

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDERS REPORT

EARL SOHAM + 1981

(Electoral Register 327)

Weather The winter proved to be relatively mild with no snow and little frost, though a cold damp spring delayed crops but not sufficiently to affect seriously the resulting harvest. Some apple crops however were poor. It was believed that dust in the upper atmosphere still circulating from the St. Helen's volcano continued to affect our weather.

College House At a coffee morning at the Old Rectory, alternatively known as College House, the home of the Rev. J. Peak, photographs of the restoration and changes carried out to the building over the past two years were shown.

Church The Rev. P.S. Robinson was appointed to fill the vacancy of the combined livings of Ashfield, Creetingham and Earl Soham. He was instituted on 15th. May at Ashfield under the patronage of Lord Heniker, Patron of Ashfield.

Equestrian Centre The Indoor Training Arena at the Centre was completed and is in frequent use as judged by the increasing number of horse boxes adding to the traffic through the village.

Building Work started on the repair etc. of No. 7 Victoria Terrace, alternatively known as Cobbold's Row from the block's former use as a maltings owned by Cobbold's Brewery, the roof having been relaid and the chimneys rebuilt to their attractive and unusual design. In progress are changes to the internal layout after the interior was stripped.

Shop The butcher's shop has been re-opened by Mr. J.J. Horner who has taken a six-year's lease of the premises, and the Falcon Inn has been modified to provide a restaurant with service three days a week, under ~~Mr. Maurice Homan.~~ *Mr. Brian East.*

Village Hall Problems relating to the maintenance of the Hall were discussed at an open Extraordinary Meeting at which it was decided to continue the Hall in operation subject to a more selective letting arrangement with a view to reducing likelihood of damage. At a second meeting it was agreed to suggest to organisations using the Hall that they might make donations or run a fund-raising event and further that all households in the village would be circularised to see if there was any support for a "One Hundred Club" method of raising regular contributions and hence income, for the maintenance of both the Hall and the Church, which would share equally after prize money had been distributed. The results of these enquiries would be known in January 1982.

Fund Raising A Flower Festival in the Church raised £ 184, the annual Gymkhana and Fete made £ 460, whilst a Tea and Produce Stall on the Green on the three mid-year Bank Holidays was well supported, all these in aid of Church Funds. A stall on Framlingham Market Place before Christmas made £ 30 in two hours enabling the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion (local branch) to send cards and gifts to 28 widows.

The Primary School which at present has nearly 50 pupils mainly from Ashfield, Creetingham and Earl Soham benefits from an Amenity Fund run by parents to assist Staff in helping children to benefit more from the school. The Fund, relying

mainly upon social events, has already provided a colour television set, musical instruments, a music centre, part of a reading laboratory, climbing equipment and arranged educational visits to museums etc.

Royal Wedding. The proceeds of a Jumble Sale/ Bring and Buy provided the means whereby the school children were given mugs to celebrate the occasion. These were presented on the Village Green whilst in the evening a parish party was held in the Hall, music being provided by Alec(Pettitt),

Entrilogy. Under this title a Festival of Music, Drama and Theology was held involving the C of E, Methodist and Baptist Churches of Framlingham and Earl Soham, featuring drama and theological students from London with local musicians,

Football Club. Mr. J.Sealy retired after three years as Chairman, Mr. Geoffrey Clarke taking over the post. Mr. Freddie Debenham, once chairman of Hendon Football Club, was appointed the first club President. It was unfortunate that the Club's acknowledged good past record should have been spoilt by an incident involving players and spectators which resulted in a disciplinary hearing before the County Association when three players were fined and suspended and the Club fined and warned about its future conduct.

Women's Institute. Mrs R.Crowe of Saxtead was elected President in succession to Mrs. B.Coggins. A donation of £ 60 was made to the Lifeboat Fund.

Youth Club. The Club for those of nine years upwards meet fortnightly on Fridays during the winter months. The programme has included a visit to Police Headquarters at Martlesham, arranged by Sgt. Carter, games in the Village Hall, and a Bangers and Bonfire party in celebration of Guy Fawkes.

Senior Club. The Club with a membership of 28, lost their President by the death of Mrs. Susan Gooch who had been Club Leader for many years. Donations to the Club in her memory amounted to £ 184. The new President is Mr. A.J (George) Whymark and Club Leader Mrs. Parfitt.

The death occurred on 30th May of Mrs. Clara Veasy aged 91 widow of Goff Veasy formerly of Street Farm.

The annual rent of a 10-rod allotment is now £ 1-25. There are three vacant plots opposite the Victoria Inn; those formerly in the Street are now incorporated into the field adjacent to The Willows except for the area used for the tennis court. The cast iron pump still stands.

Goodwin Diaries. Extracts have been made from the Diaries in the Record Office of Wm. Goodwin, surgeon and farmer of Street Farm, covering the years 1785-1812 in three volumes comprising some 800 pages. In addition to records and comments on local affairs are records and comments on European and World events supplemented by occasional clippings from the Ipswich Journal which possibly provided much of the background information. The task is not completed.