz) canned chopped tomatoes  
3 green chillies finely chopped  
Half teaspoon ground turmeric  
Half teaspoon red chilli powder  
Pinch of garam masala  
300 ml (ten and a half fluid ounce) carton of coconut cream  
Handful of fresh coriander chopped  
Basmati rice to serve

### Method :

Heat oil in a large saucepan. Add the cumin seeds and when sizzling add in the onion and fry till lightly golden. Turn down the heat. Add the tomatoes, green chilli, ground turmeric and chilli

powder. Season and stir well.

2. When the oil has separated, add a sprinkle of garam masala and stir in the coconut cream. Heat gently for 2 – 3 minutes. Stir in the cod making sure it is covered in sauce. Cover and cook on a very low heat for 12 – 15v minutes.

3. Serve with boiled rice and sprinkle with chopped coriander.

Note. For Veggies use 1 can of chick peas instead of the cod.

**David is a highly qualified Chef and has joined our team. He will be publishing a large assortment of recipes on a regular basis.**

**Try these recipes out for yourself and you may find them quite interesting.**

**Don't just give it an idle glance give it a try and let us know how you get on.**

Ed



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