



This year's bumper fete
Is that really the sun up there?



Worth a trip
The new and improved Tide Mill



Pigging out
The Jubilee Hog Roast goes off with a crackle

inside eyke

ISSUE 10 AUTUMN 2012

Goodbye to the summer
(such as it was)



Image Simon Slitch

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NEWS & EVENTS

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EDITOR'S letter



Greetings to all, and welcome to the September edition of Inside Eyke. This issue is of course full of reminders of the special events that have taken place over the last few months – the Jubilee parties, the Olympics, the annual village fete – but hasn't it been an odd summer weather-wise?

At the beginning there were prayers for rain in All Saints church, but by mid-summer many were quietly praying for the rain to stop... As we got to the end of the wettest July and August in memory, the drought and hosepipe ban had become a distant memory. Simon Sutch did manage to snatch some lovely photographs, though, in the brief periods between one torrential downpour and the next, and we reproduce one on the cover here, as a reminder to all of us of the timeless beauty and serenity that a Suffolk summer can bring – when it wants to.

The observant, and the more than averagely interested in beer – I shall not reveal which category I fall into – will have noticed comings and goings of skips and lorries and what-not at the Elephant & Castle. Yes, the rumours turned out to be true for once, and the pub has been bought by Ian Howden and Sandra Parry. Ian is originally from Hull, but is familiar with the area as he lived in Tunstall in the 70s and 80s.

Sandra is from Barnet, Herts., and kept a pub near Alconbury for ten years. They are working very hard on getting everything shipshape, and hope to open the doors around the end of September or beginning of October. They will have a quiet opening to begin with, and then hold a proper Opening Night when the inevitable glitches have been ironed out. Let's give them a big welcome and support them as much as possible: we are very lucky in Eyke to have once again the full set of shop, pub, church and school that makes for a lively, living village.

We are always on the look-out for interesting stories, ideas for stories, news, views, features or anything else that you think might suit Inside Eyke. Please feel free to drop me an email at t.marr123@gmail.com or just come and see me at 3 Ufford Rd. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all the editorial team, but particularly this month to Ron Cushing, who got Inside Eyke going in the first place and then edited it so ably. Cheers, Ron! A very fine effort, and much appreciated.

The next issue should be out in December. Meanwhile, let us hope that the autumn is one of mists and mellow fruitfulness, rather than raging storms and horizontal rain... [i](#)

Please note the following dates for your diary:

All Saints gift day 22nd Sept
Harvest supper 22nd Sept 7pm
Christmas Tree Festival 7th, 8th,
9th Dec
Christmas Tree Festival
Evensong 9th Dec 5pm

Volunteers and contributions to
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Memories of the Fete

Robin Pooley



When we were children, here in Eyke, there was always a bonfire on November 5th, on the Rec. No-one organised it:

there was only the knowledge of the date and the fact that there must be a fire. During the half-term holiday, and after, a loose assembly of children would gather and pile all the material necessary for an impressive conflagration.

I'm sure that to many casual observers it may seem that Eyke Fete happens in much the same way.

There is a Sunday in July when, almost as an expression of the place itself, people appear at a particular garden, erect the covers and tables, lay out the games and, at half-past-two, invite all in attendance to partake of simple but satisfying pleasures.

So it seems, but so it is not.

We who play bit parts respond to the prompting and direction of Mike (assisted by Gerry for some years now). Without him, for more than a third of a century, much, if not all, would have been overlooked.

I don't know how long there has been a fete in Eyke. My earliest relevant memories have the event on the small meadow between Eyke House and the Rectory, where there are now two substantial plots, each with its own bungalow.

One event was called: "Pitching the shoof", which involved a high, moveable bar on stands (rather like a pole-vault arrangement) over which the men, using a pitchfork, would try to propel a sheaf of corn. When one succeeded, the bar would be

upped a further six inches (I guess) and he would be in the lead till the next successful pitch.

It caused a little irritation and much grudging admiration that the winner was usually Dr Paulley from Eyke House, who stood well over six foot and had the strength (and for all I know, maybe the experience) of a varsity rower. The regular prize was a piglet which had waited all afternoon in a box.

A successful fete is never guaranteed: the sun does not always shine, and for two years of the past 35 the event has fled to the shelter of the village hall. On two other occasions, when the Vicarage was rented out, it has moved, one year to Isabel and Nasser's garden, and on another to the school field. When the house was sold, most of us expected a change of venue, but the Brigginsaws, generous of spirit, have warmly welcomed the event.

For more than 20 years, Pat Ashton's brother brought his Trad Jazz band, and since then, Crawford, Bernard, Karen and friends have played their music to enhance the afternoon.

This year's fete raised £2,100 the highest total ever. It was also one of the very best that most of us can remember. Between two cool, wet, blustery days, the Sunday was a lovely summer's day, and it seemed that many who attended were gladdened by a brief respite from what had, till then, been a wet and gloomy season.

In looking back over the years, Mike, and many of us, will remember Bill Jennings, Phyllis Hatcher, Roma and Sibyl Lyon, the Lancasters, and Pat Ashton, and others, all now gone.

All these contributed: all helped make something that just seemed to happen. With Mike moving to a well-earned back seat, it's now up to the rest of us to decide and make the future. [i](#)

For a bumper crop of pictures from the day, head to the centre pages



For several years the village has been lucky enough to have a very attractive website, run voluntarily by Katy Bell. Katy is no longer in a position to do this, and thanks are due to her for all the time and effort she has freely given during this period. Currently other options are being investigated, and we hope to have a new website up and running in a few weeks.

The internet is so much a part of most people's lives these days, that we expect to be able to find out about pretty much anything at the touch of a few keys. It is important, therefore, that the village has a presence there. We know that in the past we have had 'hits' from around the world – one of the articles in an early issue of this magazine was by Rod Sherwood, who lives in South Africa, but has local ancestors. He made contact having seen the website. Currently, I am in touch with a lady from Canada through the same means. She is researching her family history in the Wantisden area, and we hope to meet up when she comes to England next summer. People living and working far from home often like to be able to keep in touch, so it is probably more important to them than to those actually living in the village, who have the traditional grapevine, at least!

Perhaps this is why there have been few takers for the village e mail: by going to www.eykevillage.info and entering your

name and e-mail address, you can subscribe to one or more of a variety of lists and receive automatically parish council news – information about meeting dates, planning applications, minutes and general items of interest within the village and the wider community. The advantage of this over the grapevine is that you avoid the 'Chinese Whispers' effect! The Parish Council wants people to be involved in what happens within the community, and to feel that they are part of the decision making process within the village. Obviously, if it continues to be poorly supported, the facility will be shut down when it comes up for renewal next year.

By the time you read this, Suffolk Coastal should have made a decision on the Bentwaters Masterplan application. The matter goes before the Development Control Committee on 7 th September, at which an Eyke parish councillor will speak on the village's behalf. This matter has taken up a great deal of time, energy and money over the past few years, and it will seem strange to face a new year without the issue looming large at almost every meeting. What is certain is that something always materialises to fill the gap!

As there is still some money in the pot left over from the Jubilee celebrations, the parish council has decided it would be appropriate to refurbish the village sign, and add a commemorative plaque. After all, Diamond Jubilees don't come along very often, and this is an opportunity to record the occasion.

Just a reminder, too, that the Parish Council meets on the second Monday of every other month: details are e mailed to www.eykevillage.info subscribers and placed on the village notice boards in good time, and once we have the new website available, all the details will be posted there too. Members of the public are welcome at these meetings, and there is an opportunity for them to raise matters during the Open Forum. [i](#)

Jackie Pooley, Clerk

Karen's Garden: Autumn bulbs

Karen Watson

There are many beautiful bulbous plants that bloom in autumn, producing colour and adding a fresh face when the rest of the summer border is fading. In late August and into September and October these bulbs make a wonderful display in our gardens.



Colchicum appear in late August and September with the flower colour coming in a range of pinks – from just a hint to purple-pinks, as well as a beautiful white. Their foliage grows in spring and dies off by June. They like a place in full sun so the flowers

can open allowing their colour to develop.

Autumn crocus is the common name for Colchicum, though it leads to confusion with the true autumn crocus. True Autumn Crocus grow well in grass and below trees and look better naturalised. The blue flowers of Crocus speciosus look wonderful combined with the

pink or white flowers of cyclamen hederifolium.

Cyclamen grow happily almost anywhere but again look good naturalised in drifts under trees or grown in a raised bed, rock garden or alpine bed.

Amaryllis belladonna needs a warm sheltered area to grow. Its leaves are produced in winter and it flowers best after a long hot summer.

Nerine bowdennii has a bright pink flower.

It grows in summer and flowers before going dormant during the winter months. It does not need a hot, dry site to grow (as is commonly thought) but thrives better in an ordinary border as long as it is not smothered by other plants. [i](#)

JOBS FOR AUTUMN

Repair lawns by saving extra grass seed.

Treat perennial weeds.

Begin planting spring flowering bulbs like narcissus and tulips.

Take cuttings of tender perennials like pelargonium and fuchsia.

Clear up plant debris in borders.

Lift and divide perennials.

Keep deadheading dahlias to prolong display.

Frank Pooley shares his memories



Little did the teenage Frank Pooley know when he started caddying at Woodbridge Golf Club before the war, to earn 1s 7d an hour, that seventy odd years hence his golfing exploits would make him a local celebrity. Last winter Frank achieved the amazing feat of hitting two holes in one within a few weeks, just before and after his 89th birthday. He belongs to Waldringfield Golf Club now, and is a proud member of the WAGS - Waldringfield Ancient Golfers Society.

Frank is a familiar figure in the village, and for some years, including 2012, has had a key role on the gate at the Eyke village fete.

He is now nearly 90 and has a lifetime of tales to relate. He's seen a lot of changes. As a boy, there was no electricity or running water at home. Water had to be drawn from a well. He remembers when red squirrels were commonplace in Suffolk.

The youngest of ten, and one of seven brothers, as a child he walked from home in Bromeswell to school in Eyke with his next youngest brothers, Sam and Ray. Highlights of his early years included times spent with his brothers and other youngsters in the company of the Rev Shadwell who taught them all to swim in the nearby Deben, and introduced them to other sports such as darts, fishing and boxing.

For some reason the Rev Shadwell was known as 'Daddy Whitesocks' and Frank considers the education he learned from him equalled or even surpassed what he gained from formal schooling!

As a youth he was enthusiastic to follow in his father's and brothers' footsteps and join the navy, but his father had other ideas for him, so he joined the Territorial Army when he was 16. He saw service in the war in the Royal Artillery, after initially serving in the

Suffolk regiment. Duties took him to Egypt, Palestine and Italy, and latterly at the end of the war, to India, where he was recruited as a fire officer. Looking back over the years, having developed his own views on life, he says of his war days 'I'm not ashamed of what I did, but I'm not proud either'. He spent some time at Martlesham Heath when Douglas Bader was also there.

After 17 years in the MOD police at Orford Ness on the Atomic Energy Base, life took him to London, Weathersfield, and then back to his roots in Suffolk. He says, with understatement, that Eyke is 'not a bad place to live'.

He loves looking out over the Deben valley from his sitting room, and has strong family ties here too, with son Robin and daughter Dawn in the village. The family continues to grow. He is very proud of his nine grandchildren, and in July became great-grandfather to little Eliza, his fourth great-grandchild. The others are boys - Angus and Thomas in Melbourne, and Luca closer to home in Colchester.

His three-times weekly golf sessions are now a major part of his life since he sadly lost his wife Elizabeth a few years ago. He came very close to hitting a third hole in one this summer! [i](#) **Janna McKendrick**



Jubilee Hog Roast 2nd June 2012

With many anxious glances at the sky, and a sudden fascination with TV weather forecasts and the met office website, those involved in the preparations for the Jubilee hog roast stoically continued with their preparations in the Best of British tradition, in an early summer which had promised much, then failed to deliver at the appropriate time. The bulldog spirit extended to the guests attending, too: a warm and balmy few days in the preceding week meant the tickets sold out in a sudden surge of optimism, and some people came without, armed with their own picnics, to enjoy the rest of the proceedings.

The day itself, June 2nd, dawned dry, and if not exactly summery, there was sunshine at times. There was a collective sigh of relief, but fingers remained crossed for a good few hours! The marquees and bunting had been put up the previous day, then the big garden

games – Connect 4, Draughts, Jenga, Skittles arrived in the morning, and the hog in the early afternoon, ready to finish cooking in situ. Gradually, a mouth watering array of salads and wonderful desserts materialised, prepared by willing volunteers with flair, ingenuity and a degree of patriotism – the Union Jack cake and pavlova were very popular.

In no time at all, the Rectory Gardens were filled with people carrying chairs, macs, blankets, and all manner of bags and even coolboxes. There was a small moment of panic – would one hog and the salads really serve over 180 people? Mark and Chris, the ‘hogmasters’ were confident that one hog would go round, and with several people overseeing portion control at the salad bar, everyone was fed. Not a crumb was wasted; pigs’ trotters were offered up to people in the queue for food, along with plates of

crackling. It was suggested the carcass could be left for guests to pick at during the evening, but it didn’t last that long: as soon as seconds were announced, the ravening hordes descended and the carcass was reduced to bones in minutes. Mark was most impressed – he said he had seen nothing like it before!

The evening entertainment was provided by The Alibi Club, a five piece rock, pop and blues band, who really created a fun atmosphere, and got people up and dancing, providing much needed physical activity to warm everyone as the temperature plummeted. Many guests went home to fetch coats, and gloves, even extra blankets, and duvets, determined to carry on the party. How glad they must have been that they stayed, and, having witnessed the arrival of her Majesty the Queen in all her finery – rumour had it that she and her entourage were staying at a popular camping site on the outskirts of the village – they were then treated to a regal wave from her at an upstairs window of the Rectory, where she was accompanied by Prince Philip, who, to

huge roars of applause, also acknowledged the crowd below in his own well loved way.

The unseasonably cold evening meant that quite a few guests left earlier than they otherwise would have done, especially those with children, but around fifty or so stayed and danced to what could be called the bitter end. It certainly would have seemed very bad etiquette for everyone to leave before Her Majesty, who was obviously really enjoying a good old knees up.

The next morning dawned cool and drizzly: as the volunteers met to do the final clearing up they realised that, despite the cool weather, it was fortunate indeed that it had kept dry, and for the most part, sunny. And as Her Majesty travelled down the Thames on her gilded barge in the rain, just a few hours later, surely her thoughts must have turned fondly to that lovely afternoon and evening in The Rectory Gardens, Eyke, where she was able to enjoy, in beautiful surroundings, the company of a happy group of people who, in their turn, were part of a Diamond Jubilee celebration they will always remember. [i](#)



EYKE FETE 2012

The 2012 fete, held chez the ever-accommodating Briginshaws, as is now traditional. In the middle of a soaking wet summer, a small miracle happened, and the rain stopped for a day. Fantastic! Fun was had, money was raised, and Eyke basked in the sun. The marquees were folded away for another year, and the next day the rain started up again.





THE TIDE MILL, WOODBIDGE

The Tide Mill stands proudly as the symbol of Woodbridge and the river Deben – one of the first working tide mills in the country and unquestionably the last.

In 2011 the Woodbridge Tide Mill received approx £956,000 of lottery funding for refurbishment. Along with further money raised by the Tide Mill Trust, a total of £1.3m has been spent to bring the building to its present glory. The ancient building is a treasure chest of history and bursting with information. After the recent restoration it boasts models to demonstrate the sluicing action to turn the water wheel, press button inter-active models and films and computer generated images to illustrate all parts of the milling process. There are puzzles and games to keep the kids happy as well as glorious views over Woodbridge basin and the river Deben. You can see the new oak water wheel which has been constructed by the International Boat Building College at Oulton Broad as well as enjoying milling events. But how much do you know of its working history?

A mill has stood where the Woodbridge Tide Mill now stands since the twelfth century. During the middle ages the mill was owned by the Augustinian Canons of the local Priory, at which time their tenants were obliged to send their corn to the mill to be ground, thus allowing the Priors to collect their 'fixed portion'. Woodbridge Priory was dissolved by Henry VIII and its lands granted to Sir John Wingfield. When he died without issue the mill reverted to the Crown. In 1564 Queen Elizabeth granted it to Thomas



Seckford for £764.8s.4d. The Tide Mill remained in the hands of the Seckford family until 1672 when the line came to an end. It then passed

through the hands of several private families until owned by the Cuttings in 1792.

It was the Cuttings, coal merchants and farmers, who undertook the reconstruction of the Tide Mill. Work began in 1793 when the present mill was built on the site of the earlier mill with the addition of new warehouse space and improvements to the quay. In 1808 the mill passed through several other private families until its purchase by the Haywards – it was Alfred Hayward who refurbished the nearby granary.

In the latter years of the Hayward ownership the mill's weatherboarding was covered with corrugated iron sheeting. Undoubtedly, this action saved the

ancient building by binding the decaying timbers in a tight skin. By the late 1920s the condition of the mill was causing concern, though despite these problems the mill continued to work to full capacity. It is unlikely that flour was ground at the mill during the post war years. Instead barley meal and peas were ground for animal food. In 1954 the mill was purchased by John Matthews who installed a new diesel driven hammermill which bypassed the conventional machinery. The hammermill ground one ton of grain per hour

but the waterwheel stood idle. In 1957 the 22 inch square oak shaft of the waterwheel broke. There was no question of repair so the last working tide mill in the country closed.

Fortunately for Woodbridge, Mrs. Jean Gardner purchased the mill after attending a lecture stressing the urgency of rescuing Woodbridge Tide Mill. The mill was handed to the administration of the Woodbridge Tide Mill Trust and an appeal launched in 1971 for £50,000 to fund restoration work on the waterwheel and machinery, removal of corrugated iron cladding and further major restoration, allowing a quarter of a million people to pass through its doors since being opened to the public in 1973.

Today the mill works in the same way that

it has for generations. The pressure of the incoming tide opens sluice gates, called mitre gates, in the bank and fills the pond. As the tide falls the first outflowing water closes the gates, now firmly held in position by pressure of the trapped water. In the old days when the tide had fallen sufficiently the miller opened the sluice gates at the mill race and the released water rushed out to turn the wheel. The mill worked approximately two hours either side of low tide. The miller's day depended on the movement of the tide so his working hours were highly irregular and it was not unusual for him to work through the night. Grain was brought to Woodbridge by barge or wagon to be unloaded and stored in the Granary (now converted into flats). Wheat was raised to the bin floor by means of a sack hoist and fed through chutes to the hoppers of the mill stones. After being milled by the scissor-like action of the rotating upper stone the meal fell into bins on the floor below where it was bagged, weighed and set aside for collection.

Woodbridge is fortunate to have this lovely historic building in its midst and especially after its revamp it is a great place to take friends and family. So if I have whetted your appetite for more why not pay the Tide Mill a visit. They open from 11.00 – 17.00 hours every day through the summer and weekends in April and October. [i](#)





Summer celebrations at Eyke Primary School

At Eyke we do not go in for half measures and we certainly didn't with the Jubilee and then also for the Olympic Torch Procession!

During the week of the 28th May to the 1st of June we held a very busy Sports Week organised by our PE specialist Mrs Armfield. This Sports Week culminated in a fantastic Sports Day with competitive team activities

in the morning followed by heats and races on the track. These races were celebrated in style with Gold, Silver and Bronze medals on our own Olympic Podium! The atmosphere was amazing and we cheered enough to luckily keep the rain away until just before lunch.

During the last few races Mrs Hassan and

our MDSAs set up the school hall for our Jubilee Street Party lunch which many children enjoyed with their parents and families. Coronation chicken and jam tarts and much more! Villagers joined us for this lunch too and Mervyn Whitmore kindly judged our Jubilee Summer Hat competition. The hall was jam packed and quite noisy with a party atmosphere.

After lunch the children had a chance to rest after all their activities whilst the FOES (our PTA) set up the playground and field for the Summer Fayre. We had lots of great

stalls and even had the Police Tractor on the playground for the children to sit in with all its lights flashing.

Thankfully the following week was half term so a well deserved rest for all!

We were lucky enough to be invited to join Ufford Villagers celebrate the passing of the Olympic Flame too on July the 5th. Mr Buckland kindly agreed to ferry us down to Ufford Recreation Ground, where we all had lunch and our playtime, then at the required time Crown Nurseries Staff escorted us through their grounds to a prime position in their entranceway. It was amazing, the atmosphere was electric and the help we received was great. The weather was kind (perhaps too kind as we cooked waiting for the flame to go past) and we cheered ourselves hoarse. What an experience!

We are sure this new autumn term will be just as exciting and positive! [i](#)

Wendy Kelway



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Mike Fisher & the Fete

I think it's time to say thank you to Mike Fisher. After 35 years he is relinquishing the organisation of Eyke Fete.

Mike bought Two Gates in 1975, helped the vicar (Pat Ashton) with the fete for the next two years and took hold of the reins in 1978 after making the village his permanent home.

During that time the amount raised for the hall and the church amounts to well over £50,000.

I feel that when Mike says: "There's not a great deal of work involved" he means it, but the interpretation requires us to recognise the rare qualities he possesses. He talks to everyone and brings us together for the event.

If we consider his other roles in the village relating to the church, the hall and a little

further afield, to the rugby club, and then include all the innumerable personal kindnesses that many of us, in and beyond the village, have experienced, we see that they add up to a very remarkable total contribution indeed.

I'm writing this in the knowledge that many of you will wholeheartedly agree with my thanks

He's not planning to leave us, but he thinks this is a good time to let others have a go.

I'm writing this in the knowledge that many of you will

wholeheartedly agree with my thanks, but I haven't done the rounds to get a list of names to put at the end, so perhaps when you see him, you will make your own acknowledgement in some way.

Thank you Mike. I hope you'll enjoy very many more Eyke Fetes.

Robin P

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The day the Olympics came to Eyke

I'm sure we all spent much of August watching the Olympics on television but you probably didn't realise that the 2012 Eyke Olympics were held at 196 The Street on August 8th. Anna Couzens, her three boys Joe, James and Ted invited their friends Jess (the only girl), Mason, Josh and Liam to join in the fun. All the children are pupils at Eyke Primary School.

Events held in the garden of 196 were hurdles, football, badminton, shooting, egg and spoon race, space hopping and the 100m sprint. The children put their heart and souls

into the events, despite odd visits indoors for drinks and petting the cat.

Olympics were briefly suspended at lunchtime so that crisps and nibbles could refuel the athletes. Anna's friends Dawn and Sharon helped judge, update the medal board and keep the athletes in order.

James Couzens (5) was the overall winner followed by Ted (almost 4), then Jess (7)

Medals were freely dished out and a great time was had by all. But I think Anna deserves gold for organising such a great day. [i](#)

