

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT.

EARL SOHAM 4 1976

(Electoral Roll - 315 names)

The gale of January 2/3 caused little real damage in the village and was appreciably less severe than in other areas of the County: Newmarket for instance was completely isolated for several hours due to fallen trees. Nevertheless a few trees were uprooted, the boundary wall at Bridge House fell into the road and at least two old barns were rendered unsafe due to roof movement and damage.

The snow storm later in the month which seriously affected Bury St. Edmunds was of negligible proportions locally.

The driest summer for 100 years played havoc with some crops especially on light land whilst many of the trees planted in 1975 by the Town Trust in the street failed to survive. However the rains which began in mid-September put weight into apples (a record crop) and sugar beet though it caused difficulties in lifting the latter as well as potatoes. Winter sown corn was in general excellent.

A new wing was built on Hill Farm by J. Tuckwell (Builders); subsequently bought by Mr. G. Clarke who had lived at Windwhistle for many years.

A start was made on preparation of the ground for a tennis court on former allotment land in the Street.

The new Rectory in Church Lane was occupied in February, The old one being subsequently sold for £14,500 for occupation by a group of young people as a Community (Koinonia) with close association with the Baptist Chapel.

An aerial photograph of Church Farm disclosed the presence of a bronze age site located behind the farmhouse. The markings showed a dark ring with central dot in the angle of an L-shaped ditch which had recently been partly filled in.

In March Mrs. Ellen Mary Glasson the oldest resident died in her home aged 94.

In May an Exhibition of photographs from 1885 onwards depicting village scenes, loaned by residents and the Suffolk Record Office, together with paintings and other Arts, was presented at Wentworth House and raised over £80 during the day in aid of Village Hall funds.

During re-decoration of Peppercorn Cottage, Little Green, a wall painting was found and successfully removed by Mrs. Fielder for restoration. It is known another wall painting exists at Street Farm.

The successful Play Group (under 5's) organised by the W.R.V.S. under the leadership of Mrs. Sue Langly of Framlingham ceased operations in the Baptist Hall due to lack of children in the age group, though 16 had attended twice weekly during the group's three years of active life.

During the summer at least 7 young Coypu were shot or trapped in the river flowing through the Parish.

Horse trials at the Lodge Equestrian Centre sponsored by the Midland Bank attracted good entry.

The harvest Supper in September was attended by over 100 people.

After the meal an updated version of Mrs. Hovenden's pantomime 'Cindernella', with Mrs. Nella Cotton in the ~~same~~ part, which included many good natured and humorous references to local people, had an enthusiastic reception; music was provided by Alec (Pettit) and his Organ.

The village sustained a loss by the death of Walter Wilgress ^{Miller} who died suddenly whilst ~~ringing~~ the bells at Framsdon for the Harvest Festival. A former 'agricultural engine man' he had been bell captain at Earl Soham for many years and as the older ~~fingers~~ fingers had given up, had trained a group of young people before the bells were removed for re-tuning and re-hanging in 1974. He did not live to see the bells restored to the Church Tower.

At Monk Soham a new house is nearing completion at the entrance to Monk Soham Hall.

O. E. Keall
Local History Recorder
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March 1977