

THE MARLPIT

THE COMMUNITY PAPER FOR THE VILLAGES OF COLTISHALL,
HORSTEAD AND GREAT HAUTBOIS

www.themarpit.com



February 2003



Village Diary

February 2003



Tuesday 4 th	9.30 - 11.30	Salvation Army, Mini-Market with Light Refreshments
Friday 7 th	7.30 pm	Hoveton, Wroxham & District Gardening Club, Hoveton Village Hall, Flowers of South Africa
Monday 10 th	7.30 pm	10 th Royal British Legion, Church Room, Coltishall
Monday 10 th	7.30 pm	Coltishall Parish Council Allotment Meeting, Village Hall, Rectory Road
Wednesday 12 th	7.30 pm	Horstead With Stanninghall Parish Council Meeting, Tithe Barn, Horstead
Wednesday 12 th	7.30 pm	Wroxham Flower Club, The Church Hall, Wroxham, Workshop Evening, Jennifer Walters 'Designing a Mask'
Wednesday 12 th	7.30 pm	Marlpit Editors Meeting
Friday 14 th	All Day	Valentines Day
Saturday 15 th	7.30 pm	Coltishall Bowls Club, Bingo, Coltishall Village Hall
Tuesday 18 th	9.30 - 11.30	Salvation Army, Mini-Market with Light Refreshments
Wednesday 19 th	7.30 pm	Coltishall & Horstead Women's Institute, Church Room, Coltishall, Mr R Weston, Norwich Cathedral and Tales of the Unexpected
Wednesday 19 th to Saturday 22 nd		Jubilee Players, King Arthur, Tithe Barn
Thursday 27 th	10.30 am	Friends of Coltishall Church, Coffee Morning, Paddock Wood, Great Hautbois Road, Bring and Buy Stall, Cakes and a Raffle

March 2003

Monday 3 rd	7.30 pm	Coltishall Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, Rectory Road
Saturday 15 th	7.30 pm	Musical Evening, Simon Gallagher, Guitar - Classical to Jazz, Tithe Barn on March at.
Wednesday 19 th	7.30 pm	Marlpit Editors Meeting
Wednesday 19 th	7.30 pm	Coltishall & Horstead Women's Institute, Church Room, Coltishall, Mrs Clare Richards, From Nun to Mum to UNICEF
Saturday 29 th	TBD	Concert, The Musical Friends Choir and Aylsham Wind Ensemble, St John's Church, Coltishall
Saturday 29 th	7.30 pm	Slide Show, Mr Eric Reading, 'The River Ant from Antingham to How Hill', including the Villages in between', Tithe Barn, Rectory Road, Horstead.

Future Events

Saturday, 5th April
7.15 pm for 7.30 pm Start
The Royal British Legion, Quiz Night, Coltishall Village Hall

Front Cover Picture Be My Valentine

From The Editors



A belated Happy New Year to you all. It seems such a long time since the Editors met that it was rather strange getting back to business again this week. However, we were soon back in the swing of local affairs again and hope that you enjoy this first edition of 2003.

Sid Parkin has been busy over the holiday season contacting all our old commercial advertisers and sorting out our advertising section. Most commercial advertisers book a space for the year ahead although some will only want a space for a month or more. Please contact Sid if you wish to advertise; and if you forgot to renew your previous space or wish to take out a new advertisement do so now so that they can be included next time. Contact addresses and telephone numbers for all the Editors are on the back page.

We stated in our December issue that we would like to see the festive lights outside homes and business premises at Christmas and many homes especially made a tremendous effort. We had intended to put pictures of the lights on the web site but I am afraid that the photographs that we took were not of good enough quality to warrant inclusion so we did not publish them this year. Is there anybody out there that has some photographic expertise that would help us with photographs for the web site and the magazine? Please contact an Editor if you can help even on an infrequent or occasional basis.

One of our deliverers is temporarily unable to deliver so we are desperate for someone with a car to help out. Please contact Hilary Oliver for details. Thank you. Finally you may notice that we have included in the magazine a request that any item submitted to the Editors for inclusion in The Marlpit should have a name, address or telephone number attached. This is so that the Editors can contact you if there is a query over your item or advertisement. Sometimes I am afraid we do have difficulty reading people's writing and a telephone call could save many problems. We do not intend to publish the telephone numbers and addresses unless you ask us to do so.

Barbara Gidney

The Marlpit Website
www.themarpit.com



We plan to expand the website to include a tour of the villages with information and history on Coltishall, Horstead and Great Hautbois.

To do this we need help! We need historical articles about our villages! We need stories and personal memories about our villages! We need old and new pictures or photographs of our villages!

If you want to know more then get in touch with Ronnie on ronnie@themarpit.com.

Functions at the Coltishall Social Club

When somebody locally makes the effort to organise a function at the Social Club then I believe that it deserves an equal effort on behalf of the locals to consider attending that function.

It was on that basis that this year we purchased 5 tickets for 3 adults and two children for Coltishall Social Club's New Years Eve function. Mindful of the previous history of cancelled events we sought and obtained assurance that the event would definitely go ahead.

At 8.15pm on 31st December 2002 we duly arrive at the Village Hall car park. No cars parked there! As our car headlights moved round they illuminated a poster for the event with "cancelled" written across it. The person behind the bar at the club duly apologised, gave us our ticket money back and informed us that they had been let down by the band who had cancelled 4 days previously so they had to cancel the event. When I asked how many tickets had they sold he replied 29. At £5 a time it does not take a genius to work out that the income from ticket sales would not have even paid for the band and the possibility of a different reason for cancellation emerges.

A precautionary measure by the Social Club would have been to take a phone number for those who purchased tickets and this would have at least avoided our arrival, and that of others, for an event effectively cancelled 4 day previously. As it happens we were extremely fortunate to be able to find at very short notice an alternative and highly satisfactory new years eve event in Norwich.

Will we be purchasing tickets for any future 'events' at Coltishall Social Club? Would you?

MD

From the Post Office

Up until about a year ago, Elizabeth and I, and our children Becky (13) and Tim (5) were living in Florida. Why (you might ask) would anyone give up the warmth and sunshine to come and live in Norfolk? With the freezing weather this month we sometimes wonder ourselves, but the reasons included family connections in the UK, schooling and did we really want our children growing up in America? When we made the decision to sell up in the US and come 'home' we also decided we wanted to live in a part of the country that we liked, not on the outskirts of London or the Thames Valley. This part of Norfolk is an area we love – particularly the Broads with its sailing opportunities. So in December 2001 we flew back to the UK and rented a house in Wayford for 6 months while we looked for a suitable business to buy.



We weren't particularly looking for a village shop, but when we saw the Post Office and Village Stores in Coltishall it seemed to fit our requirements very well. Firstly it was in a superb location, both as a place to live and as a place for a business. Secondly, but equally important it was big enough for us to make a reasonable living from it. Many small rural post offices (and these are the ones that are sadly closing) are simply not big enough to support a family. To cut a long story short we made the decision to buy, and after a process that lasted several months, took over at the end of October.

The first two months have been hectic to say the least, but I think we are now getting on top of things. I can't remember much of November – it seemed to pass in a whirl of trying to take on

board everything involved in running both a Post Office and a newsagents and December was busy in the Post Office with everybody sending parcels all over the world. Now, with the New Year, we have chance to breathe, take stock and start planning for the future. We are not planning any major changes at the moment, but we do hope to start some redecorating and refurbishment over the next few months.

It is wonderful to be at the heart of a community and we are very impressed with the friendliness and welcome we've received here. We're looking forward to getting to know everyone much better over the next few months.

Steve Haines

* * * * *

News from the Post Office

“What are those numbery things, Mum?”

A good question overheard at the Post Office counter a week or two back, and one that has been repeated (in different ways) many times over the last few months.

The ‘numbery things’ are PinPads and are related to the changes in the way pensions and benefits will be paid in the future. Let me explain a bit more about the changes.



Some time ago the Government decided that it was time to introduce a more cost effective way of paying pensions and benefits. The current system works well, but costs a lot to administer. Just think about it. Pension books have to be printed and distributed for everyone who receives a benefit. When you come into the Post Office we have to tear out those pension slips when we pay you. We then have to sort them out and account for them, and dispatch them to a central processing facility which checks them yet again. All in all an expensive, slow, time consuming process. No wonder the Government wants to change it. So what are the changes and when will they happen?

Every benefit recipient will have three choices:

- a. Have your benefit or pension paid directly into an existing bank account. Since this is an option today, the chances are that this is not appropriate for most people currently drawing benefits from a Post Office.
- b. Open a new ‘basic’ bank account and have the benefit paid into that. Such bank accounts will be provided by the commercial banks and will probably be available to a wider range of people than normal bank accounts. It should be possible to draw cash from these accounts at the Post Office.
- c. Have your pension or benefit paid into a new Post Office Card Account. This will be a special account operated with a plastic card. Each week on the usual day, the benefit will be paid into the account and you will be able to draw out as much or as little cash as you want, up to the current balance in the account. So if you choose you can take out all the cash on your normal benefit day, just as you do now, or you can leave some in to help save for larger bills etc. To use the account you will need to bring the card into the Post Office, and enter the special Personal Identification Number (or PIN) on the “numbery things” on the counter. You can change the PIN number to one that is easy for you to remember.

When will this happen and what do you need to do? Firstly you don't need to do anything until you hear from the Government Department responsible for your benefit. You will continue to be able to use your pension book until it runs out, and we should still get replacement books for you as usual. At some time over the next year (or possibly longer) you will receive a letter inviting you to choose one of the options above. If you need any help with the letter or making the choice, please bring it in to the Post Office and we will help you understand which of the options is best for you.

If you have any questions at the moment, feel free to ask any of us in the Post Office. I will write more here about the changes as they start to happen, but don't worry if you don't hear anything – the Government has stated that it will take up to three years to change every body over.

Lotto – the National Lottery

Contrary to some rumours, Coltishall Post Office & Village Stores will continue to offer the full range of Online and Instant National Lottery games.

Post Office Opening Hours

Some of you will have noticed that the Post Office is now open through lunchtimes most days, although we haven't changed our official opening times yet. From mid-February we expect to be open all day Monday to Friday, including Wednesday afternoons, plus Saturday mornings as usual. We hope to be able to publish our new official opening times shortly.

Steve Haines

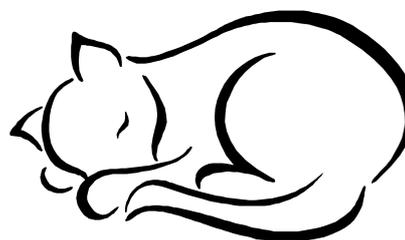
Subpostmaster, Coltishall

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Growing Up With Ben

There are two cats in our house, Lilly, a tabby, and Buster her kitten. Buster was a very large kitten and predictably grew into a very large cat. He is a black and white cat, mostly black, rather like the cat on the Felix ads.

On Friday 10th January at about 5pm Buster was run over by a vehicle on the bend opposite the garage in Coltishall. It was that time of day when people are leaving off work, end of the week etc., when they tend to drive faster than usual as they make their way home



We don't know who the driver was, they didn't stop. How they could drive over a cat that size and not realise it I don't understand. Maybe it was a "white van man", ear glued to his mobile phone, maybe it was just a commuter rushing home.

Somehow Buster was able to drag himself off the road and into the car park in front of the Chinese Restaurant where fortunately he was soon found. We were contacted and Buster was taken to the vets where as at the time of writing this article he remains.

As well as internal injuries, for some of which he has already had one operation, he has a fractured pelvis and hip joint.

Buster's recovery is slow, however, he is receiving excellent care at the vets and we visit him every day. Ben comes with us on these visits and has been able to observe what goes on beyond the reception counter and is also hopefully able to appreciate how vulnerable both animals and for that matter we all are to the dangers of road traffic and that great care must be taken when you are walking on the pavement or crossing the roads.

It is not unreasonable to ask motorists to also take more care. The 30mph signs are a maximum not a minimum.

MD

Fed up of the World Wide Wait?

Those of you who use the Internet from home will be familiar with the “World Wide Wait”. The graphic content of some web sites has become so intense that it seems to take forever to download a page of information. And if you want to download files containing, for example, video clips, music or manuals from the Internet, well not only could you go and make a cuppa but you could make a three-course meal in the time it takes!



One of the reasons that the graphic content, and indeed file sizes, have increased is because more and more people worldwide now have access to super-fast Internet connections. Therefore, there is now a demand for the fancy “bells and whistles” used in web page design to make the pages more attractive. Again, because of the increasing use of high-speed Internet connections, there is now a demand for high quality video and music files. Manuals or other documentation that just used to be text based now include high-resolution graphics, all of which increase the size of the file to be downloaded.

All of this is very nice for those that have access to the broadband Internet connections that provide these high-speed links but what about those of us who are stuck with normal modem connections?

Well, for now, we in Coltishall are stuck with them. However, we can do something about it. Recently BT has buckled to demand for more high-speed services in rural areas by setting up a registration scheme. Anybody wanting to sign up for ADSL broadband services should register through a service provider who will in turn feed numbers into a central BT Wholesale database.

The broadband registration database enables service providers to log end user registrations against a threshold level for the local exchange. When demand reaches the threshold for a particular exchange, BT Wholesale will inform service providers who will have 42 days to convert registrations into advance orders. When the number of orders confirmed meets required levels, and other technical criteria are met, the local exchange will be included in the build programme for ADSL deployment.

Unfortunately, Coltishall’s exchange is one of the many that have not yet had trigger levels set. However, the registration database will record interest against any exchange in the country. Should significant numbers of registrations be recorded against any exchange not previously reviewed, an individual costing review will be carried out and a threshold trigger level set.

The trigger levels that have been set for those exchanges reviewed to date have been between 200 and 750. The level set is dependant upon the cost of converting the exchange to use the current ADSL product. For example, there may be a need to increase the size of the building to included air-conditioning equipment. Sometimes, these works may result in the exchange not being viable for conversion, simply because the costs for that exchange would mean a trigger set so high that it could not be met. This recently happened to 74 exchanges reviewed.

However, if a particular exchange, after review, does not have a trigger level set, all is not lost. BT is pursuing alternative technical and commercial solutions for areas where demand for Broadband ADSL does not balance with the cost of upgrading the exchange. These include trials of satellite and wireless services and a number of joint public and private sector funding initiatives.

So if you use the Internet, and you want to help move Coltishall into the 21st Century then I urge you to register your interest with one of the service providers that are taking part in the registration scheme. A list of these is available at www.bt.com/broadband which has links to the service providers' web sites.

The above web site also provides access to a registration checker so you can check the registration level of our exchange. At the time of writing this article (4th January 2003) there were only 40 registrations, so a long way to go yet!

Benefits and Costs

ADSL Broadband will give you connection speeds of up to approximately ten times what you can currently get with a modem connected to your telephone line. ADSL uses your current telephone line (providing it passes certain line quality checks) with a special splitter to provide you with both telephone and Internet connections that can be used simultaneously. The modem used for the Internet connection is permanently connected to the Internet providing an "always on" connection. Hence, no more waiting for someone to get off the Internet to use the phone!

Monthly cost of ADSL can be as low as £20 with installation cost starting at around £85 "for a wires only" (self-installation of modem, splitter and filter) connection. See the list of broadband suppliers on www.bt.com/broadband for more details.

Trevor Williams

References:

www.dslguide.org/

www.btplc.com/Mediacentre/Archivenewsreleases/2002/

HERON

Local Health Information for Norfolk

www.heron.nhs.uk



Comprehensive and searchable source of self-help support groups, statutory and voluntary agencies covering the whole of Norfolk

For those who do not have a personal computer you can visit your local public library for free access

Developed by the Health Information Team, Eastern Support Services, St Andrew's House, St Andrew's Business Park, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0HT

Where can I find a local support group?

How do I get information about health services near my home?

Where can I find quick links to National Health websites such as NHS Direct, NHS UK, Department of Health and UK Online?

www.heron.nhs.uk

The Children's Reports of the Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale



Hello - this is Daniel from the Sunday School. On Saturday 18th January we had a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale. We had lots of games and stalls to raise money for clean water. We raised £427.48 for Uganda and Tanzania, and I helped my mum on the Toy Stall From the Sunday School . .

Daniel James Gordon Giblet (age 6)	Laura	Andrew
Sam	George	Rebecca
Iris	Melissa	Kathy
Jill	Claire	Joe
Linda	Karen	Teresa
Sally	Trish	Bradley

On the 18th January 2003 Iris and Jill organized a Blue Peter Sale in The Church Room. We did Bric a Brac, games like Lego Racer (my game), the Marble Game, Coin Over Coin in a bath, we also did a Book Stall with books from 2p to about 50p including music, piano and guitar books. There was a Cake Stall with drinks.

From your reporter **Andrew Mulligan**

Coltishall, Horstead and Hautbois Sunday School held a Blue Peter Sale on 18th January. The sale started at 2 o'clock, with stalls like bric-a-brac, toy and book, raffle and lots of fun games! There were loads of people and we managed to raise £427.48 to go towards helping to change drinking water, so that it doesn't make people ill. The sale finished at 4.00 and everyone was very worn out!

Kathy Mulligan

On 18th January, Jill and Iris arranged a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale where all the money that was raised went to Blue Peter and then Blue Peter would send the money to Tanzania and Uganda so that the villages there can install pumps so that they can have clean water to drink instead of dirty unclean water. The sale was held at the Church Room. In it there were all sorts of games and stalls. There was a Raffle too. Many prizes got given there but some had to be given to people at their homes. Many people came which made it an excellent day. But thank you to anyone who donated things. And thank you to everyone who came and helped us make £427.48.

Thank you again

By **Rebecca Edmonds** (11)

Donations subsequently received brought the total to £651.32

Extracts from the Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Coltishall Parish Council
Coltishall Village Hall, Rectory Road, Coltishall, Monday, 6th January 2003



Facilities for the youth of the village

Discussion took place regarding a meeting place for the youngsters of the village and a sub-committee was formed to locate a suitable site.

Mr Chris Reilly, a Broadland District Council Youth and Community Officer is prepared to run a workshop in the village.

Editor

It is not clear as to what activities would be available at such a workshop but presumably this will link with the efforts being made to locate suitable premises.

PC Moore undertook to contact schools regarding visiting and talking with the children.

Editor

At present there would seem to be nowhere for the youngsters in the village to meet and have the opportunity to take part in productive and interesting activities. As such they tend to gather around the Londis shop where the opportunities for socially acceptable activities are clearly limited. It is encouraging that positive efforts are being made to improve this situation and if any youngsters wish to express their views in this respect or if any villagers have any ideas then the Marlpit will publish any such letters.

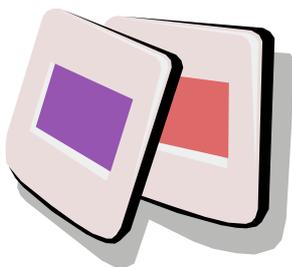
Homewatch Scheme

PC Moore suggested that the village start up a Homewatch Scheme as a crime prevention measure.

Editor

The Marlpit will help in any way possible with this idea and would invite PC Moore to provide any details of such a scheme that could be included within future editions of the Marlpit.

Slide Show towards Horstead Playing Field Fund



This has been arranged for Saturday, 29th March 2003 with Mr Eric Reading and will be entitled – ‘The River Ant from Antingham to How Hill’, including the Villages in between.

The Tithe Barn, Rectory Road, Horstead. Commencing at 7.30 pm. Doors open 7.00 pm.

Tickets at £3 including Refreshments - Available from 9th January from Horstead Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk.

Christine Roe Tel: 01603 738804

Extracts from the Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Horstead Parish Council

Held in the Tithe Barn on Wednesday, 8th January 2003



Matters Arising:

Jubilee Tree Guard - This had now been erected together with the plaque.

Tree across Mill Towpath - This had been cleared by Mr Gurney who had also sent a letter expressing concern regarding the condition of the path, which was in danger of disappearing into the river. Mr Brighton informed the meeting that this had already been discussed with the Broads Authority and it was understood that monies from the NEWS Grant were to be used for upgrading. After discussion it was agreed to write to the Broads Authority for confirmation.

Correspondence:

George V Jubilee Oak - Mr Germany had contacted the Chairman expressing concern that the Jubilee Oak, which seemed to be leaning towards the road. After discussion it was agreed to contact Ms McQueen (arboriculture and conservation officer) at BDC for her opinion.

Precept:

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was that a precept of £8,100 be applied for, for the year 2003/4. This would work out at approximately 43p per week per Band D household (A - C would be lower and E onwards would be higher).

Included in the sum was £250 towards Churchyard Maintenance, Internal and External Audit costs, together with the expense of maintaining the Playing Field and Equipment, Bus Shelter maintenance and Litter Picking etc. Also included was a £500 contingency fund which in previous years the Council has not maintained - a classic example for the need of such a fund was the sum of £400 to clear the trees around the village pond.

Mill:

Mr Brighton reported that the wooden bridge over the sluices had now been removed and safety railings erected by the Environment Agency, at no expense to the village.

Following the recent continuous rain a large hole had appears at the edge of car park where it joined the concrete bridge over dyke. This had been drawn to the attention of Broads Authority and repair was imminent.

A replacement seat had still not been purchased but samples were awaited from Glasdon of recycled materials used in their "Phoenix" style seat (£335 85).

A reply regarding a proposed weight restriction on Mill Road had been received from County Hall. The area had been inspected by their traffic engineer who did not think such a restriction would be appropriate.

Tithe Barn Representative:

Mr Gowlett had said that he was prepared to serve as the Council's representative on the committee and it was proposed by Mr Neville and seconded by Mrs Duckworth to put his name forwards

Playing Field:

Aerial Runway - Following our purchase of replacement pulley the work was contracted out to Adventure Playground Ltd, unfortunately they were unable to fit this pulley owing to new

legislation governing playground equipment. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the pulley to be returned to Ansell Jones with the hope of a refund.

Adventure Playgrounds had submitted their own quotation for supply and installation of a suitable replacement pulley for the sum of £525.06 plus vat.

Mr Neville proposed that Adventure Playgrounds should be authorised to carry out the work and also that a letter be sent to the Poors Land Trustees explaining the situation and enquiring if they would be able to help towards costs of the work, seconded Mr Benton.

The Chairman pointed out, that due to the current safety regulations, in future all work would have to be carried out by a registered contractor. The day of 'Goodwill' work by parishioners or council members had gone. The risk of claims precluded such work.

NCS Grass Cutting Contract - The price for 2003 would be £463.70 plus vat.

Plans:

Gravel Extraction Meeting - 20th December 2002 - This was cancelled to allow further traffic surveys to be carried out. To date no new date has been set.

Longwater Gravel Co Ltd - Grange Farm Horstead - A letter, dated 24th December 2002 had been received from NCC regarding the above application for gravel extraction, this states that - "The Longwater Gravel Co Ltd, have made an application to the County Council for mineral extraction at Grange Farm, Horstead. The Council has not yet determined the planning application and the Company has appealed to the Secretary of State for planning permission.

The Appeal will be determined by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State and any comments which you made to the County Council at the application stage will be passed to the Inspector for consideration. If you wish to make any additional comments"

After discussion it was agreed that there was no need to make any additional comments and the Councils original objections should stand.

Application No. 2003007 - Randell Ltd, Mill Road, Horstead, Residential Development (Outline)

1. After discussion it was proposed by Dr Watts that the following objections should be raised, seconded by Mrs Duckworth:
2. The demolition of a much loved building, Malthouse, one of the few remaining industrial buildings left in the village.
3. The density of the development is inappropriate for a Broadland village bordered by a conservation area and water meadows.
4. Part of the development invades the privacy of existing properties.
5. The building line of the proposed development is outside the building line of existing properties fronting Mill Road.
6. The entrance and road through the development are inadequate for any service vehicles and vehicles visiting properties and as a consequence this would cause safety problems for people using footway along Mill Road.
7. The development will exacerbate the already congested junction with the B1150.
8. There appears to be insufficient play areas for the number of properties Proposed.

Next Monthly Meeting – 12th February 2003

Thank You

Judy Clifton and family would like to thank everyone for the cards, letters, phone calls and donations for Macmillan Nurses following the death of Graham.

Special thanks to Dr Neil Taylor and District Nurses, Robert and Team of the Chemist and Carers Tracy and Team.

Notice

Norfolk County Council (Horstead, Norwich Road) (Prohibition Of Motor Vehicles) Order 2003

The Norfolk County Council propose to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding in the length of road specified in the Schedule below.

A copy of the Order and plan, together with a statement of Council's reasons for making the Order may be inspected at County Hall, Norwich, and at the offices of Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, Yarmouth Road, Norwich, during normal office hours.

Written objections to the Order, specifying the grounds thereof, must be received at the office of the Department of Legal Services, for the attention of Mrs L Page, by 25th February 2003.

The officer dealing with public enquiries concerning the proposals is Mr K Ashley-Greaves, telephone 01603 228809.

In the Parish of Horstead Prohibition of Driving

Norwich Road North-west side - From a point 13 metres north of the B1150 Norwich Road/B1354 Rectory Road junction eastwards for a distance of 12 metres (across the southern entrance to the Recruiting Sergeant Public House)

**Open House at the Coltishall Surgery
To say farewell to Dr Leaney**

Friday 31st January 2003. 7.00 - 8.30 pm

RSVP at Reception



Good Luck



I would like to wish Teresa good luck and every success in her new venture as Proprietor of Shades Hair Fashions.

Congratulations.

Audrey Riseborough

Cardboard

Coming to a site near you!

Broadland District Council will shortly be introducing new cardboard recycling facilities at several sites in the Broadland area. The scheme will be piloted over the next 6 months with a view to expanding these facilities in other areas in Broadland is successful. The skips will be placed at current large recycling centres, mainly supermarkets. Initial banks will be placed at:

- ASDA, Hellesden, Norwich.
- Somerfields, Old Catton, Norwich.
- Sainsbury's Homebase, Sprowston
- Sainsbury's, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich
- Bure Valley Railway, Aylsham.
- Tesco, Sprowston, Norwich.



Please place all your cardboard in these banks such as boxes, cereal boxes, cards, packaging etc. Please do not place paper.

For further information on recycling please call our recycling hotline on 01603 430575.

Don't know what to do with your old Yellow Pages?

Recycle them in you local paper bank between 14th February and 11th April 2003

Your local banks are:

- Coltishall Social Club Car Park
- Tesco, Blue Boar Lane
- Homebase, Rountree Way



Broadland District Council – Recycling Hotline (01603) 430575

Do you know that the “Happy House” is open?



What is the Happy House you ask?

A purpose built facility for play and education for children of all ages.

Who runs it?

Tricia & Julie, two qualified OFSTED registered child minders with many years experience in childcare.

Where & when?

We are situated in Hoveton and are open Monday Friday 8am - 6pm (although we can be flexible). We offer either full time, part time, after-school care or even holiday cover at very reasonable rates.

How can you contact us?

By ringing 01603 782740 or 07971 409289 anytime.

Coltishall and Horstead Women’s Institute



Christmas started in late November when a party of ladies enjoyed an excellent Christmas meal at the Weavers Arms, Swanton Abbott.

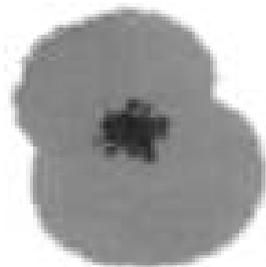
The December meeting continued the party mood when husbands, partners and toy-boys joined the ladies for a buffet supper in the Village Hall. Entertainment was provided by Dorothy and Betty, experts in ‘Mardling’. They provided a light-hearted look at being a ‘Domestic Operative’. The evening concluded with a monster raffle – no-one went home empty handed.

A very varied and interesting programme has been put together for the New Year and a warm welcome awaits members new and old on the third Wednesday of each month in the Church Rooms, Rectory Road.

Happy New Year everyone.

Judi

The Royal British Legion



The Silent Tribute and exhortation at our January meeting were led by the Chairman, Bob Jennings. After normal Business members expressed concern at the proposed payment of pensions etc. through banks instead of the Post Office. The feeling was that the information currently available was not very lucid in its meanings.

Legion Headquarters has requested Branches to discuss a review of funding benevolent work.

Currently the Legion provides grants through the immediate needs scheme to resolve (mostly) temporary crises. These grants include the provision of clothing, food, household goods, mobility aids, the hospital and Housebound Visiting Scheme and much more. It also offers advice, representation at tribunals, and creates partnerships with other organisations for special projects to assist the ex-Service community.

Research is suggested along the following guidelines:

Debt Counselling services, Accessing Occupational Therapy assessments (e.g. Stair Lifts, Bath Hoists), Access to Welfare Rights Advocates and Advisors, Specialised Mental Health support and finally Loneliness (an important factor for those who are living on their own and often confined to their home).

It was agreed to discuss this at our next Branch meeting which will be on Monday, 10th February in the Coltishall Church Room at 7.30 pm.

Do You Remember??

After our Quiz last April we were asked if another could be arranged. Well, here it is - 5th April in Coltishall Village Hall. Tickets £5 each (includes Ploughman's Supper) are available **now**. Make sure you get your team (up to 8) together.

We wish a Happy and Peaceful New Year to all Marlpit readers.

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January is very often a time of year that I dread for a couple of reasons (which will probably seem very silly to you). First of all I always feel a little depressed because it is the end of another year and I shall be a year older, the years seem to have been speeded up now into 'fast forward mode', especially since the children started to arrive! And also I usually feel guilty that I should be making a few New Year resolutions, things like taking more exercise and being more organised, the usual things. I actually gave up making New Year resolutions years ago, because like many other people I probably managed to keep them until about the third week in January if I was really determined or the 2nd January if it was just a normal year.

I suppose the start of the New Year is also a traumatic time for the players that are involved in our pantomime. February is not so far away now and as many of you know this is when our pantomime is due to be performed, so panic is starting to set in. And our director, Neil Phillips has uttered those two words, which strike fear into many actors – 'BOOKS DOWN'. Now these words might seem quite innocent to those of you who aren't mad enough to act, but to us it is quite terrifying. You know you have to learn your lines, but February is next year, it's a long way off, I'll do it after Christmas, as I really haven't got time now. These are just some of the things that I know I would probably say to myself. It would be about here I would start wanting to make a New Years Resolution!

Its not just the learning of lines which causes havoc, the actors also have to move about whilst they are saying these lines. Now you can guarantee that they will know their lines when they are practising in the car, whilst walking the dog or in the bath. But at rehearsals, when Neil asks them to do something else at the same time, you can bet that those lines that they were saying perfectly only an hour ago will probably disappear from their memory. Or even worse the director asks to go back to something or does a scene out of sequence or does the scene a second time this will usually bring about amnesia too.

As I am prompt this year, I keep being informed that they know their lines really well. I haven't quite figured out why they keep doing this, perhaps they think that I am really scary and I might shout at them or even worse beat them with a stick, neither, of which I intend to do! But don't tell them that will you?

Actually to be fair, they are really good and this year you (the audience) are in for a real treat. We seem to spend most of rehearsals laughing, well, I think it is because the pantomime is so funny, but then again it might be hysteria on the directors part, I'm not sure! And I have had a sneak preview of some of the costumes and the scenery and as usual they are really fantastic.

All that is left for me to do is to wish you a very Happy New Year, good luck with the New Year resolutions and also to remind you to buy your tickets for King Arthur. Don't forget the performances start on the Wednesday 19th February at 7.30pm, Thursday 20th February at 7.0pm. There will be two performances on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd February, the first will be at 2.30pm and the second will be at 7.30pm. I can assure you that you will have a great time watching it and of course, by then the actors will know their lines really well so I can sit back and watch the performance too!

Jayne Downing

((01603) 736450 [✉ jayne@tinkies.freemove.co.uk](mailto:jayne@tinkies.freemove.co.uk)

* * * * *

Badminton Club Tithe Barn, Horstead



Additional players are needed for this Club. Any age or ability, friendly standard of play only.

We meet Monday evenings from 8 – 10. Just turn up on the night, or ring Carl on 738399.

Cost is only £2 per evening. Good fun and good exercise! Hope to see you!

* * * * *

Wellington Dance Group

Once again the group had a successful year in 2002. Although some members have departed, for unavoidable reasons, we still remain an active band of dancers. For those of you that may have recently arrived in our 'Two Villages' the group is active every Thursday evening (Theatre Productions excepted from 8 – 10.30 pm. The aim of the Group is to promote Ballroom Dancing within the local area.

We provide a facility for those who can dance, or who are learning to dance and wish to gain extra practice time. Whilst we do not provide tuition, all our regular members are only too pleased to offer help and guidance where necessary.

Dancing is to 'Strict Tempo' music (CDs), linked to the in-built surround sound system. All standard Ballroom and Latin dances are catered for plus the Ballroom and Rock and Roll Jive.

Its irrelevant what standard you may be, as the evening is an informal social occasion, providing an opportunity to meet new people, have a relaxing and pleasant time and also loosen up those dormant muscles! We do, however, respectfully request that newcomers joining the Group 'long-term' wear the appropriate footwear to prevent unnecessary damage to the building floor which was laid a while ago at great expense!

So, if this activity appeals to you, then please ring the number below for further information, or better still pay us a visit On a Thursday evening and judge for yourselves!



Kay & Dave Cox
737907

News From The Bell Tower

As you may have guessed, because there has been no article of News from the Bell Tower recently. I have been away for several weeks, but it's catch up time now and I find that of course December and January appear together, and I was back in this country too late to catch the last printing day! but as they say, "Better late than never".

I thought you may be interested to read the newspaper article sent to us all the way from "Down Under", reproduced below for you, it seems that they also have a shortage of bell ringers, and some members are Tower Captains of more than one church. The bands of ringers go from place to place, or should I say, church to church so that the congregation can hear the bells ringing out. We are very fortunate at the moment at Coltishall, because we have a very dedicated band of ringers, who always do their best to make up the numbers for weddings and Sunday services etc. When I think of the many towns and villages with churches and bell towers, also a good population, and they are all silent, I feel very proud of our own group and the effort they all put in, especially on the Monday night practises, everyone is very keen to learn more, and we are very fortunate to have the help of experienced ringers. I am sure we give them a few headaches along the way, but still they come again to help, many thanks to them. I will spare their blushes by not mentioning any names, but I am sure they know who they are.

So on a final note let us all hope above all things for a peaceful New Year, and good health, as we wait for the nights to start pulling out, and the bulbs to peep through the ground, when we can look forward to saying "Spring is just around the corner" as it always is, and hopefully always will be.

Audrey Weston (Secretary)

Meet The Faithful Few With Praise Ringing In Their Ears

Geraldine O'Brien
Heritage Writer

The bells rang out from St Mark's at the weekend to celebrate the church's 150 years at its Darling Point home - but if the current shortage of bell ringers carries on, there are doubts that future anniversaries will be marked in the same way.

On any given Sunday members of this arcane fraternity wander from church to church- Catholic or Anglican, it doesn't really matter - to ring the bells.

Basil Potts, tower captain at St Mark's, fills the same role at Christ Church St Laurence on George Street.

Helen Whitsed, who is a student of Mr Potts and took up bell ringing a year ago at the age of 54 rings at three towers: St Mary's Cathedral, Christ Church St Laurence and St Benedict's Catholic church on Broadway. "I know of a group whose home tower is St Jude's (Catholic Church) at Randwick, who go to St Benedict's and then to St Andrew's Anglican Cathedral," she says. Some ringers are not religious. Others are, but - like Mr Potts - may be members of one congregation and attend another church as bell ringers.

It is, in every sense of the word, an ecumenical occupation.

Where the bells toll:

- St Benedict's, Broadway
 - St Paul's, Burwood
 - Wesleyan Chapel, Castlereagh
 - St Mark's, Darling Point
 - All Saints, Parramatta
 - St Jude's, Randwick
 - Christ Church St Laurence, George Street
 - St Andrew's Cathedral
 - St Mary's Cathedral
 - St Philip's, Church Hill
 - St James, Turramurra
-

"There was a chap at St Mary's who died in the bell tower not so long ago," Mr Potts recalls.

"He was a Quaker. The ringers were very touched by his death and had a memorial service for him up in the tower which was conducted by the Dean of St Mary'.

"Then there's a chap I taught from Malaysia who was quite hostile to any form of religion at all, but he just loved bell ringing. It's an amazing little activity that people can take part in even if they're not comfortable with church, or religion, itself."

Ringling a bell "full-circle" means using a rope and wheel to turn the bell through 360 degrees - a skill ringers say does not require great physical strength.

Mr Potts says all you need is to be “healthy enough to get up the stairs - that takes more effort than to ring the bells”.

It often attracts “people with computer skills, the sort of people who are attracted to the mathematics of it”.

The Australian and New Zealand Association of Bell ringers says the simplest method is called Plain Hunt, when each pair of bells changes places, with the ringers having to memorise successive positions of their own bells.

It’s not surprising then that Mr Potts says “it does help if you can count backwards and hold two or three sets of figures in your mind at once.”

He estimates there are probably a couple of hundred bell ringers in Sydney, many of whom learn young, drop out during the busy years of marriage and children, then come back to it later in life.

Apart from ringing for services, the commitment also extends to weddings and other special events, as well as regular practice sessions.

But for Ms Whitsed, bell-ringing is just “huge fun”.

“There’s nothing but the personal satisfaction and pleasure of doing it well and being associated with people who share your enthusiasm.”

Wroxham & Hoveton Lions Club – February 2003



December & January Update: December was a busy month, we were pleased to be able to help so many local organisations and families. Special thanks to customers of The Broads and Hotel Wroxham who year on year place gifts for local children under Christmas Trees in the hotels. Lions VP Mike Barker and Tom Tungate did their Santa Claus duties before Christmas distributing them along with food hampers supplied by Richard Hadleigh of Londis. We had our annual bucket rattle outside Londis with the proceeds of nearly £200 going to the Night Shelter.

It's nice to be able to present money to local charities, during December we had the opportunity to make our selves visible at Christmas events held by Rackheath CP, Salhouse Guides and Friends of Coltishall CP – we thank them all for allowing us to take part in those events and gain a little publicity with our presentation cheques.

Our shop continues to surprise all, the girls' work very hard sorting the donations, steaming the clothes and grading and pricing the bric a brac. If any one would like to be a friend of the Lions I am sure Lion Lesley would be able to use more pairs of hands in her rota of volunteers. It's not an everyday requirement, an afternoon or morning once a week or fortnight – who knows, it's infectious and fun and could lead to more. The draw for those who give items, held every month, saw a cheque for £100 go to the Norfolk Fibromyalgia Group on behalf of Jean Kimberley, The Avenues Wroxham. Once again special thanks to the Salvation Army for a 2 car donation – its great to receive large amounts, space is limited in the sorting area and as with the SA a telephone call to say you're coming is appreciated. Tel: 01603 783737

We have boxed up our first batch of spectacles from our collection points, we have one in Chemists in the High Street Coltishall, thank you Robert and the girls for keeping the sweet papers out. Two Age concern shops and Anglia Optics in Norwich and Pennington & Yates in Hoveton also have bins. You can just about pack 100 pairs in good size 6 bottle wine boxes, 4 boxes of 350 + pairs are on the way to Chichester Lions for sorting and despatch to countries less fortunate than ours – many thanks for your contributions and keep them coming.

The Lions never stand still but January & February are not traditionally very active in other fundraising events. We do however have our internal functions, Wroxham & Hoveton always hosts the January Zone Meeting of clubs in our Area – it is planned for January, as it is usually the worst month to travel. In February we have a lunch on the anniversary of the Clubs Charter, the 27th year of continual fun and fundraising. Our guest speaker this year is to be Peter Mendham, the Norfolk Fund raiser of the East Anglian Air Ambulance who will have to sing for his lunch.

We have started to make preliminary arrangements for our 50/50 Auction in April – it is a long way off but only 2 more Marlpit editions to make our mark. We collect good items of furniture, bric a brac, pictures, garden equipment and sell them at auction in Hoveton Village Hall, another guest at our Charter Lunch is Martyn Fox of Keys gives his services free at the Auction. Please think of us – last year we brought a tear to Peter Mendham's eye with another cheque for £1500.

More Information next Month

Thank you for the kind words we received following the presentations and these monthly articles. The Lions Clubs International are pleased to be Ordinary People doing Ordinary things, we need more of us though – why not give us a look, we have good fun and would welcome you.

Lion President David Pye Tel: 01603 738 599 E-mail: davidpye@lineone.net

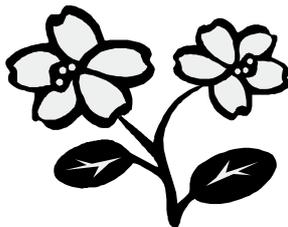
Hoveton, Wroxham & District Gardening Club

We are a very friendly club enjoying a variety of illustrated talks not only on gardening but associated themes. We would be pleased to see you at any of these talks, for further information contact Pam Culley on 01603 782041. Only £5 subscription per year.

Calendar for 2003 as follows:

February 7 th	Flowers of South Africa
March 7 th	Three Way Quiz
April 5 th	Spring Show
May 2 nd	ABC of Spring and Summer Flowers
June 20 th	Visit to Beth Chatto Gardens Essex.
July 4 th	Garden equipment old and new
August 1 st	Creatures and Fungi that cause lumps and bumps
September 6 th	Autumn Show
October 3 rd	Pot plants
November 7 th	Alpines
November 16 th	Annual Gardening Club Sunday Lunch
December 5 th	Lake District to Music
January 16 th 2004	AGM, Slides and hints for showing flowers and vegetables





Wroxham Flower Club

The Church Hall, Wroxham
Start 7.30 pm

Wednesday, 12th February 2003

Tonight we are having a Workshop Evening with Jennifer Walters 'Designing a Mask', cost £2.50 to include the mask.

For further information please telephone our Chairman, Sandy Harmer on 01603 738582. Refreshments will be served.

Table Top Sale

Thank you for the helpers who helped me on the Table Top Sale.

The money made, which was £35, is being sent to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for the Very Sick Children.

Mrs J E Bland

The Attic Hair Studio

7 The High Street (Above the Antiques Centre), Coltishall, 01603 736777

And overwhelming response from new and existing Clients has given my first month of trading a positive boost. I'd like to start by thanking my clients, for their comments, such as, 'cosy, inviting atmosphere', 'professional and luxurious'.

If you have not already experienced 'The Attic Hair Studio' I'd like to welcome you to a full treatment, including, to start, a relax on a cosy sofa, full consultation, professional product prescription and, more importantly, a relaxing and Happy Atmosphere.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new and existing customers.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year for 2003.

Klare Goodyear

Bingo



**Saturday 15th February, 7.30 pm
at
Coltishall Village Hall**

Proceeds for Coltishall Bowls Club

**The Royal British Legion
In aid of Coltishall & District Branch Funds**

**Coltishall Village Hall
Saturday, 5th April 2003
7.15 pm for 7.30 pm Start**

Quiz Night

**All Welcome - Teams of up to 8 people
TICKETS £5 EACH**

(including PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER)

Available from

Bob Jennings, 3 Rectory Road, Horstead - 738335

Charlie Smith, Rectory Road, Coltishall - 737544

Benjy Jordon, Grove House, 40 High Street, Coltishall - 738325

The Social Club, Rectory Road, Coltishall - 738435

RAFFLE

