

Unsung Heroes

Further to the article from the Borough Council regarding awards for voluntary service which was in the last edition, the Council have contacted us regarding nominations. Nominations should be in by Friday 18th January to the Civics Officer at the Town hall at Kings Lynn.

The criteria for nomination are:

A resident of the Borough of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk who provides voluntary service or raises funds for charity and has done so since at least 1 January 2005.

The Council attached a nomination form to it's e mail which is quite unsuitable for printing in Village Life, but if there is anyone in the parish who wishes to nominate someone, I can arrange for a nomination form to be provided without anyone having to divulge any details of the person they have in mind.

Ed

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The Northwold Grand Prix

The Northwold PTFA Pram Race

Well it was here again... The Northwold PTFA Pram Race, when we get to witness a bunch of badly dressed women, naughty nurses and all other sorts of mad people racing around the village in wheeled contraptions. It certainly gave those on the allotments something to chuckle about!

After stopping off at the pub to down a pint and other stops to try and eat dry crackers the race was won by, team Jenky and their blue machine, followed by Martin Goodrham and Harry Cater and then coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> was Wortley and his lovely ladies!!

The children equally had a good time racing round the school field. 1<sup>st</sup> were

Ryan Billmen, Joseph Whiting and Tom Wells, followed in 2<sup>nd</sup> place by Megan Billmen, Tallulah Stocking and Bella the dog!

A thoroughly good time was had by all and the weather was great for us. What a fantastic fun way to show support for the school. A big thank you to all those who helped out with the BBQ, raffle etc and especially those who gave a helping hand when asked. We must also say thank you to the Northwold Crown for supplying the stop off drinks. Well done to the PTFA, a total of £180.00 was raised, keep up the good work. Well that’s all for now, hope to see you all again next year.

Photos by Adrian Jenkinson

Theresa Ramshaw

Reeches Farm was proud to sponsor the junior champions of the 2007 Northwold Pram Race  
Congratulations to Joseph, Ryan and Tom



Issue October 2007  
Copy date for the next issue is;  
24th September 2007  
copy@northwold.net  
Tel. 01366 728233

Village Quiz

The Village Quiz is taking place again on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October at the Village hall. Teams of 4 people representing most of the local clubs and organisations are taking part. Teams of neighbours and friends are also welcome. We are already getting near to the maximum of 20 teams so if anyone else has a team to enter please phone John on 727018 a.s.a.p. The cost is £ 15 per team including food and a licensed bar is provided.

We are raising money for the Village hall whose running costs are ever increasing.

St Andrew’s Church Bazaar

This year our Annual Bazaar will be on November 24<sup>th</sup> so please mark it in your diaries

As well as the usual stalls there will be one or two new ways of tempting you to part with your money – all in aid of the church Funds.

Father Christmas will, of Course be there in his Grotto, and there will be some delicious refreshments available to keep you going, and you will be able to buy tickets for the raffle with lots of lovely prizes.

The Bazaar will be opened at 2.30 pm by The Earl of Romney, High Sheriff of Norfolk.

Please note that this year the bazaar is being held in The Church!!!!

Have you thought about your Christmas Tree for the festival. It will be here before you realise it Last year pictures of our display finished up in a church in France so we have something to live up to . 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

First of all let me say thank you to all those kind people who sent me cards and in some cases much more on the occasion of my reaching a birthday that makes me over 21 as they say in law.

On the evening of this momentous day I was taken to Mundford where surprise, surprise I was greeted by a grinning throng singing "Happy birthday to you "

Apologies to Jason for putting his Thank You card through someone else's letter box, the letter box being 4 Normandy Close. So if you have a card addressed to Jason, if you like to pop it through his letter box he will be expecting it.

It may be noted by some of our readers that the promised agony column hosted by Aunt Agatha has not materialised. Aunt Agatha apologises for this, but was unfortunately called away at short notice. However she has returned so please don't bottle up your personal problems, just let us at Village Life know about them and Aunt Agatha will certainly do her best to assist you in you hour of need. It must be stressed that this venture is not necessarily meant to be taken too seriously.

Soon it will be time to exercise our brains in the Village Quiz. That mustn't be taken too seriously either. Remember the Olympic Motto, "The Glory is not in the winning but in having taken part" And having previously been part of a team that came last I should know. Ed

Remember, Dec/Jan is a single issue of Village Life - so include all January events on your December copy! Ed.

St Andrew's Church

Services for October and Early November 2007

7th 11am Holy Communion  
Rev Blackall

14th 11 am Matins.  
Keith McCleod

21st 8 am Holy Communion  
Rev Nicholl

28th 7pm Holy Communion  
Canon Rowsell

November

Wednesday November 2nd  
7pm Holy Communion  
Rev Nicholl

4th 11 am Holy Communion Rev Nicholl

Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee Morning in The Church on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 10. 30 am until 12 noon. A great opportunity to meet friends and enjoy a good cup of coffee (or tea) with some cake or biscuits. Also a raffle and stalls. Everyone most welcome!

Who is Winston ??  
Watch this space all will be revealed

Derek Johnson  
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NORTHWOLD  
VILLAGE HALL

Sponsor A Chair

Your village hall committee is intending to provide more comfortable seating for the various events that take place here. In order to do so we need your help!

You should know that available funds are never very high, and that what is currently available is being assigned to a much-needed new cooker for the kitchen.

80 chairs are needed, at a cost of £20 each, and we would like as many people in the village as possible to consider sponsoring a chair in order that we can all sit without fidgeting! You might wish to sponsor a chair individually, or as a family, or even a number of chairs (A whole row would be nice!!)

To sponsor, please ask for a sponsor slip from The Editor, or Jim Booty and send or pass it to Mr Ian Haye at 15 High Street, together with your contribution. We intend to publish a "Role of Honour" of those who have been generous, although you may of course remain anonymous if you wish to do so.

The Nija Levis Health  
Column

The Accumulative Effect

I'm very aware of the accumulative effect because of the work that I do however recently I've been even more aware of this. The reason being is that now I am promoting No Hands Massage much more I have been seeing new clients. This actually makes me aware of the accumulative effect of my continuous training with No Hands. I'm in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of practising No Hands and promote it more now that I have reached a certain level of expertise.

Having new clients who come with all sorts of problems, let's face it most people start to have a massage because something is wrong not many start by being healthy and use massage to stay that way, has made me more aware of this accumulative effect. All my clients who have been having regular monthly massage are all fit and healthy, they didn't start off that way yet with each massage they had it built upon the last and so on. Now all they have to do is off load whatever stresses they pick up in a month and that's easily let go of at the next session. It's the same with how

you get your problems, you don't wake up one day with a problem, the cause is due to the accumulative effects of something that's been going on in your life.

I've also been aware of this with people taking advantage of the facial offer. It's reminded me of when clients first came to see me and how I had to get their skin conditioned at the beginning and how good their skin is now due to regular treatment.

It's no different with exercise or dieting, one day is a start but 30 days along and you see a real difference until you reach where you want to be, then the easy bit and it's so much more fun maintaining it.

I do enjoy this process of seeing people improving yet often we are both unaware of the transition from when the problems totally disappear and their treatment becomes maintenance.

I hope this gives you a little more understanding of how things take time to build up and then in turn to put right again and that you can stay in that right place.

Nija

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# Frank Fendick Talks About His Early Childhood During The Time Of the Second World war

## A SECOND-WORLD-WAR CHILDHOOD

On the first of September 1939 my father was called up and we four children were evacuated. My mother started the day with her family and ended it alone. I remember that we all had tags with our names on. I can't remember getting to the station but I can remember the never-ending walk (actually only about a quarter of a mile) with my luggage from Three Bridges station (which had four bridges) to the school (which seemed entirely made of glass) where we were to be assigned our new homes.

We four were all sent to different homes. I went to Mrs. Chitty. She had a son about my age and I remember being jealous because his feet were larger than mine. My only other memory of that house was peeling spuds. I was told off for not taking the eyes out. I had never peeled spuds before (I was nine). Whether my mother always did it (It is quicker to do it yourself might well have been her attitude) or whether my elder sister (11) did it, I don't know.

I was not happy with Mrs. Chitty so I was transferred to Mrs. Bull, who lived in a modern bungalow and had chickens in the garden. I was very happy there. My memories of Three Bridges are:  
Watching the fighters with their vapour trails twisting and turning as they fought, and cheering when one of theirs was shot down. We could easily recognise the Spitfires from the shape of their wings. It was not so easy to distinguish the Hurricanes from the enemy. All we boys collected spent bullets and shrapnel.

Sheltering under something like a table-top placed at a slant against an inside wall when the bombs were dropping - we never bothered with the shelter that had been built in the garden. It just never occurred to me that we might be hit.

Being hated by the school-master, Mr. John Lloyd, and hating him in return. He threw a cricket ball at me (he would say he was trying to hit the wicket, but he and I know better). I turned my back to the ball. It hit me in the back of the neck and knocked me out. From that time on I was always afraid to play cricket. On another occasion he made me come up to the front of the class and take my Wellingtons off. He held them up to they class and said he didn't want boys coming to class in that state. In fairness to him I had come to class wading through the ditches rather than along the road. The other incident was when someone had trodden in wet concrete when their heel hadn't quite cleared the new cement. He inspected the shoes of all the class and, of course, it turned out to be me. I fantasized about meeting this monster when I was grown-up and giving him the hiding of his life - Rest in pieces.

Other memories are:  
Throwing stones, with a gang of other boys, at the hut of a tramp who lived in the woods. I still feel guilty about that. Having to go out every Sunday afternoon regardless of the weather. I had no idea why. Mr. Bull was a night-worker at a munitions factory.

Mrs. Bull worrying about an older boy who used to call for me to go to school. One day, coming back through the woods, he took my belt and wanted me to take my shorts down. I didn't know what it was all about but I ran home and that was the last time he called for me to go to school.

In 1941, at the age of 11, I went to the Duke of York's Royal Military School (the Dukies), whose permanent home is in Dover, but who were evacuated to Saunton Sands Hotel in Devon.

My memorable times at the Dukies were:  
Half the school went swimming when we weren't supposed to. The following morning, on parade, the RSM said "Hands up all those who went

swimming yesterday". I was the only one to put my hand up and was put on a charge (I can't remember the punishment but it wasn't a caning). The school tried hard to teach me that it is not always best to tell the truth, but I never learned this important lesson - I am as tactless as ever.

After I won a hard boxing match "Cookie" Rowe (who was one of the hard-drinking members of staff) asked me what I had received as a prize. When I said "Nothing", he gave me half-a-crown (now 12.5 p) which would be the equivalent of about £20 today (1998). Cookie had probably had a few drinks. I kept that half-a-crown for thirty years - it was lost when I went abroad.

We used to walk the two miles to Croyde in order to buy half-penny buns straight out of the oven. Unfortunately, after we had walked the two miles back, we were starving again.

After the Dukies I joined the Army Apprentices' School, Arborfield, as a boy soldier in 1945 at the age of 15, just in time to serve for six months during the war and thus qualify for the War Medal.

## Frank Fendick

Next week Frank talks about his life as a **paratrooper**.

Thanks Frank for this interesting insight into this particular time in the history of our country Ed.

**Copy date for next Village Life**

**24th September 2007**  
**copy@northwold.net**  
**Tel. 01366 728233**

# Then and Now.

The Youth Club has just celebrated it's 1st anniversary with a party In the Sports And Social Club - See report below by Steve Freemantle.

## NORTHWOLD YOUTH CLUB 2007

The new “year” started with a 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday party – is it really a year ago that the club started? – when Club Members and Sponsors met up to sample the scrumptious food laid on by the Volunteers. Some people could be heard singing along with the Karaoke machine, while others played parachute games, football and rounders on the Recreation Ground. A good time was had by all.

Activities planned for the coming season include bowls (on the bowling green with Bernie Bartlett), sports with Gary Hodder, a Carved Pumpkin competition as well as making Christmas tree decorations. The Club is also introducing a Book and Storytelling Group.

There is always a welcome for new members aged between 7-14. For further details please contact either Jane on 728921 or Sharron on 727675.



**Youngsters relaxing and enjoying the 1st birthday party celebrations on the Recreation Ground**

**This is an extract from The Journal,(Probably Thetford and Watton) dated January 18<sup>th</sup> 1980 for which we are indebted to Pat Cooper.**

January 1980, that’s almost 28 years ago. At that time the Sports And Social Club was going great guns. The attached report is very small and states:-  
“Some of the 50 youngsters attached to the Northwold Sports and Social Club football team and Youth Club, pictured at their annual party and high tea in the Social Club on Saturday”  
One picture shows the youngsters “Up the Table”. Are you among them ? Very likely !  
The other picture is of the adults who helped I have asked Bryan Cater if he was involved and he was definitely running the football team at that time as Gary was 11. Bryan and Marjorie can both be seen on the photo along with many more, some sadly no longer with us.



Members of the Northwold Sports and Social Club who organised a party for youngsters attached to the club.

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**Northwold Art Group**

Northwold Art Group has just celebrated its first birthday. We all enjoyed birthday cake (With Musical Candle) and a glass of wine. This year has gone very quickly and has seen our first exhibition in the Village hall, which was very successful and enjoyed by all who took part and all who visited.

We have had demonstrations from visiting artists on a regular basis on a Thursday evening. In August Florence Gardner, an artist from Necton, came and talked to us about her life in painting, she showed how she had progressed from botanical paintings of flowers in watercolour, to landscapes, animals and working with different Mediums. As a result of Florence’s visit the group had a very industrious meeting the following week when we produced our own versions of flower paintings.

We had an interesting demonstration



Local Artist John Burton At Work

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September saw our first all day workshop. Bob Larkin – a professional artist from North Elmham – visited the Village hall for an all day workshop with us. The washing strung across the Village Hall was not Mr Booty’s laundry, but in fact all the paraphernalia of a washday setting for us to paint. We had a lovely day with lunch together in the Village hall. Numerous cups of tea and coffee throughout the day, and a good time was had by all.



The Saturday Workshop In progress

We have a core of membership of thirty people and if anyone is wishing to join us either just turn up on a Thursday evening or call Glenda (01366 727018) or Patsy (01366 727582) for more details



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**NORTHWOLD PRODUCE SHOW**  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Steve Freemantle, Chairman Northwold Produce Show  
Despite having August’s weather in April and October’s weather in August, Northwold’s gardeners came up trumps again with a stunning display of vegetables and flowers at the Annual Produce Show.  
Not to be outdone by the gardeners, the cookery, craft and school entries showed what a talented lot reside in Northwold. As usual, the judges really had to deliberate who should be the winners – all the entries were stunning and imaginative.

Children in a Ukrainian orphanage will be benefiting from the donations by entrants in the craft section, who knitted some beautiful hats and gloves. Additionally, there will be some cuddly hand-made toys winging their way to nurseries in the Kibera Slum (the biggest slum in Kenya, Africa).

There are also plans to put together a “scrapbook” on the Produce Show. Whilst the Chairman and Secretary have all the records of past winners it would be nice to put some “flesh to the bones” so, if anyone has any interesting stories and photographs of previous shows, please get in touch with the organisers.

A big thank you goes out to all the exhibitors – without them there would be no show. For those who didn’t take part – see you next year!

Special thanks must also go to all those people who worked hard to make the show run as smoothly as possible. These include Mrs Jean Bartlett, Mrs Ann Howarth, Mrs Wendy Lavender and Mr Roy Akers who gave up so much of their time on Friday evening and Saturday.

<b>Cup Winners</b>	
<b>Vegetable Cup</b>	<b>L Lavender</b>
<b>Ted Moore Shield</b>	<b>M Rickard</b>
<b>Lavender Flower Cup</b>	<b>L Lavender</b>
<b>Cookery Cup</b>	<b>V Lavender</b>
<b>The Wine Cup</b>	<b>D Eyles</b>
<b>The Cooper Cup</b>	<b>P Clear</b>
<b>Children’s Cup</b>	<b>Joint Holders</b>
<b>E Lavender</b>	<b>K Eyles</b>
<b>Tallest Sunflower</b>	<b>J Pearce</b>
<b>Normandy Cup</b>	<b>Joint Holders</b>
<b>V Lavender</b>	<b>G Burton</b>
<b>Tom Stimpson Runner up Cup;-</b>	<b>J Haylock</b>

**W Dixon Shield                      L Lavender**

The winners for 2007 are as follows:-

<b>Section 1. Vegetables</b>			
White potatoes	R Akers	J Haylock	L. Lavender
Coloured Potatoes	L. Lavender	M Hull	R Akers
Shallots	M. Hodges	J Burton	
Spring Onions	R Akers	L. lavender	
Onions from sets	L Lavender	M Hodges	R. Akers
Runner Beans	R Akers	L lavender	S. Freemantle
Globe Beetroot	R Akers	L Lavender	M Hodges
Carrots	Lavender	M Hodges	A Howarth
Parsnips	L Lavender	V Robson-Hull	
Marrow	M Hodges	S Freemantle	R Akers
Cabbage	R. Akers		
Individual vegetable	A Howarth	J Burton	R Akers
Exotic Vegetable	P Eyles		
Cucumber	M Hodges	J Hodges	J Haylock
Tomatoes	V Smart	P Eyles	F Eyles
Cooking Apples	J Haylock	J Burton	D Eyles
Desert Apples	J Haylock	D Eyles	J Booty
Pears	B Eyles	L lavender	J Haylock
Plums	P Clear	P Clear	L Lavender
Collection of 6 fruits	P Haye	P Clear	
Collection of 6 Veg	M Rickard	R Akers	L Lavender

<b>Flowers</b>			
Dahlias	P Haye	L Arman	J Haylock
Gladioli	L Lavender	L Lavender	
Asters	D Riches	R Akers	A Howarth
Roses	D Riches	A Howarth	
Chrysanthemum	J Haylock		
Individual Bloom	R Akers	A Howarth	
Multithreaded Stem	P Haye	L Lavender	
Perennials/Annuals	V Robson-Hull		
Cup and Saucer arrangement	M Lavender	V Robson-Hull	M Maynard
House Plant	V Smart	R Crisp	
Support The Canaries Arrangement	M Hull	D Riches	R Crisp
Tallest Sunflower	L Lavender	S Feemantle	
Sunflower widest head	L Lavender	S Freemantle	

<b>Cookery</b>			
Maderia Cake	P Eyles	J Bartlett	W Lavender
Macaroons	J Bartlett	P Clear	V Lavender
Coffee Sponge	D Randle	P Clear	F Eyles
Butter Tartlets	V Lavender	J Bartlett	P Clear
Flapjack Fingers	F Eyles	R Crisp	D Randell
Chocolate Biscuits	D Riches	V Lavender	P Clear
Apple Turnover	V Lavender	J Eyles	J Bartlett
Sausage Rolls	D Riches	V Lavender	J Bartlett
Cornish Pasty	V Lavender	D Riches	
Soft Fruit Jam	V Lavender	S Freemantle	M Hodges
Fruit Jelly	P Haye	P Clear	B Akers
Pickles	J Langley	Joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> V Lavender/ B Eyles	
Fresh Produce Wine	D Eyles	S Freemantle	

<b>Craft</b>			
Photograph	A Howarth	R Crisp	R Drinkwater
Child’s Hat and Glove	P Clear	J Bartlett	R Crisp
Set			
Needlecraft	A Howarth	J Booty	F Eyles
Toy For Africa	P Clear	P Eyles	P Clear
Handcraft	V Lavender	V Robson-Hull	P Clear
Painting	J Booty	B Booty	R Drinkwater

<b>Children up to and including 12 years old</b>			
Class 1	A Anderson	J Raven	L Rowland
Class 2	L Butters	H Shorten	O Rae
Class 3	K Worthington	H Butters	G Burton
Class 4	J Randell	H Shorthose	M Thomas
Pre School	J Anderson	E Bunton	T ?
Tots and Co	N Chaplin	J Greenacre	L Vainu
Gingerbread Man	K Eyles	E Lavender	
Sponge Drops	K Eyles		
Fruit Vegetable	Joint First E Lavender/	K Eyles	
Animal Mask	V Lavender	E Lavender	
Cross Stitch	K Eyles		
Tallest Sunflower	J Pearce	H Cater	C Cater
Sunflower Widest Head	E lavender	V Lavender	H Cater
Runner Beans	G Burton	J Burton	
Carrots	V Lavender	E Lavender	J Pearce

The September meeting of the Northwold WI was held in the village hall and began at 7.15pm.

The speaker this month was Vida Armstrong who gave a most interesting talk and demonstration on “hanging baskets for autumn”. Whilst passing on many useful tricks of the trade and telling us amusing anecdotes, Vida demonstrated two ways of planting baskets and containers and suggested several interesting combinations of plants to use. Following this most entertaining talk, Brenda Ayres gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the meeting.

The lunch club visited the

Elveden Inn last month where everyone enjoyed the food enormously. The September venue for the lunch club will be the East Garden, Swaffham.

Arrangements were finalised for the two quiz teams to take part in the Stoke Ferry quiz on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and also for those planning to attend the Group Meeting in Hockwold on September 27<sup>th</sup>

Following the remaining business of the meeting, refreshments were provided by Pauline Cundy and Glenda Burton.

Next months meeting will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October and will be the AGM followed by a quiz. The meeting will commence at 7.15pm and new members and visitors will be most welcome.

Try This!!

How Smart is Your Right Foot?

This is so funny that it will boggle your mind. And you will keep trying at least 50 more times to see if you can outsmart your foot, but you can't

1. While sitting in a chair lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
2. Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand.

Your foot will change direction .

.....And there's nothing you can do about it.

Sent in anonymously

Another academic year has begun, bringing with it a few changes to our lovely village school.

The previous Headteacher has moved on after almost five years of leading the school through some very positive developments, particularly with regard to the school building and its excellent facilities for the children and staff. Unlike Northwold, there are still village schools with no hall, no office, no staffroom, no library, no small group areas, most certainly no ICT suite and with a playing field at least half a mile away, which is shared on occasions with a range of farm animals! So Marion can hold her head up high and be very proud of all she achieved here. We wish her all the very best in her new headship in Diss.

We welcome to the school myself, Richard Ogilvie, as Acting Headteacher; Mr Alex Bowles as class teacher in Class 4 (Alex is recently returned from teaching for five years in New York); Mrs Donna Stocking, as a special needs teaching assistant; Ms Dawn Carton, as a midday supervisory assistant; we're also very grateful to two of our long-serving MSAs, Mrs Doreen Randell and Mrs Shirley Pearce, who are now also sharing the crucial role of caretaker. We also say a special big hello to our new children in Reception year and to the two additional children from Poland who have just joined us.

We have been made to feel really welcome by all at Northwold and, although it's early days yet, a great team atmosphere exists in the school,

so we are really happy to be part of the school and village community. It was a bit of a shock to drive into the school on the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> September (a training day) to find that the playground had been dug up and a digger, a lorry and various other dangerous items of equipment were entrenched where the children normally play! However, we sincerely hope that an on-going problem with the school's septic tank overflow system has now been resolved.

During the first week of term, all the children and staff worked really hard on a range of artwork for the Northwold Produce Show. Each class made a lovely display and the judges must have found it very difficult to decide on the best entries.

Last week, Martin Fisher, the Bishop's school visitor, spent the day with us and what a pleasurable day it was. In my ignorance I feared the worst and expected that Martin would swoop in with dog-collar glistening and black cloak flapping behind, demanding to see the RE syllabus and time-table, the children's RE books and wanting to know why the staff weren't in school by 7am and leaving at 6pm! Fortunately, this doesn't describe Martin at all. He is, in fact, a retired IT whizz who helped us sort out a few computer glitches (in the past he's also helped to clear out our blocked gutter!) and is hugely popular with the children and staff. He ended the visit with a brilliant assembly, playing his guitar, teaching us a new song and using Boris the dog to illustrate the story of Jesus and the washing of the feet. So, we are all

very much looking forward to Martin's next visit.

By the time you read this we will have taken part in a rounders tournament at Hockwold involving our cluster (ie local) village schools. Classes 3 and 4 have been practising hard and with great enjoyment, but we didn't realise how complicated the full rules of rounders are! I always thought it was basically to chuck it (a Yorkshire expression), hit it and leg it round the posts (remembering not to throw the bat behind you and thereby concussing the stop)! The combined intellect of all the staff have failed to master all the minutiae of the rule book, so we are hoping we don't get disqualified as a result – I'll let you know in the next issue.

Finally, our traditional Harvest Festival takes place at 9.30am on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September in St Andrew's Church and all are welcome to attend. We're very grateful to Rev. Angela Nicholl for agreeing to officiate, to Mrs Janet Deacon for arranging and playing the musical accompaniment, and to Miss Jane Luckman for organising the distribution of the harvest gifts.

Let's hope we have a lovely Autumn, especially for all those of you involved in agriculture.

All the best,

**Richard Ogilvie**  
Acting Headteacher

Welcome to Northwold Richard and thanks for this very good article.  
**Ed**

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Our Past According To POG Aka Mike Coley



Everybody reveled in a nickname years ago, a name that they were known by in the community and which most of them were more than happy to be connected with. Few can remember today just how those individual names ever came into being and often the answers given would be made up by another who never really knew the truth anyway. In any case they are no longer in general usage anymore. It’s pointless to try working out the true derivation of these old names as their origins are irrelevant now. What’s more, the information you would require has most likely been lost and forgotten over time.

They were very much a cultural thing I think, having no disparaging intent whatever. They were simply a picturesque means of identification that fulfilled their function admirably. Their power as a tool of recognition was such that if a stranger came into the village and stopped a passer-by to ask where a **Mr. So and So** lived, they would most likely be met with a blank stare. If on the other hand they asked about, say **‘Ferrets’** or **‘Fessy’** they would get an instant reply as everyone knew all there was to know about them and so there was never the need for ambiguity.

The Chapman family produced a number of fine sportsmen over the years, who were called collectively **“The Chuds”**. A matter of pride for the boys to be associated with and only then would they be identified individually. And ‘Popeye’ is amongst the very few of us that happily retains his Nickname today. Although he comes from a large family, everyone knows exactly who we’re referring to when we address him thus. How many of you would know who we were talking about if we used his true name?

Outsiders simply don’t seem to understand this concept at all and so are reluctant to use anything other than proper or given names. My Uncle **Arthur**, Mums younger brother was called **‘Bubby’** and he was a Bomber Pilot in the War and continued as a pilot until the day he retired many years later, but his nickname was never questioned until he married his second wife. It wrankled with her because, despite the fact that all his letters and photo’s home were signed

‘Love Bubby’ she didn’t think it fitting for someone of his stature in life to be known by such a diminutive name. It’s maybe because of their nature, the inbuilt desire to belittle or besmirch others, combined with the fear of being seen so to do, that this perfectly normal way of being ( *to us* ) is abhorrent to others like them. That’s not just sad but it’s down right tragic, Tragic because it’s a matter that falls now into that most destructive of modern day trends, *‘Political Correctness’*, something which in itself is robbing us, Bit by Bit, day by day of our heritage. It especially maddens me on two counts, one being that people try to impose their ill-informed way of thinking upon others, and two, that we are all gullible enough to let them get away with it.

Do they think it wrong for us to call people from Methwold: **‘Muel’ers’?**. I hope not because they’ve been known as that since, Who Knows When?. As far back as the days when we were all surrounded by vast areas of open heath-land, Methwold was home to an extensive warren system that was maintained to produce prodigious quantities of rabbits, seen as a valuable source of food for rich and poor alike in those days. Those animals grew so fat and healthy that the old village Nickname was used to identify them elsewhere, hence they were called **‘Muel Rabbits’**, rather like we today call crabs from just about anywhere off the North Norfolk coast, **Cromer Crabs**.

It was as a result of the size, quality and good eating associated with these rabbits that King Charles the 1<sup>st</sup> no less, being himself much impressed, granted the village a royal charter permitting a weekly fair to take place ( *on a Tuesday and not a Mondays in those days* ) All that was prior to the Civil war of course and long before Oliver Cromwell decided to come along and lop the old boys head off.. Methwold’ers were not alone in having collective nicknames you know, so did we. Northwold people were called by others, and in turn by themselves **‘Norrolders’**. In the same way our near neighbors from Foulden were known by the rather strange and somewhat amusing term, **‘Frog Biters’**, well they were always a different breed.

Every community had its share of Nicknames that were widely used by everyone in their respective villages. I remember old names like those I

mentioned earlier and a whole lot more besides, names like ‘Tout’, ‘Organ’, ‘Korky’, ‘Unk’, ‘Phippy’, ‘Bum’, ‘Traddy’ ‘Pills’ ‘Tebble’ and ‘Shuck’ to name but a few. There were names galore in fact, quite enough to populate the whole village actually, which they certainly did..

Amongst my own school friends were other names like ‘Egger’, ‘Pimmy’, ‘Rookey’, ‘Hod’, and ‘Mugger’, all from right here in Northwold. And then there were all those others who came to the Secondary School at Methwold when we started going there. It was then that we first met characters like Golly, he that successfully ran right through a door fitted with toughened glass that had been reinforced with wire mesh. Was he a Hard Case? Or just a good old fashioned Nut Case? ***You chose***.

A lot of the teachers there were given Nicknames to, although they didn’t necessarily know it. Like Mr. Leach the art master whom we called ‘Kiddy’. The rather self-important Head Master that we called ‘Old Twitchy Whiskers’ and Mr. Bennett that lodged in the village here at Sycamore House, we called him ‘Buffalo Bennett’

Well my dears, that’s quite enough of that for this time round, I could go on for a bit longer yet but lists of names can be extremely boring and so I’ll wrap it up for now. Incidentally my own Nickname, ‘Pog’, is the one that I finished up with. It is a shortened version of the one that I started out with when I was a very small boy. The original name I had was ‘Poglets’ ( *which some still remember even now* ). Poglets came from my love of animals, in this case ‘little dogs’, ( *that I referred to then as Pogies rather than dogies* ) and it came out as being similar to our name for young pigs, Piglets of course. Hence ‘Poglets’ came into being, which was first shortened to ‘Poggy’ by my friends and finally, when I got to the ‘Big School’, it became ‘Pog’.

I hope you can see now the point I made earlier regarding the erroneous suppositions that one could easily make as to the origins of any of these old names. Just enjoy them for what they are, don’t waste your time beyond that, because. I shall be Looking Forward to Looking Back with you all again long before then. Keep yew a’troshun together, **Best Wishes Pog**

River Watch

By Ivor Hook

Summer alongside the river did not go according to plan so my friend’s old but faithful rowing boat had been unused for several months. However with a new pike fishing season fast approaching we both went to find it again

. It was hidden in the middle of a large bed of reeds – rampant growth had overtaken its mooring and no one would have known it was there. It looked very sad and was full of rainwater and partly submerged. Urgent, but hopefully only minor, surgery is needed and then it should provide us with safe passage throughout the winter months and the bond between man and his boat will be restored!

Time alongside the river is always special but when actually upon the water there is a whole new and different world to enjoy. The river Wissey has a wealth of scenery with nooks and crannies, backwaters and secret places to explore and, of course, many otherwise inaccessible stretches of water to try for monster pike. Every few yards there are overhanging trees and bushes, reed beds, slow bends, deep holes, cow drinks and tiny riverlets with their entrances disguised by tangles of new growth. Each spot has its own special residents. To idly potter along and peer down into the depths between the thick ribbons of weed and to see the black shapes of fish is truly fascinating. Most days we

have the river to ourselves apart from the company of wildfowl. They appear totally unconcerned by our presence as we co-habit quite peacefully but it is important to remember that they are the true residents and we are just visitors. With my favourite time of the year almost upon us the next few months on the river should be really enjoyable.

However today, on terra firma, all the undergrowth is really thick lush green and unusually tall. It is shoulder high and more and walking the narrow river pathway resembles a trail through a tropical jungle. Ahead numerous rabbits with their telltale bobtails scamper away. A big rat pops his head out and quickly withdraws. Nearby a sheltered bay is a real picture covered with water lilies and their wax-like flowers. Weaving a route through the lily pads are numerous inquisitive ducks paddling in from all directions with the eternal hope of being fed. There are all shapes and sizes and at the rear tiny fragile ducklings try unsuccessfully to keep up. These balls of fluff appear highly comical by using the most direct route. They stop swimming when reaching an obstructing lily pad and clamber over the floating leaves to then resume swimming again as if competing in an obstacle race. Eventually they also arrive to join the en-mass plea for starving ducks!

To me there is always a magic about the river and every visit makes it even more compulsive. My fishing pal and me are now so impatient to be afloat that (surprise, surprise) work on the boat is commencing tomorrow!!

Ivor

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Tots And Co

Just a quick Thank you to everybody who attended the recent Coffee morning at the hall for Tots & Co. and Pre school. We raised a fantastic £152 with the help from sales of cakes, raffle tickets, coffees, teas and the stalls we had.

We couldn't do it without you all so thanks again for all your wonderful cake making skills, and raffle donations and coming to support us.

A big thank you to Janet, Betty (and Jane) for your continued support making our refreshments, (we would dry up without YOU !!

Claire, Holly and Sue

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**Apologies for missing out this item in the last edition Ed.**