

## **NEATISHEAD, IRSTEAD AND BARTON TURF PARISH NEWS**

### **THIS MAGAZINE** *April 1976 (no.1)*

We hope you have enjoyed it. It is our first number. It is an experiment. We used to distribute 150 of the NE Norfolk Country Churchman. We have ordered 200 copies of this. The following have kindly agreed to act: Editor, The Lady Delia Peel, Barton Hall; Asst. Editor, Mrs. Alice Dennes, Wiston Place, Neatishead; Business Manager, Mr. Herbert Rees, The Cottage, Irstead Road, Neatishead.

### **YOUR GREAT STRENGTH** *April 1976 (no.1)*

"Tell me wherein thy great strength lieth?" This was the question put to the strong man of the Old Testament, Samson. It is a text which I have sometimes used when preaching in the old days to St George's Day Parade Services for Scouts. It is important sometimes to be told where your strength really lies.

First, Neatishead's strength lies in the number of people who still support and value their Church and all it offers them and there are many more of you who would come back if you could only find the strength to take the first step. So to you dear real Neatishead people I say "Hold fast and come back". Second, Irstead, your great strength lies not in great occasions or in rousing hymn singing but in the still small voice and to the clear vision which comes from the prayer of meditation. Through this your influence can continue and there is no influence more badly needed. Third, but my no means least, Barton Turf. My brief period of responsibility with you has shown me clearly your great strength – your determination, your fortitude, your self reliance (as long as you make it God-reliance); above all, I think your strength lies in the fact that you have cultivated the quality of counsel, i.e. being encouraging. The bells in your church tower may be silent, although I hope not for much longer, but the spiritual bells of your strength sound clearly.

*Canon Fox*

### **OUR COUNTRYSIDE IN SPRING** *May 1976 (no.2)*

South-western winds blowing gentle rain and the sun warming the land herald the start of spring for the farmers. Lambs gambol in the field on Peel's farm and throughout the daylight hours the roar of tractors can be heard everywhere. These machines are sowing the barley for our beer, beet for our sugar, potatoes for our dinner and oh those lovely peas, bringing that dreadful gunfire for a season.

Winter wheats require a top dressing of nitrogen to help increase the yield, so don't be alarmed if you see an aeroplane diving over your chimney pots. For this is not target practice but the local spray aircraft doing this operation. The pungent smells in your nostrils are the unmistakable odour of the hormone weedkillers used to clean up the cereal fields – for we modern farmers do not harvest the tares with the wheat. The grass is lush so that the cattle thrive after their winter rations, and cows produce a richer milk. The trees and blossom are bursting bud whilst the birds nest in hedgerows and pheasants and partridges are being nursed for next season's kill. Walk the lanes and enjoy our countryside at its best.

*R. F. Gunn*

**IRSTEAD CHURCH - Reflection on the past and present** *July 1976 (no.4)*

They say that people do not come to church now, that the country churches are empty. They should come to Irstead. The little church is often full, not just with old women, not just with women, but with men, women and children of all ages, and surely the spirits of 'just men made perfect' who have worshipped here, right back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. They must be with us too. As one who has had a home in Irstead for over 70 years, I often muse on the changes this church has seen since I first knew it - I remember an Easter when the only ornament on the altar was a jam jar of daffodils, no cross or candlesticks, a contrast to last Easter when the altar was worthily furnished and the flowers there, and in the church, breathtakingly beautiful. Then there were those winter Sundays, when the only service was at 3 o'clock, and the congregation numbered two, beside the one who played the organ and the child who received 2d a week for blowing it. Our only heating consisted of oil stoves standing down the aisle, rather smelly, and inclined to smoke.

*Hilda Russell-Wells*

**THE MAGAZINE** *October 1976 (no.7)*

The members of the Church of England churches in the three parishes feel that they would like to offer this magazine to the community for its own uses. Any organisation which has something to communicate to the rest of us is encouraged to get in touch so that subject to space, their 'copy' can be given a place in this monthly news. The cost will be 6p per copy or 70p for the year. To help us to run efficiently and to pay our bills as we go and not least to help our distributors we hope that people will pay for a year in advance. This will start with the November issue. So far we have had some new offers of help but we are always looking for more to help keep this little community 'News' going.

**GRANADA TV** *October 1976 (no.7)*

On the following Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, it is the turn of Barton Turf to hold their Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Of particular interest this year is the fact that Granada Television have asked if they can televise the Harvest decorations. They are not actually televising the service because it is mainly the building itself, decorated appropriately for harvest, that they require for a feature film on the four seasons of the year in the countryside. They have asked however if they could record one of the traditional hymns, since they have heard from afar the merits of our Barton Turf choir.

**MAGAZINE NEWS** *November 1976 (no.8)*

October 13<sup>th</sup> - At a meeting in the Village Hall, it was unanimously decided to ask the PCC's not to put a price on the magazine. It is hoped that readers will very kindly subscribe, because a copy should certainly go in the name of the church, to every household. Distributors gratefully welcomed.

**NEATISHEAD SIGN** *January 1977 (no.10)*

On a bright cold Saturday morning in November the Neatishead Village sign was unveiled by Mrs Moulton (deputising for Lady Preston, who was ill) and blessed by the vicar. It was then handed over to the Parish Council with a cheque for its future maintenance.

**THIS AND THAT** *November 1976 (no.8)*

At the WI Harvest supper 105 (members and husbands) participated –as always – in a heartening feast and entertainment.

NABS production of 'I'll get my man' was packed out on both evenings and they invited Ludham friends to the dress rehearsal. Victory Hall funds were nicely helped but above all NABS deserve to be thanked for giving a performance of high standard, obviously rehearsed and studied in great detail, and for making us laugh.

Jonathan Peel was enrolled as County Commissioner for Norfolk and Norwich Scouts on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We wish him well in this further service to the Scout movement.

WI meeting, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Mrs. Elias on Paper Sculpture

Another lucrative coffee morning was held at Mrs. Geoffrey Neave's for the Barton Bowls Green.

Bowls – The 'White Horse' Bowls Club finished their season with a tea at the White Horse Inn.

School News – The netball and football teams look very smart in their games 'strip' of black and white. In four recent games the girls have lost two and won two. The boys have 2 draws, 1 loss and 1 win.

Cubs – It is hoped that next month news of a leader may be reported.

Brownies – Meet every Thursday at the school. There were five enrolments on September 30<sup>th</sup>

**JUBILEE OF NORFOLK PUNT CLUB** *February 1977 (no.11)*

Fifty years ago enthusiasts met at the Bridewell Museum to found the Norfolk Punt Club. Their aim was 'to preserve and if possible improve the traditional local type of punt, and to encourage competitions in quanting, rowing and sailing of the same'.

The punt, originated on Breydon Water, was mounted with a formidable seven foot swivel gun, used by wildfowlers. The transition from working boat to racing craft came in the 1920's and the punt was recognised as procuring fast sailing at low cost. Since 1936, apart from the war years, Barton Broad has been the club's headquarters. After the war, when a new design was essential, Mr Gerald Sambrooke Sturgess, caused Nottingham Boatbuilders to produce a hard chine plywood punt, Scoter, which established the Norfolk Punt as the fastest dinghy in the country. The club at present has 420 members, mostly not punt owners, and there is greater talk than ever about glass fibre punts.

*With acknowledgements to Commodore David Adler and the EDP*

**CHANGE OF EDITOR** *May 1977 (no.14)*

We do thank Lady Delia for her personal contribution to what is accepted by all as a first class production and believe she may be right in recommending a frequent change of editorial control is good for the magazine. "It is bad enough", one can hear her say, "to have to put up with the parson every year without being landed with me for ever and a day".

*Vicar Norman Mitchell*

**BOWLING GREEN** *June 1977 (no.15)*

Two years ago, having nowhere to play Bowls, the WI searched for a new location. In a corner of Barton Park, a rough piece of land attracted their attention. Captain Peel agreed to the plans, and then started many hours of hard work. The culmination of this endeavour was the opening of the Barton and Neatishead Bowls club.

**VICTORY HALL**    *June 1978 (no.27)*

Next year, 1979, will be the Diamond Jubilee of our Victory Hall and any suggestions on how to mark this special occasion will be very welcome. So many people help in so many ways to keep the wheels oiled and turning in our Vintage Hall, many improvements are still needed. But with your continued support they will be effected in as short a time as possible.

**NOTES FROM NEATISHEAD RECTORY**    *April 1980 (no.49)*

The magazine editorship: We will next month be publishing our fiftieth edition of this magazine and it gives me the chance to remind you of the good work which our editors and assistant editors undertake. The system of editorship was set by Lady Delia and has been adhered to since she was editor. Someone is invited to be assistant editor and carries out that duty for one year after which a new assistant is invited to join the panel while the previous assistant steps up to be editor and the editor gracefully retires. This means that the task does not become too burdensome because it is of known duration and it always brings a variety of talent and personal contacts to this important task.

**MAGAZINE TITLE**    *May 1980 (no.50)*

It occurs to me that, except as a printed title each month, we never refer to the 'Barton Turf, Neatishead and Irstead News' as anything other than 'The Magazine'. Anything more seems rather longwinded and pompous. By changing Neatishead and Irstead around in the title we could achieve a short title 'The BINN'.

**SHARING QUEEN MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY**    *August 1980 (no.53)*

Lady Delia Peel went to London as a specially invited guest to share the Queen Mother's 80th birthday celebrations. Formerly Woman of the Bedchamber to the Queen Mother for 11 years, Lady Delia was invited to the service at St Paul's Cathedral in her capacity as Extra Woman of the Bedchamber. "It was a marvellous service and I was very happy to be there," said Lady Delia.

**FILM MADE AT VILLAGE SCHOOL**    *October 1980 (no.55)*

Neatishead village School is certainly antique. In fact our school, built in 1871 will be on a film aimed to show tomorrow's top teachers that old village schools still turn out top class pupils as any modern educational equivalent today. The film, being made by Norfolk Education Committee, will play its part in lectures for newly qualified teachers.

**NEATISHEAD FETE**    *November 1981 (no.68)*

Enjoy yourself - and help to pay the bills.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September is not just another date for another church fete. This year it is very special for Neatishead villagers to turn out in force for an enjoyable afternoon - to help pay the Parish Church's outstanding repair bills. Already in 1980 bills for over £2000 have come in to pay for essential repairs to preserve the structure of the Church. Lots of workers are busily pulling out the stops to make the Fete at Holly Grove a very special event for everyone from Barton, Irstead and surrounding villages. Highlights of the afternoon include a Punch and Judy show and pony rides.