

This parish has had a variety of spellings in ancient documents, viz.:- Alburrowe, Aldeburgh, Aldeberwe, Akenberwe, Audeberg and in the Domesday Book Aldeburga. It is now pronounced “Arbborough” and spelt Alburgh. Its name signifies the “old burgh”.

Village Appraisal, Parish Plan and Stories Relating to Life in Alburgh

Edited By
Brian Pearce



Left: Alburgh All Saints Church; flag at half-mast in respect of the death of the Queen Mother.

Below: Denton with Alburgh Fist School.

Bottom: Alburgh Village Hall

Photographs taken during 2002.



Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are due to the following organisations that have helped financially with the production of this book: the Countryside Agency, Harleston Development Partnership, South Norfolk District Council, Alburgh Feoffees and Alburgh Parish Council.

The editor is extremely grateful to all those who have produced text, pictures or information to make this publication possible. Also to all those who helped with the Village Appraisal Questionnaire, the collectors and all those who gave their opinions willingly on so many issues.

Before this book is even published the results of the appraisal have been used to produce a Parish Plan, which is now being implemented under the supervision of the Parish Council.

Published by Alburgh Parish Council 2003
Printed and bound by
Thorndick & Dawson Limited, Norwich



Preface

In 2002, Alburgh Parish Council decided that a village appraisal would be helpful to them. Following an open meeting in the village hall a small committee of volunteers led by Brian Pearce commenced work.

The appraisal took place in late January early February 2003 with some ten villagers delivering and collecting from every household in the village. The response was very encouraging with almost 90% of people completing the questionnaire at least in part. The combined results have been analysed and many matters of concern were raised and have been addressed in the formulation of a Parish Plan.

Together with the approved Parish Plan for Alburgh, the questionnaire and the results are published in this book.

In an effort to make the book interesting to all residents, in 2003 as well as future villagers, a number of stories mostly illustrated with old or modern photographs about the village and its villagers are included.

Most of the stories recall the author's recollections of the past and as such may not be absolutely accurate. On their behalf I apologise if anyone finds inaccuracies.

Opposite: School Corner Post Box – ancient and modern



Above: 1953 Coronation group.

Below: Floods of 1921 Wrecks Railway Line at Homersfield.



Above: May Tree Cottage Church Road.

Below: 1953 Coronation Party in Old Village Hall



Contents

PART ONE – VILLAGE STORIES

1. William Pearce Remembered <i>by Joyce Leeder</i>	7
2. Cinderella <i>by Margaret Kerrison (nee Andrews)</i>	9
3. Tuesday Group <i>by Jane Denny</i>	13
4. Alburgh Homes <i>compiled by Brian Pearce</i>	17
5. Tennis <i>by Trevor Wright</i>	43
6. Village Hall <i>by Margaret Kerrison (nee Andrews)</i>	45
7. Alburgh W.I. Scrapbook 1965	47
8. Town Lands <i>by Kathleen Flatt</i>	53
9. Village Charities <i>by Bob and Kit Flatt</i>	55
10. Clocks & Other Engineering Projects <i>by Colin Walton</i>	59
11. Lawrence Aldous <i>by Lesley Lloyd</i>	61
12. Tom Reeder <i>in conversation with Jean Syrett</i>	62
13. Alburgh Weddings	63
14. Poems <i>by Geoffrey Wilyman</i>	65
15. Wartime Memories <i>by Dorothea Menai</i>	67
16. All Saints Churchyard <i>by Julia Higbee</i>	69
17. Rectors of Alburgh	72
18. John Wright leaves Moat Farm	73
19. Cabells, County Gaol & Australia	77
20. Alburgh in the News	81
21. First Impressions <i>by Kate & Robert Banbury</i>	89
22. Memories of White House Farm <i>by Raymond & Norman Whittaker and Joan Steventon</i>	91
23. Alburgh Geology & Hardwick Airfield Tip <i>by Dr Murray Gray</i>	93
24. Alburgh Church Bells <i>by Paul Cattermole</i>	95
25. Queen Elizabeth's II Silver Jubilee 1977	97
26. Forty-Five Years at Moat Farm – <i>by Jack Syrett</i>	99
27. Alburgh Footpaths <i>by Bob Flatt</i>	104

28. A brief History of Alburgh <i>by Terry Mayes</i>	105
29. A History of Alburgh Parish Council <i>by Ruth Walton</i>	109
30. Alburgh School and other Memories <i>by Nora Ambrose</i>	119
31. Church <i>by Rev Ian Bentley</i>	125
32. Alburgh Village Hall <i>researched by Edward Renaut</i>	129

PART TWO – PARISH PLAN & APPRAISAL

1. Parish Plan <i>approved by Parish Council</i>	133
2. Village Appraisal Questionnaire	137
3. Village Appraisal Results	149



Top left: Fire at Abbey Farm



Top Right: Church Road Post Office



Bottom Left: An early tractor rescue



Bottom Right: Alburgh Poultry for sale

Willie Pearce *remembered by Joyce Leeder*

I was 13 years old when my family and I moved into a little cottage in Alburgh next door to my grandma and grandfather; their names were Rosa and Charlie Brook. My grandfather and Willie Pearce were great friends even in spite of their age difference.

I think Willie inherited the job as vergers at Alburgh church when he was only 22 years old. His grandfather died who was vergers at the time and Willie just took his place as he had always been with his grandfather at the church ever since he could walk and he knew exactly what to do.

He was always there ever since I can remember lighting fires and trimming and lighting the oil lamps that hung by a pulley from the roof.

As he was a postman, he started work very early cycling to Wortwell Post office to pick up the mail, sort it out and then deliver it; he started out at 6 am. So in the middle of the day he was home until he had to do the evening delivery (yes in those days we had two deliveries). As most funerals in those days were in the early afternoon or late morning he was always there at the church and see to everything.



Young Willy with his canine friends

When my granddad died in 1935, my granny said when Willie was dropping the soil onto the coffin while the Rector said “Ashes to Ashes, dust to dust” Willie’s tears were dropping down too.

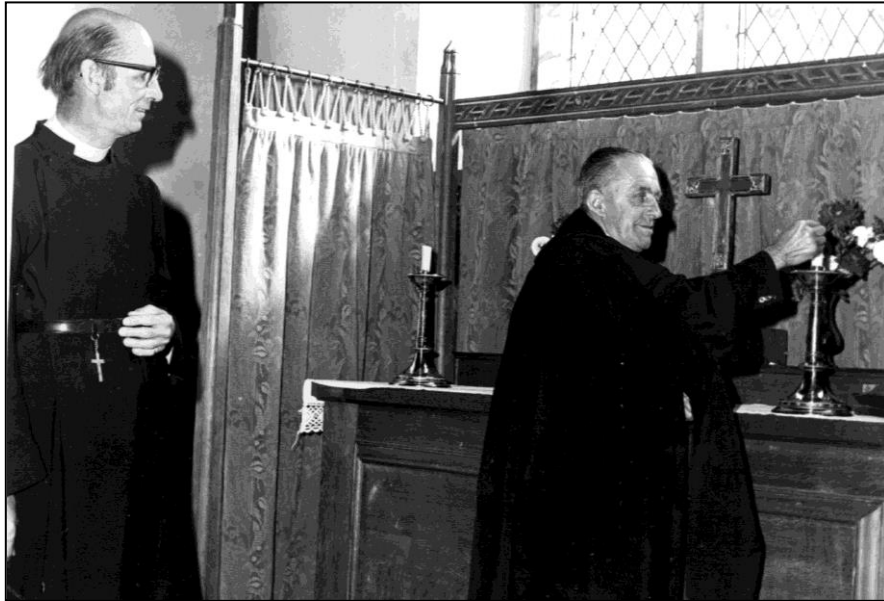


Willy Pearce as Alburgh Postman collects his mail from Wortwell Post Office

I remember one day, I don’t know why, we were standing side by side on the road looking down the drive to the church steeple and Willie said quite seriously, “I love that church” and I knew he really meant it.

During his last years, when he was left alone, ill in his little bungalow Reverend Napley used to bring him Holy Communion and he always asked me to go along and share the service and the sacrament with them.

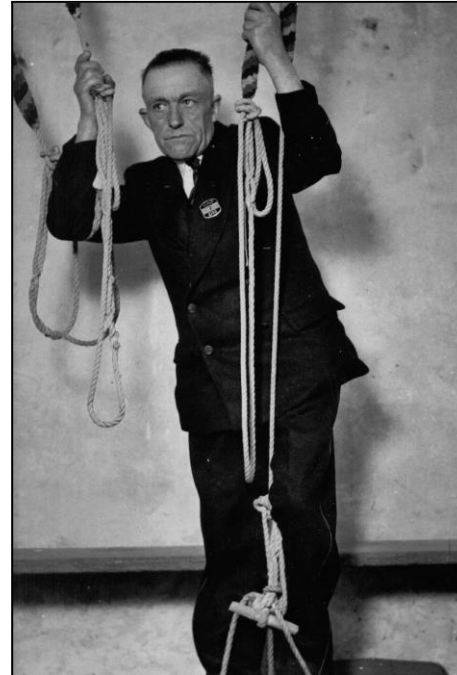
When Willie died it was hard to picture Alburgh Church without him, but as you know life goes on.



Willy Pearce prepares the Altar for Rev Robert Close

Willie lost his wife in a very tragic way, she used to have fits and one day in her unwell state she wandered down Vinegar lane and fell in the stream and drowned. I can remember it well, the police wanted to lay her body in the old village hall and I was caretaker of the Hall at that time and I was seven months pregnant with Adam, they were afraid it would upset me, but it didn't. I think pregnant women have an instinct to protect themselves and the baby. They keep calm and quiet themselves, whatever happens around them. My mother-in-law also died whilst I was eight months pregnant with Adam.

Willie loved taking part in village activities, I also remember when Willie was dressed in a wet suit and his part in the play was "Wet Willie". Mrs Close said do you think Willie will be offended? He took it all in good part and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

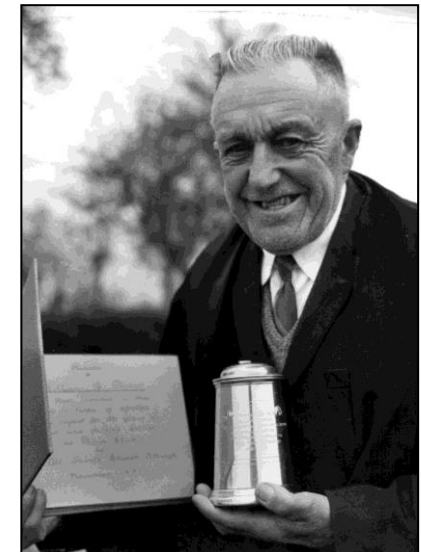


Above: Willy chiming four bells for Sunday Service.

Right: Willy receives his book and tankard in appreciation of 50 years service as Parish Clerk to All Saints Church Alburgh in November 1971.

Willie also showed great ability with the Alburgh church bells. He was able to, and did so every Sunday; chime four bells all by himself. He would have a bell on each elbow one in each hand and the fifth on his foot.

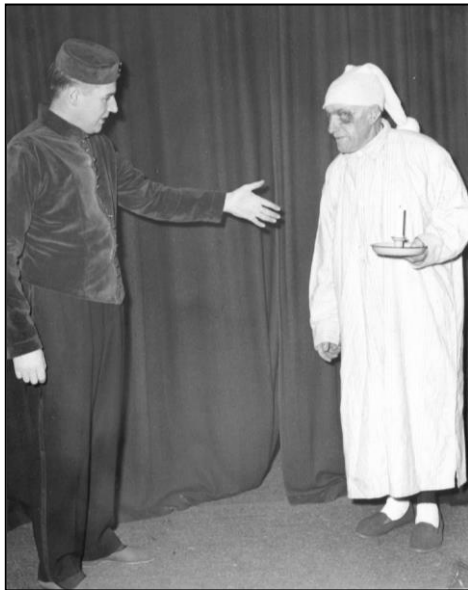
Willie was not only a great churchman but also a great village character known by all alive at that time in Alburgh and remembered today with fondest memories.



Cinderella *recalled by Margaret Kerrison (nee Andrews)*

I have been asked to recall a few memories of the Pantomime held in the old Village Hall in 1968. We were desperately looking for ways of raising money towards a new Village Hall, so I decided to write a Pantomime with a local flavour, hoping it would bring in a few pounds. Not only was it a great financial success - we had to have repeat performances - but it provided many happy hours entertainment, not only for Alburgh people but for many from the surrounding villages, and those of us working together at the performances derived so much pleasure and camaraderie.

June Seaman made a delightful Cinderella, being called in from the sugar beet field in the Final Act to fit the slipper on, with the Prince (Malcolm Sandells) and the Page (Christopher Whipps) looking on. Alex McGregor was most impressive as Baron GregorMac, Cinderella's father, and Joyce Leeder made a charming Fairy Godmother. But the stars of the Show were the two Ugly Sisters played by the Rev Robert Close and Maureen Watts - the audience loved seeing their Rector pounce about on stage in his petticoat! Holding the whole Show together though was Buttons, played by the unflappable Les Lloyd, who had the audience eating out of his hand between scenes.



Leslie Lloyd (Buttons)
& Willy Pearce (Little Willy)

Willy Pearce appeared in his shorts and in his nightgown, and Harry Andrews and Doris Owen gave their version of "There's a hole in my bucket". The chorus was made up of 18 lovely females - 6 ladies, 6 teenagers and 6 little girls. Jean McGregor led the youngsters in a selection from the Sound of Music.

But all this would not have been possible without a competent pianist, and Brian Pearce fitted the bill perfectly. He worked hard every night, playing tirelessly from Curtain Up till the Finale.



Joyce Leeder (Fairy Godmother) and June Seaman (Cinderella)



Maureen Watts & Robert Close



Harry Andrews and Doris Owen

The financial success was due to the fact that our expenses were minimal. We were so very lucky to have such talented people in the Village. Kathleen Flaxman was Wardrobe Mistress and made so many of the costumes that she must have been sewing all night. Olive Close painted the scenery, and made the background so realistic, and Darrell Beckett provided and erected the scenery - again, free of charge. Andrew and Sheila Leeder brought the Lighting Equipment along from Norfolk County Council Drama Department and were most efficient in working it, while Edward Renaut was a very reliable Stage manager.

So, a real village effort – perhaps someone can produce one in the present Village Hall sometime?

So popular was the pantomime that a special performance was given at the Redenhall Secondary School in aid of the covered swimming pool project.

Alburgh Village Hall Committee present

“Cinderella”

In Alburgh Village Hall

Friday and Saturday 5th and 6th January 1968 at 7.30 pm

Cast – in order of appearance

Buttons	Leslie Lloyd
Little Willy	William Pearce
Cinderella	June Seaman
Felicity)	Maureen Watts
) Cinderella's Sisters	
Roberta)	Robert Close
Fairy Godmother	Joyce Leeder
Prince	Malcolm Sandells
Baron	Alex McGregor
Page	Christopher Whipps
Harry & Doris's Duet performed by Harry Andrews and Doris Owen	
Pianist	Brian Pearce



The FULL Cast

Chorus

Gloria Aldous, Sheila Aldous, Nicola Andrews, Lorraine Beckett, Mandy Bedingfield, Sheila McGregor, Elizabeth Wright.

Pauline Aldous, Sandra Aldous, Mary Carter, Susan Riches, Linda Seaman, Melanie Syrett, Valerie Syrett.

Lily Aldous, Jean Andrews, Jean McGregor, Doris Owen, Jane Pearce, Phyllis Renaut, Florence Sheldrake, Barbara Wright, Peggy Young

Stage Manager	Edward Renaut
Scenery	Darrell Beckett
Décor	Olive Close
Wardrobe	Kathleen Flaxman
	Sybil Jackson
Hall Manager	Stanley Seaman
Lighting	Andrew Leeder
Prompt	Jane Andrews
Make Up	Kathleen Flaxman
Sound Effects	Ron Andrews

Pantomime written and produced by Margaret Andrews

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who has helped with this production, and all those who have lent equipment for the occasion.

The proceeds of these performances are for the New Village Hall Fund, and the Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for attending tonight and supporting them in their efforts.

Programme Price 6d

The Press wrote:

Alburgh warms to “Cinders”

A Pantomime written and produced by Mrs Margaret Andrews, of Alburgh, proved a big hit at Alburgh Village Hall on Friday and Saturday. The story of “Cinderella” played to capacity houses – and people had to be turned away on Saturday.

The cast agreed to repeat their performance later this month.

Alburgh Village Hall Committee aims to raise enough money to provide a new hall to replace the wooden building. Almost £1,000 has been raised towards this project. The two performances raised £80 for the new village hall fund.

For most of the cast it was their first time on stage, and all put up remarkable good performances. Buttons, played by Leslie Lloyd, had perhaps the most difficult task of pacing the whole production. He did this with the ease of an old timer, and soon had the children on his side, yelling for him.

Little Willie, played by retired postman William Pearce, could have been taken for years younger with his antics. June Seaman was an excellent Cindy.

HIGH SPOT

The appearance of the Ugly Sisters was the high spot of the evening. Felicity, played by Maureen Watts and Roberta, played by Robert Close, the Rector, had the audience in fits of laughter.

The Rector was a scream in her (or his) mini-skirt! Malcolm Sandells was the handsome prince, and Alex McGregor fitted his part well as the Baron.

Christopher Whipps, who should have played the part of the page, fell ill on the first night and another small boy from the audience stepped in to make a good job of the role.

Much of the script had a strong local flavour, and the “turn” put on by Harry Andrews and Doris Owen – they sang “ There’s a hole in my bucket ”- brought much applause. Joyce Leeder provided the right touches as the Fairy Godmother.

The chorus sang delightfully in three age groups.

Pianist Brian Pearce scarcely had a break throughout the performance, and much credit was due to him for the success of the venture.

Tuesday Group

by Jane Denny

Twenty-one years ago a new venture was formed within the village, ten of us got together, at my house, on a cold February evening in 1982, and decided we would like to form a new group for women in our area. Our aims would be to meet regularly and informally to broaden our horizons by organising outings, discussions and speakers on subjects not directly related to being a housewife or mother. It was also agreed at this meeting to call ourselves the 'Alburgh & District Women's Group'; however, just

two months later it was unanimously agreed that this sounded rather formal and militant, and so after much discussion we became the 'Tuesday Group'.

Our first outing was a trip to Great Yarmouth Marina, where we joined a 'Popmobility' class, went swimming and had a sauna (a first experience for some of us).

Members celebrate 21 years of the Tuesday Group



Our next meeting was a lively discussion night, where we sifted through various topics to prepare some questions to be asked at the Radio Norfolk Question Time to be held in Harleston. The subjects covered were Education, Footpaths, the NHS, the Monarchy and the definition of the 'Good Life'; all still very relevant today.

The group has gone on to flourish, from an average attendance of 8-10 per meeting we now have 18-20 each time, with ladies joining us from a larger area than we ever first imagined. One or two have moved out of the area, a couple have emigrated, but they all still keep in touch and our regulars come from an area covering Beccles to Diss. I have made many real friends through the group and tried and learnt things that

I certainly would not have done otherwise.

I cannot possibly list every thing that we have done; but I can recall some of my favourite memories and give you a small taste of our activities during the last 21 years. Now, talking about eating, we all enjoy good and fine wines! Our first 'Theme Meal' was a Swedish evening held at Lesley Bishop's in February 1993, this was so successful that we have since held Italian, Jewish, German, Caribbean and Spanish evenings as well as BBQs, an Easter, Harvest and Millennium Supper. We all contribute with the food and drink, which means we try our hand at cooking something a little different, usually with brilliant results; however, there is just the odd culinary disaster (like my brandy baskets!).

Variety is definitely the key to our meetings, and 1989 was no exception when in February we visited the Skittle Alley at the Cardinals Hat, in March we visited Culpepers (the herbal shop) and this was followed by a visit to Diss Sewerage Works in April, then a wonderful afternoon at 'A Medieval Tournament' in Framlingham Castle in May.

Every summer we have enjoyed tranquil evening walks finishing at the local pub for drinks and sandwiches; our routes have covered South Elmham, Rushall, Homersfield, Alburgh, Thornham, Southwold, Tyrell's Wood and Wortham Ling.



Food awaits the Members at the 21st Anniversary Party

Then there are the historical guided walks we have done in Harleston, Norwich, Beccles, Eye and Great Yarmouth; as well as the not so tranquil 'Ghost Walk' we did on Halloween along Riverside in Norwich.

Summer also gives us the opportunity to enjoy daytime outings. We've had several trips on the Broads, visited the gardens at East Ruston and Fairhaven and spent lovely days at Houghton Hall and Blenheim Palace. One of the more interesting days was a trip round Lowestoft Fish Market in 1993, where we were told that Lowestoft landed the highest tonnage of fish of all English ports in 1992 (10,180 tonnes - worth 13 million pounds)

and it had the largest fishing fleet in the UK, with 25 beam trawlers and 70 skipper-owned fishing boats. I wonder how that compares with today?



Food has always been an important part of the Tuesday group activities – the 21st anniversary party was no exception

Another meeting that I found fascinating was Mr Brown from Wortwell with his talk on 'Old Harleston'. We saw pictures of the chapel where the HSBC Bank now stands and a view of a chemists shop where the Barclays Bank now stands, and how Denny's looked before Barclays extended into part of their premises. Wren's the bakers shop was the post office, Stacey's (now Sight & Sound and the wine shop) had 3 charming street lights outside their premises and it was interesting to see what had been the Red

Lion pub where Jill's (card shop) and Sue Read's (shoe shop) now stand. In fact, there were numerous pubs in Harleston! He then showed us some slides of the American troops in World War II enjoying the canteen facilities set up at the Memorial Hall.

One of the most poignant memories is that of our excursion to Buckingham Palace; which was due to take place the day after Princess Diana's funeral. Along with the rest of the world we were stunned by the news of her death and we fully expected our London coach trip to be cancelled, but it went ahead and provided an extraordinary day for us all. Buckingham Palace had sumptuous wonderfully ornate rooms and being there one sensed the grandeur and the history of the building. However, the tranquillity of the garden we walked through was an enormous contrast to the activity in the surrounding streets. Crowds normally push and shove and are noisy, but in front of the Palace everyone was calm and reflective, and very kind making way for each other to see the masses of flowers, candles, gifts, teddy-bears and many other spontaneous tributes. It left us with a lasting impression of the gentle side of so many people that we passed in the streets on that sunny day.

Other lasting impressions are of the many varied theatre trips we have enjoyed and the laughs and delight we have had at our attempts to do several different crafts. These have included making Christmas decorations, upholstery, parchment craft, decoupage, silk painting and ribbon roses.

Over the past twenty-one years the Tuesday Group has certainly moved on; and we are looking forward to many good times in the years to come.



1962 Harvest Supper in the “old” Village Hall



The Homersfield Station with Station Master Phillip Stimpson

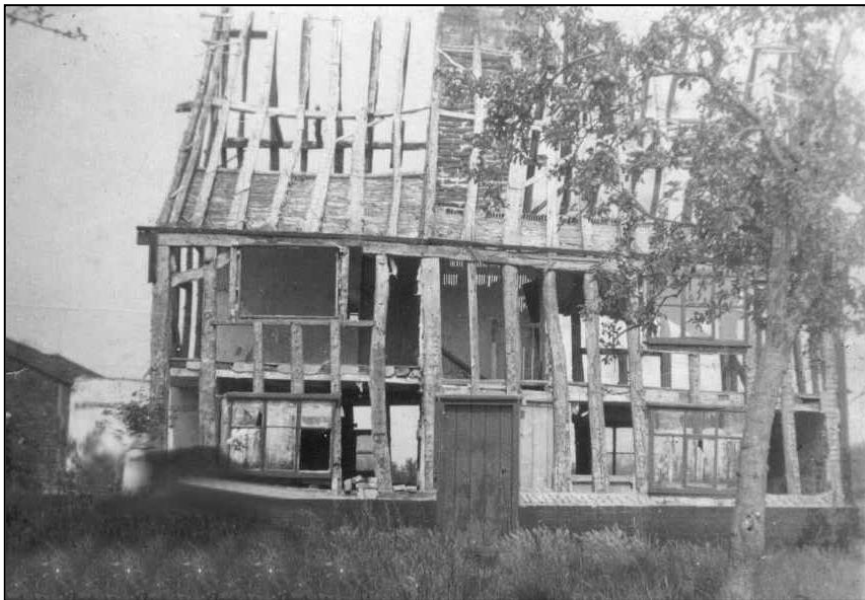
Alburgh Homes

*Compiled from information submitted by current residents by
Brian Pearce*

Holbrook Hall

Some four hundred years ago Holbrook Hall was situated way back from what is now Station Road. Nearer the road was a four-roomed cottage, which has been extended at least, three times since then and it was for some years a farm. The Hall has long since disappeared.

We have lived in the cottage, now known as Holbrook Hall, nearly thirty years and have found it to be a lively family home, some original beams, two original doors and a resident ghost.



Holbrook Hall under restoration *circa* 1930

When we first came our twelve year old son did not like it at all because this lady, dresses in a cloak, walked up to his open bedroom door several times. In recent years Peter (who did not believe in ghosts) has come across her several times. Unfortunately she cuts the electric power whilst she is about so you can't switch on the light to see what happens. Anyway Peter believes in ghosts now!



Holbrook Hall Farm *circa* 2002

Now the house passes into fresh hands, I hope that the new residents will enjoy the house and Alburgh as much as we have. *Jill Sayers*

Editor: From Bryant's ancient book, in 1801, when the Enclosure Commissioners had to deal with the common lands of Alburgh, Rebecca Holmes claimed the Manor of "Holbroke Hall", alias "Alburgh-in-Wortwell".

Rockavon

Mr Blogg bought the land from Lacons' brewery and built the bungalow it was completed in 1973. He used direct labour and I understand that Richard Howman did a lot of the carpentry.



"Rockavon" under construction showing Tradesmans Arms and the well cultivated Parish Allotments in the foreground

Mr Blogg was involved with horse racing. I understand he worked in, or owned a turf accountants' business in Harleston. He owned or had a share in a horse called Rockavon, and he named the bungalow after it. The land with the bungalow amounts to one acre. Half an acre is pasture and I think it is fairly old; the herbage indicates this.

Mr Bogg put up a number of piggeries, but I have had these taken down. I am told that a little way into the field from the gate there used to be two cottages on the left of the walkway. Again I am told that a relative of Mrs Ida Love lived in one of these cottages.



Church Road viewed from the lane from Mrs Bass's Meadow showing house on the left now demolished.

Red House Farm

Red House Farm house was built in around 1820. One of the builder's boys was William Blofield, who is buried in the churchyard by the gate. William Blofield built himself a house modelled on Red House farm, on the corner of School Road – Blofield House.



Red House circa 1900

Red House Farm was originally owned by the Bethel Hospital in Norwich and was a tenant farm. Miss Kathleen Flaxman's grandparents farmed here as did her parents. It was in her family from around 1890 until the 1950's when she moved out to Church farm. The Flaxman's sold the house to the McGregors who in turn sold to the Dennys. The Hobsons were the next owners and we purchased the house from them in 2001 – so we know all the owners of the house over the last 120 years.

Miss Flaxman's parents employed a number of staff that lived in the house – we have two staircases and the one from the kitchen led up to the staff

quarters and the laundry. The pond in the front garden was originally used for bathing the village horses. The orchard of the house was at the rear where Malt House stands today. The Red House originally had a half cellar and small summer house which fell into disrepair and had to be dismantled. The small extension to the right hand side was built in the 1950s.

Mark & Alison Wilford

Editor: Mark told me a lovely story of the small apertures in two of the downstairs rooms. If you open both up you can see through in one direction only. The servants in their quarters could not see the lady and gentleman of the house; however, in the other direction the lady and gentleman of the house could see that the servants were not slacking.

In the 1881 Census Isaac C. Spelman lived at Red House Farm and the address was High Street (not Low Road). He was 69 years old and his wife Anna was 50; they had a son Edward who was 9 at the time. The farm consisted of 279 acres and employed 7 men and 3 boys; there were also two servants living in the house – Sarah Rivett, 18 and Emma Gull, 13.

In Bryant's' ancient publication the game of football (locally called campball), was habitually played on Sunday afternoons in the meadow opposite the west end of the church.

Below: Red House circa 2003.



Blofield House

As stated in Mark and Alison Wilford's account on their Red House Farm home, the builder of Red House liked the design so much that he built Blofield House modelled on it for himself.



Blofield House showing house reflecting in their garden pond. *circa 1965*

In the New Year's Honours of 1965 Mr Herbert Taylor, a former owner of Blofield House and a partner in the Lowestoft firm, of Taylor & Green was awarded the O.B.E. With his partner David Green, Mr Taylor had been responsible for the post-war housing programme at Loddon, and their work received a number of awards for good design, as well as attracting the attention of planners throughout the country. The present owners of this house are Mr and Mrs Tyrell.

Cherry Tree Inn

Cherry House as the dwelling is known today is situated on the crossroads of Low Road, Low Ditch Road and School Road.

The earliest reference to a dwelling on the Cherry House site is contained in an indenture dated 30th January 1838 and the first connection with brewing is in a conveyance dated 16th July 1856 when it was described as a "Freehold messuage, general shop, beer shop, land hereditaments and premises situated in Alburgh in the County of Norfolk". The conveyance transferred the property from Mr John Culley Norton to Mr Samuel Johnson for the sum of two hundred and twenty pounds.

Further changes of ownership occurred and in 1926 it was sold by the Colchester Brewing Company to E. Lacon and Company Limited as "The Cherry Tree Inn, shop, brew office and slaughter house on land of 1 acre, 1 rood and 27 perches more or less".

The Cherry Tree Inn ceased to be licensed premises on the 30th October 1931 when E. Lacon and Company sold the dwelling House to Mr William Blackett Twiddy for two hundred pounds and he, in turn, sold it to Annie Smith on the 10th February 1932 for three hundred pounds.

Ownership remained with Annie Smith until 25th January 1966 when Mr John Swales, formerly of Beccles, who rebuilt much of the property, purchased it. It changed hands again in 1975 when Mr John Nichols purchased the property and in 1978 the present owners Sheila and Peter Cundy purchased Cherry House.

Some twelve years ago when I was driving the community bus one of my passengers introduced herself as the daughter of the last Landlord of the Inn before it became a dwelling house in 1931. Her name was Mrs Fairhead *nee* Yallop and then she lived in a bungalow in Earsham.

Editor: I can remember having many enjoyable evenings in Cherry House when John and Vanda Nichols owned the property, I can still picture the small stained glass window between the hall and the dining room.

Cherry Tree Lane

It seems that at one time there was a cottage in the spinney, part of South Farm, adjacent to the bottom of the Cherry House garden and opposite the Homersfield telephone exchange. In a conveyance dated 11th October 1898 Anna Brook sold a “double cottage and land” to Thomas Edmund Springfield. Later, on 19th November 1922, it was purchased by Elizabeth Brook from the estate of T. E. Springfield; the executor being Mr Edmund Osborn Springfield. It is interesting to note that the address of the cottage is in “Cherry Tree Lane”. A nicer name than Low Ditch Road, perhaps the Parish Council might consider reverting to this road name.

Gayridge Farm

Gayridge Farm, as can be seen if you compare the 1947 photograph with today has undergone considerable building work. Two gable extensions were added as well as a rear single storey extension in 1952 and 1962. Mr and Mrs Le Blanc Smith have lived in this house for some 50 years.



Left: Gayridge Farm House in 1947 and above in 2002

Ash Tree Farm



Malt House

Malt House is our second home in Alburgh. Jane and I first moved to Alburgh in 1967 into a new bungalow in The Street built by Gordon Broughton. Mr Broughton was responsible for all the bungalows built around the mid 1960s in Alburgh and Wortwell. Lyntors was named after the Tors hotel and the river Lyn in Devon; the current occupier is Mr Gordon Purshouse.

After spending some twenty years in nearby Wortwell we returned to Alburgh in 1989 and bought our home from Darrell Beckett who built the house on the Red House orchard site.



Malt House, Low Road, March 2003

At that time it was known as Kiln Cross but after suffering numerous name queries regarding our previous Wortwell home “Hannafore Point” we decided to rename the house Malt House.

Darrell built this house in 1980 from reclaimed bricks from the Staithe Maltings in Bungay. Originally the bricks had been made in St Cross, hence the names.



Summer 2002 at Malt House

We have changed the house considerably converting the garage to a study and adding a wing to give us a larger kitchen, a dining room and a bedroom with en suite facilities. To complete the conversion we added a conservatory at the rear of the property. This work was completed some seven years ago and Jane and I continue to enjoy our home and garden. Malt House is very young compared with many other Alburgh houses such as our neighbours in the Red House or the White House, which are both mentioned in the 1881 census.

Brocks Barn

Although Allan and I are the current owners of Brocks Barn, I am well aware that we are at the end of a long line of inhabitants of this lovely old house – some of whom still live in the village. I'm sure they may know much more than I do about the past history – but hope they'll forgive me if I've missed out any important details or get anything wrong

Brocks Barn is a Grade 2 listed building, built in the middle of the 17th century; Allan and I moved in, with our 4-year-old daughter Alex, in December 1986. We purchased the property from Rodney and Stephanie Clark, who only lived here for about 3 years. They had bought the house from the estate of the late Dr. Ruth Rainey, who had been, along with her late husband Edward, a much - respected GP in Harleston. She was tragically killed in a road accident, aged 80 years old. In fact, when we first moved in we seriously considered re-naming the house “Dr. Ruth's Old House” for this is how it was always referred to when we said we lived in Brocks Barn – a little pause then “Oh, Dr. Ruth's old house!” would be the cry. Many times, when being introduced to someone at a gathering, someone would say - “This is Allan and Julia Higbee - they live in Dr. Ruth's old house”.

There are, of course, many beautiful old houses in Alburgh, but interestingly Sir Niklaus Pevsner, singled out “Brocks Barn” along with 3 other properties in the village, as being of particular architectural interest in his guide to Norfolk villages. I believe he describes it as a good example of 17th century “lobby-entrance house with brick-gabled ends”. This would be the type typically built by a yeoman for himself and/or his servants, so from then until its purchase by Dr. Ruth 320 years later it had always been connected with the land and farming.

The farm-workers' cottages purchased by the Raineys in the mid – 60s from the local farmer Mr. Eric Bond (who had purchased them in 1926) looked rather different from the way the house looks now; firstly it was thatched, as you can see from some old photos; also it was two separate

“two-up two down” cottages – and had been for a very long time, as far as I can make out. It was rendered in a sort of ochre colour, but the Raineys decided on a very traditional pink wash for the rendering. This we have been happy to keep going. There was, obviously, extensive internal renovation; the cottages were gutted to effect modernisation but all the original timbers were retained, with a wealth of beautiful oak beams in every room, as were some of the sloping floors upstairs – a great talking point! There had been small “lean-to” kitchens/sculleries at the back which were removed and a two-storey extension added which formed a kitchen and utility room downstairs and a bathroom, bedroom and box room upstairs. Some strange decisions were made, to our view anyway, in the course of this modernisation, particularly the rather incongruous open – plan staircase! Planning rules for listed buildings have become stricter in the last 40 years.



Brocks Barn *circa* 1965

Joined to the house on the south side is a stable block (built later than the 17th century), which was fortunately retained intact during the renovation and still has the original floor and walls. This is now used as a garage and store shed. At one point, apparently, the stable housed the horses belonging to the Springfield family in Alburgh house.



Brocks Barn Interior *circa* 2002

As for the name - “Brocks Barn” - it was originally “Brocks Farm” (shown in old maps from the 19th century) which eventually became “Barn” sometime at the turn of the century because a large barn (no longer in existence) constructed in the adjoining South meadow was enough of a landmark to effect a re-naming! Apparently there was a big fire up at Piccadilly Corner in 1911. Could that have been when the Barn was destroyed? It appears that the Brock family lived and worked in many

parts of Alburgh for around 200 years, although there are none here now. A Joseph Brock may be the first Brock to be buried in Alburgh Churchyard - he died in 1793 aged 69 years. However, many tombstones prior to this date are illegible or decayed. I suspect that the farmer last connected with Brocks Barn before Mr. Bond purchased the property was Samuel Brock, who died in 1920 aged 91. Many older people will remember Mr. Henry Brock who had carpentry and wheelwright’s premises up at the top of Church Road.



Brocks Barn Interior *circa* 2002

I have found it almost impossible, I’m afraid, to find out any information about the early years of the house’ life in the 1600s and 1700s. Inevitably when one lives in such an old house as this, one can’t help imagining what it was like for the inhabitants in those early days. In fact, many years ago we learned that the first couple deported to Australia for sheep stealing

apparently came from Alburgh. We then used to wonder if they'd lived in our house! But it's a peaceful house – there are no ghosts here, so I feel sure it has a happy past!

More recent memories are easier to come by – I've had some very enjoyable chats with Mr. and Mrs. Millett and Mr. Jonathan Bond, and I thank them for sharing their memories with me.

Jonathan, for example, remembers that a Mr. Herbert Frost, who lived in one of South Farm Cottages in Station Road, was given space in our stable area during the war years to keep a large selection of bikes, which he sold to American Airmen stationed nearby! In the front of this area he remembers a saw bench and circular saw driven by a traction engine.

Up until the 1950s families were still drawing water from the well in the opposite meadow and Kenny Potter who was living in one of the Brocks Barn cottages in 1942 remembers that meadow being strafed by a German fighter plane. Jonathan was a regular visitor as a child to Potter's cottage, and recalls a little organ/ harmonium that was a source of entertainment, and fishing in the pond at the back. Mr. Millett, whose wife Chrissie lived in the north cottage with her parents until 1947, also remembers that pond being full of fish. Since purchasing some extra land from Jonathan three years ago we now have access to the pond and sadly there are no fish to speak of now. It has become a lovely wildlife area, however, with nesting ducks and moorhens, since Jonathan had it cleared and drained about three years ago.

When Brocks Barn was two cottages the front garden had a path up the middle, dividing the cottage gardens to the front door of the south cottage (the north cottage was entered via the back door) and as you would expect, the front garden was mainly laid to fruit and vegetables to feed the various people that lived there. Rabbits were also kept to enhance their diets – people then were really self-sufficient!

Since we moved in we have made a few changes; we built a single story "granny" annexe for my parents in 1989 and at the same time built a dining room on the back. After my parents' death we simply incorporated

the spare space into our own living accommodation, using one of the rooms as an office/study. Most recently we have re-opened the fireplace in what we call the "parlour" – the downstairs room of the old north cottage – and installed a wood burner.



Brocks Barn *circa* 2003

This has been such a wonderful family home and we have felt privileged to live here in this lovely village of Alburgh. Despite the work involved in maintaining a listed building I don't think we could ever live in a modern house. Allan and I rattle around a bit now our youngest daughter is at university, but the house comes into its own again when the grandchildren come to stay or at Christmas, or the summer when our townie friends descend on us! Like many people in our situation, we often toy with the idea of "down-sizing". Maybe we will at some point, but it would be a great wrench to leave "Brocks Barn", where we have been so happy.

Julia Higbee

Kings Acre

The Kings Head public house in Alburgh, now a private house is plain and solidly built with walls of fifteen-inch clay lump behind a brick skin. Perhaps the clay was brought from the Moat Farm pond across the road.



Residents and/or Customers of the Kings Head Public House

We have not been able to find the date it was built; it is shown on a map of 1826. In 1828, Harleston brewery sold the property to Thomas Dyson of Diss for the sum of £455. After many changes of Licensees up to the year 1956, it ceased to be a public house.

The various Licensees listed are:

In 1836	Henry Dunn
1845 to 1851	Charles Dunn
1854 to 1861	Henry Flatman

In 1865	S Miller
In 1871	Abraham Ling
1879 to 1890	Thomas Smith
In 1891	Thomas Mills
1892 to 1900	Thomas Edward Mills
1904 to 1912	Arthur Freestone
1916 to 1925	Walter Goddard
In 1929	Arthur P Borrett
In 1932	Alfred Ramsey
In 1933	Obadiah Buck
In 1943	James Samuel Alexander
In 1948	Edmund Henry James Denny
In 1955	Ronald Jack Blogg



The late Doris and Tom Hayes and their family lived for 25 years, until 1986, when they sold it to us the Howarth family.



Shingle Farm (now demolished)

In the garden is a well, which a former Alburgh resident, Mr Goddard, was very pleased to see when he called in, some nine years ago. He had lived at Shingle Farm and had been sent to fetch water from this well when he was a very young boy. He told us that people came to this well during times of drought because it had never been known to dry up.

Mrs Howarth

Three Ways Cottage



Tudor House

Tudor House is situated in the village centre at the south end of Alburgh Street on the west side of the road. The house is stated to have been originally known as Low Farm, later Peartree Cottage; but in boring the passage through the stack around 1900 a “Tudor coin” was found, and the name was changed to Tudor House.

The building is aligned NW-SE, which for the purpose of this report will be considered N-S.



Tudor House from the Street

The exterior of the house is rendered and is of two storeys with dormers. An off-centre stack a quadruple-angled shaft; the outer flues appear more recent than the central, but the whole structure is probably a late Victorian rebuild, though it may reproduce the form of its predecessors. A north

gable stack in similar style, triple-angled, is all Victorian. The roof is of modern pantiles to the east and peg tiles to the west. The east wall has two 19th century brick porches. On the west side in line with one porch and the stack is a stair turret in brick of circa 1900, giving a Germanic appearance. Some of the walling has been replaced in brick around it. All the windows are of late date. There is a modern west extension at the north end.

The interior ground floor north most room has been much altered, and subdivided. Formerly its northern end had a low ceiling, a fireplace of Victorian type to the gable stack, and a cellar beneath.

The nest room to the south is crossed by a lateral beam, set off centre towards the present north partition which is probably therefore not on an original alignment. The beam has a single roll-chamfer on each angle, and remarkable stops resembling an hourglass shape, with traces of faceting;

the writer has not found similar examples in Norfolk before. There are marks of a later studwork wall having been applied against the north side of the beam, later removed and the marks repaired. The stack forms the south wall of the room, its fireplace infilled; it has a passage on the west side and a blocked doorway on the east formerly giving access to the entrance lobby. Around 1900 a passage, barrel-vaulted, was bored through the stack laterally from the passage on the west to this lobby.



Tudor House from the rear garden

The final room south of the stack has been subdivided to form a corridor on its west side connected with the new stair turret; pilasters and a beam continue the line of the corridor wall. There is a flat-backed beam across the building set against the face of the stack, which again has a roll-chamfer but no stops (although the east end is plastered over where a former doorway to the entrance lobby has been converted to a cupboard). There is longitudinal ceiling beam joining this beam at its centre; the ceiling beam is identical to that in the northern room.

Below: The Central Stack



The upper floor has been much subdivided in recent times. At the north end it now forms several small rooms. The north corners of the building are expanded-topped posts, with in the NE corner inverted arched braces in each wall. A similar pair of posts carrying a plain tie beam marks the south end of this bay. There is a lateral corridor across the building beyond this, with two recent ceiling beams supported in an unusual manner. Between this and the stack the area is divided into a room and corridor along the west wall. Central to this room is another pair of wall posts of the same type, carrying a tie beam with simple stops; in the eastern post, and the end of the beam, are mortises for an arched brace. There are marks on the

beam where a later studwork partition has been applied against its north side. The east wall of the building here has the studwork visible, and the wall plate, which has a square-cut scarf joint. Assembly numbers are

visible. There is a trace of an original window frame blocked and cut by the present north wall of the room. Another set of posts and tie beam are set against the north side of the stack, which has an infilled fireplace. Studs are visible beneath the latter partition walls, but this could be an illusion due to cleaning – only one face of each stud is exposed.

On the east side of the stack are now two back-to-back closets. The west side is now the landing to the stairs. In this landing the expanded-topped post at the west end of the tie beam mentioned against the north face of the stack is the most clearly visible of all the structural posts. It is somewhat unusual, having a very large and gradual expansion, with a final square-cut projection below the tie beam. A recent arch forms the entrance to the corridor, but its jamb to the east is a wooden post with an ornate stop at the base, clearly part of a 16th century stopped doorframe. There is no corresponding stop on the structural post forming the other jamb of the arch, only a plain chamfer; thus it would appear that one jamb of an original doorframe has been reset here when the arch was made.



The North Stack

The bay south of the stack has again been subdivided. There is again a bema across the south face of the stack, with its pots on the east side, though the western post was removed when the stairs were inserted. The area of the original room is crossed by a lateral bema with simple stops,

which rests upon the wall plate (there are windows beneath each end) and serves only to support the ceiling. The room has old floorboards.

The attic space is panelled and plastered over, and all that is visible of the original structure are collar beams and principal rafters.

Tudor House is a straightforward lobby-entrance house of the later 16th century. The mouldings on the beams, the section of doorframes etc indicates the dating. The tie beams and posts show that the house was of four bays; a two-bay “hall” north of the stack with a service bay beyond (now altered out of all recognition) and a parlour bay south of the stack. The upper floor and stack are original, and there is an indication that the tie beams were supported on arched braces. The original stairs would have been beside the stack to the west, spiral in form, and the remaining section of doorframe was probably originally the entrance to the stairs at first floor level, moved in recent times. Some subsequent subdivisions are indicated by the marks of later studs placed against two of the beams as mentioned. The extensive works of around 1900, which involved boring through also included the present partitioned walls, and rebuilding the stacks.

Edwin J Rose 16th September 1983

Joyce Leeder recalls what her mother and grandmother told her they knew the family that lived in Tudor House around 1900.

When my mother was a child it was the rectory and the Rev Lohr was there, he was devoted to his village. When my mother was poorly at the age of 13, he brought her his dessert, which he didn’t eat himself. He had a large family, mainly beautiful daughters. He once said there were 13 to feed including the maids, a joint of lamb didn’t last long when you carved for thirteen.

One of his daughters rebelled and ran off to London to work on the stage and became a well-known actress Marie Lohr. Mrs Maureen Watts told me that her mother and father lived there for a time.

Editor: my personal recollections of Tudor House were the fund raising summer lunches in the garden for the church and the tennis club. In more recent times I remember just calling in one summer afternoon and Ruth and Duncan Gilmour made me so welcome that during our extended conversations we lost all sense of time and I was late for supper.

The owners and occupiers Alison and Andrew Vincent made me most welcome when I visited them to take some photographs; they have lived in the house for some twelve months and have commenced restoration work working with the planners at South Norfolk.

The Long House

Writing in the W.I review of Alburgh in 1965 Jean McGregor recalls when the Long House was the village Chapel.

She writes:

"We are fortunate to have in our small village a well supported Congregational Chapel. This sacred little building which seats less than 50 people, was acquired, together with three cottages attached as far back as 1825 and is believed to have been originally either a Blacksmith's or a Carpenter's shop.



Alburgh's Congregational Chapel

The building nowadays has a level floor instead of the worn bricks that had been furrowed by hundreds of feet over the many years. The old uncomfortable benches have given way to comfortable chairs colourfully

upholstered in red leather. The walls are clean and bright and the windows are curtained. There is a small pulpit with a red velvet fall and below it stands a new communion table. The twisted beams in the ceiling and the many shaped timber framing showing between the plaster on the walls speak of the ancient nature of the building. Electric lighting and heating is the only concession to modernity.



The cottages and Chapel c 1965

Mention must be made of the Chapels indebtedness to the Feoffees for financial help from the Parish Trust, which enabled them to make the chapel the comfortable place it is today.

The minister lives at the Manse in Station Road, Harleston and has four other chapels, spread over a distance of 14 miles under his care. They are Diss, Harleston, Denton and Wortwell. He preaches one service every other Sunday at Alburgh, and Mrs Brooks, who occupies one of the adjoining cottages, makes herself responsible for finding the preachers for the other Sundays.

The services are held during the afternoon in the winter and in the evening during summer. A small harmonium ably played by Ernest Rodwell provides the music for the lusty singing.

For all its humble origins as one stops to enter the low door there is a sense of going into a sacred place. This is the spot where for nearly a century and a half, men, women and children have met to worship the God they love and adore."

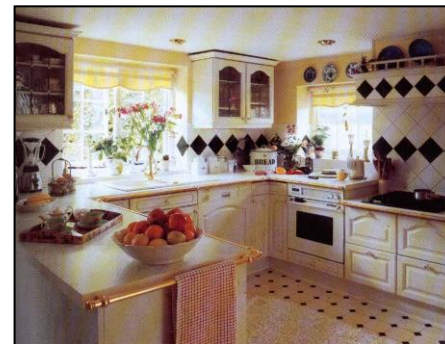


The Long House 2003

Today the chapel is no longer and together with the attached cottages now form the private dwelling known as The Long House. I went to meet Edith Miller who very kindly showed me around her lovely home. When Edith first saw the property she fell in love with it and within two days without a survey had purchased the house. (Now the home of Peter and Julie Reece.)

The property is a Norfolk Long House and was built around 1650s. Originally it comprised three cottages on the right end of which was the village chapel referred to above. This now forms the magnificent sitting room, and above is the master bedroom and en-suite bathroom.

Edith's design skills are obvious as soon as you enter this lovely house, with a clever mixture of period and modern features.



Vine Cottage

Vine cottage is situated on the east side of The Street and was the home of Mr Henry Henshaw. The house is currently the home of David Love who kindly loaned me a very interesting document detailing the statutory declaration by Guy Sprake of Bungay made in 1969.



“I Geoffrey Guy Sprake of the Close, Earsham in the County of Norfolk, Solicitor do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1 I am now a Consultant with the firm of Sprake and Company Solicitors of Bungay in the County of Suffolk and while a partner in that firm for upwards of thirty years dealt with the administration of a settlement known as the Borrett Trust.

2 One of the documents comprised in such Settlement is the Indenture dated the eighth day of December 1920 and made between David Johnson of the one part and Alice Edwards and Ellen Agnes Borrett of the other part. Under this document (inter alia) certain properties in Alburgh, Norfolk were vested in the said Ellen Agnes Borrett under the term of the Trust.

3 One such property vested in the said Ellen Agnes Borrett by that document is described as “First All That Freehold double cottage erected and built by Henry Flatman with the buildings gardens and orchards thereunto adjoining and belonging containing by estimation half an acre or thereabouts situated in Alburgh in the County of Norfolk and abutting upon the high road leading to Harleston and upon properties then or then late of Rebecca Harvey and the Trustees of Osborne Springfield deceased as the same were then formerly in the respective occupations of Esther Kilborn and John Mobbs and the Widow Yaxley. From my personal knowledge of the property and its tenants I confirm that the property comprised in the Conveyance dated the sixth day of March 1957 and made between Alice Edwards and myself of the one part and the Reverend Harry Sneath of the other part was identical with and comprised the hereinbefore recited property included in the said Indenture of the eighth day of December 1920 AND I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act 1835.

Declared at Bungay this 15th day of May, 1969.

“Bali Ha’i

Kit and Bob Flatt became engaged on 26th August 1958 and looked around for a cottage we could afford. One of two had possibilities but nothing was quite right so Bob suggested building our own bungalow. A plumber and decorator by trade, he had worked with Mr Billy Howlett from Wortwell and his nephew Lenny, from whom with his wife Mary, we were able to buy part of their orchard. Today four of the original apple trees remain. They are about 150 years old. Planning permission was granted and work began but then came a brick shortage and work ceased for what seemed a long time. We were married on 27th August 1960 and fortunately had a large enough site to install a caravan – all 16 feet of it – at the back where we lived for the first two years of our married life.

In due course the building work was completed, Bob doing the plumbing and carpentry work, while Howlett and partners completed the brickwork. Electricians from the Eastern Electricity Board installed the electrical work. Finally we moved into “Bali Hai’i” in September 1962. Why “Bali Hai’i”? We had enjoyed the film South Pacific and whichever way you approach our home it is up hill.



Some 25 years ago the lounge was extended and a further bedroom and cloakroom added. The garden has been both a source of pleasure and hard work. We used to keep some chickens but no longer do so and while we had a large vegetable garden when Marian and Sarah were at home, we now tend to increase the areas of lawn.



Rear garden producing fruit and vegetables

We have had 43 happy years here in a lovely part of the village overlooking the Waveney Valley. Our neighbours are good friends – what more can we ask?

Views from Bali Ha’i towards the Waveney Valley



Alburgh House

Joyce Leeder remembers working in Alburgh House at four different periods in her life.



Alburgh House circa 2000

I left school at the age of fourteen in December 1934 and went to work at Alburgh House the next month of January for Captain and Mrs Johnstone. The household consisted of three maids, a cook and a house parlour maid. When I joined I was an in between maid. I was there for three and a half years when I left to work in Norwich.

While working in Norwich World War II started and at the age of 18 I was called up to do War work. I would have loved to have gone in one of the services, but I had a blind mother and a handicapped father as well as a bed-ridden grandmother of 86 years old. Ray aged 13 years, who had lost his mother and father in the navy, was living with us so I could not leave them. It so happened that they turned Alburgh House into a War Nursery,

at that time my friend Molly (married name Gunton of Denton) working with me more or less the same age we both ended up working at Alburgh House, I as Cook.

There were twenty children from Dr Barnados Homes in London, a matron and sister as well as eight young girls, too young to be called up working there. Molly, as I remember had a rotten job of keeping the place clean, which meant she had to scrub all those big floors and passages every day except Sundays.

We had various Matrons and Sisters some were all right but one particular Matron was a real disaster. She kept all food locked up and I had to ask her each day for what I wanted to cook with. It all ended when the war finished.



I next worked at Alburgh House when Captain and Mrs Johnstone came back. There were no maids; they had to look after themselves with just me doing the cleaning. It was quite a happy time. Mrs Johnstone learned to cook and loved it and Captain loved his garden and grew vegetables and

flowers for the house. Eventually it all got too much for them and they sold Alburgh House and moved down south to Wokingham in Berkshire. The house, I believe was then bought by a man who was charming to everyone but he was a friend of the Kray twins and ended up in prison. The next occupants were Captain and Mrs Turton-Jones, who were a very strange couple. She was an author and wrote novels under another name, he was a perfect gentleman, but very quiet and reserved. I worked for them when their regular cleaner Peggy Young was in hospital or on holiday. When Mrs Turton-Jones died the captain moved away and John and Jennifer Thornton bought the house. They spent many happy years there and have very recently moved to Harleston Jennifer still visits me nearly every week.

Editor: I can remember in the Thornton years, when I was a churchwarden, many happy summer Saturdays working in the grounds of Alburgh House preparing and running stalls for the annual church summer fete. Also I believe Alburgh House hosted a Shrove Tuesday pancake party for church funds.

Significant dates in the ownership of Alburgh House:

2nd February 1922 – property conveyed to Baron Phillipe Orosdy from Francis Horner Esq.

29th July 1929 – property conveyed to Mrs W J O Straghan from Baron P Orosdy and Baroness M Orosdy.

29th September 1933 – property conveyed to Mrs Ruth Delia Beatrix Johnstone from Mrs W J O Straghan.

30th October 1950 – property conveyed to Group Captain J W Turton-Jones from Mrs R D B Johnstone.

Alburgh House is currently the home of Cara and Philip Williams.



Tunbeck Cottage *by Colin and Ruth Walton*

Tunbeck Cottage is the southernmost house in Alburgh village, on the parish boundary at the crest of the ridge above the Waveney Valley. Knowing the building was formerly two cottages we invited Norfolk Landscape Archaeology to inspect the construction in 1999, before we enlarged the cottage in 2002, by adding a south facing two-storey extension.



Tunbeck Cottage as photographed in 1965.

The cottage faces east and you can just see a blocked door in each end of the pebble dash front - this may have been carried out in the early 1960's when the cottage was 'modernised' and the sloping roof extension was added to the west, as well as the entrance hall. When we rebuilt the chimney we found 1966 inscribed on the cement, so we asked our builder

to inscribe 1966 and 2002! We also found footings of former outhouses at the back of the original cottages when we started our 2002-extension work. Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright, who still live in Alburgh, lived here from 1953 to 1955 in the north cottage, and have confirmed the position of the original front doors, the lean-to outhouses of coal-shed and outside toilet, and the winding staircase to a landing bedroom and one other bedroom for each cottage. The cottages were at that time owned by the Lee-Warner family from Denton.

The gable walls are built of 19th century red brick in Flemish bond, but inside there is a timber frame of very crude and thin timbers, that are pegged and mortised in the structural walls indicating a date in the first half of the 18th. Century.

Was Tunbeck Cottage originally some sort of agricultural building, possibly a granary that did not require large barn doors, and converted to a pair of cottages about a hundred years later? The later insertion of a chimneystack, the upper floor and the partitions suggest that this may be so, but it is equally possible that the building was constructed as two cottages in the mid 18th. Century.

There are details of a sale on 5th. August 1826 by a Mr. Spelman of property belonging to R. O. Harvey, comprising plantation, cottage and garden, shown on a plan with Stony Lane marked next to the cottage and garden, to Mr. Anthony Freestone.

A map in the Manorial Court Books of 1922 details a conveyance of 'freehold to Evaleen St. Clair Springfield of Worthing, Alburgh House, Brocks Farm, all land to Stony Lane beyond stream and left of stream at bottom' with Tunbeck Cottage marked, and South Farm marked as Shepherds Barn.

An artist, Mr. Charles Longbotham lived at Tunbeck Cottage and sold the cottage to us, with Mr. and Mrs. Tringham living here before Mr. Longbotham. Until our 2002 alterations Colin had his workshop in the artist's studio where he has restored clocks and designed products, including the Walton drawing board.

School Cottage



School Cottages before and after renovation



Rectory Cottage



Rectory Cottage circa 1975 and 2003



Hope Cottage



The Original Hope Coottage



The New Hope Cottage

Church Farm



In April 2002, Church Farm was advertised in the Eastern Daily Press with the headline:

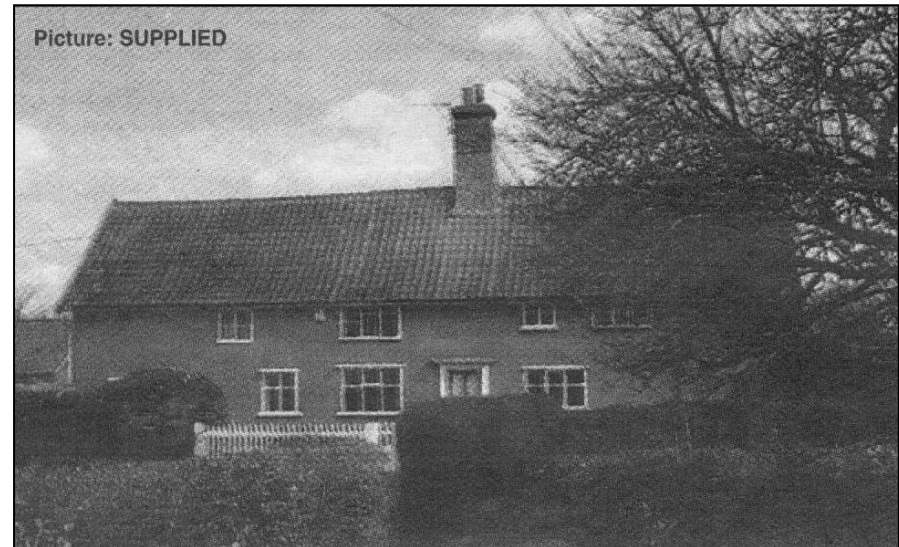
Farm combines history and tradition

History and tradition are part and parcel of the sale of timber-framed Church Farm at Alburgh. The house itself is thought to date back to the 16th century or earlier and it has been in the Flaxman family ownership for around 100 years.

The five-bedroom farmhouse is for sale at a guide price of £335,000 through Brown & Co, Francis Horner, in Norwich, continuing a long relationship between the Flaxman and Horner families.

As land and managing agents, Francis Horner, with succeeding generations of the Hornor family at the helm, was involved in the Flaxmans's agricultural affairs in the 19th century and first half of the 20th century when the family farmed elsewhere in the village.

"It always gives me a great deal of pleasure to carry on family traditions," says Brown & Co chartered surveyor and residential partner Peter Hornor, who has arranged this sale.



Photograph as it appeared in the EDP on Friday 12th April 2002.

"This is a property with a great deal of character which, while needing some improvement, is in a delightful village location. It provides an excellent opportunity to live, tucked away in south Norfolk, yet within easy reach of Norwich and close to Bungay."

Church Farm is on the fringe of the village, off Church Road, and in its grounds it has a 42ft x 22ft timber-framed barn, where villagers have celebrated harvest festival for years.

There is also an open-fronted former cattle shed and stable with loft above, and single garage.

While the house needs updating it is set in a charming pastoral spot in its own land of more than 2.75 acres, with a fine outlook across a meadow to the village church.

Probably built originally as a hall house with later alterations, there are suggestions of a king or queen post roof. It is Grade II listed as of historic and architectural interest.

There is good flexible accommodation with beamed ceilings to the main reception rooms of which the principal one is 16ft 4in x 14ft 5in. The gardens and grounds, including paddock, are an important feature of the property and include orchard, vegetable area, flower garden and lawns.

Jenny Gilheany

Opposite - Views of Alburgh Church from Church Farm





Pat Goose presenting wedding gift to village postman Leighton Ward
on Friday 2nd May 2003



Tennis *by Trevor Wright*

Since working on my family farm in Alburgh for several years, I gave up farming and have worked as a full time self-employed tennis coach for nearly 5 years now and currently spend most of my working week at Framlingham College Junior School at Brandeston Hall and the senior school. I also work with the top 10 –14 year olds for Norfolk LTA and have a small contract for Suffolk LTA talent spotting the best under 8's.

Having been a junior county champion on two occasions and regularly competing in the National Junior Championships, then playing for Norfolk senior men's team for 5 years, tennis has always played a major part of my life. However getting married and starting a family in the early 90's was one reason for not being involved in the game for the best part of 6 years. However with clear signals in the mid 90's that markets for small run family farms was diminishing, a chance meeting with my old tennis coach Martin Smith persuaded me to take the plunge and make a career move into tennis coaching.

In the early days whilst still working on the farm, I spent several evenings with Martin at the Norwich Sport Village watching him and joining in with his coaching groups. As a mentor he was fantastic, (he has coached several Junior National Champions) often inviting me along to watch junior international events which gave me a real insight into standards at a young age and the volume of quality training needed to reach that level.

Between 1996 and 1998 whilst working part time in coaching I passed the first two levels of tennis coaching exams (I am currently attempting the highest level which if successful will make me the only coach in Norfolk with that qualification). One of my first appointments was coaching part time at Wymondham College, the boarding school I attended from 1976-1981 as a pupil. It was strange sharing the same staff room with a handful of my ex-teachers and seeing how the place had changed over 15 years.

The many friends and contacts from my junior playing days have continued to help me enormously as I have worked my way up the ladder

to county coach for two counties, and in these roles travelling to inter county events has often led to meeting old opponents of mine that I have not seen for 20 years. It is amazing how many of them have ended up in coaching.

The most exciting assignment to date was taking a small number of junior players to Togo and Ghana in West Africa to play in junior international events. Being on tour is a big responsibility but being able to visit these places reinforces how lucky we are to live in a place like Alburgh.

For a small village, Alburgh Tennis Club is as good a facility as anywhere in the country, and has members from all over south Norfolk and north Suffolk. Formed in the mid seventies when the first court was built the club played its league matches on three courts, the other two being at our home and at Judy and David Cobbald's court at Homersfield. Each team would field three pairs with the visitors being based at one of the three venues and the home side commuting to each after competing against each couple. I can remember a few fundraising activities such as a 100 club along with a 50 – 50 auction on the playing field. However the main event on the calendar used to be the combination of the club's mixed doubles event and lunch at Ruth and the late Duncan Gilmour's house. I seem to always remember this as being the sunniest day of the summer and very well attended. As far as the tournament was concerned I remember one year the club had more men than ladies enter (your partner was drawn from a hat) so I was put in as a lady. I think I was 9 or 10 at the time but embarrassingly ended up winning the event with my partner Richard Smith!

The second court was laid in the early eighties. Like the first one the surface was grey / green shale that enabled you to slide to the ball like a clay court. Some ten years later the courts were re-surfaced with macadam, enabling the surface to be smartly painted red and green. Last year the courts were pressure washed and re-painted with acrylic paint that gives excellent grip in wet conditions thus making the current surface as good as any all-weather court in the county. The excellent upkeep of the club is

mainly due to the hard work of current chairlady June Ridley and her committee.

A lot of my best juniors that I coach are members of the club and regularly play league matches there throughout the year. The current Norfolk under 10 champion Daniella Farrow and nine year old Benjamin Wright regularly attend regional training in Cambridge, whilst Holly Sherington (12) and sister Kari (10) are currently ranked 3 and 2 in their age group for their county (Suffolk).

The residents of Alburgh should be very proud of a first class facility that is very reasonably priced for any family to become members.

Below – Daniella Farrow aged 11 from Wortwell and Benjamin Wright aged 10 from Alburgh. Both players have represented the club for both league and friendly matches showing what an excellent family club Alburgh Tennis Club is. Both players have also represented Norfolk and Benjamin is the current Norfolk Closed under 10 Boys Singles Champion, with Daniella winning the same title for girls last year.



An earlier Alburgh Tennis Club thrived in the village and played on two courts on land to the south of the Red House Farmhouse. I was told that Willy Pearce was responsible for keeping the grass courts cut and marked. The above picture was taken in 1922 and the young lad at the front is Jim Flaxman.

Village Hall

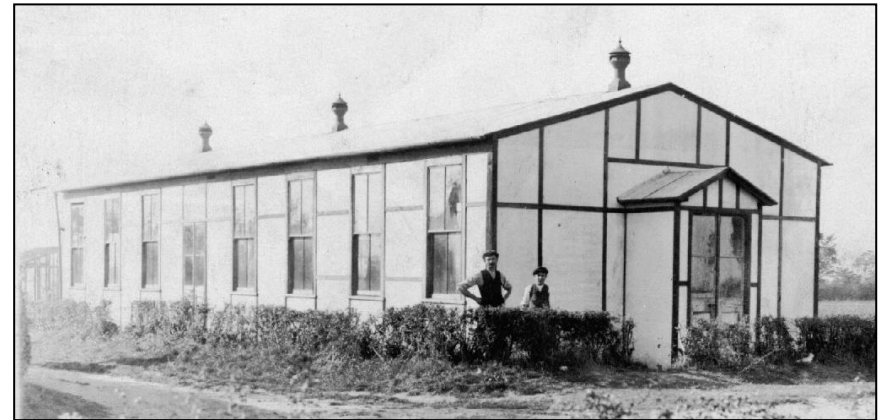
by Margaret Kerrison (nee Andrews)

In 1953 the chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Jim Flaxman, asked me to become Secretary, following the resignation of Reg Harvey. My husband, Ron and I joined the Committee, alongside Blanche Hammond, Florrie Sheldrake, Lilian Crowden, Mrs Lennie Brooks, Mrs Gibbs, Les Lloyd, Jack Syrett, Jean Andrews, Phyllis Wright, and Kit & Bob Flatt.



One of the last events, Village Bazaar November 1971, in the Old Village Hall

The Village Hall at that time, as many will remember, was a wooden building, with no running water, and very primitive loo at the rear of the premises. A Tortoise Stove in the centre of the building heated the Hall – if you sat in the centre of the Hall you roasted, but if you sat at the back you nearly froze to death from the many draughts that penetrated through all the gaps.



The “Old Village Hall” when it was New in 1921

Sponsored Walkers ready for the off.



In spite of these shortcomings, many happy years were spent in this building, being the hub of the community. Weekly Whist Drives, Monthly W.I. Meetings, Harvest Suppers, W.I. Parties, Jumble Sales, Church Bazaars, and Dances to Jack Hornsby’s Band were regularly held there.



New Village Hall under construction c 1971

Once a decision had been made to build a New Village Hall a money raising effort was launched, and numerous events took place, most in the Hall, including one or two Big Auctions and a locally produced Pantomime. A sponsored walk was a great financial success as were the annual car rallies, and with grants promised from various organisations, a New Village Hall became a distinct possibility instead of an improbable dream.

The Village Hall Committee worked very hard to raise money – over the years some Committee members dropped out and others came on board, including Willie Pearce, June and Stanley Seaman, Phyllis and Edward Renaut, Maureen Watts, Joyce Leeder, Brig. Roberts, Darrell Beckett, Michael Denny, Ivy Barrett, Peggy Younge, Les Burrows, Harry Andrews, Alice Love, Frank Wright and many more. Their efforts were rewarded when plans for a new Village Hall were passed and the new building was officially opened in 1972 by Sir Lincoln Ralphs.



Above: The Village Hall management Committee with Sir Lincoln Ralphs at the Opening of the new Hall

Below: Village Hall 2003



Alburgh W.I. Scrapbook for 1965 –

Extracts edited by Brian Pearce

This scrapbook was produced by members of Alburgh W.I. to celebrate 50 years of existence in the village. The book is bound in an illustrated large folder and all the text is hand written by various W.I members. I have reproduced selected text and a number of photographs some of which appear in this article others elsewhere in this book. Mrs Jean McGregor currently holds this important historical document of village life in 1965.

The W.I. is now Fifty years old.
To mark the occasion, make a Scrapbook, we're told,
All about your village and the people there,
And what they did in this Jubilee year.

So we've written about ALBURGH – "The Parish of Oaks",
And the day-to-day happenings of the village folks.
All about this village you can learn,
If you go ahead and these pages turn.

M. E. Andrews.

Who Runs our Village?

Parish Council – this consists of seven members elected by secret ballot every third year. Any Parishioner over twenty-one years of age is eligible. An election for this Council was held in May 1965 when an all male Council was returned. Mr E Bond was elected Chairman for the twentieth year. The Council appoint their own Parish Clerk and is one of the few Norfolk villages to appoint a Lady Clerk. She receives a salary of £8 per annum. The Clerk must not be chosen from the elected members.



The duties of this Council are to deal with any complaints from the residents, to consider any improvements put forward, to conduct the Charities and attend to the upkeep of the two Parish houses.

Depwade Rural District Council – Alburgh is represented on this Council by two members. These are elected in the same way as the Parish Council. It is not necessary to be a member of the Parish Council to be eligible though you can serve on both. Among the many duties of this Council is the fixing and levying of Rates for the district, building and letting Council houses, providing water and sewerage for the village.

Houses on the left are all owned by Depwade Rural District Council

Feoffees – this is a committee of sixteen land owners elected by the Parish. The Chairman holds the title of Town Reeve. Present Chairman Mr J W Flaxman. Their duties: "to ease and aid the poor of Alburgh" and include the upkeep of the Town Lands

consisting of six acres at Rumburgh and twenty-seven acres at St Nicholas. There is also the proceeds of the sale of Wissett Farm, which has been invested.

Any surplus money from the investment is handed over to the five Feoffee Trustees who have been appointed by the Parish Council. Unlike the feoffees who are Life Members the Trustees must be reappointed every five years. It is the duty of these Trustees to use this money for the good of the Parish.

In December 1965 every widow and single pensioner received £2. 10s, and married pensioners were given £3. Ten pounds was given to the church; three hundred pounds was allotted for the Children's Playing Field.

A gift of £5 was made to each child residing in Alburgh who passed on to the Grammar or Secondary modern schools, towards their school uniform. Two notice boards were installed, one at each end of the village at a cost of £10. A donation was made towards the over 60's party and another towards the maintenance of the War Memorial. The expenses of the medicine Service are also met by this fund.

Allotment trustees – the Parish Council act as these Trustees. Their duties are to manage thirteen and a half acres of marshes at Wortwell. These marshes are let by auction annually and the proceeds divided between Alburgh and Wortwell. Income is used for the upkeep of Diamond Cottage also ditches and gates for the allotments and marshes.

Pagan Trust – the Parish Council are again the Trustees. In 1902 the Rev A. Pagan gave a sum of money and three cottages were purchased to be used by the poor of Alburgh. Two of these cottages have since been sold and in 1965 at the suggestion of members of the Pagan family the money invested. The interest from this money to be used for the Church Restoration Fund.



Cottage above was a Pagan Trust Property

Village Hall Committee – ten members are elected annually by the Parish to manage the finance, upkeep and letting of the Hall. The committee must include one member from each organisation in the village.

Parochial Church Council – sixteen members elected annually.

Playing Fields – in 1965 a committee of ten was elected by the Parish to manage the newly opened Playing Field, and again each organisation in the village must be represented.

School Managers – there are six of these. Two appointed by the Church, two by the Parish Council and two by the Education Committee. Under the Education Act of 1902 the school became a non-provided Church School under the dual control of the Norfolk Education Committee and the body of six managers.

Parliamentary Constituency – the parish is situated in the constituency of South Norfolk.

Doris Owen

Amenities

By 1965, 98% of the dwellings had electricity for use in their homes and premises. Approximately 90% of the population had water on tap supplied by a mains waterworks at Pulham; they also had hot and cold water for their bathrooms and sinks. The Depwade Rural District Council arranges for the collection of all refuse from the houses every two weeks. All the Council Houses were on the main sewer, but most of the farmers had their own cesspools and the night-soil cart visited the few dwellings regularly, that did not have the above facilities.

There are 32 privately owned telephones here and one public phone box. Butchers and Bakers call three times a week and a Milkman daily. There was also a Coalman and Dry Cleaner calling weekly. Public transport consisted of one free Shopper's Bus to Harleston on Tuesdays an ordinary service bus to Harleston on Wednesdays, also a bus to Norwich, via Denton, on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting from the Tradesman's Arms in all cases. There is a voluntary medicine collecting service for the

village run by a group of car owners. There is a Post office, a General Shop and a Garage here also.
M. E. Andrews

The Village Library

Mrs Joyce Leeder opens the Village Library once a week, on Thursday afternoons, from 3 pm to 4 pm.

The books are loaned free from the Norfolk County Library. They consist of a hundred and seventy fiction and seventy non-fiction. They are kept in a locked cupboard in the Village hall.

The selection is changed three times a year when the Library Van arrives with two County Librarians on board, who check in the books that are being returned, while Mrs Leeder and two or three assistants pick a fresh assortment from the books in the van.

We have fifty readers who seem to divide themselves into four main groups. Those who read romantic novels, those who prefer “Westerns”, and those who like mysteries and murders, and then there are the non-fiction readers.

A few people will read any kind of book and one man will read nothing except books about war, but on the whole all tastes seem to be satisfied.

R. J. L. Leeder

Alburgh Playing Field

What we now have the pleasure of calling the village Playing Field was originally allotments owned by the Parish Council – in all 1.5 acres – and situated in the middle of the village.

Extensive cultivations were carried out in order to level up as well as clean the land. It was well drained, levelled and seeded with a special grass seed mixture.

The cost of all this work was borne by a substantial gift from a Parish Trust governed by the Feoffees, who made a further contribution towards

the cost of all the equipment. The remainder of the cost was met by a grant from the Norfolk Education Committee.

The grant from the Norfolk Education Committee was given on the understanding that the Playing Field would be run by a Committee representative of the village, viz. one person representing each of the following – Church, Chapel, Village Hall, Women’s Institute, Feoffees and Parish Council plus up to five members of the parish.



Village Children enjoy the new Play equipment

The Parish Council make an annual subscription to the national Playing Field Association and were able, when the work on the playing field was being done, to draw on the knowledge and guidance of the Association technical staff.

October 1965 saw the culmination of the year’s preparation and negotiation and the children are now able to play their games in safety and enjoy the six swings, three horizontal bars and a slide.

All the equipment is placed on a rectangular area of tarmac 40 yards x 5 yards so that the children can still make full use of the swings etc during damp or wet weather. Two very nice wrought iron seats were made locally and placed in the field and several other items have been planned for the near future including a shelter and toilet facilities.

The cutting of the grass is taken care of by the Norfolk County Council who mow the field approximately every ten days during the growing season for a moderate fee.

J. T. McGregor

Farming News

January – fairly wet start. Main work on the land was finishing the sugar beet, hedging, ditching and ploughing. Fairly kind weather towards the end of the month, with moderate frosts most nights. Several draining and ditching schemes carried out in the parish.

February – most of the land work tidying up ready for the spring cultivations. A hare shoot in the district, which took in several farms in the village was a great success. The total bag was 130 and the proceeds went to the Cheshire Homes.

March – weather true to type. Work on the land consisted mainly of top dressing meadows much carting and the start of the spring drilling. A little sugar beet drilled towards the end of the month then the weather really let us down. Rain, rain and more rain. One of the farms in the parish changed hands and the sale of live and dead stock drew a large crowd from far and wide.

April – weather continued changeable. A little drilling done but still a lot of corn and beet to drill.

May – cattle turned out on meadows and marshes for the summer grazing. Most of the yard fed cattle had gone to the fat market. A full month of land work on the farms, sowing grass seeds, hoeing sugar beet, drilling kale and mangolds, planting potatoes and crop spraying.



Young Peter Flaxman turns the Hay at Church Farm (note steeple without its pinnacles the church tower was under repair).

June – fairly wet on the whole, heavy thundershowers. A start was made on silage and haymaking. Highlight of the month was the Royal Norfolk Show. Farmers turned out in their numbers and voted it one of the best for several years.

July – Wet! Still trying to secure the hay crop. Land workers snatching a holiday before harvest. Combines seeing daylight again, after winter storage, checking for minor repairs.

August – weather on the whole pretty reasonable. Picking dwarf beans for deep freezing, winter barley ready for combining. Still struggling to get the remainder of the hay crop quality very poor.

The farming community received the changing of the August Bank holiday, to the end of the month, with mixed feelings.

September – corn harvest slow progress. Crops badly laid. Heavy dews both morning and night, glad to make a start on sugar beet and potato harvests to keep the wheels turning.

October – wonderful weather three cheers! Finished the harvest and work going with a swing, ploughing, sugar beeting drilling wheat. Cattle coming in for winter feeding – everybody full of business.

November – sugar beet harvest in full swing the land was too wet for harvesters to work satisfactorily in some cases, so had to revert to knocking and cutting by hand. Ploughing and muck carting too were being written off, and most of the cattle yards had their compliment of either fat or store cattle.

December – Due to wet weather ploughing and sugar beet harvesting still a headache.

Year of 1965 - was most disastrous year weather wise. From January to December a battle with the elements that saw hay crops ruined and corn crops flattened with torrential rain.

Yields on the whole were down and quality not too special.

For producers of fat cattle, prices were high in the early half of the year but fell off towards the end.

Pig prices were far from satisfactory and egg producers were up in arms over the low prices they had to take.

All “farming fingers” are crossed for a happier state of affairs in 1966.

E R Flaxman
J T McGregor
P K Renaut

The “Even Younger” Generation

Six babies were born in Alburgh in 1965. Mark Lloyd was born in January, Trevor Wright in February, Anita Waters in March, Nigel Bond in April, Susan Francis in July and Helen Ambrose in November.

All the mothers had their babies in their own homes, and all except one were delivered by our District Nurse who lives in Earsham about four miles from Alburgh.

Mothers can claim tokens for cheap milk from our local Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance at Bungay from the time the children are born to the age of five. They can also get for them Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice from our clinic, which is held at Denton a mile away, by our District Nurse on the first Thursday afternoon in each calendar month, throughout the year. Each baby up to one year old is weighed almost in the nude and over one year up to five years with just the outer clothes off. The December clinic was especially nice, for as well as the usual cup of tea, biscuits and raffle tickets, which we buy, our Nurse gave the children a party, having mince pies, cake and crackers. Each child received a present before returning home.

Barbara E Wright

Population

The population at the end of 1965 was 302, which had decreased during the year owing to people moving out of the village. Two families, each with five children, moved out during 1965, and only two children had moved into the village – the newcomers being the new Rector’s children.

Six inhabitants died during the year, and six babies were born.

Approximately one third of the population was over sixty years of age, but this group was still very active.

The oldest inhabitant was Mr Leonard Twitchett, who celebrated his 90th birthday in November, and the youngest being Helen Ambrose, who was born on the 29th November.

M. E. Andrews.

Now that you’ve finished turning the pages,
Our story has reached the final stages.
We hope this book of interest has been,
And that you have enjoyed the things you’ve seen.

M. E. Andrews



Centre of the village in the 1960s – garage, post office and pub



Alburgh Town Lands Estate *by Kathleen Flat*

The Alburgh Town Lands Estate came into being in 1624 (in the reign of Henry VIII) when in his will, Richard Wright requested that land to the value of twenty pounds be purchased “to acquit and discharge the tasks and tallage of the township of Alburgh aforesaid”(originally bequeathed to keep up the town armour in repair). Sixteen persons were then appointed feoffees to administer the estate. Two of these were to be appointed Town Reeves by “the greatest number of the said parishioners of Alburgh upon the Monday next before the Feast Day of Saint Thomas the Apostle yearly, and every year at or within the Church or Chancel of Alburgh”. Their duties were to receive and well dispose of the rents and profits of the estate. “A just and true account” was to be kept in writing in a book to be stored in the town chest. This chest, which has three locks, has been restored and stands in the chancel of All Saints church. However, records are now kept in the Norfolk Record Office.

As time went on five trustees were appointed and in the early part of this century the Town Reeves decided that a paid clerk would keep the accounts and a Chairman would lead the feoffees. With that the title of Town Reeve was dropped for a while. At a recent meeting, while still maintaining a clerk, it was decided that, in future the Chairman, from now on would be called the Town Reeve. His role will remain as before. On retiring in 2002 after his two years in office, Mr John Thornton presented the in coming Town Reeve, Mr Robert Flatt with a staff bearing the following inscription “TOWN REEVE – ALBURGH. People generally serve two years as Vice-Chairman, before serving two years as Town Reeve.

In the 1960's the number of feoffees had decreased to four (Billy Flaxman, Eric Bond, Ossie Cox and Arthur Carter) so a further twelve were appointed to bring the total up to the required sixteen.

Bleach Farm, Wissett, was owned by the Town Lands, and after inspection by the newly appointed feoffees, and after legal advice and consultation

with the Charity Commissioners, the farm was sold to the tenant for a sum of around £4,600. An inscription on a barn there reading “erected by Peter Spark and John Crow, Town Reeves 1772” is just visible. The barn is in a poor state of repair and there is some doubt about repairing the inscription. This money was invested and a Parish Meeting called to invite suggestions as to how the interest could be allocated. As a result, over the years sums of money were donated to the Church, Chapel, the old Village Hall (and later towards the New Village Hall Fund), a medicine collection service, school uniforms for those leaving Alburgh School at age 11, summer outings and Christmas parties for the over 60's and towards turning the village allotments into a playing field, plus purchasing equipment for the children. The charity still owns land at St James and St. Nicholas (27 acres) and Rumburgh (6 acres)

Alburgh Town Lands Estate was registered as a charity in 1962 and its object is the “maintenance of property and general charitable purposes within the parish of Alburgh”.

Every year organisations and individuals living in the parish of Alburgh are invited to apply for grants in the Parish News. A meeting of feoffees and trustees takes place in November when all applications are carefully considered. We, in Alburgh, are fortunate in having the sums of money, which the estate produces. Much help has been given over the years to the church and village hall to name but two organisations receiving financial aid. Money from the same source pays for the Over 60s party, which has been held annually since 1974 although an earlier one took place in 1962. The Medicine Rota, which is first recorded in the accounts in 1962, still operates today. The present account book, costing 3s 9d dates back to 1960 when it was signed by Mr J. W. Flaxman.

The Alburgh Church Charity has been combined with this one and the Parochial Church Council always receives at least £10.00 per year. It was my pleasure to serve the Alburgh Town Lands Estate as clerk for 30 years until 2000 when I became a Feoffee and Mrs Nicola Dernie took on the clerk's duties.

List of Alburgh Reeves (or chair of the Feoffees) since its formation:

1912 Mr J Q Springfield
1920 Mr P W Miles
1923 Mr J A Everson
1925 Mr P W Miles
1927 Mr A R Todd
1929 Mr W Cox was Town Reeve (until he died in 1929)
1929 Mr O N Martin (appointed as temporary Town Reeve)
1931 Mr P W Miles
1935 Mr A R Todd
1936 Mr P W Miles
1937 Mr W J Flaxman
1968 Mr E S Bond
1972 Mr J Flaxman
1987 Mr J Bond
1990 Mr L Lloyd
1992 Mr M Denny
1994 Mr E Renaut
1996 Mr J Bond
1998 Mr L Lloyd
2000 Mr J Thornton
2002 Mr R A Flatt

The office of Town Reeve was rarely used until it was revived in 2001 when the Feoffees decided that the Chairman would also be the Town Reeve.

The feoffees and trustees serving in 2003 are:

Mr Jonathan Bond – South Farm
Mr Malcolm Denny – Piedbridge Farm
Mr Nicholas Durrant – Whitehouse Farm
Mrs Kathleen Flatt – Bali Ha'i, Station Road
Mr Robert Flatt – Bali Ha'i, Station Road
Mrs Jean McGregor – 36 The Street
Mr Leslie Lloyd – 3 Pagan Terrace, The Street
Mr Henry Pagan – Hawthorn Farm
Mr Edward Renaut – Villa Farm
Mr Jack Syrett – Moat Farm
Mr John Thornton – Candles Lane, Harleston

Village Charities

by Bob & Kit Flatt

Poors Allotment (Coal Gift)

“Under the Alburgh Inclosure Act during the long reign of George III, the Commissioners set out to the lords of the manor, the rector, churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Alburgh and hamlet of Wortwell, an allowance of 13 acres 1 rood and 20 perches in Wortwell, for the use and benefit of the poor persons within the said parish and hamlet”. This allotment is let by auction every year.

An ancient and interesting source of information on this charity has been “This Book presented for the accounts by Henry J. Spelman 1872”. On the first page is “An Agreement for Hire of an allotment in the Town Pightle”. It states that “we the undersigned hereby agree to hire the below mentioned quantities of land of the Parish Officers of Alburgh for the time being under the conditions stated below” These include termination of tenancy on 11th October, when the rent had to be paid, the consequences of non-payment of rent while Tithe, rates and taxes were paid by the Parish Officers. The agreement was signed by George Barber, George Rackham, John Brooks, James Miller, John Crane, Geo. Mobbs, Mr Sheldrake, William Reynolds and Henry Butcher. Most of these names then appear in the list of tenants who, all except the last one, hired 20 perches - a total of 1 acre 2 roods and 37 perches.

The total income for 1872 and 1873 amounted to £27 4s 0d made up of rents from cottages, gardens, pightle, orchard and the allotments at 10s 0d each. Among the items of expenditure are a bill from Mr Wightman for £7 17s 4d for sheets and blankets and paying Girl Sheldrake three shillings for picking up stones. Repairs, taxes and drainage accounted for most of the rest leaving a balance in hand of 14s 7d. The heading on the accounts is “Parish Pightle and Town House Account”.

In 1878, the title was “Receipts from Parish Allotments” and the accounts with a balance of 16s 11½d were approved at a Vestry meeting. “Town Allotments” were dealt with in 1879 but in 1880, there were Town Lands

receipts going back to Town Allotments in 1881. The bills to Wightmans ceased in 1882 but 2s 0d were given to a list of 24 people. The next year allotment rents were down to 5s 0d and the people listed only received 1s 0d. By 1885 the receipts only amounted to £9 8s 1d, Wightmans bill appeared again but no individual donations.

For a number of years very little money was carried forward but in 1890 the sum was £3 0s 11½d and the following year £7 16s 0½d was carried forward to a Coal Account – the first time fuel has been mentioned. During the years 1872-87, the Town Reeves made disbursements, but from 1888, it was the duty of the Churchwarden. “At the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for the Parish of Alburgh held in the Schoolroom Mon. 1st April 1895 these accounts were exhibited examined and approved by the meeting” This is signed by S G. Brock (Chairman). The 1895 Alburgh Poors Allotment Accounts are written in a beautiful hand and include the Coal Account, Allotment Rents and Expenditure including Mr Durrant’s Auctioneer’s expenses, Town Marsh expenses and the first reference to the marshes at Wortwell.

“The marsh rent is divided into two equal parts and in 1888 out of the Alburgh share £2 was paid towards the support of the school, supported chiefly by the resident curate, and the remainder was laid out in the purchase of coals, which were distributed weekly during the winter amongst the poor belonging to the parish, whether living in it or not, in proportions according to the number in family varying from 3 pecks to a bushel, every week as long as the coal last”. The first supplier of coal was W. D. and A. E. Walker and the first bill was £15 1s 4d rising to £26 11s 0d in 1900. Items such as stationery and stamps begin to appear on the expenses list as does the mole catcher at 7s 6d. John Cox took over the coal supplies in 1902 when 15 tons 18 cwt cost £21 9s 4d.

Together with other rents Miss A. Lohr paid 5s 0d from the Lending Library for the Reading Room and Miss C. M. Lohr paid the same amount for the Boys Bible class. In 1907 a cheque for £6 0s 3d was received from the Town Reeves. A year later the marsh rents came to £28 0s 0d and the

accounts were signed by Reverend Alfred Pagan. Another familiar name appears when in 1915 the signatory was T A Springfield

By 1920 we have the first recorded distribution of cash in lieu of coal but the next year coal was distributed again. The sum was £26 10s 0d and the accounts were signed by P Miles. The 14 allotments were held by:

C. Brock, W. Punchard, J. Snowling, W. Denny, C. Love, W. Pearce, Rodwell, W. Love, F. Fairhead, W. Mobbs, Flint, Punchard Jnr, Wright and A. Millett while F. Smith hired the orchard. Throughout the 1920s and 30s Mrs Love received 7s 6d for “attendance to room” and the Town Lands made a grant of £5 0s 0d per year until 1933 when £10 0s 0d was given but grants from this source ended in 1947. Three allotment holders had 1s 0d of their rent refunded.

During World War II cash was again given in lieu of coal. The last coal merchant’s bill was to Messrs Moy for £21 5s 7d and the following year (1944) £78 10s 0d was distributed. The allotment rents were still 4s 0d and the accounts are signed by J. W. Flaxman (April 27th 1944).



Diamond Cottage circa 1965 (site now occupied by the Village Hall)

In 1948 the accounts record receipts of £5 0s 0d – demolition of Old Parish Room and cottages. From then and for the next 20 years, Mr E. Bond usually signed the accounts and there were few changes among the allotment holders although the number reduced to seven and one cottage is still let to Mr H. Prime. Money for the Coal Gift was often supplemented with grants from the Town Lands charity sometimes by £100. The tenancy of the cottage ceased in 1968 when the rent was £6 per year. Apples were sold from Diamond Cottage in 1969.

The first recorded clerk’s salary is £20.00 for the year 1975-76 and from that time no allotment rents are recorded. The income is now around £600 to £700 and there are two bank accounts. From 1990 Christmas gifts were introduced as well as Coal Gifts, these are decided upon by the Trustees.

The old account book ended in 1998 and information concerning the Coal Gift and donations from the charity is published in The Parish News. A committee of 4 elected by the Parish Council - not necessarily council members, administers this charity and the Rector of the Parish is an ex-officio Trustee.



School Cottages, circa 1972

The trustees of the charity in 2003 are: Mr Robert Flatt, Mrs Ruth Bass, Mr Leslie Lloyd, Mr David Denny and Reverend Ian Bentley.

The Pagan Trust

In 1902 Reverend Alfred Pagan gave a sum of money, which was used to purchase three cottages. One was in Vinegar Lane and the others are the two cottages (now one dwelling) known as School Cottage. The poor of Alburgh inhabited these cottages. They have now all been sold and the money invested, the resulting interest is allocated to "charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Alburgh". In recent years the trustees have regularly given monies to the Parochial Church Council to help them maintain the village church.

There is a memorial to Reverend Pagan on the wall in the chancel of All Saints church, Alburgh. Mr Henry Pagan, his son, still lives in the village. The trustees of the Pagan Trust are the Parish Councillors to whom applications are made for grants.

Parish Land

Allotments for the Poor - in 1802 the Commissioners also assigned, set out and allotted "Commonable Fen Lands, Commons and Waste Grounds within the parish of Alburgh and hamlet of Wortwell". These the Lord or Lords, Rectors, Churchwardens and Overseers, or the major part of them for the time being, appropriated in Part or Parts for the raising of Fruit and Vegetables, or for any other "Uses or Purposes whatsoever which they shall think most useful and beneficial for such poor "Persons" aforesaid. This is why the Parish Council still has the management, with Wortwell Parish Council, of allotments in that village.

Included in this were three sand pits, one behind the Armoury, one behind Tunbeck Farm and the third is beside the Wortwell allotments. Two have been sold and the other is rented. The income from these lands is mainly used for the upkeep of Alburgh churchyard. The Parish Council administers this charity.

Opposite: an early agreement document

An agreement for Hire of an allotment in the Town Rights

We the undersigned hereby agree to hire the below mentioned quantities of Land of the Parish Officers of Alburgh for the time being under the conditions as stated below.

1st The Tenancy of each allotment shall terminate every year on the 11th day of October; but each tenant shall be at liberty to hold on his land unless one months notice has been given him to give up the same before the expiration of his annual tenancy.

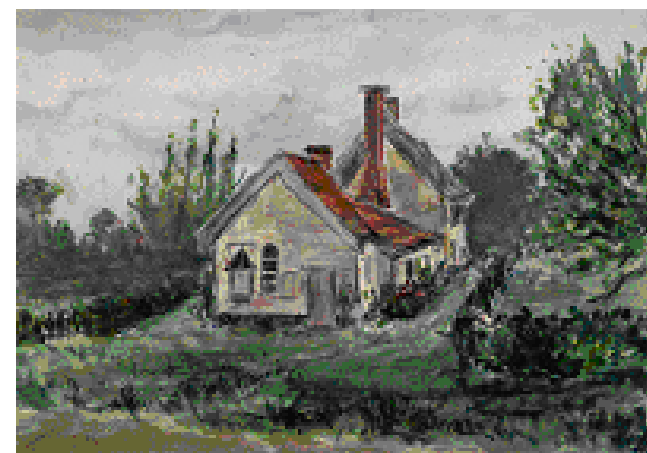
2nd The rent shall be paid each year in the first week in September to the person appointed by the Committee to receive the same, rent paid to any person otherwise than the one so appointed, shall not be considered a discharge of the amount due for rent.

3rd Any tenant not having paid the amount of his rent by the 11th day of October in any year, shall be deemed to have forfeited possession of his allotment; although no notice has been given him to quit the same, and the Committee reserve to themselves full power to re-allot the same.

4th All the rates, taxes shall be paid by the Parish officers.

5th Notice to give up possession of any allotment shall be given by the person appointed by the Committee at their annual meeting

George Bantles
George Packham
John Brooks
James Miller
John ^{mark} Crane
Geo. ^{mark} Rabbs
Mr Sheldrake
William Byrnes



Clockwise 1 Red Cottage, Church Road 2 Piccadilly Cottages 3 Parish Room
4 Cottage Joining Parish Room 5 Cottage down Bass lane 6 Lowditch Cottage

Paintings of village buildings by schoolboy Percy Flaxman

Clocks and other Engineering Projects

by Colin Walton

In 1981, my family and I moved to Tunbeck Cottage, to continue the business of clock making and clock restoration, which had grown out of a life-long hobby. We had lived near Newmarket, but it was when the Gershom-Parkington museum approached me regarding the restoration of the clocks in the collection that I decided in 1976 to leave my full time career as a design engineer, as a designer with Ford Motor Company, and ironically with Metamec clocks before that. The fine English and European clocks, which make up the Gershom-Parkington collection, are now housed in the Manor House museum in Bury St. Edmunds.

When you go into the entrance hall of the museum you will see a copy of a Congreve rolling ball clock, which I made in 1985/6. The then curator, Captain Meyrick and I went to Woolwich Arsenal to photograph and make detailed drawings of the original clock, which was made in 1808. It took several months to make, including the wolf motif, which is part of the emblem of Bury St. Edmunds Council.

Over a fifteen year period I was privileged to restore many of the clocks from the collection, some by famous makers such as Joseph Knibb, Daniel Quare, Joseph Windmills, world famous 17th and 18th century London clockmakers, and with this experience I have been invited to many interesting homes and prestigious country houses, to advise on and to restore historical clocks. Clocks from this period were all hand-made and therefore any missing parts have to be made in the traditional way, which I do by hand, and the brass is specially cast to match the rest of the clock.

Another interesting clock, also commissioned by the museum was an identical working copy of the first electric clock, which is in the Science museum in London, made in the 1840s by Alexander Bain, using zinc and copper plates in a box of earth forming a primitive battery to power the clock. A cabinetmaker made the case for me, and before long was making

another case, this time for an American visiting the museum who had ordered one of the regulator clocks I make. A regulator clock is a very accurate timepiece, which clockmakers would have used to regulate the clocks they made before the days of time signals and radio. Sadly the gentleman died before the clock was completed, but his family invited me to follow the clock, which was packed and shipped to Los Angeles and to set it up in their home. Whilst I was there I was able to visit other clock collections.



The author at work in his Tunbeck Cottage Workshop

Realising from my own difficulties that tools for clockmakers were expensive and very hard to find I set about designing a range of traditional tools, and sold these for many years, worldwide, even to Switzerland!

These are hand tools, a spring winder with a special safety device, a deepthing tool for gaugeing clock wheels, a wheel and pinion cutting attachment, for cutting clock wheels and pinions, and a radius turning attachment for cutting balls and other shapes in brass and steel.

I have restored many church and public clocks in East Anglia and London, probably the most notable being a turret clock in Suffolk, made by Vulliamy as the prototype contender to the Westminster clock, commonly known as Big Ben, which was made by Dent. These clocks are of a completely different order of magnitude to domestic timepieces. The clocks range in date from the mid seventeenth century to the twentieth century, some may weigh up to half a tonne, not to mention the weights that drive the clock. Removing the clock from the church tower is not without its difficulties, and it is usually necessary to dismantle the clock in the clock room and lower individual components on ropes through the trap doors, which were designed to give access when the bells were installed. The restoration work may be as simple as cleaning and repainting the movement, but in many cases significant repairs and even replacement parts have to be manufactured.

Access to the dials often requires scaffolding, and a calm, warm day if the dial and hands need regilding, but the wooden dial of Saxlingham Nethergate church was made here, and includes a sundial. Several of the



The Author with Norman Millett prepare to install the restored clock movement in the church tower at Saxlingham Nethergate church.

church clocks I have restored are featured in a recently published book about Norfolk clocks.

Designing is something I have always done, and when our son, Richard wanted a drawing board for his school work I developed an idea, using a different principle which I patented and made. I took the prototype to Bayliss Wisdom in Norwich, who promptly ordered ten drawing boards. These were made as one-offs, but my experience in industry gave me the opportunity to design and make production tooling, and within months we invested our savings in a stand at Olympia, where to our amazement, we took orders beyond our expectations. This led to a rapid setting up of a production line, but we soon outgrew the workshop, and moved to a unit at Mill Farm, which we had helped John Andrews to convert from a farm building into a factory unit. We employed local people, and appreciated the many years of loyal service of Sally Lugo, who operated the injection moulding machine which made plastic parts, and Mary Upson who was very adept at making accurate drawing instruments, as well as Norman and Jayne Feek, and Bernard Feek originally from Wortwell. Many items were sent to Thailand, Australia, Portugal, Singapore, with a complete load of drawing boards shipped to South Africa for use in a college there.

Ruth and I have always worked closely together, with Ruth running the office and the accounts, and our sharing the sales and marketing. We exhibited at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham for ten years, manufacturing thousands of drawing boards as well as special computer benching, drawing instruments and fitting out complete school classrooms with specialist furniture designed and made by us. This created employment in other companies as well, with all the steel work and powder coating being sub-contracted to a company in Thetford, who subsequently bought us out, but retained our name of Walton Designs, Thetford, where it continues to grow.

Time has come full circle – without the pressure of the drawing board business, I can now indulge my passion of clock making once again.

Lawrence Aldous *remembered by Leslie Lloyd*

A well known Alburgh character, was not born in Alburgh, but in fact was born in Pulham Market in 1893 and died in 1984 at the ripe old age of 91 years.

He was one of a family of six boys and three girls; he went to school in Pulham Market leaving at the age of thirteen to find work as most youngsters did at that period. Times were hard then and he no doubt wanted to help support his family, his first job was with the local bakery how long he worked here I am not sure, but he then moved onto work on



Lawrence in happy mode at a wedding.

the land for a local farm, there he remained until joining the army to fight for his country in the 1914-1918 war. During the First World War I believe he was wounded in the leg whilst fighting in France. When at last, the end of the war came and he was demobbed. Work was very hard to find for the soldiers returning from the war; eventually Lawrence found work helping a Pulham man in his boot and shoe repair business.

This is about when he met his future wife Dorothy; they married in 1920 and moved to Rose Cottage in Alburgh. I'm told that Rose Cottage was one of a pair that once stood almost opposite the entrance to Moat farm. These cottages were pulled down around 1938 before the Second World War, after Lawrence moved out in 1938.

Lawrence then started his own boot and shoe repair business and incorporated this work with chimney sweeping and hair cutting for his family and friends.

Lawrence and Dorothy raised a family of seven girls and two boys, they moved to the newly built number 2 Flaxmans Close where he lived for the rest of his life.

After retirement from his boot repair business, Lawrence took on a newspaper delivery service and did this in fair weather and foul for many years. He also collected the old newspapers in aid of a charity for the Blind, which I know raised a lot of money over many years.

He used to store the papers in a shed at the back of his house, which used to seem to bulge out at the sides. Lawrence was also well known for his hobby of making cider from locally grown apples. I will always remember one hot day when I was walking past and Lawrence came to his garden gate for a chat. He invited me in to his cider shed for a cooling glass, it tasted very nice, not unlike other ciders had tasted before, but little did I know how potent it was for I started to find I was slurring as I spoke and my legs didn't seem to want to go the way I wanted them to.

I also remember he had a mina bird in an aviary at the back of his house, which would bark just like the dog next door. This completely fooled anybody who didn't know!

Lawrence would always make you welcome into his home and would love to talk about the old days, and would often make me laugh at some of the tales he would tell.

Another recollection during the snow of 1951 Lawrence fell in his garden and broke his leg. He made no fuss, dragged himself indoors and strapped his leg to a piece of wood to await the arrival of the Doctor.

Tom Reeder *in conversation with Jean Syrett*

Thomas William Reeder, known as Tom, was born in 1911 at Rushall Priory. The family moved from Needham to the Colegate End of Pulham Market.

After Tom's father died, his mother needed someone to help in the house. Gladys Feavour who lived nearby in Pulham Market was employed. Tom and his mother moved to Oakland's Cottage in Redenhall and Gladys still



went to help them. Soon afterwards in 1932 Tom and Gladys married at Pulham Market church. A year later their daughter Dorothy was born. Later the family moved to Coldham Hall where their second daughter Peggy was born. Tom and his family next moved to North Lodge on the Gawdy Hall Estate. Tom did several different jobs on the farm from shepherding sheep to ditch cleaning and hedge trimming. In 1939 Tom decided that it was time to purchase a home of his own.

Tom in his lovely Garden

There were three houses for sale in Alburgh, Hope Cottage in Station Road, a cottage down Low Meadows in Vinegar Lane and Springfield House in the Street. Mr Woolton who lived at Tunstead Hall near Wroxham owned Springfield House. Tom cycled all the way to the hall to ask him if he could purchase Springfield House. Tom after some negotiation was able to purchase the house in 1939.



Springfield House

Tom worked on various farms, for Mr Morris at Darrow Green Farm, Denton for six months and finally finished working for the late Mr Denny at Piedbridge Farm, Redenhall. Finally hanging up his farming boots

some six months before the normal retirement age, as he needed a hip replacement; Mr Tucker at the old Norfolk and Norwich Hospital performed this in 1967/8. Tom went to Kelling Hospital to recuperate before coming back to Springfield House again.

Lots of people will remember Tom as the village gardener; he also had his own beehives but never liked honey and was allergic to bees. Tom was also a keen darts man winning several trophies. He played at the Harleston Crown, which is now a private dwelling; Earsham Queen and finally as a team member of the Bungay Swan. Tom also told me that he often played darts at the Tradesman's Arms in Alburgh where he was a regular before its closure.

Tom and Gladys lived over 70 eventful years together until Gladys died on 11th April 2003 after reaching the great age of 101.

Tom is coping well with lots of help from family, friends and also many helpers, who come in daily, which he is grateful for. Tom still has his bees, his flowers, his plants and his greenhouse. But he still finds time for his puzzles.

Alburgh Village Weddings



Peter and Sally Lugo (nee Griffiths) – 25th August 1973



Unknown Wedding – date unknown
Alan and Christine Rafter (nee Goose)



Gerald and Peggy Younge (nee Seaman) – date unknown





*Left: Denise Seaman arrives with
proud dad Eric late 1960's*

*Below: Village Double Wedding
(date and people unknown)*



Poems

by Geoffrey S S Wilyman

Roy Castle wrote: "I particularly enjoy – "At Eastertide"; full of hope and anticipation. Full of the joy we can give to a new generation if we sow the seed properly.

AT EASTERTIDE

I saw the message born anew . . .
At Eastertide! At Eastertide!
The problems of our world review
With gardener's season true!

Frost and snow, yes! In plenty!
Yet below it, gently grew
Wild primroses, pale tho' plenty
With sun, unfolded into view.

Daffodils lifted frozen heads
Took it all, showed their scorn
Shook snow off . . . as newly weds!
Made fresh vows, life's reborn!

Fresh spring air, songbirds singing
At Eastertide! At Eastertide!
Crowds a gathering, church bells ringing
Gay new life – as lambs arrive!

Hear new message – all ye depressed!
Life goes on . . . now and for ever.
Gardener's bright new seasons blessed!
All's improving with the weather.



AN ENGLISH SPRING

Sing with me all joyful souls
Hark, the very heaven's sing
Flowers and birds are all awake
Heralding another spring!
The Easter message, joyful song
Christ is risen from the grave
Sing with gusto round the world
Many yet there are to save!
Fragrant flowers around awake
Scent of violets fills the air
Joyful lambs, make their ascent
Christ is risen, fills the air!
Trees burst out in bud and leaf
Awake again from winter's sleep
Sing out Christians everywhere
"Christ's the shepherd of His sheep"
Calls us once again to Him
Wake up spirits of the dead
Join all earth and gaily sing
Arise to Him Spring's earthly head!
Men's achievements bring despair
All can see the darkening facts
Without Our God naught I declare
Brings a song, the soulless lacks!
So sing again this English spring
Men no more like grass shall die
Christ is risen. Worldly King!
Spirits live, what mortals die!

DEVON HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS

The hills of old Devon are a joy to behold
Lush with green grasses, flowers and tree
Fat cattle grazing, sheep in the fold . . .
What more could man want . . . such as me?

Crystal clear water flows down to the sea
Through wooded valleys, combe or lea view
Both sight and sound, refreshing as tea
In peace on the hillside is supped by we two!

How green is your valley? How high is your sky?
Does your soul cry out friend with glee?
O father, creator, this wonderful cry,
This earth was created for both you and me!

A horse for long journeys, if need be
Man's real needs are met, they're so few,
Levelled patch for his veg, sweetness, the bee,
Apples for fruit or his favourite brew!

Fine sheep's wool for warmth on his back
Cattle for milk, leather or meat . . .
Look back or forwards never alack,
Our Father provides in nature quite cheap!

It's what man has made of a heaven as this
Fills us with anger and shame . . . man's to blame!
Nothing but greed . . . frustration it is!
The God of us all's not to blame . . . it's our shame.



DEVON FISHERMEN

If you are a Devon man!
Of scrumpy take your fill
You'll go home and sleep
No need for partner's pill!

But should you feel the breezes
Blowing in from the sea,
You'll travel down to little cove
Find shipping there to lee!

Climb aboard a boat no doubt!
Make a fast and toss a coin
Shall I sail for seaward route –
Mates along the coast to join?

Or shall I just go crabbing?
Fish, or with lobster pot?
Toss about, my belly flabbing
O'er the side, lift the lot.

A Devon man is seaward bent
Until his prime is long past,
Sailing from his youth he went
Hearty man before the mast . . .

So now he drinks his scrumpy!
If you should his lot espy –
Thank the Lord for lobster meat
Devon men that once were spry
And work until they die!

Wartime Memories

by Dorothea Menai (nee Goose)

I was born at isolated Burnt Oak Farm on the edge of the village in 1934. My earliest memory (or did my parents tell me?) is of going to the Jubilee tea at the Old Village Hall in 1935. My next memory is of all the headlands being ploughed up for the war effort. Then came the building of the “Drome” – after that the “Yanks”.



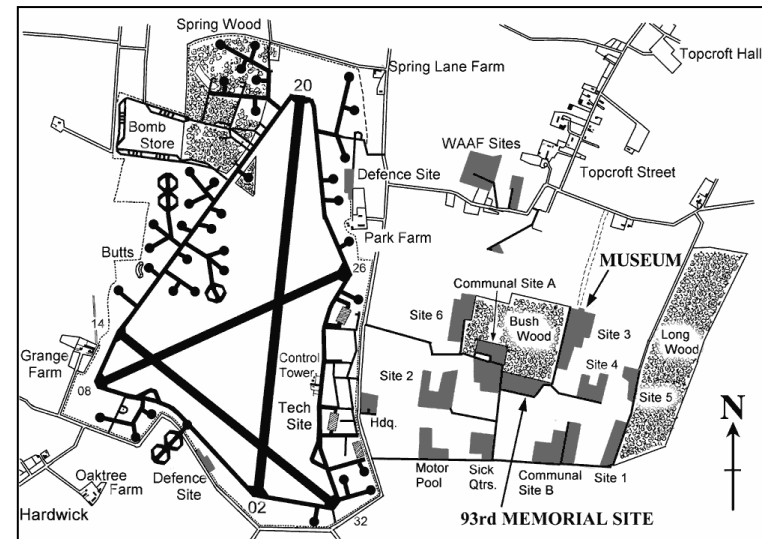
Burnt Oak Farm (now demolished)

We were in a direct path of the main runway so dawn cracked early and noisily as they took off on bombing raids. We had two nasty crashes on the farm during those years. The first was a homeward bound plane, which came down on the front meadow, scaring the horse and all the cows. The pilot later said he was afraid he would hit the house. The second was early one foggy morning when a plane fully loaded with bombs touched the trees and crashed at the back of the house. Sadly no aircrew survived and twice since then unexploded bombs have been discovered at the site of the crater. My baby brother was looking out of the kitchen window at the time.

Glass went all over him but fortunately he was unhurt. We stayed with my Auntie Annie while essential repairs to the house were carried out. On another occasion a plane crashed in one of Mr Watts’ fields and the crew ran the wrong way



down the lanes to our farm instead of the base. Mother gave them a hot sweet tea forgetting they preferred coffee. Father piled them all into the Ford 8 and took them back to the base. One evening, he was on top of a stack watching the returning bombers, suddenly realising the bombers



were being followed by a German fighter when bullets started coming at him. Not waiting to use the ladder he slid to the ground.

Then there was the Home Guard (Dad's Army to all you youngsters) of which father was a member for a short time. He went bad temperedly off dressed in brown plus fours, matching diamonded patterned socks, tatty jacket and shotgun – looking like an irate gamekeeper. The stalwarts of the village paraded in front of the Tradesman's Arms every Sunday morning. I remember them coming to the farm to practise "tactics". Our representative got himself captured so that he could get on with the chores. Being a child at the time food rationing did not affect me too much. There were always vegetables, eggs and large colourful birds (long tailed pigeons, I was told!) hanging in the larder – Laurie can be thanked for that. I learnt to knit and sew at an early age in order to help with the everlasting "make and mend".

The farming year went on regardless, various cousins used to stay during their summer holidays to help with the harvest, especially our cousin John. There were air raids of course and horrid nights spent in the shelter in the front room (mother wouldn't let the dog in with us). You could almost sense when there was going to be a raid. You could never get John out of bed however noisy it was. One year we had two Italian POW's to help who used to teach us a few words in Italian. Next year we had Alfred – a German who worked much harder than anyone else. I think he went back to East Germany. Towards the end of the war a "Doodlebug" exploded in the village – this was on Mr Watts' land, a few fields away.

These are my childhood memories of the war years. The village had a Post Office, two shops, two pubs, a garage and a blacksmith but no buses. Homersfield Station, on the Waveney Valley Line was still functioning. When visiting my brother, Hugh and his family in Alburgh we drove through the old airfields. We didn't need a "pass" in those days. The windsock still flies in the same place as it did in those war years.

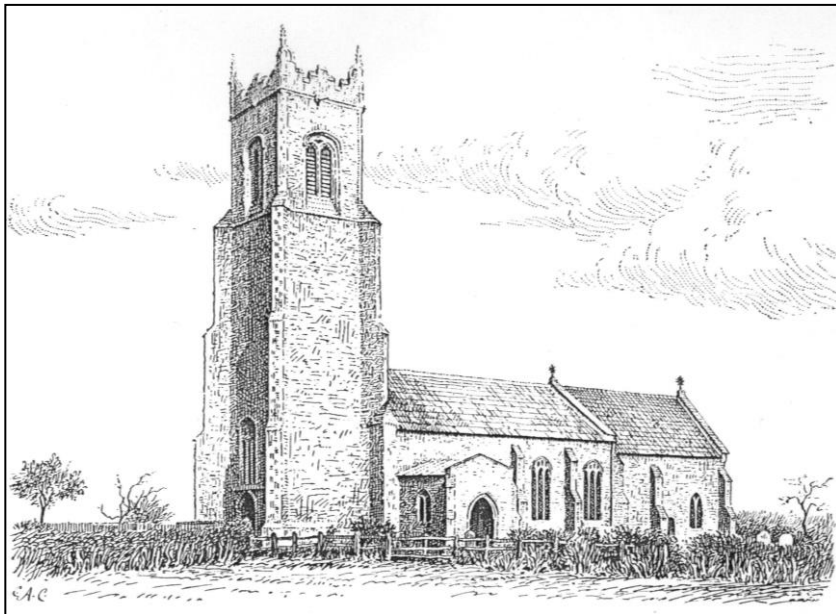
The world has changed and changed again. The "Yanks" are still here but not at our "Drome".

Opposite: Memorial Cross erected in memory to the eleven USAAF who died when their B24 crashed on take-off 19th December 1944 whilst fighting the "Battle of the Bulge".



All Saints Alburgh, Churchyard *by Julia Higbee*

I have always been rather fond of strolling round country churchyards! I don't do this in any morbid sense, but I do find it interesting to read some of the names and inscriptions on the headstones. My daughter maintains she learned to read in a churchyard because in our previous village it was the only safe place to take our afternoon outing! Churchyards can also be peaceful places - havens of flora and fauna, and Alburgh is no exception. It is beautiful all year round – the snowdrops at the end of winter, the daffodils and blossom in spring, the varying greens of leaves in the summer and the autumn tints. There is even a seat there, placed in memory of Iris Ladbroke, to relax and be at peace.



Bryant's Drawing of Alburgh Church



Like many other graveyards, Alburgh has become a conservation area, under the auspices of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Conservation Scheme and in 1995 we received an award from the Trust recognising the work we had done. David Warley was responsible

for graveyard maintenance at the time of the award, (he is now buried in the churchyard where he worked so hard) and now we have Hugh Goose, who efficiently and carefully maintains the area, knowing just what is right to cut and what must be left “wild” to encourage the plants and insects etc. For example, the churchyard is home to the purple pyramid orchids, among many other wild flowers. A list of the various plants and trees can be found in the church porch, compiled by the Norfolk Naturalists Trust for the Churchyard conservation scheme. Some trees have been planted since the list was compiled; for example, several trees have been planted in memory of loved ones in the “new” area to the right of the gate, and the W.I. planted a tree near the porch



and three millennium oaks by the south boundary hedge. Obviously any new tree needs to be carefully positioned and there is a limit to the amount one would plant during a period of time.

In the 1980s the W.I. made a comprehensive survey of Alburgh churchyard and recorded around 500 graves with their names and inscriptions. It is an invaluable resource (maybe one day it will be put on computer!) and has not only been helpful to me in compiling this article but is referred to on a regular basis by Mrs. Kit Flatt (my fellow churchwarden who keeps the burial records up to date) to assist people from far and wide who write in search of family tree members. Without this survey many inscriptions would be lost forever, as I have discovered that even within the last 20 years some of the memorials recorded by the ladies have sadly become illegible. The survey also recorded positions of trees in the churchyard.



The oldest surviving grave is dated 1715 and belonged to “Samuel Wright the Elder” who died in that year aged 63 years. I mentioned 500 graves – but of course, others would have been in existence prior to this date, but may have been unmarked, or their stones have either decayed completely or become illegible.

Inside the church, however, there are some older memorials; three of the oldest have been robbed of their brasses, leaving no inscription to identify the families they commemorate but there are two 17th century memorials in the chancel.

All memorials are, naturally, very special to those friends and family concerned, but I thought I would just pin-point a handful that may be of general interest and which you may like to seek out for yourself!

Firstly the war memorial, which is very striking and noticeable as soon as one enters the gate. On it are inscribed the names of Alburgh men who died in the two world wars. There are 19 names of “the fallen” in the First World War, which was a huge loss for a small village.

Across the path from the war memorial, approaching the boundary hedge is a grave “Sacred to the memory of Caroline Rackham the affectionate and beloved daughter of John and Ann Rackham of this parish, who departed this life August 3rd 1830 aged 20 years 7 months.

“..life was short. I’ve longer rest.
God called me hence. He thought it best.
So mourn for me dear friend no more,
I am but gone a while before.”

Many 19th century graves mourn the loss of infants, children and young people. It was a more common and expected occurrence in those days than now, but very sad nonetheless.

The average life expectancy in the 19th century was much shorter than it is now – researchers put it at around 45. However, the law of “survival of the fittest” applies in that if people survived the youthful diseases they stood a chance of reaching a ripe old age – or perhaps Alburgh was a particularly healthy place to live as many older graves record ages of over 80!

I found this inscription rather poignant:

“In memory of Hannah, daughter of Richard and Sarah Chapman, who died April 25th 1832 aged 1 year

“Sudden was my death
Quick was my fall
From sudden death
Pray God keep us all”

Some of us will smile with some sympathy at the sentiments contained in the following verse to Ellen wife of Thomas Harling, who died aged 78

“A tender mother I have been
Many troubles I have seen
While I lived I did my best
Now my bones lie here to rest”

Or this pithy epitaph: “All men think all men mortal but themselves” - from the headstone of John Doggett who died 8th June 1819 aged 70 years and Sarah his wife who died August 28th 1778 aged 20 years.

The following was a popular inscription, I believe, but not comfortable reading:

“Here lyeth the body of William Andrews who departed this life February 26th 1735 aged 70 years

Remember me as you pass by
For as you are so once was I
And as I am so will you be
Therefore prepare to follow me.”

Most of the headstones in Alburgh churchyard are very simple, but some stand out as being a little more ornate; on the north side is a memorial with a carved angel (slightly decayed now) in memory of “Annie Selina dearly loved daughter of John and Mary Ann Borrett of Homersfield wife of Gresham Miles who died September 15th 1907 aged 25 years.”



Behind this is a group of 7 crosses, which look rather impressive, all in memory of members of the Lohr family; Charles Lohr was a former Rector of Alburgh in the late 19th century. Near to these crosses is a beautiful tall Celtic cross inscribed “In loving and honoured memory of William Blair Girling JP for London, of 25, Warwick gardens, Kensington, who went home April 29th 1922 R.I.P. Also of Elizabeth Girling his wife who died September 28th 1937”



Rev and Mrs Lohr

You will not be surprised to learn that there are many rules and regulations regarding churchyards in the Church of England, and several pages of the Diocesan Handbook are given over to this aspect particularly the size and shape of headstones! But to conclude with a passage from the handbook: “The churchyard will be a sign of resurrection as well as burial. God’s acre should be a paradise and place of spiritual refreshment”.

As Churchwarden, on behalf of the PCC, we hope you will discover this in Alburgh Churchyard.

Joyce Leeder (former churchwarden) receives her Maundy Money from Queen Elizabeth II



Rectors of Alburgh

1307 Robert de Whetelay	1554 Robert Thirkettle
1308 Geoffrey de Castre	1569 Robert Archer
1313 John de Framlingham	1572 John More
1318 William de Bath	1611 Richard More BD
1321 Thomas de Weyland	1629 Stephen Hurry MA
1328 John de Reding	1644 George Fenn
1345 Hugh de Elnestowe	1679 James Haylock BA
1349 Adam de Newton	1680 Giles Wilcox BA
1349 Hugh Cane de Chaucombe	1682 William Wyat MA
1371 Thomas Fox	1699 Thomas Arrowsmith MA
1376 William West	1729 Fairfax Stillingfleet MA
1378 Robert Falbeck	1755 William Cole BD
1387 John Hikedy	1793 Charles Sutton DD
1400 John Bluntsham	1846 John Adams Coombe MA
1407 John Yarmouth	1871 Charles William Lohr BA
1407 William Preston	1897 Albert William Greenep Litt. D.
1416 Robert Payn	1900 Alfred Pagan MA
1424 Geoffrey Barger	1918 Charles Edward Thorpe MA
1428 John Dalle	1923 Francis Garden Mitchell MA
1454 Richard Thomson	1932 Harry Sneath MA
1464 Henry Balderton	1959 John Cuthbert Pallister B.A. (Oxon)
1491 Robert Ardern	1965 Robert Wilfrid Strother Close
1502 William Pinchbek	1974 Michael Bernard Moreton DPs
1504 William Taylor	1976 Gerald Ralph Epps
1507 Robert Bredlaugh	1977 David John Napley
1517 Nicholas Hanson	1984 John Edward Frank Walden
1540 James Halman	1991 John Samuel Read BA
1545 Richard Whetley	1998 Ian Robert Bentley BA



There are three memorials in the church dedicated to past rectors and one to a rector's son. The chancel window was inserted with "In affectionate remembrance of Malcolm George Lohr who entered into rest Dec. 31st 1872 Aged 19 years" (*see Left*) His father was clearly held in high regard for the plaque on the wall to the right of the altar was erected

"To the glory of God in loving memory of
Reverend Charles William Lohr B.A. of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for 26 years Rector of Alburgh, who was called to his rest on 9th October 1897 Aged 79 years

Devoted ever to the true welfare of his Parish he spared neither means more labour in securing the efficiency of its Schools on a sound religious basis, while the happy restoration of the church was accomplished through his efforts and personal influence during the early years of his incumbency"

On another tablet erected by his parishioners of Revd Alfred Pagan it was said:

"For 17 years he preached in this parish – that he who loveth God love his brother also"

Below:

Rev Ian Bentley current Rector of the Earsham Benefice, which includes Alburgh parish.



John Wright leaves Moat Farm

Extracts from the Diss Express and the sales catalogue

In 1958 John and Gertrude Wright moved from Moat Farm and placed the livestock and farm implements up for sale by auction.

MOAT FARM – ALBURGH, Norfolk

CATALOGUE

of all the Valuable Live and Dead Farming Stock
including
40 Attested Dairy Cattle
2 Horses
21 Pigs
50 Head of Poultry

October 1958 Fordson Major Diesel Tractor and excellent farming
Equipment for 150 acres
Which

GEORGE DURRANT & SONS

Are instructed to sell be Auction

On Tuesday, November 18th

For Mr John E. Wright who has sold the Farm

Sale commences 11.30 o'clock

Conditions of Sale as exhibited



Moat Farm from the Air circa 1961 (farm then in the hands of J Syrett)

LIVE STOCK

Horses

1. SHORT – a very powerful half bred Suffolk gelding in splendid order rising 10 years £66
2. BESS – an active ditto mare rising 10 years £59

Attested Dairy Cattle – Herd number 6663 – last test 21st October 1958.
With the exception of Lots 21 and 22 all the animals have been bred on the Farm. The cows and heifers are a deep milking lot in fine condition many being freshly calved or down calving. The majority are dehorned

Friesians or crossbred Friesian/Shorthorn inseminated to Friesian or Hereford Bulls at the Beccles Cattle Breeding Centre.

An Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will attend to issue licences for the movement of cattle to other approved herds.

MILCH COWS and HEIFERS

(Approximate daily yields will be announced at time of Sale)

3. PAULINE (Ear no. JW22 – dehorned Friesian, freshly calved with 2nd calf **£82**
A Her grand Bull calf by Hereford Bull **£17**
10s
4. LILY II (Era No JW 4) – dehorned Friesian Freshly calved with 2nd calf **£82**
A her strong Bull calf (Era No JW 67) by Friesian Bull **£15**
5. RSIE (Era No JW 2) – dehorned Jersey x Friesian in full profit from 5th calf **£68**
A Her promising red and white Heifer calf (Ear No JW 60) by Hereford Bull **£14**
6. DARKIE (Ear No JW 49) – polled crossbred Friesian last calved September 8th with 5th calf **£82**
7. NELLIE (Ear No JW8) – dehorned roan Shorthorn down calving or with 3rd calf by Hereford Bull at side **£96 + £19**
8. MARJORIE (Ear No JW 15 – Friesian down calving or with 2nd calf by Friesian Bull at side **£112 + £15**
9. JUDY (Ear No JW 7) – red and white dehorned Shorthorn. A.I. March 7th to Friesian Bull for 5th calf **£81**

10. GUERNSEY (Ear No JW 13) – dehorned Friesian x Guernsey. Last calved August 23rd 1958 with 5th calf. A.I. September 26th to Friesian Bull **£73**
11. VIOLET (Era No JW 3) – dehorned Friesian last calved August 16th 1958 with 3rd calf A.I. September 18th to Hereford Bull **£78**
12. STRAWBERRY (ear No JW 1) – dehorned roan Shorthorn last calved July 31st 1958 with 3rd calf. A.I. September 18th to Hereford Bull. **£67**
13. RASPBERRY (Era No JW 5) Red and White Shorthorn last calved July 31st 1958 with 3rd calf A.I. September 3rd to Friesian Bull **£56**
14. RENE (ear No JW 21) – dehorned Friesian with 2nd calf (Heifer) born October 30th at foot – this cow is light in one quarter **£46 + £12**
15. AUDREY (Ear No JW 6) – dehorned Friesian last calved November 1st 1957 A.I. May 23rd for 2nd calf to Shorthorn Bull **£43**

WELL KEPT MACHINERY and IMPLEMENTS

61. Fordson Major Tractor (XAH 463) – purchased new by the owner – October 1957 with P.T.O., hydraulic lift, lights and starter, on all pneumatics **£400 10s**
62. Pair of spade lug wheels for above **£46**
63. Pair of skeleton wheels for standard Fordson **22s**
64. Pair of spade lug wheels for ditto **£2 5s**

HORSES

1. SHORT - a very powerful half bred Suffolk Gelding in splendid order rising 10 years £66
2. BESS – an active ditto Mare rising 10 years £59

PIGS

33. L.B. Sow with her 3rd litter of 8 pigs – 7 weeks – by P.B., L.W.
Boar £37
34. L.B. Sow with her 2nd litter of 10 ditto – 7 weeks – by P.B., L.W.
Boar £73

Diss Express reported:

Farming family celebrate at Alburgh

MOST, if not all, of the ten children, 28 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren of 73-years-old Mr John Wright and his wife, of Friends Farm, Alburgh, are expected at a family party in Alburgh Village Hall tomorrow night to celebrate the golden anniversary of Mr and Mrs Wright's wedding in Redenhall Church in 1913.

Both still very active and in good health, Mr and Mrs Wright have spent all their married life in Alburgh, where Mr Wright has farmed for many years and has served as a parish councillor and feoffee.

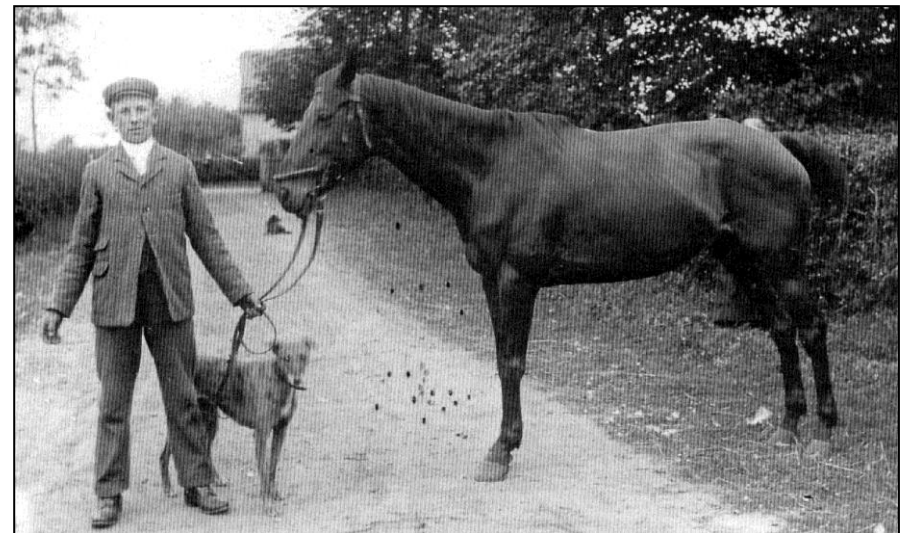
He was born in Bedingham and came to Moat Farm, Alburgh, with his parents at the age of 13 and when he married ten years later he took over the farm from his father to run it for 47 years before his own retirement three years ago.

Mrs Wright, formerly Miss Gertrude White, was born at Swaffham but at the age of three came to Harleston with her parents, who later kept the "Cardinal's Hat" there.



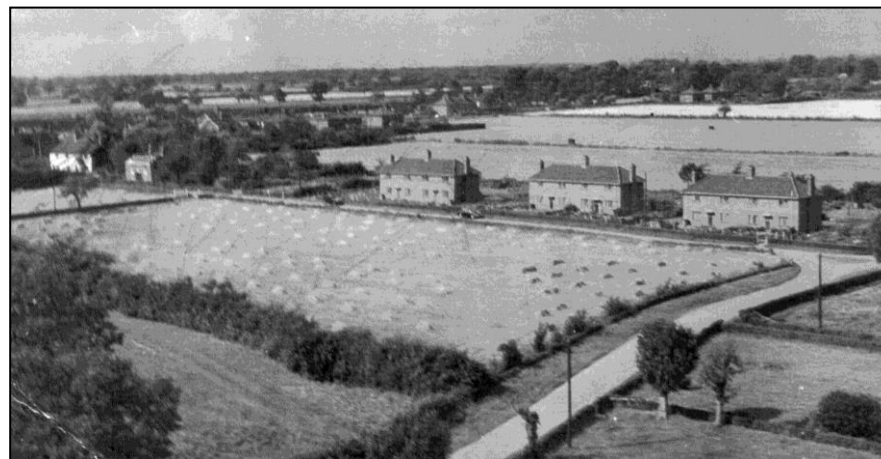
Family and friends help Gertrude and John Wright celebrate their Golden Wedding in Alburgh Village Hall

Below Jack Wright senior





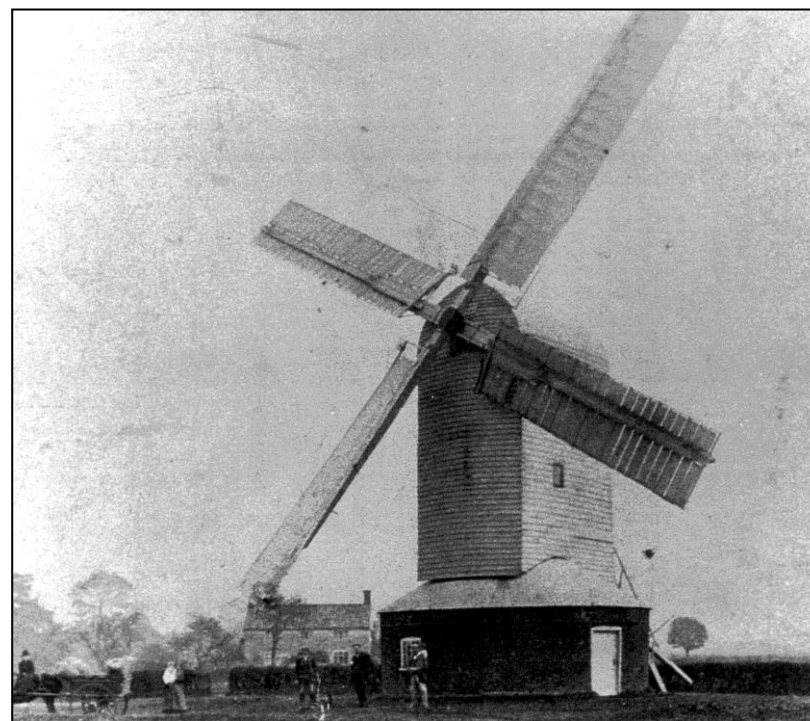
Helpers at the village celebration party



Christmas party for the village children in the Old Village Hall.

Top right: view of Church Road from the church steeple

Bottom right: the large mill in Mill Road



Cabells, County Gaol and Australia

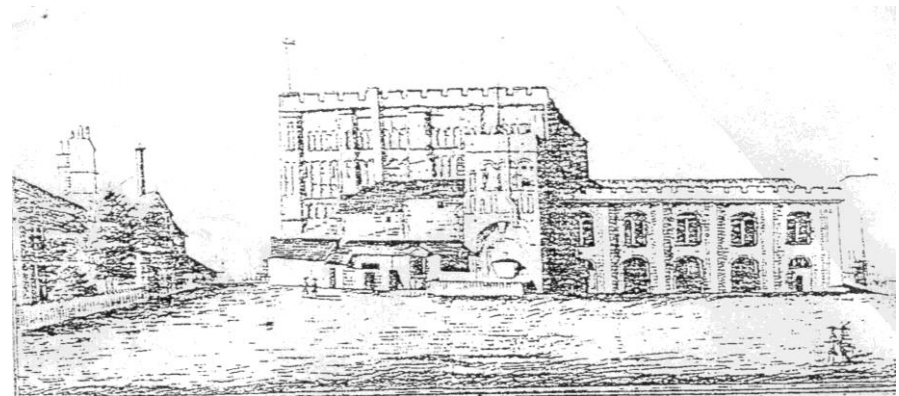
extracted from articles by Eric Fowler and Nick Arber

The Norwich Mercury of the 8th February 1783 reported: "Last week some villains broke into the house of Mrs Hambling at Alburgh, near Harleston, in this county and during the absence of the family, who were in this city, stripped it of every moveable, took the hangings from the bedsteads, and even the meat out of the pickle cases: it is supposed they also regaled themselves with wine, having left several empty bottles behind them. The marks of the feet of horses being seen in the orchard by a neighbour, was what first led to a discovery of the burglary."

Henry Cabell, a 19-year-old youth, and his father Henry from Mendham in Suffolk and Abraham Carman of Laxfield were arrested for the break-in and committed to the Castle in Norwich. The following month they were conveyed from Norwich to the Assize at Thetford to stand trial. All three were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on the scaffold on the Castle Hill in Norwich. However, Henry Cabell junior was reprieved and sentenced instead to transportation to America. After the Assizes was over they were taken back to Norwich to await their fate. A fortnight later on 31st March, Henry's father and Abraham Carman were executed outside the castle according to their sentence.

In the November of 1783 Susannah Holmes another 19-year-old youth from Thurlton was committed to the castle for burglary of some household linen and silver (value £2. 13s. 6d.). She had to wait until the following March before coming to trial at Thetford, and there she was given a sentence of death commuted to transportation to America. Before the sentences could be carried out the American Colonies broke away from England's rule and there was no longer anywhere to send the transports. Henry and Susannah and the other prisoners in a similar situation were stranded until an alternative could be found. Eventually it was decided to send a Fleet of convict ships to found a new colony in New South Wales, on the east coast of Australia, which had been explored by Captain Cook some seventeen years previously. However the fleet did not leave until the

spring of 1787 so Henry and Susannah remained in the Castle for the intervening years. Those years spent confined in the Castle began a lifelong partnership.



In the spring of 1783 when Henry was convicted, the day-to-day running of the gaol was in the hands of the gaoler, George Gynne. In former years the prisoners had complained about the brutal treatment meted out by some of his predecessors but John Howard records that George Gynne was a humane man respected by his prisoners.

The gaoler received no salary but paid the Under-Sheriff £31. 10s. 0d. per annum for his job. At that time few gaolers were paid a salary. They expected to recoup this outlay and make a profit by a system of fees and charges that they levied on the prisoners and magistrates. Every event in the life of the prison was made the subject of a fee. A prisoner paid a fee to the gaoler on coming into prison, and then a fee called "garnish" to his fellow prisoners. He was fitted with a set of leg irons, although if he was rich enough he might pay to have them removed. Almost all felons at the castle wore irons until the early nineteenth century and Henry was probably no exception. Prisoners were expected to pay for lighting, heating, bedding and, most of all, any food over and above the meagre rations provided by the county for the relief of poor prisoners. They were

issued with a small loaf of bread each day and shared a stone of cheese each week.



The prisoners were able to make small items such as garters, nets, laces and purses to sell to passers-by through the gratings of the day rooms on the east side of the Castle. By this means they were able to earn a little money for extra food and, perhaps, beer or wine available from the gaoler.

Even in this apparently hostile environment there were opportunities for those with the ability to exploit them. In fact the gaoler would have relied to a certain extent on trusted prisoners to help run the gaol and

would have given them special treatment as reward for their co-operation. Perhaps Henry was a trusty, if he was, it would have helped towards his survival and later sympathetic treatment by the authorities in keeping his family together. Whatever their circumstances were Henry and Susannah seemed to have the knack for survival. Despite the squalid conditions they emerged after three years with their health intact.

During the day there was no segregation of the sexes in the old Castle yard or dayrooms although it seems likely that they were locked up separately

at night. Because of the free association possible between all classes of prisoner at that time, Henry and Susannah would have come to know each other very well. Their relationship grew and in 1786 a few months before the first fleet set sail for Australia their eldest son Henry was born.

A year after this declaration, on 26th October 1786, Elizabeth Pulley, Susannah Holmes and her baby son Henry, and Ann Turner, were taken from the Castle, ultimately to join the first fleet of convict ships being assembled off Portsmouth. They were taken first to Plymouth to board a prison hulk to await transportation. However, when they arrived, the captain refused to allow Susannah to take her son with her, as he had no papers for the boy. John Simpson, the turnkey who had accompanied them from Norwich, was outraged by the callous behaviour and took the child to London to petition Lord Sydney, Colonial Secretary, for papers for the child. His efforts were rewarded and Lord Sydney granted his request, and further ruled that Henry Cabell, still in the castle in Norwich, should be brought to join them in Plymouth.

Thus it was that Henry, Susannah and their infant son eventually sailed in May 1787 in what is known to historians of Australia as the First Fleet. The convoy consisted of eleven ships, carrying 600 male and 178 female convicts, 200 Marine guards, two years' supply of stores, and a deck cargo of sheep, pigs, goats and poultry. They were nearly nine months at sea before they anchored off what proved to be the inhospitable shore of Botany Bay. There is a tradition that when Captain Phillip, the first Governor of New South Wales, eventually decided to disembark in the more favourable locality of Sydney Cove, the sturdy Henry Cabell carried him ashore through the surf on his back, and was thus the first man to set foot on the site of the new colony.

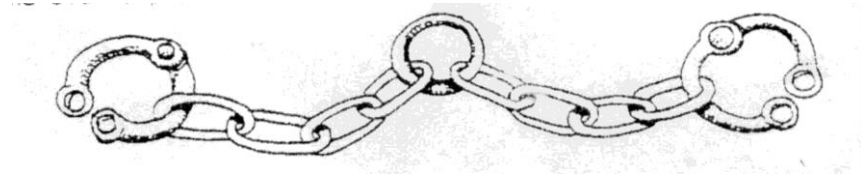
This was not the only precedent he set. For Lord Sydney's instructions in London, that Henry and Susannah were to be married before the convoy sailed, had apparently miscarried. They were in fact wedded on Feb. 10th, 1788, along with four other couples, in the first marriage service ever held on Australian soil. Not long afterwards, that just man, Arthur Phillip,

established the colony's first civil court of law. He heard a complaint by Henry against the captain of the ship *Alexander*, because the box of comforts furnished for him and Susannah by Mrs. Jackson had been broken open on the voyage. Susannah lamented the loss of the luxury of some tea, and complained that there was nothing left but books, which she could not read. The court awarded £15 compensation.

The family name was henceforward spelt Kable. It is unlikely that Henry was anything more than barely literate, and his name must have been spelt phonetically in the records of the penal settlement.

Henry Kable throve, his character was obviously as rugged as his physique. (Tradition also has it that he was red-haired). He became first an overseer of his fellow-convicts, and then chief constable of the new settlement. Being freed on the expiry of his 14-year sentence, he prospered commercially. In 1798 he opened a hotel called the *Ramping Horse*, from which he ran the first stage coach in Australia, and he also owned a retail store. His property later extended to five or six farms, and he was a partner in a big fleet of sealers and trading ships. He was one of the "emancipists", or freed convicts, who rose to be commercial barons of the colony – these barons were described by Bligh of the *Bounty* (who became Governor of New South Wales after Philip) as unprincipled rogues.

As for Susannah, she bore Henry Kable ten more children besides young Henry who was born in Norwich gaol, and who survived to become captain of one of his father's ships. Henry, senior, lived to the ripe age of 82, died in the odour of respectability, and was buried in the family vault (no less) beside his Susannah, who predeceased him in 1826. And in 1968, on the 180th anniversary of the landing from the First Fleet, more than a hundred descendants of Henry and Susannah Kable met in Sydney to honour them as the heads of one of Australia's founding families. It was the first reunion to acknowledge convict ancestry. This is the happy ending of the tale.





Above: Maureen Watts with her Sunday school children Below: Church Choir in 1964



Above: Pony and Trap under the railway bridge near Harleston

Below: a young Kathleen Flaxman seated at the church organ



Alburgh in the News

E.D.P. Wednesday 9th May 1990

Band plays on for the Beales

The recent death of circus impresario Jimmy Chipperfield brought back memories of life under the big top for two Alburgh pensioners.

Toni Beale, who was hailed as Britain's "hottest jazz trumpeter" in her heyday and her husband Jim, the circus orchestra's acclaimed director, lived out of suitcases for years as they travelled the length and breadth of the country.

Facing a lion on the rampage was only one of the hazards for the musically gifted duo who are both in their eighties.



"I was with the Ivy Benson Band toured Spain as one of Leo Selinsky's Blue Jazz Ladies and played with Harry Hudson," said Mrs Beale, reeling off a list of illustrious names.

But being a "musical gipsy" also had a more serious side, as she

The couple met in Glasgow, when Mr Beale conducted the Kelvin Hall Circus and his future wife was employed as lead trumpet.

In later years their individual careers often forced them apart, as they played with the leading bands and orchestras of the day.



discovered while entertaining the troops in Germany during World War II. "I was one of the first to go into Belsen after the gates were opened.

"We were told not to look to our right but of course we did and saw this hut with people, like skeletons not yet dead, pressing their faces against the windows. It was terrible!" claimed Mrs Beale, who is still visibly moved by the horrific experience.

Both gave up travelling to take up more conventional jobs in later years before retiring to live permanently in their village home where posters, photographs and a wealth of newspaper clippings stand as testimony to their glittering past.

The Journal, Friday 16th June 1978

Jubilee Cash for Alburgh new sign

The South Norfolk village of Alburgh, population just over 300, now has a village sign – thanks to money from last year's jubilee appeal.

The honour of unveiling it went to the woman who has lived in the village the longest – 82-year-old Mrs Maria Dann, of Church Road.

The sprightly Mrs Dann was quick to explain: "I'm not the oldest person here. There are others older than me but I have lived here all my life – longer than anyone else." She said she was very proud to unveil the sign.

COMPETITION

The sign, which cost over £300, is based on designs by villagers in a competition organised by the village sign committee and paid for mainly by money left over from the local jubilee appeal.

The committee chairman, Mr Haydn Jenkins, said the sign, which shows an oak tree shielding the village hall, school and church, was chosen to depict all the community aspects of the village.

Retiring headmaster Mr T Fisher-Ball treasurer of the sign committee explained that from 10 entries in the design competition, the committee chose those of Mr L Shaw, of Holbrook House, and Mrs Nancy Denman, wife of the landlord of the Tradesman's Arms.

BOROUGH OF OAKS



Mr David Holgate made the sign, incorporating their ideas to reflect spiritual, emotional and intellectual life of Alburgh depicted by the church, village hall and school, with the oak tree, representing the village growth, as the name Alburgh meant “a borough of oaks.”

Mrs Jane Pearce was secretary of the committee, on which Mr Robert Flatt Mrs Pauline Bond and Mrs Phyllis Wright also served.

After the opening the more than 100 that attended were invited to enjoy drinks and refreshments served on the grass by the roadside.

The Journal, 7th July 1978

ALBURGH HEAD IN FINAL TERM

When Alburgh Primary School headmaster Mr Thomas Fisher-Ball returned after the half-term holidays he began the last lap of a teaching career, which has spanned 44 years, half of which has been spent at Alburgh.

Yet he only joined the staff there in a relief capacity – and intended to stay just one term! Within that term, however, Mr Fisher-Ball was offered the headship of the school, accepted – and has never looked back since.



Mr Thomas Fisher-Ball with his pupils

With his retirement now just a few weeks away he says: “I have very much enjoyed my time in teaching. I have found it very satisfying but more than anything I have got a kick out of it.”

REUNION PLAN

At a special ceremony shortly after the term’s end Mr Fisher-Ball should meet again many of his former pupils, who are expected to travel from all parts of the country to bid farewell to the man who set them on the road to their respective professions.

Mr Fisher-Ball, who currently lives at Seething opposite the house in which he was born 63 years ago, has spent all his life, except for war service, in the area and intends to remain in his retirement.

He has seen many changes during his time at the school, but found the next of these – the transfer from a primary school to a first school in September – rather too much to contemplate.

“I didn’t much like the idea of teaching only first-school range so I decided now was the best time to leave.”

MAJOR CHANGES

As it is Mr Fisher-Ball has already faced up to major changes at the school. When he arrived, Alburgh School was an all-age school, catering for pupils five to 15 years old.

In 1963 it became a primary school and next term comes the next change – to a first school – while neighbour Denton loses its primary school altogether.

Daily Telegraph 7th December 1994

Brigadier G L Roberts

Brigadier G L “Bobby” Roberts, who has died aged 93, commanded a special unit formed to locate those isolated groups of Japanese still holding out in the jungle of Burma after the main fighting had moved to other areas in 1945.

For his success with this short-lived unit, known as “Robforce”, Roberts was appointed OBE and mentioned in despatches, for the third time.

Gordon Leonard Roberts was born on October 28th 1901, and educated at Christ’s Hospital and Sandhurst. He was commissioned in 1921, and, destined for the Indian Army, spent a year attached to the 1st Suffolk then serving in India.

Immediately after Roberts arrived the battalion was involved in the suppression of the Moplah rebellion in southern India. He was sent out on long patrols and anti-guerrilla operations.

Roberts was next posted to his Indian unit, the 1st Battalion 4th Bombay Grenadiers, and liked to recall the look on the faces of the older officers

when they were confronted by a brand-new officer, already wearing the Indian General Services Medal.

Roberts saw more action when the Bombay Grenadiers served at the North-West Frontier from 1922 to 1923. In 1937 he attended the Staff College Quetta, and after various staff appointments returned to the Frontier, where the Fakir of Ipi was stirring up the tribesmen, creating a fracas that took 40,000 troops to suppress.

After the outbreak of the Second World War a 3rd Battalion of the Bombay Grenadiers was raised, of which Roberts assumed command.

Roberts retired in 1948 but, as chairman of the Indian Grenadiers Association for nearly 20 years, he maintained a close working relationship with the Grenadier Regiment in India. In 1984 he was created the first and only president of the association.

The Journal November 1994

A service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Brigadier Gordon Leonard Roberts OBE was held in All Saints Church, Alburgh on Thursday November 17. The Rector Rev J. S. Read conducted the service and Rev Chris Atkinson of Brampton gave the address.

After his retirement in 1948 he lived with his wife Evelyn in Ditchingham and later moved to Piccadilly Cottage, Alburgh. A keen churchman and gardener, he was also secretary to the Alburgh Village Hall Committee at the time of the building of the new village hall.

Beccles and Bungay Journal Friday 15th March 1991

Golden day celebration

Ernie and Katie Rodwell of Lohr Bungalows, Alburgh have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

The couple were both born in Alburgh, attended Alburgh School and were married at All Saints Church, Alburgh.

Mr Rodwell worked on farms in the village and spent 30 years with the Flaxman family. During the war he was a member of the home guard.

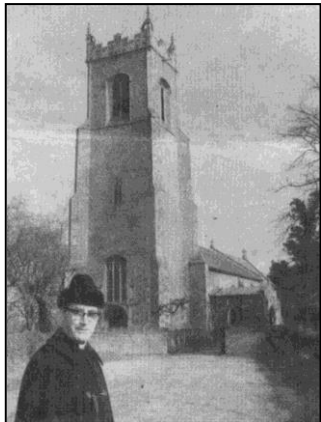
On leaving school his wife did domestic service. Her wartime memories include being a member of the Land Army and caring for evacuees at Alburgh House.

Ernie and Katie have lived in Alburgh all of their lives and were regular members of the chapel there until its closure. For five years Mr Rodwell was the organist, playing the hymns he knew and loved without music to prompt him

They celebrated their anniversary with a meal out and received many cards and presents from well-wishers.

E.D.P 25th February 1982

£10,000 TARGET FOR CHURCH REPAIR FUND



The village of Alburgh is to launch a £10,000 appeal for work on their parish church.

A five-yearly survey of the church revealed that £750 worth of work needs to be carried out immediately, a further £5,000 worth of work should be carried out within two years and more work should be done before the next report.

Rector of the united benefice of Earsham, Alburgh and Denton the Rev David Napley, said he hoped for grants of up to

half the full amount needed, from the Department of the Environment and other bodies.

But parishioners will have to foot the bill for the remaining sum, estimated by Mr Napley to be around £5,000.

And in a village of only 300 people that could prove a lot of fund raising to help repair the medieval church to a good condition.

Work, which must be carried out immediately, according to the architect's report, includes new ladders for the church tower, making it safe for bell ringers.

The largest item of work will be stripping and relaying slates on the nave roof at a cost of £5,000.

Parishioners have planned a series of fund raising events to pay for the repairs as well as the day-to-day running costs.

Mr Napley paid tribute to the way that the people of Alburgh rallied round the church when it was in difficulties. It was not that there were many regular churchgoers, but they would all support the church when necessary.

He was confident that the appeal would reach its target.



Editor: funds allowed work to nave roof

E.D.P Wednesday 16th February 2000

Sadness as last pub in village pulls final pint

Once there were three pubs in the village of Alburgh, near Bungay, as well as a shop, a sub post office and busy garage with petrol pumps. Now all have closed, The Tradesman's Arms, the last surviving pub, having pulled its last pint.



Derek Champion, who has run the Tradesman's Arms in Church Road for four years with his son Derek, said closing it was a sad day. "It brought a few tears because we thought we were doing something for the village," he said.

"We tried twice. It closed two years ago for nearly a year, and then we decided to re-open and have another go. But we put a lot of our savings into it and we just cannot afford to do it any more. We had support from outside the village, but not as much as we had hoped from Alburgh itself.

"Villagers didn't even complain when it closed down. It is very sad."

Mr Champion and his son now plan to convert the pub to a private house, where his son will continue to live.

Parish Council chairman Ruth Walton said she felt it would be a sad day if the pub were to close permanently. The situation would be discussed at a council meeting on March 2.

Diss Express

Gladys' 100th birthday surprise

ALBURGH centenarian Gladys Reeder and husband, Tom, celebrated her birthday with five generations of family last Sunday.

Gladys' daughters, Peggy, Kubala and Dorothy Krutysza, organised the party, which was held at Alburgh Village Hall, for the matriarch of the Reeder clan to celebrate her longevity and for being such a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

More than 200 guests from all over the world attended Mrs Reeder's big day. Mrs Kubala said: "We kept what we were planning a secret so that it would be a big surprise for her on the day. We had people arriving from all

over the place and keeping them a secret from mother was very difficult. But I'm sure the day was a great surprise to her, and that she thoroughly enjoyed herself seeing all her grand children, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren."



Mrs Reeder said that it was a wonderful day and that she is looking forward to celebrating her 70th wedding anniversary next year.

Diss Express Friday November 2002

Enthusiasm leads to top report for first school

ALBURGH and Denton VC First School is a very effective small school, giving good value for money, according to an Ofsted inspection carried out in September.

The inspection team praised the school for the Headteacher's clear philosophical vision for the school.

Ofsted described her leadership and management as "excellent". The inspectors also praised the considerable expertise of the part-time teaching staff and the inspirational teaching at the school – particularly in science, RE and philosophy.

The report also highlighted the pupils "exceptionally mature attitude to each other and to their learning".

The governors and the school's relationship with parents were both highly praised.

Headteacher Dot Lenton said: "I am delighted with this excellent Ofsted



report, particularly for the children and the staff, and everyone who has worked so hard to make the school successful. We have had a tremendous amount of enthusiastic help from support staff and governors. We are

already working on the two areas highlighted for even more improvement – standards in Numeracy and problem-solving, plus ICT development.” Roger Dove, chair of governors said: “ Our superb Ofsted report has been achieved through careful planning, expertise and attention to detail at all levels. Congratulations to all involved in the running of our school.”

Diss Express Friday 1st November 2002

Storms don't tarnish platinum celebration

STORMS did not dampen spirits as a platinum couple celebrated an astonishing 70 years of marriage by torchlight.

Despite rain, gales and no electricity, Thomas Reeder 91, and his wife Gladys, 100 enjoyed a party with four of their five generations of family and friends at Alburgh Village Hall on Sunday.

They made cups of tea on gas stoves and used torches, paraffin lamps and car hazard lights for lighting.

“It was a day they are certainly not going to forget,” said daughter Peggy Kubala.

The couple, who were married at St Mary Magdalene Church, in Pulham Market celebrated their 70th anniversary at All Hallows Hospital, Ditchingham on Tuesday – the date of their wedding in 1932.

They met in the late 1920s, when Gladys, who was in service at Hill House, Pulham Market, was employed to look after Thomas' invalid mother.

Married on October 29th, the newlyweds moved into Oaklands Cottages, Redenhall – a year later they had their first daughter,



Dorothy, followed by Peggy.

Gladys Reeder and husband Tom celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in style

Thomas worked as a shepherd for many years, then on the Gawdy Hall estate as a farmhand and ended up at Pied Bridge Farm, Alburgh.

He won several trophies as a member of the local darts team, while his other interests include gardening.

Diss Express Friday 30th July 1999

New role for school head

THE Headteacher at a primary, which won national acclaim from the chief inspector of schools, is moving on after 16 years at the top.

Barbara Burke, head of Alburgh with Denton First School, is moving to Somerset to help her husband Colin, who has been made priest in charge of two small parishes there.

She said: "I've enjoyed the time I've had at Alburgh. It has been very special, but I think it is right to move on now. It's a change of direction and not a retirement."

The school, which has just 22 pupils on the role, has recently been praised by education chief Chris Woodhead following an outstanding OFSTED Report.

Mrs Burke, who has been teaching at the school for 25 years, said it was better to go when you are on top. Teacher governor Julia Higbee said: "It is impossible to say just how much Barbara has done for the school."

Mrs Burke plans to help her husband with his work but will not be looking to carry on as a Headteacher.



October 14, 1988

Tuning up the old bells

YOUNGSTERS at Alburgh with Denton first school have been making music this week — with hand bells.

The pupils grabbed the opportunity to play when they discovered the church bells after years of neglect and had the straps repaired.

Since then they have been playing them at special events including the Alburgh harvest festival.

● Pictured from left: Adam Littlewood, Jonathon Hanner, Kate Parsons, Natasha Seaman, Sally Garland, Victoria Renault, Anna



THE NORFOLK & SUFFOLK EXPRESS SERIES, September 16, 1988

Steam day aids school safety

STEAM enthusiasts young and old gathered at Alburgh with Denton First School, near Harleston, on Saturday.

An exhibition of the yesteryear vehicles and a fete raised over £400 towards a safety surface for underneath the climbing frame in the school playground.

Organised by staff and parents at the school the event, the first of its kind, attracted about 300 people including most of the 39 five to eight-year-old pupils.

Steam exhibits included a working engine, 10 stationary vehicles, old tractors and cars, and even the steam boat River Queen on a trailer.

Amusements included trailer rides, a dip in a neighbour's private swimming pool, stalls and games.

Headmistress Mrs Barbara Burke said: "The idea for the show came from a couple of dads who are enthusiasts and everything grew from there. It was a one-off event to raise money for the safety surface."

And like everyone else who has been involved with village shows and fetes, she said, with feeling: "We were all dead at the end of it!"

● Enthusiasts John (left) and Bert Bennett admire an old tractor on display at the yesteryear exhibition.

Alburgh – First Year Impressions

by Kate and Robert Banbury

After some 20 happy years at Hawthorn Cottage in Mendham, during which our children grew up and eventually left for pastures new, we decided in January 2002 that it was time to look for a new home. We set out to find a single-storey property located on the edge of a village within easy reach of Harleston, which would be right for us for the next 20 years. Enquiries with estate agents led us to a barn conversion being carried out in Alburgh, a village known to us but with which we were not familiar. Having survived the traumas that go with buying and selling properties, we eventually moved into Villa Farm Barn in July 2002.

Moving to a new community is always a matter of some concern – will we be happy there? – Will we fit in? As we approach the first anniversary of the move, we know the answer to the first question is “Yes”; we hope the answer to the second is the same.

Early acquaintance with our near neighbours (and former landowners) soon ensured a warm welcome and tales of cold nights spent in the farrowing pens that now form our home. Even the niche in the bathroom wall used to serve as a ledge for the antibiotic bottle and syringe!

Looking back over these last months the overall impression is of a village, which, even though it has lost its pub(s) and shop, still has much to offer. Our first public event was the Church Fete where some of the lasting memories are the sight of an old acquaintance dressed in drag and heavily rouged in the human fruit machine, a quickly sold-out cake stall and an immaculately restored Rover car on display.

A few months later we enjoyed an evening of “Songs and Supper” in company with over one hundred other guests. This was an evening to remember with singing of the highest quality, a programme for all and an excellent meal for a modest fee. The added bonus was the opportunity to make new acquaintances as we sat round the tables.

September brought an invitation to join the Alburgh Carpet Bowls Club, a club where the social element is not lost in the heat of competition. A mix of locals and ‘in-comers’ makes for a weekly get together with the added bonus of away matches around South Norfolk. The club policy of all members being eligible for team selection allows the “new-comers” to parade their skills – or lack of them!

One of the main treasures of Alburgh and district is the network of footpaths and Country Commission land with open access. Initial exploring and daily use of these facilities has brought home the changing seasons and the progress of the agricultural year. The crops growing towards the harvest, the preparation of the fields for the new crop and the changes in the weather – soaked ground at the turn of the year and the opposite by Easter. Particularly notable was the use of the traditional harvesting and threshing methods for the supply of thatching straw.

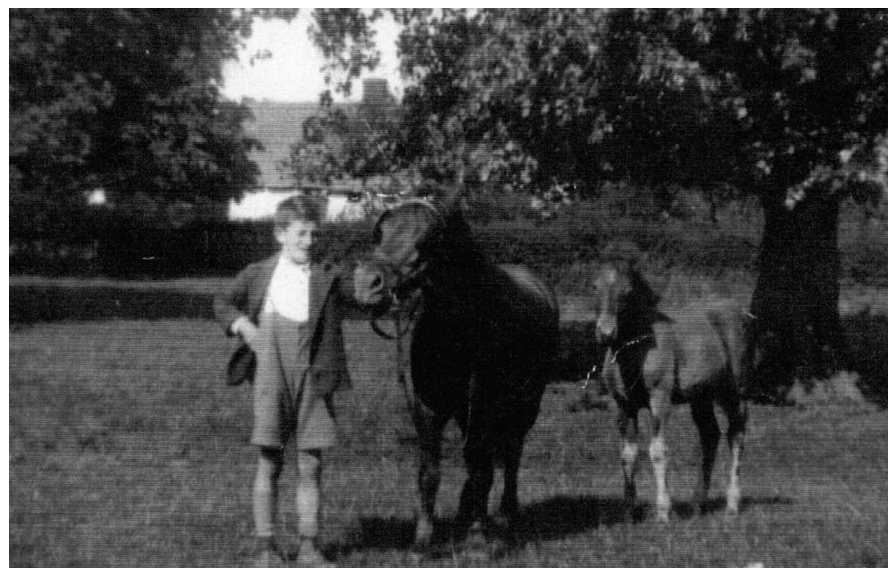
Happily this part of South Norfolk has avoided the ‘prairie’ approach to farming and the active maintenance of hedgerows and open areas affords the protection of wildlife and a landscape that is pleasing to the eye. We have found remarkable the richness of the flora with the coming of spring bringing new delights on an almost weekly basis. Now the greening of the trees and bushes is taking over from the parade of daffodils that line the roads through the village. The cowslips and primroses are raising their heads and bluebells are evident here and there.

Alburgh also appears to be a haven for wildlife of the bird variety with duck, moorhen and pheasant in plentiful supply and the occasional sight of owl hunting over the open spaces.

Way back we had heard from various sources that Alburgh was a nice place to live – we now whole heartedly agree and look forward to starting our second year and seeing what that may bring.



Top Left village youngsters enjoy a game at the village celebration *Bottom Left*: Leslie Wright as a young man *Above*: Jim Flaxman admires his new car near Red House Barns
Below: Rev David Napley dedicates the village sign



Memories of White House Farm

*By Raymond and Norman Whittaker and Joan Steventon
(nee Whittaker)*

We moved from Newmarket to White House farm Alburgh in 1931. Our father Ernest Whittaker managed the farm for a Mr Thompson. The farm was at the time 120 acres consisting of small fields and meadows, the largest being 13 acres. Crops were mainly cereal, potatoes and mangolds, cattle feed and hay. There were five horses to do this work, also a smaller horse called Dinah who was in semi retirement and was only used for light work. There was also a white pony called Nellie who pulled an old baker's covered in cart, which was used for road transport for the farm until about 1938 when a Ford 8 car was obtained.



White House Farm – Ada Miles and Miss Combe with her milk cart

Our first memories were of going through the stream at Tunbeck in a lorry heavily laden with our possessions. We can remember our father taking his car down to the Tunbeck stream to give it a good wash!

When we arrived at White House farm we were keen to explore and found a large wooden doll, which we later discovered was used at the fetes held in the village.



Men, Dogs and horse after a hard days work in the fields of Alburgh

There was a bowling green in the front of the house and cricket was played on the front meadow.

The front pond was dredged and two eels were found, our mother cooked one of them, we can remember seeing the skin lying outside for ages afterwards.

There was a place called Nuttery Wood with an old marl pit alongside of it where the local defence volunteers (Dad's Army) would come and practise their firing skills; this was short lived however as a stray bullet came too close to the house.

A marl pit had been dug into the side of the sloping ground beside the loke. It was steep at one end and very shallow at the other end – allowing a horse and cart to get in. It may have been in use for building the house etc but was not used during the Whittakers' time there.



Caring for the livestock

Our friend Reggie Francis bought a speedboat with an outboard motor - after much scheming (petrol being rationed) we eventually got it started. It raced along the pond spraying water everywhere – our father was not amused to say the least.

Another memory we have is the time my father spotted a “strange looking bird” on the pond - he fetched his gun and shot it - my mother boiled or roasted it but it was much too tough to eat. We later discovered it was somebody's pet moscovy duck - needless to say our father had to go and buy another duck.

Apples were stored in the attic. One year we can remember having an apple fight with some school friends (names withheld)-there was an almighty mess-mother and father understandably were very angry. We also

kept an old bike in the attic - it was tireless - so you can imagine the noise it made as we pedalled around the attic.

Mr Thompson sent a lorry pulling a pantehnicon, which contained a sectional steel girded shed, which was erected in the corner of the meadow behind the farm. It was divided into sections and used as a bullock yard, storing root crops and machinery. We think the shed is still there today. The pantehnicon is still in Alburgh at Broad Row.

We can also remember there being a field of wild hyacinths at the back of the farm, which was a lovely sea of purple in the spring.

The horses were joined by an old standard Fordson tractor, which had no mudguard and cleeted wheels like a thrashing engine.



An early Tractor at work in Alburgh

There was a pond for the horses at the side of the loke and another pond at the side of the farmhouse near the front meadow. There was no running water or electricity at the time we were at the farmhouse. Water was brought in a handcart from a well at Piccadilly Corner. This task was often our job as children and was a ***** nuisance and we all argued about whose turn it was. Cooking was done on a large range and a Dutch oven, and the house lighting was by paraffin lamps.

It is all a bit different from today, but they were happy days and we all have fond memories of our time at White House Farm.

Alburgh Geology & the Hardwick Airfield Tip

by Dr Murray Gray

The landscape around Alburgh was essentially fashioned during the last Ice Age. The following is a brief and simplified outline of the main events responsible for the evolution of the Alburgh landscape over the last half a million years.

- About 450,000 years ago most of Britain was covered by a huge ice-sheet that reached as far south as the Thames. Ice is capable of eroding rock and can move large quantities of sediment. In this part of East Anglia the ice-sheet was sliding forward on a wet bed of clay and silt containing some flint and chalkstones. This explains why East Anglia is quite flat (planed off by a sliding ice-sheet) and why the bulk of Norfolk and Suffolk have clay-rich soils. The glacial sediment underlying these soils is called “till” and the formal name for this sediment used by geologists is “Lowestoft Till”. Some people think that the flat landscape of East Anglia is boring but the fact there is a scientific explanation of the flatness creates its own interest (for the geologist at least!).

- When large ice-sheets melt, huge quantities of meltwater are produced. This water then flows in torrents over the land surface and rapidly erodes valleys down into the till sediments. This is how the Waveney Valley was formed and explains why today’s River Waveney occupies such an impressive valley. At present, it is a very sluggish river, which causes very little erosion, but things were very different 450,000 years ago.

- The erosion by these meltwater rivers meant that they were transporting large quantities of sediment. The eroded clay and silt were carried in suspension in the highly turbulent meltwater and were transported out to sea by the rivers. However the coarser material (sand and gravel) was carried along the riverbed and deposited within the river valleys. This explains why the Wortwell and Homersfield areas are largely underlain by

sands and gravels giving much better drained soils than up on the clay plateau around Alburgh and Denton.

- Once the Waveney Valley was formed, streams on the plateau began to flow towards it, cutting down into the plateau edge to form valleys. Examples include the Starston Beck and Denton Beck, but another is the valley that runs southwards immediately west of Alburgh and is particularly clear to the west of Piccadilly Corner.



The view west of Piccadilly Corner

In 1991, Norfolk County Council proposed to build a large rubbish tip on Hardwick Airfield. The proposal would have involved excavating a shallow pit in the Lowestoft Till to a depth of 2-4 metres and overfilling it with municipal waste to create a hill, 10 metres high. After covering with soil and excavated material, the site would eventually have been returned to agriculture.

A local protest group was formed (Residents Against Tip Site (RATS)) to fight the proposals including representatives from Alburgh. South Norfolk Council also opposed the proposals and a public inquiry was held in 1993. Several issues were debated at the public inquiry, including traffic impact on local roads and villages, the landscape impact and the risk of water pollution. The last of these issues involved arguments about the geology and engineering proposals at the site.

When municipal waste rots down a polluting liquid called leachate is produced. It is important that this liquid is contained within the site and does not escape downwards to pollute the groundwater that is tapped by local wells. The site engineers had assumed that the glacial till would be sufficiently impermeable to contain the leachate. However, analysis of the site investigation data revealed that the engineers had overlooked a number of pieces of evidence that should have led them to conclude that the site would leak unless engineered adequately.

This evidence included test holes that revealed that the glacial till is fractured. The significance of this is that no matter how impermeable the bed clay is, liquid will penetrate the fractures much more quickly than the engineers had predicted. Geologists are very well aware that glacial till is often fractured and research in Denmark has demonstrated that the permeability of fractured till is over 100 times greater than unfractured till.

Faced with this evidence at the public inquiry, the County Council's consultant engineer had to accept that the site might well need to be lined adding £2 million to the cost. This evidence of poor site appraisal helped to undermine the credibility of the project and together with assessment of the other issues, led to refusal of planning permission for the site in August 1993. RATS had won the day.

Alburgh Church Bells

by Paul Cattermole

Alburgh church tower has a distinctive profile, with massive buttresses and a parapet with pinnacles that are supported by pairs of flying buttresses. The lower part of the tower was probably completed around 1465, at about the same time as the nave was finished. In 1464, Richard Tyte of Alburgh, left 20 shillings towards making the new screen and 6s. 8d. towards the cost of the dedication of the church. This suggests that this was the end of a major rebuilding campaign. John Skeyt, in 1504, also of Alburgh, left 20 shillings “to the buttressing the steeple of Alburgh” which may indicate when the tower was increased in height, by the addition of the present bell-chamber, and by 1552, when King Edward VI’s commissioners were collecting information about valuables belonging to parish churches, there were four bells with a tenor estimated to weigh 14 cwt.



All Saints Church, Alburgh

The parish was apparently content with its ring of four bells until the eighteenth century, some considerable while after changeringing had

become firmly established in East Anglia. Neighbouring villages such as the Pulhams, and Starston had long had light rings of five bells, while Redenhall had a heavy and impressive ring of five. In 1717 a subscription was raised to increase Redenhall bells to six, and a tradition of changeringing was soon established. It is clear that ringers gathered regularly in the area, and significant that during the celebrated controversy between Eye and Norwich ringers in 1729 the appointed place for a meeting between the rival companies of ringers, to settle the conditions for a wager of fifty guineas, was at the Yew Tree Inn at Redenhall. Plans for augmenting rings of bells are often hatched when ringers meet together, and it was at about this time that the decision was taken to have a ring of six at Alburgh. Church bells were seen as a civic, rather than an ecclesiastical matter, and it is in the Alburgh Town Reeves’ accounts that the record of the work appears. The bells were increased from four to six in 1760 by exchanging the largest of the four old bells for three smaller bells. Three false staples were fitted to allow the old bells to be quarter-turned, so that the clappers could strike on unworn parts of the soundbows; and the excess metal in the old tenor bell was sufficient to reduce the cost of casting of the new bells to £29 9s 0d. A fully professional job was done, including a new bell-frame, new bell wheels and a ringing gallery costing a total of £37. The sum of twenty-four shillings “spent the first time the bells were rung” doubtless provided liquid refreshment; and one can imagine the gathering of ringers that would arrive for the opening of the new ring of six.

It is a measure of the enthusiasm for changeringing in the Waveney valley that Redenhall bells were augmented to eight in 1736, followed two years later by Alburgh. Once again the work was entrusted to a London bell-founder, Richard Phelps, who had been involved with the augmentation of the Redenhall bells. This is surprising, since the Norwich bell-foundry was very active at the time, under the control of Thomas Newman; but it may be the case that discriminating ringers were not sufficiently impressed by the quality of the bells. The two little bells at Alburgh coast a total of £43

7s 6d, with a further £13 for hanging them; and the accounts show that the bells came by water from London to Geldeston Staithe, from whence they were carted by road.



Alburgh bells being transported during the 1995-96 refurbishment

It was largely as a result of the efforts of ringers at Redenhall and Alburgh that the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers came into being in 1877, and an Alburgh man conducted the first peal rung under its auspices. Over one hundred peals have been rung on the Alburgh bells since 1877 and the eight light bells were a popular focus for practising unfamiliar methods. In 1908 Alfred Bowell's of Ipswich built a new steel bell-frame, strengthened with cast-iron webs, and rehung the bells with fabricated iron and steel fittings. This installation gave good service until the 1980s, by which time it was becoming clear that major work was again needed. The restoration accomplished in 1995-96 includes rebuilding Bowell's frame, dealing with rust and erosion, the provision of new headstocks and pulleys,

and the refurbishment of the old bell-wheels. More significant was the discovery that three of the bells were cracked in the crown, and this has made it necessary for them to be repaired by welding. Alburgh bells are once again ringable, sounding much as they did when the octave was completed over two centuries ago.

The ringing chamber has a number of painted boards recording the notable performances of Alburgh ringers over a period of 250 years. The first full peal on the bells (a full peal consists of 5,000 or more changes, usually taking 3 hours or more) was rung on 23 October 1749: 5,040 changes of Bob Major in 2 hours 56 minutes. The conductor was William Patrick, who, according to the parish register was "a Linnen Weaver and Farmer ... A man very eminent in the art of Ringing". Bell-ringing was clearly seen as an important feature of life in Alburgh, so much so that the inn at which ringers gathered to celebrate the rehanging of the bells in 1845 went by the name of the "Eight Bells". A fine peal board records the longest peal ever rung at Alburgh: 8,448 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major on New Years' Eve 1852, rung in 5 hours 3 minutes. As the board records "For bold and regular striking it must ever reflect great credit upon the company". Few village churches have such a long tradition of changering as Alburgh, and the collection of peal-boards is one of the finest in the county.

Extracted from an article by Paul Cattermole,
Advisor on bells, Diocese of Norwich, August 1996.

Editor

Following a request for information on the "Eight Bells" public house in the Parish News, it has been established that the building was built in the 16th century and was in Station Road. It was situated between "Wisteria Cottage" and Gayridge Farm. In the 1950s it was used for housing with three families sharing the long building. Around 1956 it was sadly demolished.

Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977 – *photographs from Jack Tollervey's collection*



Above: Alex MacGregor erects
the
Billy Bunter
Celebration Bunting
in the Fancy Dress
Competition

Opposite top: Lily Aldous
outside her decorated house
Bottom Left: Harry
Andrews and Haydn Jenkins
Bottom Right: Toni and
Jimmy Beales





Forty-five years at Moat Farm by Jack Syrett

On the Michaelmas day morning 29th September 1958, I visited one of my men thrashing at Brockdish, he told me that Moat Farm in Alburgh was for sale, as he knew I was looking for some where to supplement the thrashing business which had just about finished owing to the introduction of the combine harvester to this country.

So, I went back to Fressingfield told my wife about it and we agreed to go over to see Mr Wright about buying Moat Farm. We found Mr Wright in the yards; they were carting sugar beet off the field and dumping them in the backyard right in front of the back door. Mr Wright agreed to take me for a look around the farm whilst Mrs Wright showed my wife round the house.



Moat Farm 2003

On returning to the house we were offered the customary cups of tea and something to eat while we talked about the farm, the acreage and the price. Mr Wright was asking £10,500 for the 150 acres, I bid him £10,000 which

he didn't accept there and then. However the next evening the phone rang at Fressingfield it was Mr Wright on the phone, they wanted to see me over at Moat Farm as soon as possible – as you might guess we were soon over, there was a lovely fire and a hot drink (typical Norfolk hospitality) waiting for us.

After a while the subject of the purchase price of Moat Farm came up. Mr Wright asked me if I was willing to meet him halfway and after a little thought I agreed the purchase price of £10,250.

That is how Moat Farm, Alburgh changed hands after about seventy-five years, or may be even more, that was 1958. We have now lived here almost forty-five years. My wife lays in the plantation it is now 20 years to the day I write this since she died. I expect the family will put me there in due course. Mr Wright, known affectionately by everyone as “Old Jack” was a very kind old man, in fact Mr and Mrs Wright were a lovely couple they were very kind to me.

Up to 1959 Moat Farm had been farmed by the Wright family, it had a fair size herd of cows, milk was sent to the creamery which was the main source of income. These were sold by auction when I took over the farm, they had produced all the grazing for the cows, also most of the other food for the farm livestock.

In the first few years at Moat Farm we only had one house cow, “Ginger” but I did keep cattle for beef as well as pigs and sows for breeding as this at the time was a particular interest of Ray my son. We have not kept any cattle since the 1980s. In those first few years we also grew wheat, barley and oats for pig and animal feed as well as red clover and trefoil for seed.

One of the first jobs I had to do at the farm was to clean all the ditches and let the water get away (the water course on the low meadow was prone to flooding). Since then most of the land has been re-drained and some of the ditches have been levelled to make the fields more of a workable size for modern machines.

In 1960 there were two men and myself working on the farm helped by my two sons at holiday times and weekends as well as two boys from the

village. Today all the work is done by one of my sons helped at harvest by his other brother and maybe one of my grandsons.

Enclosures	size in acres	Enclosures	size in acres
Coldham Green	6.22	Back Meadow	4.30
Hungry Hill	7.49	Little Back Meadow	2.61
Sukies Meadow	4.34	Little Five Acres	5.56
Sukies Field	7.95	Five Acres	5.78
Low Meadow	13.59	Hawken Hedge	8.92
Eight Acres	8.57	Kings Head Meadow	4.11
Seven Acres	7.71	Ten Acres	10.50
Three Acres	3.50	Meadow	2.06
Cottage Field	4.79	Black Smith's Pightle	5.59
Cottage Meadow	2.98	Spring Field	9.77
Prong Meadow	2.23	King's Head Field	9.25
Stackyard Field	7.64	Coalie Field	4.16
Plantation	0.89	TOTAL	150.51

Sukies Meadow and Sukies Field originate from a separate holding known as “Sukies” this was almost at the centre of the present farm. When I first came to Moat Farm Sukies barn had already gone, but the “beet house”, the hovel and the wall round the cattle yard still remained. “Sukies” is said to have got its name from an old lady who once lived there. “Sukie” being the Norfolk name for Susan.

Today the farm has 150 acres of wheat, 10-15 acres of barley, 12 acres of spring barley and 25 acres of set-a-side plus a little hay off the meadows, there is no grazing now. There are about 400-500 pigs kept on the farm, but those are fed under contract.

Editor: During my visit to collect the above article I spent an hour talking to Jack with his daughter-in-law Jean and learnt a number of interesting facts about Jack as a farmer and soldier.

Jack spent some four years of his army life in the infamous Japanese prisoner of war camps where he helped construct the railway and the bridge over the river Kwai. It was interesting to see some of his mementos of his army life. On his return from this experience to his father’s farm there was insufficient work for him as well as his two other brothers so Jack used the farms thrashing machine and set about finding work in the area.



A similar Garrett Drum Thrashing unit at work in Alburgh

This lasted until 1959 when he took control of Moat Farm. Jack was kind enough to show me around this lovely farmhouse. The house has two wells one under the kitchen and the other under the cellar. After passing through several rooms and past three staircases I was shown the room which many years ago was used as a schoolroom where some twenty children were taught. Reputed to be the first school in Alburgh.

When Jack took on Moat Farm in 1959 the cottage known as Moat Cottage was included and workers on the farm lived in the cottage for a time. In the early 1960s this cottage was no longer required and was sold to Mr George Nookes, the cottage is now the home of Michael Wright.



A modern Combine Harvester at work in Alburgh Summer 2002.

“Grout’s Barn” was also part of the farm holding and used for storing hay straw and some grain. The building was sold about twenty years ago and converted to a home, which is now occupied by the Kilbourne family. During our discussion on farming shed some light on an early census, which listed a farmer employing over 100 men, Jack remembers large land owners having 100 horses and each horse would have at least one farm labourer to help.

An Alburgh farm tenant was fortunate to shoot a large hare, which weighed eleven pounds; apparently a normal size hare is around four pounds in weight. As was the custom in those days the tenant farmer gave this to the landowner.



Chris Thomas and Stephen Letch cut the crop in the “traditional way”

Last year, at the request of Starston thatcher Stephen Letch, “Huntsman” wheat was grown on Moat Farm. This wheat grows almost twelve inches longer than modern varieties. The crop was cut using an old binder and thrashed using a traditional manner; the straw is still stored on the farm waiting to be used by the thatcher.

We discussed the methods of gathering sugar beet in Jack’s early days at Moat Farm. He recalled that in those days we always seemed to have frosts in November and it was at this time that the beet had to be lifted and prepared for the processing plants. Of course the farm had help from the villagers often women who could be seen in the fields with their heads

down and their bums in the air. In those days most of the beet was delivered to the nearby railway station at Homersfield or Harleston. Jack told me that the price was two shillings per ton less if the beet was taken by road.

Asking Jack about the barley crops I soon learnt that the barley suitable to grow on Alburgh soils is not ideal for the maltings and brewers but they would accept the barley at a reduced price.



Jack Syrett with his "Pony and Trap"

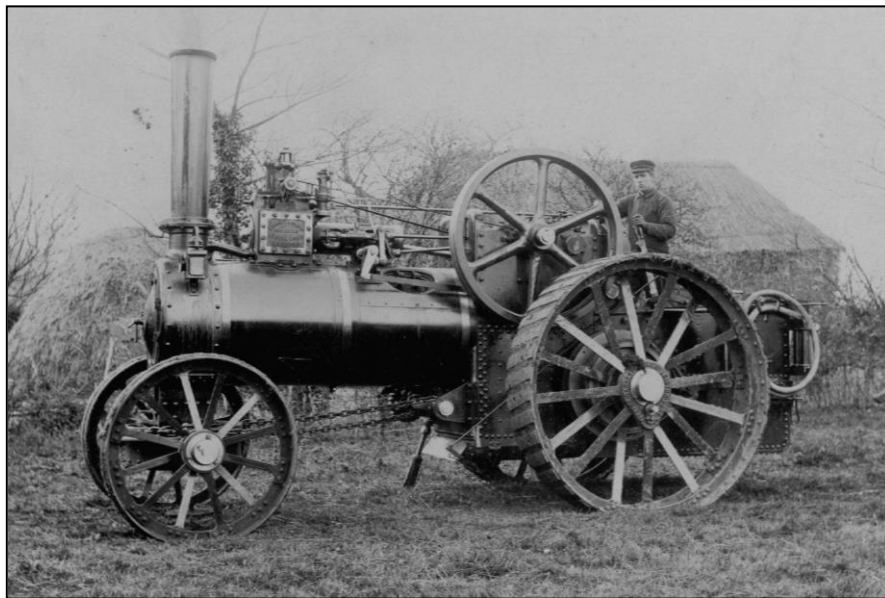
I expect several readers will remember the brown dust landing on us; Jack remembers leaving a farming meeting in Norwich some fifteen years ago when the farmers returned to their cars they were all covered in a brown dust. The news at the time reported the origin of this dust was the Sahara desert. We all read today about the rules and restrictions Jack recalled the problems encountered with farming today. Even the light bulbs used must

be plastic in case glass should enter the food chain. Inspections and extra paperwork are a burden carried by so many these days but I guess Jack would not want any other life than that of an Alburgh farmer.



Above: Horse and cart at work on Moat Farm Below: Moat farm early 1900s





Top: Early farm machinery as used in Alburgh

Below harvesting at Mill Farm from l to r Ron Andrews, Hubert Goose, Lawrence Aldous and Hugh Goose.



Above: Thrashing in Alburgh Below: Lady arriving in style at White House Farm



Alburgh Footpaths

by Bob Flatt

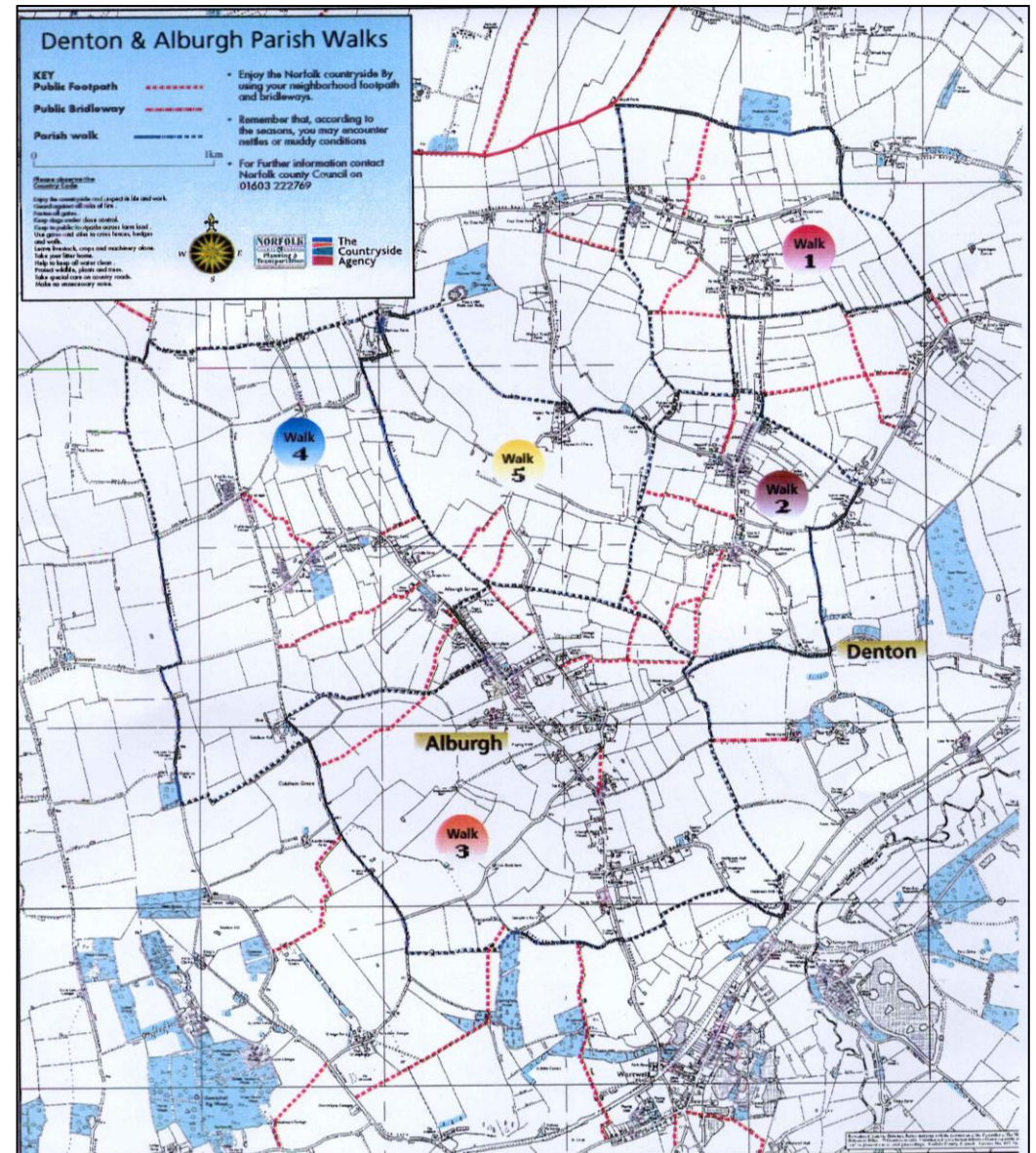
Within the parish boundary of Alburgh, there is approximately 10 miles of footpaths plus Old Deer's Lane and Rice's Lane, which are parish highways. Burnt Oak Lane is a County Road (No. 76183) as is Stoney Lane, which is County Road (No. 76154). Most of the footpaths are accessible and reasonably well maintained. They can be linked with footpaths in the villages of Denton, Redenhall, Wortwell and Homersfield to form a series of circular walks varying in length from 2 to 18 miles.



Entrance to Old Deers Lane off the Denton Road

Rambles along these paths are most enjoyable to anyone who enjoys the countryside, its wildlife and the beautiful views across the Waveney valley. Use of the paths helps to ensure that they are kept open and regularly maintained.

Norfolk County Council cuts the 5 circular walks marked on the enclosed map 3 times per year. There is a large Denton and Alburgh Parish Walks Map situated adjacent to the Village Hall car park.



A Brief History of Alburgh *by Terry Mayes*

Over the centuries there have been many spellings of Alburgh, from Arborough to Akenberwe, and various suggestions regarding its meaning. The Old Burgh seems an obvious choice, but the Burgh of Oaks (this is the meaning of Akenberwe) is favoured by our village sign. On the other hand James Rye in his 'Popular Guide to Norfolk Placenames' settles for Alda's Mound or Old Mound, referring to the earthworks or barrow near the church.

In 1086, Alburgh appears in the Domesday Book with three Norman overlords having ousted the previous Saxon owners. These overlords were King William I, Count Alan and Eudo' a powerful supporter of the Conqueror. The village was then, as now, long and narrow and, from the Domesday details, totally agricultural. There were three manors in Alburgh, although at one point a fourth, that of Wortwell, extended into Alburgh parish.

Bishop Stigand was lord of the chief manor which passed to the Bigods, Earls of Norfolk with a castle at Bungay, and then, after the Reformation, to the Dukes of Norfolk.

The second manor was that of Alburgh Hall. From 1223 this belonged to the de Turberville family. Walter de Turberville, who served Henry III with three knights in France in 1230 had to pay the King 150 marks to be released from duty. The de Thirkelbys followed, but in 1274 John de Holebrook bought the Manor which was renamed Holebrook. Bloomfield, writing later, described it as adjoining the Holebrook Hills, on the left hand side of the road to Yarmouth near to the Wortwell Dove. It was owned, in turn, by the Tendavile, Tyndale and Bacon families until, in 1570 Edward Bacon sold it to Thomas Gawdy. When he had Gawdy Hall built the Holbrook Manor house was pulled down.

The Rectory Manor, run by successive rectors, was the smallest manor. Its court, mainly dealing with transfers of land on the death of a copyholder, was certainly active until 1907; minutes from 1796 to 1907 still exist at the Norfolk Record Office.

The Church is the oldest building in the village with 13th century chancel and nave, 15th century south porch, 16th century windows and a major 19th century renovation by the Rev. Lohr, who is remembered today in the name for a row of houses. In the 18th century the chancel was thatched. The first recorded rector was in 1303, and a little later in 1334 the village was assessed for tax (the Kings Tenth) of £5. Still in the area of religion, in the next century two Alburgh men, Thomas Pye and John Mendham, did penance in the village and in Harleston for being followers of John Wycliffe, the Lollard.



Mr Feavour – Alburgh shoe maker

Moving to the 1600s, at about the time of the Restoration the Justices of the Peace at Wymondham were confirming Edward Jolyon and Nicholas Wells as churchwardens at Alburgh. And a little later Charles the Second would have passed through the south end of the village on his progress from Harleston to Yarmouth. In the following year, 1672, 120 hearths and stoves were recorded here as chargeable to Hearth Tax, while the Poll Tax of 1678 raised £12.15.0d.

Linen Weaving and associated trades occurred throughout the Waveney Valley during the 18th century, when these were still cottage industries. Alburgh was no exception and there are references in the Parish and other

records, to artisans such as John Booty (a whiter or bleacher) and William Patrick (weaver).

It has been suggested that Alburgh and Wortwell were closely connected and that, in the old days, the upper crust lived in Alburgh and the lower sorts in Wortwell! I have found no proof of this, but the two parishes did work together as when, in 1770 the Surveyors of both parishes took joint responsibility for the maintenance of the road by the Dove. At the end of the century a showman came to Homersfield fair with a family who had smallpox. Two hundred people in Alburgh contracted the disease but only four died, whereas in Wortwell, with a smaller population, there were ten dead.

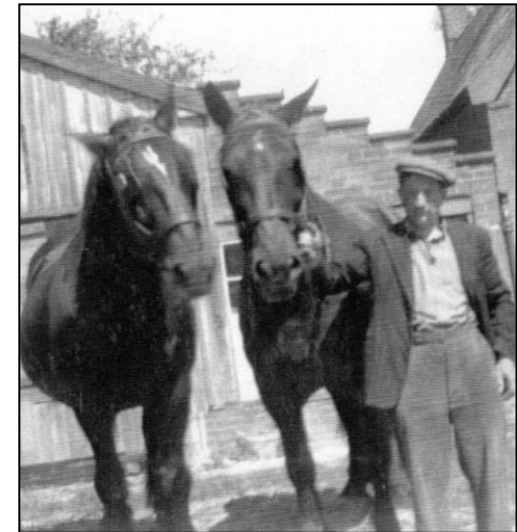
The end of the 18th and start of the 19th centuries was a great time for Acts of Parliament to enclose common and open lands into fields. It happened here in 1801. There were 109 people staking their claims, mainly through ancient rights to graze their cows and pigs on the common land. But the Duke of Norfolk was a major claimant described as 'Lord of the Soil', while Rebecca Holmes was 'Lady of the Soil'. The main areas for enclosure appear to have been Low Common and Bridge Fen. Where were these places? Down towards the river in the Wortwell area perhaps; there is a house named Bridge Fen in Low Road, Wortwell currently occupied by Mr and Mrs Weeds. When all was done the village contained 1436 acres of enclosed land, 81 acres of waste, and the population was 487.

Throughout the 19th century the population grew, until 1881 when there were just over 600 souls. Over the years some well-known families lived locally, including the Springfields, who provided a Lord Mayor of Norwich, and the Grouts, of silk factory fame, who lived at Alburgh House. Alburgh was still very much a farming community; in the 1845 directory there are 18 farmers listed. They ranged from Barnabas Bond who, in 1851, was a widower farming 673 acres, employing 74 men and boys and two house servants, to Robert Laurence described as a market gardener. Did Robert Laurence sell his produce in the village or take it to Harleston Market. At this time the village was very nearly self-sufficient,

even looking after its own law and order. The above-mentioned Barnabas Bond was, as well as a farmer, the 'Chief Constable'. This would have been an unpaid post, which, for centuries, had been elected annually by the ratepayers of the parish. The paid Norfolk Constabulary had been formed in the 1830s, but probably took some years to fully replace the unpaid Parish Constables. By 1871 Police Constable George Ives was our village bobby.

Below: Leslie Wright with horses at Smithy

By the middle of the 19th century a good variety of trades were represented. There were rat blacksmiths, and wheelwrights, bricklayers and plumbers, thatchers and rat catchers. There were several shops, grocers and bakers, tailors and drapers, a butcher and, in due course, a post office. Liquid refreshment was also well looked after. The Kings Head, at the north end of the High Street (The Street) predated the 19th century and was owned by Harleston Brewery. In 1828



Harleston Brewery sold, at auction, everything it possessed, and the Kings Head passed, for the sum of £455, to Thomas Dyson of Diss Brewery. In February 1956 an application to transfer the Kings Head's full licence to the Tradesmans Arms was granted. In 1871 the Tradesmans was a beerhouse owned by Bullards Brewery; Harry Flatman was the publican who also brewed beer and ran a general shop on the premises. The Tradesmans was almost certainly a beerhouse long before 1871, perhaps

from around the time of the 1830 Beer Act. This pub finally closed in 2000 to make way for some new housing. The other pubs in the village were the Cherry Tree in Low Road, which for a good number of years in the second half of the 1800s, was run by the Borrett family. (*Editor:* The Nine, Five or Eight Bells was situated between Wisteria Cottage and Gayridge Farm in Station Road towards Piccadilly corner; the site is currently used to store manure.)



Alburgh with Denton School 2003

Education also came in the 19th century. In 1836 George Cann had a boarding and day school at Moat House Farm; John Theobald was schoolmaster with about 30 scholars. The Alburgh National School was built in 1847; architect S. Daines of London. It was enlarged in 1873 and in 1902 passed under the dual control of Norfolk Education Committee and a body of six managers.

In 1855 the Waveney Valley railway line from Tivetshall mainline junction got to Harleston. This section was started in 1851 and was twelve and three quarter miles long and cost £40,000. It was another five years before the stretch to Bungay, going through Alburgh, was ready. In building the line at Homersfield Station (in Alburgh parish!) 11 or more skeletons, with iron weapons were uncovered in what may have been a pagan Saxon graveyard. The line to Bungay opened in 1860 and onwards to Beccles in 1863. In the 1870s the residents of the village included Railway Porter William Tuffs and Stationmaster Abraham Kilbourn.



The 1912 Floods at Homersfield Station

The railway continued, without fuss, to serve the Waveney Valley until August of 1912 when the great flood wrecked Homersfield Station and washed away the line nearby. An onlooker described wheat ‘disappearing down the river by the cartload’. Until the line was repaired an omnibus ran between Harleston and Bungay Stations. The line finally closed for passenger traffic in January 1953 and for goods a little later in 1960. Our

section of the line now lies beneath the A143. The Bungay to Beccles part of the line closed in April 1965 and the Harleston to Tivetshall in April 1966.



At the beginning of the 20th century the population had started to fall, but the trades represented in Alburgh were very similar to those of a hundred years previously. There were one or two extras, all connected to the railway. There were railway employees living locally, and there were merchants dealing in coal, coke, corn and manure – all materials carried in bulk by rail.

As the 20th century progressed the ability to travel became commonplace and people turned more to the towns, so that villages lost traders and populations declined. Inevitably this happened in Alburgh too. But other contributors have written of the village in the twentieth century, so I will conclude with the reflection that Alburgh remains the quiet, pleasant, agricultural village that it must always have been, across the centuries.

Modern Alburgh from the Air

A history of Alburgh Parish Council

by Ruth Walton

Today our parish clerk writes the parish council meeting minutes using a laptop computer and printer, and a signed copy is kept for reference. We are fortunate in having the minute books, which go back to Alburgh Parish Council's very first meeting of Thursday 13th. December 1894, which was held in the National Schoolroom, Alburgh. These handwritten accounts are now with Norfolk Record Office for safe-keeping, and give us an accurate record of how the parish council has functioned over the last 109 years, and in doing so, a piece of social history as well. An all male council - remember women could not vote then -, that first meeting records *'The meeting being open to the public a good number of parishioners were present.*

*Samuel Youngs Brock was elected as chairman, with
Alexander Hayden Beeson
Samuel Joseph Youngs Brock
Benjamin Brooks
Horace Foulger
William Alhol Grimmer
Clement Moore Mobbs*

All the councillors with the exception of Mr. H. Foulger signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Owing to there being some doubt as to the disqualification of paid Parish Highway Surveyors Mr. Foulger asked the council to allow his signing the declaration and accepting office to stand over until the Annual Meeting of the Council, or to the first meeting of the council to be held after the 25th. March, at which date the Highways were to be transferred to the District Council. This course was agreed unanimously'.

Mr. H. Foulger was appointed clerk, and Henry Edward Buxton Esq., of Messres. Gurney & Co., Bankers, Harleston was appointed treasurer. It was agreed to deposit parish boxes, documents and other papers with the

rector, the Rev'd. C. W. John, for deposit in the parish chest in the church tower.

It was proposed by the parish council that Mr. J. F. Flaxman and Mr. John Cox of Alburgh be appointed additional overseers in place of the churchwardens to carry out their duties in connection with the Allotments Charity.

Today, the same number of councillors still sign a declaration of acceptance of office, the council works closely with the District Council, the bank in Harleston is still used, but the clerk and the councillors act as treasurer. Councillors also complete a Registration of Interest, according to the Model Code of Conduct order 2001.

Alburgh is unusual in having a Town Reeve, and mention is made of this at the very next meeting on 17th. December - *'The meeting was called in accordance with the Decree of the Court in Chancery dated 1623, for the purpose of appointing two Town Reeves for the ensuing year'*. There is no mention who the appointees were. A note is made *'The chairman gave a lengthy statement concerning the parish properties and charities'*

Within three months of setting up the parish council the members had adopted 'standing orders', to fix dates for the annual and quarterly meetings - monthly meetings were introduced in 1976 - we revised our standing orders only a few months ago to include many more details about the running of the parish council. At that February 1895 meeting the parish council appointed five people to be trustees of the parish houses and allotments and the coal charities.

There was much concern about housing, and a request was sent to the Medical Officer of Health for the district to examine a property to report as to its fitness for human habitation - we can only guess where the property was situated.

The minutes continue *'it is thought desirable that any repairs to the parish houses should be paid for out of the income arising from the Wissett property. It is agreed that the old soup kitchen be taken over and*

converted into a parish room at small expense'. Bleach Farm at Wissett, owned by Alburgh, was leased to a tenant, which is where the income was generated, and there are several records of building repairs to the farmhouse over a number of years. Early records show rental to a Mr. Howlett at £70.00 p.a. for 4 years, the receipt being used for the Coal Gift distributed to Alburgh pensioners. Eventually the farm and land were sold, and the money invested by Alburgh parish council. The accounts of the Alburgh Towns Land Estate (Feoffees) are available and can be inspected by any parishioner at the annual meeting early in May.

The first annual meeting took place on April 15th., 1895, when the estimate from Mr. A. F. Rayner to repair the Parish Room for £4.15/- was accepted. There were discussions concerning the desirability of letting the parish room for a reading room, and the need for a notice board, boot-scraper and cleaner - written in that order! Tables and chairs were purchased in July, viz:-

<i>'purchase of table</i>	<i>£1.15.00</i>
<i>12 chairs</i>	<i>£2.10.00</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>12.00</i>
<i>1 lamp and oilcan</i>	<i>15.00</i>

paid for by the feoffees. A Mrs. Girling was employed to prepare the parish room at 4d. (not as much as 2p.) a night.'

The precept tax (money to run the council for the coming year, and in 2003 is £4,000.00 which is paid in two instalments by South Norfolk District Council) was £12.00 and paid by the Overseers, in November, by which time it was obviously cold as they agreed to buy a *'stove not to exceed 16/-'* (about 80p.)

The state of the roads, footpaths and footbridges was cause for concern then, as the roads and verges are today, and as long ago as 1895 it is recorded *'agree to instruct the clerk to write to Mr. W. Crickmore calling his attention to the condition of the footpath and bridge leading across the Lowmeadow (late Mr. Reynolds) and to ask that the same will have due*

attention'. A letter was also sent to the Local Government Board as to the power of the parish council to repair public footbridges and footpaths, and a letter to the County Council asking them *'to remedy the dangerous state of Holbrook Hill'*.

The replies have been copied by the clerk in the minutes book, our clerk today has a filing cabinet full of correspondence, but the Holbrook Hill reply is interesting...

From the Shirehouse, Norwich, 22/2/1896 'I was directed by the Committee to inform the parish council of Alburgh that the Committee cannot entertain the application on the ground of the great expense which it would involve, and there being no special reason at the present time for the alteration on the Hill being made'.

The Social Government Board, Whitehall, writes 21/1/1896, *'I am to state that where such a bridge is part of the footpath, so that its maintenance and repair are essential to the proper use of the footpath, the Board considers that the parish council of the parish in which it is situated may undertake its repair'*.

The parish council formed a footpaths committee in January 1897 to report on footpaths and footbridges in general and it reported at the next meeting that there were two bridges requiring immediate repair, which was undertaken by Mr. S. Y. Brock for 24/- (£1.20p). Tenders were then invited for carting gravel for Vinegar Lane and Holbrook Hill, with an acceptance of 10 loads (24 bushels) of gravel and sand at 2/9d. (about 14p.) per load. The parish council has done much to clarify the existence of and to establish footpaths in the village over many years, and to see that they are maintained and signed.

All councils are publicly accountable, with their decisions and spending audited on an annual basis, which cost 5/- (25p.) in 1899, when the auditor - I have been unable to find out why it was the Suffolk Audit Office, which wanted to know what right the council had to spend money on the council room. It was explained by the clerk that the council room was handed over to the council by the then acting trustees of the property and that there

were no deeds in existence. The room was in use as a lending library in April 1905 when '*5/- (25p.) each year was paid to the trustees of the Alburgh Poors Allotments Charity for lease of the Parish Room*'. By October 1930 the Girls' Friendly Society, run by Miss John was meeting in the room every fortnight.

We talk of many changes today, but new legislation brought changes to every parish before the end of the nineteenth century, not only with the setting up of parish councils, but instead of property tenants being rated, the property owners were rated to the Poors Rate from September 1899. The Education Act of 1902 empowered the parish council to appoint a school manager - Edward Watson was the first appointed school manager of Alburgh school. In 1929 an Edward Watson of Wortwell was appointed clerk at a salary of £3.00 per year plus payment for his journeys.



Alburgh and Wortwell Allotments in Wortwell c 2003

Not only did Alburgh own land in Wissett and Rumburgh, but the parish council managed (and still does) allotments in Wortwell, including Wortwell Pit. Recently this allotment land, which is adjacent to land

owned by Wortwell, has become overgrown, as fewer people require allotments. The parish council's letter of April 1900 to Depwade Union Highway Committee, '*The state of the gravel pit belonging to the parish of Alburgh, situated in the parish of Wortwell, was considered and in consequence of the bad state into which the pit has been allowed to get under the present management it was unanimously agreed that the parish council should take the management of the pit and allotments into their own hand and employ the Rents arising from the allotments for the purpose of putting the pit and fences into proper order*', asks Depwade to carry out this work, but Depwade asks Alburgh to take over the management of its land.

The March 1904 meeting concerns the Alburgh Gravel Pit, "*Certain persons have been illegally taking gravel from the Alburgh Gravel Pit. The meeting requested the District Council to take some steps to recover the value of the gravel taken, together with damage done to the pit from the offending parties and to prevent a reoccurrence of the trespass.*"

By March 1908 there were seven applications for allotments, five of them for a piece larger than one acre, leaving the parish council to make enquiries for land elsewhere which it could let to parishioners.

There must have been a village collection upon the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, as there is a letter from the High Sheriff of Norwich acknowledging receipt of £1.2.6d. (one pound 12½ p)

(One pound 25p.) collected in the parish of Alburgh for the National Memorial Fund of Queen Victoria. In November 1910 a ladies' committee was formed to collect for the King Edward (Norfolk and Norwich) Memorial Fund, the money collected, but we do not know how much was to be given to the endowment of the new living of the Norfolk and Norwich hospital.

At the annual meeting of 1902, the Rev'd. A. Pagan was elected vice-chairman, and two months later he made a most generous gift of money to the village - '*a gift by the Rev'd. Pagan in trust to the Alburgh parish council for the Benefit of the Parish, £100.00 to purchase property in the*

Parish for the benefit of the Parishioners'. The legal details were agreed and drawn up and an account opened at Barclays Bank (note change of name from Gurney's by this time)

'Grimmer's Cottage', was bought for the sum of £65.00, with Mr. Joseph Grimmer living there in September 1907, at a rent of £5.00 per year. The balance of the Pagan Gift fund was put on deposit account at the bank. There are records of repairs to the cottage, for example £4. 4. 6d. in 1911, when the Rev'd. Pagan became chairman of the parish council. Then on 13th. July 1914 a double dwelling (two cottages) was bought for £67.10/-, paid from the Pagan Gift. William Penchard and Samuel Bird were accepted as tenants at a rent of £4.10/- per year, and the three properties were insured for £200.00 and £400.00 respectively. One of the Pagan Trust properties, situated in Vinegar Lane was sold for £100.00 in June 1963, and the other two Pagan Trust properties were sold according to Charity Commission rules during the winter of 1963/4. The money was invested and is administered by parish councillors " *which shall in their opinion be for the benefit of the Parish of Alburgh*" under the Pagan Trust.

A 1913 letter from the District Council shows their concern about housing, asking if the parish council considers there is a demand for the erection of cottages in the parish under the Housing Acts - Alburgh might look very different now, if there had been a positive response. However, in March 1924 a letter to the District Council makes a request for housing, *'Two families under notice to give up their present cottage and fire which destroyed two cottages rendering eight persons homeless, we beg the Council to consider at once the urgency of building the four cottages for which they bought land in the village some years ago and built a well for the same'*.

Mr. Springfield was elected chairman in 1914, but it is not until 1917 that a sub-committee was formed to canvas men eligible for National Service. The Rev'd. Pagan died in 1917, and there are glowing tributes to him in the minutes book.

With the end of the war, the July 1919 entry starts *'Captured German Gun having been allotted to the parish council of Alburgh the council considered where would be the best place to stand the Gun. Two positions were mentioned, an open place at Piccadilly Corner and the space in front of the Council Room. After some discussion the Rev. C. E. Thorpe proposed that the parish council accept the offer of a Captured German Gun. Mr. A. Clemson seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously. Mr. A. Clemson moved that the Gun be placed in the open space in front of the Council Room, Seconded and carried unanimously'*.

BUT...

At the parish meeting held on 25th. July in the schoolroom, the Parish Meeting resolved to make an application to the War Office to remove the Captured German Gun from the village. The minutes of a second meeting on the 11th. September record " *so much feeling had been aroused against the placing of the captured German gun in the parish*" and it was proposed to remove it temporarily to Mr. Miles's meadow.

A letter from the War Office November 1919 - *'Gun no, 6159 Callibre 77m/m Kindly inform me as soon as possible the most convenient station of entrainment'*. There are no further details of what happened - was the gun taken away from Homersfield station, I wonder?

The parish council was active in protesting in 1925 against the Rating and Valuation Bill before Parliament in November, and then in April 1927 Mr. J. W. Flaxman was appointed to act with the Rating and Valuation Committee as representative of Alburgh.

High hedges were a concern to motorists as early as 1931, when the clerk wrote to the Divisional Surveyor calling his attention to high hedges at Piccadilly Corner, and the following year motorists complained that their view was obscured by high hedges at the cross roads next to the Cherry Tree Inn.

In April 1935 a resolution was passed to pay Harleston Fire Brigade £3.3/- annually for the use of the fire engine in the case of a fire in the village

Although the threat of war was on the horizon - the Air Raid Precaution Committee had asked for four volunteers as early as June 1937, the parish council was considering making provision for a playing field for the use of the village, and in 1938 approached the district council for advice, and eventually joined the Playing Field Association in 1946 at a subscription of 5/- (25p). Planning permission was obtained and drainage carried out on the land that was to become the playing field following the proposal of October 1963, and Mr. A. McGregor was heavily involved with the Playing Field Association regarding the playing field and equipment. A grant of £144.00 was made towards the cost of equipment, which cost in total £287.00, and the playing field committee was formed in June 1966, with Mr. McGregor as chairman.



Village children enjoy a game supervised by Elsie Love on the Playing Field

The area of the field near the play equipment was drained in 2002.

1939 brought changes to the village; the parish council was opposed to the plan to widen Station Road to Homersfield Station and proposed that the improvement should be carried through Piccadilly Corner to Wortwell Bell. The chairman agreed to serve in the capacity of parish representative of the National Service Committee, and in April 1940 elections were suspended, in fact there were no elections from 1937 to 1946, and the councillors agreed to continue for the time being. At the Parish Meeting of 11th. August 1941 the chairman became the chairman of the Parish Invasion Committee, and other councillors were The Parish Food Organiser, The Local Home Guard Commander, The Senior ARP Warden, The First Aid Member, with the fire service and the police available in an advisory capacity. Meetings became irregular and were held at the Tradesman's Arms for five years as the Red Cross were using the Parish Room. In the event of an invasion, arrangements were made for food to be stored by the local tradesman and distributed at the school, and for the village hall to be used for the homeless and casualties. Ideas were put forward to make the fire service more efficient and effective, and it is recorded that *"boys with cycles be used as a messenger service"*.

There was a peace celebration in 1946, with *"food shortages presenting a difficulty"*, but a tea for the children was provided, followed by sports.

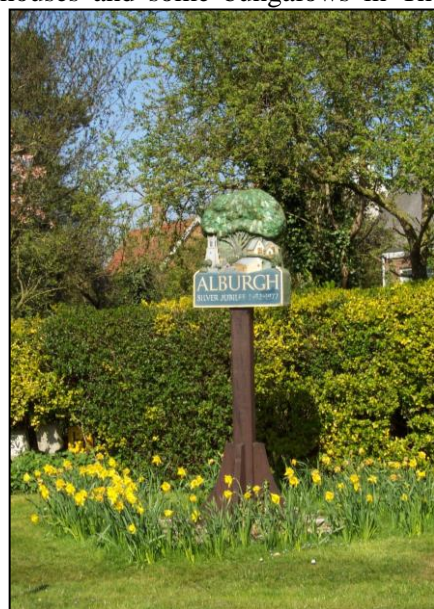
Many properties had their own water supply, other residents collected water from pumps, one of which was at Piccadilly Corner, which required repairs to the gate and fencing in 1941, which were carried out by Depwade RDC. Five years later, in May 1946 a piped water supply to Alburgh was being considered, and as late as September 1949 a letter was written to the district council expressing concern at nine unsatisfactory wells in the village. Mr. E. S. Bond became the chairman in 1946, and in December of that year there was the transfer of the Trustees of the village hall to the parish council, with fencing round the village hall carried out in May 1949. In the same year the parish council requested a 'bus service to Harleston, the bus stops were erected in 2003, and wrote to the Electricity

Company for supply to homes, granting a wayleave to the company a few months later for permission to erect stays on the land owned by the Pagan Trust. The village was connected in 1951, the same year that a bridge was requested for Tunbeck Ford, but the village was still waiting for the bridge in 1953, in spite of a promise that the work would start in March 1952. However, in 1956 there is a letter asking for the widening of Tunbeck Road, *'as more traffic is using this bridge since the bridge was made'*. The parish council suggested the names of Pagan, Doggett and Springfield Terrace, William Lohr bungalows and Flaxman's Close, all of which were formally adopted in November 1953.

A water supply to the village in 1950, an electricity supply in 1951, Tunbeck bridge built before 1956, houses and some bungalows in The Street by 1953, with more to come.

A March 1957 circular from the district council gave details of the collection of night soil, when the service would start and on which day and at what time. There was a special meeting in February 1964 to discuss the Village Development Area in Alburgh, with the views and proposals of the village forwarded to the district council.

In February 1976 Anglian Water Authority assumed direct responsibility for the construction and maintenance of public sewers, but South Norfolk District Council retained responsibility for septic tank emptying.



Village Sign erected to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee

There were discussions for a new village hall in 1967, and plans, by the autumn of 1969, for it to be built on land under control of the Alburgh Pools Allotments Committee. The new building, partly funded by money from the sale of Wortwell Pit, was used by the parish council for the annual parish meeting in 1972. A year later the old village hall was sold with the proceeds *"invested to accrue interest."*



Brigadier Roberts with his wife Eve

The youth club, set up in 1979, used the hall regularly, and were involved with a tree planting scheme in early 1980, when *"4 dessert apple trees were planted on the allotments"*. Other trees were planted in the village and *'it was proposed that the youth club be asked to free the young trees from weeds on Broad Road as a sponsored scheme'*

The discos, held at the village hall, were discontinued in September 1985 because of noise and disturbance. The parish council agreed to make up the annual deficit of about £500.00 per year to the village hall committee. A road safety committee was set up in Harleston in 1975, with Mr. H. Pagan representing Alburgh parish council, and the cycle proficiency test was introduced after liaison with Headteachers and the police. There were serious considerations in 1976 for a bowling green, with Brigadier Roberts, who lived at Piccadilly Cottage being consulted, with the owners of land adjacent to the tennis courts and land at 'The White House' being approached.

1977 saw the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations, with fund raising activities planned after the public meeting called in January, and a Union

Jack flag being purchased for the church. Money left over from the fund was used for the Alburgh village sign, which was erected a year later. There were earlier celebrations as well, a church service was held on 22nd. June 1911 at the time of the coronation of King George V, followed by tea for children up to 14 years, another tea provided by the parish in 1935 for the King's Jubilee, and Coronation celebrations in 1937 with tea for adults as well as the children. The minutes only state that a committee was formed for the 1953 Coronation.

The village children were given commemorative crowns to mark the Royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana on 31st. July 1981 at a special tea, with all expenses being met by the Pagan Trust. Afternoon tea, organised by the W.I. in 1995, celebrated V. E. day, with peace coins to commemorate V. E. and V. J. day distributed to village children by the chairman later the same year.

South Norfolk District Council seeks the parish council's views regarding planning applications in the village. In December 1977 an unusual planning application to alter some out - buildings at the Old Rectory to provide smoking salmon facilities caused much debate, and a few months later this was extended to include the manufacture of p•t■. A parish councillor spoke at the South Norfolk planning meeting in 2001 concerning the erection of four houses on the site of the Tradesman's Arms to represent the views of the village at the time.

Denton school closed in July 1978, with Mr. Fisher-Ball, the head teacher of Alburgh school retiring at the same time, the date of the July parish council meeting was changed so that councillors could attend his leaving party!

The parish council have supported the school on many occasions, for example in the campaign to re-route the school bus to exit at the bottom of Dove Hill and not Tunbeck, which was successful in November 1980, in voicing concerns about parking opposite the school, as early as 1981, and the recently constructed lay-by.

The idea of running a minibus service was put forward by Mr. Pagan in May 1979, and there was a joint meeting with the village of Denton the next month, with a well attended public meeting in October giving unanimous support to the project. Driver training started in 1980, and the minibus was officially opened by John McGregor MP in June 1980. A sixteen-seater minibus was introduced in the spring of 1983, and the bus has been renewed regularly, and is still well used.

The tennis club, which had formed in March 1972 approached the parish council for lease of land for a tennis court. As this is charity land approval had to be sought from the Charity Commissioners. This took some time, but was eventually granted under "The Physical Training and Recreational Act of 1937". The parish council approved the proposal for a second tennis court in July 1980.

The parish council supported the idea of the neighbourhood watch scheme, and a meeting was held to discuss the scheme in June 1991, with signs being put up in the village the following year. This scheme operates through street co-ordinators throughout the village.

The state of the roads and verges through Alburgh are rarely off the agenda, and there was great concern that the road through Alburgh would be used as a direct route to the proposed waste disposal site at Hardwick. RATS was formed (Residents Against the Tip Site) the parish council supported this self financing group whose campaign led to a public enquiry in January 1993. Mr. Pagan attended many meetings leading up to the enquiry, reporting to the parish council, and then gave evidence to the public enquiry on behalf of the village. This evidence is a two page document which includes the following, *'The road through Alburgh itself has no pavements and is lined with houses on either side, ending in a sharp right angled bend at the turn towards the proposed landraise site. The result of waste carrying traffic will be disastrous upon our village. If, as is being suggested on behalf of the Parish Councils the size and catchment area of the site increases to attract traffic from further south the problems I have described will be exacerbated.'*

Dr. Murray Gray, our District Councillor since 1991, gave the parish council much help and support, and acted as an independent objector with four reports, including one entitled 'Traffic through Alburgh'. The site was rejected in 1993, with the October minutes recording traffic implications as one of the reasons for rejection.

In 1983, permission was granted to surveyors for access to the Alburgh allotments in Wortwell when preliminary work began on the Wortwell bypass. Norfolk County Council agreed to the 'drive carefully' signs in the village, which were erected by R. G. Carter in the summer of 1986. There had been many discussions about a speed limit over the years, with a 30mph limit refused in 1980, a 40 mph limit proposed in 1983, followed by a count of vehicles, *'a count had been carried out on Thursday, 20th. October (1983). A total of 707 vehicles had been recorded during the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. They consisted of 501 cars, 141 vans/lorries, 24 tractors and 41 motorbikes'*. Finally NCC agreed to a preliminary survey to assess the feasibility of a speed limit, for inclusion in their 1995/6 traffic management programme. We requested that *'the speed limit area be from the top of Dove Hill to Broad Road'*, with our acceptance of the existing speed limit in January 1997.

The parish council has expressed its concerns to the Highways department many times concerning heavy lorries through the village, and in the autumn of 1995, following a meeting with our then County Councillor, Mr. S. Revell, it was agreed to press for 7½ tonne weight restrictions and possibly a pinch point at the north end of the village. We were advised of the route hierarchy with Station Road being the recommended route for HGVs into the village in early 1996. A three tonne weight limit was imposed on Tunbeck Bridge in March 1997, as the deck of the bridge needed replacing.

The 7½ tonne weight limits were installed early 2003, both at the bottom of Dove Hill and at the bottom of Tunbeck Road, although the bridge had been repaired the year before.

The recycling bank, installed by South Norfolk District Council, was in operation by January 1996, and is well used by the village. Proceeds are paid to the parish council quarterly and the money has been used for the playing field and for the Millennium garden.



Parish Council Chairman, Ruth Walton plants a rose in the Millennium Garden

A village meeting in July 1998 established the concept of regenerating two disused allotments near the village hall car park and making a garden to mark the millennium. As this is charity land permission had to be sought from the Charity Commissioners regarding the change of use. The parish council paid for the landscaping work to be done, and continues to pay for the grass and hedge cutting. Various organisations in the village have undertaken different aspects of the garden, for example the Tuesday group planted and maintain the shrub border, the P.C.C planted and maintain the rose border, the W. I. planted spring bulbs, the round the tree seat was



donated by a village resident; the parish council has a full list of all the clubs involved. The garden was officially opened on a sunny Saturday afternoon in June 2000, by Mrs. Reeder, our then oldest resident, and the school children sang at the opening, when we had the village fete as well. At a children's tea party they were given china mugs with the Alburgh village sign decorated on them, paid for by the parish council. The 2002 Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations, organised by a sub-committee of the parish council, included an outdoor tea, children's fancy dress and entertainment, followed by a barbeque in the evening. There was also a display of photographs of the village and residents at the village hall. Another proposal to mark the millennium was to establish a picnic site at Homersfield Bridge. Norfolk County Council are overcoming various difficulties of ownership and rights of way, but it is a lengthy process, and so the project is an ongoing one.

The Tuesday group, led by Mrs. Lesley Bishop, has planted for several autumns, daffodil bulbs in the village, and the parish council has regularly made a contribution to the cost of the bulbs.

Alburgh Parish Council – April 2003, meeting at Alburgh Village Hall

Left to right: David Denny, Les Lloyd, Bob Flatt (chairman), Jackie Ellis (clerk), Ruth Bass, Sue Elliot and Ruth Walton.

The Victorian post box at the crossroads of School Road and Low Road was removed in the spring of 1996 and rebuilt in the same position by the Royal Mail.

The post office, adjacent to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, opposite the Tradesmans Arms closed in June 1997 because of illness, and that letter box was re-sited near the village hall. A February 1998 meeting with Royal Mail about the possibility of setting up a part time post office in the village was followed by a site meeting with their security department in August, who would have imposed so many conditions that the village hall management committee and the parish council decided not to proceed because of putting the village hall '*at risk of burglary and damage to property*'. This was done with some regret as many village residents had responded positively to the questionnaire about the post office.

The newspaper delivery round stopped in the summer of 1997, and this was discussed at a parish council meeting. Terry Hanner of Denton is now delivering papers to the village.

'Welcome packs' were introduced in March 1999, the idea being to inform new residents of services and clubs in the village. They are regularly updated and still available from any parish councillor.

There were changes to the playing field during the 1990's with the playing field committee disbanding and the parish council taking on the responsibility for the playing field in the summer of 1994. In 1995, following an inspection by the National Playing Fields Association, it was decided to replace equipment and install safety matting under the swing areas. Grants were sought from South Norfolk District Council and the Norfolk Rural Community Council and others, and new and replacement playing field equipment was authorised in September 1996.

The parish clerk wrote to a small town named Alburg in Vermont with a view to 'twinning' in time for the millennium, and there has been some correspondence between schools, but there was only one person who wished to write from Alburg, and she now lives in St. Albans, Vermont!

Some matters have been put on a formal footing, with a proper contract of employment for the parish clerk, and with a health and safety review and adoption of recommendations for all councillors during 1999/2000. By April 2002 Alburgh parish council adopted the Model Code of Conduct as proposed by South Norfolk and introduced by the government.

Until 2001 all the minute books and correspondence relating to Alburgh parish council were stored at the home of the clerk. Arrangements were made with Norfolk Record Office for all books and papers up to 1975, to be put in their safekeeping where they are now archived.

In July 2002 Brian Pearce volunteered to undertake the village appraisal, with a public meeting in September attended by 23 people, of which 10 offered to help. From which has grown this record of Alburgh village in 2003, with many contributions from Alburgh residents, and a parish plan for the future, drawn up by the parish council.

Alburgh Parish Council Chairmen

1894, first meeting	John Cox
1895	S. G. Brock
1896	H. Foulger
1897	John Cox
1898	Benjamin Brooks
1899	W. J. Cox
1900-1910	C. G. Miles
1911-1914	Rev'd. A. Pagan
1914-1918	T. O. Springfield
1918-1937	P. W. Miles
1937-1947	J. W. Flaxman
1947-1973	E. S. Bond
1973-1983	A. McGregor
1983	E. Renaut
1984-1990	R. Flatt
1990-1992	C. Johnson
1992-1994	M. Denny
1994-1998	L. Lloyd
1998-2002	Mrs. R. Walton
2002- 2003	Mrs. J. Pearce
2003	R. Flatt

The first woman to be elected to the council was Lucy Isobel Goddard in 1925.

There were 77 parishioners at the 1922 annual parish meeting

The minutes, all of which are signed by the chairman of the time, are handwritten in ledgers from 1894 to May 1983. From June 1983 the minutes are typed, from November 1992 the minutes are printed by a computer printer. The numbered loose-leaf pages are bound in files for safekeeping.

The information has been collated from the parish council minutes books, all entries in italics are minute book entries.

Alburgh School and other Memories

by Nora Ambrose

Alburgh and Alburgh School holds happy memories past and present for me. My Grandmother Jessie Baldwin formally (Francis) born 1901 attended Alburgh school. I didn't know too much about her school days, as she didn't like going to school. She walked a long way to school taking bread with her to eat; sometimes she had some lard on it. My Grandmother had one daughter Dora who also attended Alburgh School. With three teachers teaching 100 children a curtain divided the big room into two, the cane was used often. Mum always felt handicapped as she was left handed, she was quiet and timid and left all the talking to others. On leaving school she went out to service in a household at Barford where she worked very hard, she then worked on Hardwick Airfield helping in the canteen where she met my Dad.

My Mother married Arthur Connors and I was born shortly after. I started Alburgh School at the age of five. My brother being nine months younger than myself started at the same time so we were company for each other to walk to school. We took a packed lunch. My earliest recollection to school days was having an infant teacher by the name of Mrs. Eldridge who lived in Alburgh, her husband kept a garage. Mrs. Eldridge was very kind and sometimes would take my brother and myself home in her Morris Minor. There was always a kettle of hot water on her stove, which she would make us a delicious cup of hot chocolate. Mrs. Eldridge believed us little ones needed a sleep in the afternoons and we would lie on a grey utility army blanket covered by another. I don't think we used to sleep but she thought we did. At the time Mrs. Parke was the head teacher sometimes turning up for school on a 500cc Norton motor bike, she would then spend most of the day warming the back part of her body in front of a tortoise stove she seemed to have had many layers of long clothes. School milk was provided and each child had 1/3 of a pint. In winter, the milk was put around the fire to thaw out. The undernourished were able to have some

Virol or Malt and sometimes there used to be a good sticky mess. Mrs. Parke enjoyed her Du-Maurier cigarettes followed by chewing of indigestion tablets, which gave her a white tongue. In class we all had to face her and the black board, she taught children eight to fifteen years and we sat at double desks, which had inkwells. Blotting paper was used a lot. At Christmas, Mrs. Parke would love the school concert which we would have in the old Village Hall, finishing with a good old sing song with her

at the piano. School dinners were introduced in 1952. They were cooked at Denton rectory and transported by Mr. Frank Denney to Alburgh. A child would bike to Denton each day with dinner numbers. The prices of dinners were in stages, the eldest child paying the highest amount. Sometimes it would get confusing if a child in the family were away. School dinners used to be good and Mrs. Hammond was the dinner lady and also the Caretaker.



Author at her sink!

Mrs. Parke gave me my first taste of the cane, I've never forgotten it and I suppose I deserved it but I made sure I didn't get it again. It was lunchtime, we all sat either side of long tables, and we were about to eat our apple pie and custard. I sat next to a 'nice boy' he realized he hadn't a spoon so he got up to get himself one from the kitchen. In the meantime I lifted the lid of his apple pie and salt and peppered it neatly putting the lid back on. When he came back he took a mouth full then he coughed and spluttered and made such a fuss it brought attention to Mrs. Parke. The tale was told by one of Mrs. Parke's favourites. 'Who did it?' She hauled me out of my seat making me dance as she fiercely left cane marks on the backs of my legs and the Blackboard went flying. It was a lesson to me but a good lesson to the others. Nobody laughed as I continued with my dinner. Around about the same time sweets were still rationed, but the 'nice boy' always seemed to have Rowntrees fruit gums. After the apple pie business, I always tried to keep on the right side of him, only so he would give me one of his sweets. It was in the days when I wore navy fleecy lined knickers, which contained a little pocket. One morning he gave me one of his gums, it tasted like no other sweet, and then the school bell rang to go in for lessons. I wasn't going to waste my sweet, so I put it in my little pocket. As soon as playtime arrived I couldn't wait to carry on eating my sweet, and what a surprise to find I had a lovely fluffy gum to eat. The same boy could play the piano beautifully and lunch times if it was raining, he would soon give a rendition of Winifred Atwell.

In 1956, Mrs. Parke told us she was going to leave and would be replaced by a School Master. The thought terrified us. Mr. Fisher-Ball was appointed head, assisted by Mrs. Wade, a teacher for the younger class. School numbers were around thirty to forty and the children were five to fourteen years. Mr. Fisher-Ball travelled each day from Seething in his Rover car, he was a smart man always wore a suit with collar and tie and in summer a nice summer jacket and trousers. His shoes always shone. Mr. Fisher-Ball was very strict on manners insisting that 'manners maketh man'. Many a child has written that a hundred times. Once a week the

Rev. Sneath who lived at the Rectory would come and take Assembly. The older boys would wind him up causing his dentures to come adrift, which we found amusing but he didn't. Each morning we would listen to a piece of music played on the gramophone. Mozart, Elgar, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, all Mr. Fisher-Ball's favourites, as was Kathleen Ferrier, Paul Robeson and extracts from Peter and the Wolf. He also played the piano beautifully and later played the organ for my daughter's wedding. The eleven plus exams were annually set, meaning a day off school for the rest. There were also days off when the local elections were held, as these would take place at the school.



Headteachers Mr Fisher-Ball and Mrs Woollams

When fuel was delivered to the school, a child had to stand at the gate to count the twenty bags that were delivered.

We would take part in area music festivals and sports days. Mr. Fisher-Ball was a man who didn't believe in waste and he taught it. We collected silver paper, stamps and newspapers, which would be sold to Spinks Paper Merchant in Harleston. Proceeds would go towards trips out. I can remember going to Regents Park Zoo, The Tower of London, Chelsea Flower Show and Madam Tussauds. One trip was by train from Tivetshall station and no one got lost.



A class at work in 1954

Boys would be taken by Pickering's Taxi's to Harleston to do woodwork at which later became the Oddfellows hall. I can remember my brother making a lovely strong smart stool, which lasted for years and years. The boys also had a plot of garden, and what they grew was sold to anybody who wanted it or given to The Elms old peoples home in Earsham.

The Nit Nurse would call regularly with her 'pout trout' and looking over her glasses as she rummaged through everyone's hair. I can remember having nits myself. My Mum and Mrs. Gladys Reeder nearly used to dismantle my head from the neck trying to get them out. The School

Doctor would come and check us over and give us a jab, the pain seemed to go on for weeks. The dentist paid an annual visit and if treatment was needed we went to Long Stratton School where they had a mobile clinic. During my years at Alburgh School the 3 "R"s were very important. At odd moments we had to recite our tables and catch up with spelling. Teachers managed exceptionally well without parent help or secretaries. A family moved from West Norfolk to Redenhall to live. In all there were thirteen children who in turn came to Alburgh school, which was a boast for school numbers. I became very friendly with one being Jennifer Yallop (who sadly was killed at Pulham Crossroads in 1962) aged 18. I was always welcome at the family home, occasionally staying to tea. I shall always remember the extent of the food needed for a large family. A boiler was used for the potatoes and another for boiling onions, the children served each other.



Above: the Yallop family from Redenhall all the children attended Alburgh School – mum and dad with their thirteen children in age order: Maureen, Michael, Peter, William, Jennifer, Janet, Kenneth, Queeni, Linda, Julia, David, Elaine and June.

In 1959 the population of the village was 300. Eleven farms and forty-six children in school. Mr. Fisher-Ball always encouraged us to keep a diary. I've kept that going to the present day, most exhibits are of the "weather". I enjoyed school but as one school report said 'I do my best at all times but spoil myself in my behaviour'. In my last year at school I was head girl and the 'nice boy' was head boy and we got on well together. Two terms before I left, another family moved into the village and a 'very very nice boy' started school, my age and very handsome. Today, he is my husband. The first 'nice boy' was really put out by all of this and was glad he left school the following term.



Mr Fisher Ball with his school children

From the age of about ten, I used to take my Grandmother a pint of milk each night, as she had no doorstep delivery. She then lived at North Farm Cottages, which belonged to Mr. Watts. Grandad was horseman and farm worker. On my way to Nanny's, I would stop and pick wild strawberries,

which grew amongst the 'pig trotters'. I spent a lot of my time with my Nanny. I liked being spoilt and I used to think she lived in the sticks but she didn't, and always felt safe and happy, never having to worry about locking her door until Indian Salesmen frequently started to call, almost unloading their complete stock over her threshold before she could say 'no thanks'. From then on the door would occasionally be locked. Nanny had an outside Privy, which I seemed to find interesting. It had a double seat with one large hole and one small. On the wall on a nail hung neatly cut squares of newspaper, which I had cut, and put on a string, that was the toilet roll. It had a brick floor, which always seemed to be full of livestock, snails, lizards, worms etc. One particular day Nanny was in the Privy and I thought I would go as well. Nanny didn't seem to mind. Then she said as I sat there 'hurry up'. I thought 'no' I'm going to sit here till you get up and go first, but she never did. Nanny had to get her water from an outside well, she said the water was pure yet sometimes a cat accidentally would fall into the well and Granddad would lower a cycle wheel to get it out, dead of course, but I don't remember them going down with food poisoning.

After I left school at fifteen there wasn't much in the way of local employment and I found myself a job at a clothing factory, Richard Emms of Syleham cycling nine miles a day I enjoyed the work helping to make colonial uniforms which were sent abroad. A year later the Pye TV factory opened at the Old Drill Hall in Harleston, so I went there inspecting and setting up of relays for BT. I later married my school sweetheart. Having two children my daughter was the first child to be baptized by the Rev. Robert Close, a lovely man who enjoyed all village life, taking part whenever he could and enjoyed to drop in at our local pub, The Tradesman's Arms. My daughter went to Alburgh School till she was eleven and then went on to the Archbishop Sancroft High School. My son went to Alburgh School and was one of the first to go to the new Middle School in Harleston, Canon Pickering.



Mrs Francis leaves (Nora's predecessor)

In 1976 Mrs. Francis retired after being Caretaker and Dinner Lady for fifteen years at Alburgh School. I succeeded her; a lot of changes were ahead. Mr. Fisher-Ball cared a lot for the school, it was his second home. He always arrived in good time in the mornings and was the last to leave at night. He always checked the premises and closed the gates. A very tidy man in all respects. In 1978 Mr. Fisher-Ball retired, Denton school closed and the children amalgamated with Alburgh. The school then became known as Alburgh with Denton First School. Mrs. Betty Woollams was appointed as head teacher with Mrs. Burke infant teacher. We now have a school secretary and parents are encouraged to come into school to help. Horizons were now beginning to broaden. Betty had a bubbly and energetic outlook but she needed a challenge in a bigger school. In 1983 Betty left and Mrs. Burke became head teacher with Mrs. Linda Wood the

infant teacher. Convenience foods started to creep into the school meal services doing away with mashed potato and fresh vegetables. Over the years changes have meant that a lot of foods have come from the freezer and instead of being served on nice warm white Pyrex plates they are served on plastic flight trays. Dennis Edwards brings dinners from Canon Pickering School in Harleston. Mrs. Valerie Fairhead is secretary and as time goes on Mrs. Marion Sturgeon wears a few hats. School numbers go down and up and at times the school has been under threat of closure.

Good times were had under the leadership of Mrs. Burke who decided in 1999 to join her husband as he took up priesthood down in Somerset. Mrs. Wood had previously left as infant teacher. The next Headteacher was to be from the City and noticeably so she's all for colour and class and into computers in a big way her name being Dot Lenton. She's seen a thriving playgroup, a new classroom and much more to come. School numbers hover at thirty. Staff is a plenty, enabling far more activities.

As from 2003, we are now a Primary School awaiting a big extension. The school has ten governors. All children when old enough go swimming at the Archbishop Sancroft High School and they experience Computers at an early age. The P.E. store is well equipped with beautifully coloured play and sports equipment. Monet and Van Gough paintings by the children enhance the school walls; there is never a shortage of glue! Quite a bit of time is taken up by teachers going on courses and to meetings. A Supply Teacher replaces them. When I first took the job as Caretaker, local people lived around the school, sadly that is no longer. I've seen many changes, some for the better, the rest not. The Hoover has taken the place of the Broom, Carpets cover most of the floors and the rest is washable. Each term my cleaning duties are checked to see if I have cleaned efficiently. The same goes with my dinner duties. Temperatures have to be taken and recorded of all food each day. Stelex containers and stainless steel tins have taken over from Aluminium. Children can choose weekly from a Menu so they have a lunch when it suits them. Over half the children bring sandwiches. Lunch times used to be part of education, sadly no more.

They are not encouraged to eat their meal but thankfully still have time for a prayer before eating. Alburgh School was built in 1847 and still hangs on to resident spiders, ants and occasionally four legged animals that soon get a lesson for free. As for our village in which I was born, it has gone through changes as well, we have a lovely Village Hall, Playing Field, and Millennium Garden, a very good Bus Service to Norwich, Yarmouth, Diss, and Harleston. We also are lucky to have a Community Bus. The shop has long gone also the Pub and Post Office. Happy memories remain of our old Village Hall, which held Dances, Whist Drives, Concerts, Jumble Sales and much more. The Cycle Shed was a good shelter, not only for cycles but lovers as well. I sign off now as Nora Ambrose (Mrs)

Opposite: Pictures taken at the Alburgh School 150-year's celebrations

Below: School showing new wing added in 2002



Church



by Rev Ian Bentley

All Saints Alburgh

As I considered what I might write as my contribution to the Alburgh Year Book I couldn't but wonder what one of my illustrious predecessors might have written going back fifty or maybe even a 150 years. He would be writing from the study of Alburgh Rectory, which would have had a reasonable staff of servants, gardeners etc. He would gain his income from land owned by the parish. He would have been Rector just to Alburgh, knowing everyone in the village (if he was doing his job!). He would probably take three services in the one Parish Church every Sunday, even if sparsely

attended. He would be one of the prominent educated leading figures of the village involved in all aspects of village life. He may, like the local doctor, have been in the village as parson for twenty or thirty years.

What a different picture we have as we set out into the 21st Century? I'm writing this on a computer in my study in Earsham, one of six villages that I am minister to. It is now impossible for me to know personally the four to four and a half thousand people that live in my six parishes. My stipend comes from Norwich Diocese and is raised by the giving on the plates of the congregations across our county. As to servants.....! Service wise we do better than many villages, being able to maintain one service in every church every Sunday, although my predecessors would hold up their hands in horror at the number of lay people taking services that this requires. Personally I think this is a good thing, finding room for the gifts and abilities of many people within church life.

This joining together of villages also gives scope for working together and starting new initiatives that would be difficult for one village to sustain. This summer for instance has seen a very successful Holiday Club in Denton, which children from Alburgh have enjoyed. Equally children from Denton have enjoyed our new and occasional after School clubs in Alburgh. We have been able to run initiatives such as Alpha, new services like First Sunday in Ditchingham, and a thriving Youth work in Earsham that all draw people from across our benefice. One of the exciting developments in ministry has been the growth of the Ordained Local Ministry. This is where local people, with their own jobs, respond to the call of God and their local church by training locally to become priests. Sue and Barry Cramp of Earsham are doing just this and will be ordained in Norwich Cathedral October 2004. They will be able to help then with duties specific to a priest from 2005 and are committed to staying with our group of parishes. In fact Barry will be taking something of a leadership role specifically in Alburgh from this year as we continue to build up the church in each parish.



Benefice members start their Good Friday Pilgrimage around all of the Benefice churches

The church locally of course depends on hardworking local people and I pay tribute to the Churchwardens and officers of Alburgh Church who work enormously hard to develop the ministry of the church and to be good stewards of the building, which stands open for all the people of Alburgh to enjoy. It is, after all, **your** parish church of which I, along with my predecessors, am just a passing servant.

Our beautiful building has stood testimony to the presence of God in our community for hundreds of years. As the tower points to the skies so the church points to the love of God in Jesus Christ, who came to serve all the peoples of this world by giving his life on the cross. I hope and pray that

our church will continue, in that same spirit of self-sacrificing love, to serve the good parishioners of Alburgh for many years to come and that many more will find spiritual life, the life of Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit, as they get involved with the life of our church.



Left: All Saints Earsham, Top St Mary's Denton Bottom St Peter's Hedenham





Above: St Michael's Broome Church

Right and below: St Mary's Ditchingham



Interior of the church of St Mary's Ditchingham – during work to provide toilet and kitchen facilities.



Alburgh Village Hall *researched by Edward Renaut*

A public meeting was held in the Parish Room, Alburgh on Monday 18th April 1921 with the Rev. C. E. Thorpe in the chair. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the possibility of building a Village Hall; it was decided to go ahead. £80 was promised from this meeting. A Committee was formed and the meeting was closed. Three days later a committee meeting was held in the Parish Room and its office of the committee was elected.

Chairman: Rev. C. E. Thorpe

Vice Chairman: P. W. Miles

Secretary / Treasurer: J. W. Flaxman

Mr. J. W. Flaxman offered a site to build a Village Hall this was accepted by a show of hands. The Committee decided to advertise in the local paper for a hut or corrugated building. No replies were forthcoming from the advert so the Rev. Thorpe was asked to write to auctioneers Lacy Scott of Bury St Edmunds for an order to view huts at Thetford. Mr Graham Miles and Mr. J. W. Flaxman offered to motor to Thetford to view huts. At the next committee meeting Mr. Miles and Mr. Flaxman said taking into consideration the cost of buying and removal to Alburgh, the committee decided not to proceed. At a Committee Meeting held on 15th June Mr. G. Miles and Mr. J. W. Flaxman said they had purchased a suitable building in Beccles for £70. Mr. G. Miles agreed to arrange for a contractor to dismantle it and transport to Alburgh and erect on a site adjoining Vinegar Lane.

Miss Law opened the Village Hall on Monday 12th December 1921 and this was followed by a social evening.

There are no records available from 1921 to 1946.

In July 1946 the committee agreed that the Village Hall needed repairing and accepted Mr Young's of Hunstanton's estimate of £10 to straighten up the Village Hall as it was listing. A collection was taken in the village to help pay for repairs. In 1950 the committee agreed that the Village Hall might be used by Political and Religious organisations.

The First Aid Box was purchased in 1953 also the toilet facilities of the hall were discussed and the committee's attention was drawn to the lack of a Gentlemen's convenience. After an inspection of the rear of the Village Hall the matter was left in abeyance. The committee felt a cycle shed would be an asset to the Village Hall and the Chairman agreed to investigate. The cycle shed was erected in 1954 at a cost of £46.

In 1958 a grant of £99 was received from the Carnegie Trust for repairs, decorating and a new stove.

The first mention of a new Village Hall was at a committee meeting in 1967 when it was decided to look at plans and costs etc. Mrs. M. Andrews offered to produce a pantomime to raise money for the new Village Hall. The first Village Harvest Supper was held on 30th September 1967 tickets 6/-(30p) the profit amounted to £45 4s 7½d. A donation of £500 from the Feoffees was received. £909 was now in the Village Hall Account. The Pantomime performance was on the 5th & 6th January 1968 and raised £125-16-2 for the fund. Other fundraising events over the next few years included Car Rallies, Concerts, Dances, Tea afternoons, Whist Drives, A Weekly Tote, Jumble Sale, Coffee Morning, Harvest Suppers, Auctions, Bonfire Party and several donations were received. During this time several Village Halls in Norfolk were visited to gain ideas and suggestions and finally in 1969 plans were agreed and the site on which to build was selected known as Diamond Cottage. Several meetings were held with the County Architects Department and Depwade Rural District Council. And finally planning permission was granted on the 1st December 1969. Enquiries regarding grants were ongoing and an application was made to the Education department of Norfolk Council on 18th February 1970. The cost of the Hall was first estimated as £11,137 on the 11th February 1971 and a grant of £5,568 was confirmed. On 10th May 1971 Mr Dye of Ditchingham tender was accepted. Building on the new Hall started mid 1971 and finished by December 1971. The first committee meeting held in the new Village Hall was held on the 4th January 1972 where the arrangements were finalised for the grand opening on Monday 20th March

1972 by Doctor Lincoln Ralphs who was chairman of the Norfolk Education Department. New groups started to use the hall: Badminton Club, Playgroup, Alburgh Social Club for the Elderly, and Pop sessions for the youngsters. The old Hall site was sold for £2,504.31 and the money was invested with the Charity Commissioners with the Village Hall receiving the interest.

In 1973 the gravel car park was tarmacked for £2,504. Also in 1973 the possibility of extending the Village Hall was first raised. Also due to the three-day working order the Village Hall could only be used on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Village Hall applied to the Department of Trade and Industry for an exemption; this was backed up by the Parish Council, which was granted. The Village Hall was told that there was no possibility of a grant for an extension at the current time so they decided to extend the Store Room and build a toilet at the rear. In 1980 the plans for the extension were examined again and grants applied for from South Norfolk District Council, Parish Council and Feoffees and the Charity Commissioners released some money from the sale of the old Village Hall. Various fundraising was carried out which included an auction that raised £646.60. In October 1981 Michael Dye's quotation for £13,813 was accepted and building work commenced. The extension was opened on 8th May 1982 with a cheese and wine evening.

In 1987 the Norfolk Carpet Bowls Association offered to lend the Village Hall a full set of equipment to see if there was any interest in the village in forming a club. This offer was taken up and enough interest was shown and a club was formed.

In July 1992 the committee decided to make enquiries regarding a permanent bar in the Village Hall, a village meeting was fixed for 19th January 1993 where a committee of nine members was formed to run the bar for the Village hall, an alarm system had to be installed to satisfy insurers. On 29th August 1993 the English Dial Clock valued at approximately £250 was stolen following a break in.

A fire alarm had to be installed in 1996 to meet new regulations.

As the bar has more than 12 functions a year the Alburgh Sports and Social Club who run the bar for the Village Hall had to apply for a full bar licence. This was granted in 1997.

Plans were drawn up for further extensions to the Village Hall including a disabled toilet, toilets and a shower on one end of the Village Hall and a lounge on the other also to extend the kitchen and finally replace the present flat roof with a pitched roof. An application was

made to the 21st Century Millennium fund for England and Wales. After various meetings and a lot of hard work filling in forms etc. We were turned down at the second stage.

Celebrations in the Village Hall June 2002 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.



In 1998 the possibility of having a Post Office in the Village Hall was examined and it was proved not to be feasible.

It was decided in 2000 to try for a grant from the Lotteries Community Fund for the extension to the Village Hall. Plans had already been agreed and passed by South Norfolk District Council but again we were turned



down in 2003. These plans included a disabled toilet, which all Village Halls should include by October 2004. The Parish Council asked if the Village Hall had looked at all possibilities of grants aids for the extension, they suggested a joint meeting of Parish Council, Alburgh Sports and Social Club and Village Hall. This took place in June 2003 and a meeting with South Norfolk District Council was held in July 2003. South Norfolk asked if the improvements were necessary and wanted to know the annual usage of the Hall.

Medau classes which started in 1987, Badminton which started in 1972, Bowls in 1987, these clubs are still going as well as several other weekly events and a possibility of a youth club and gardening club have also been noted. So the Village Hall is well used and continues to be used so the future of the Village Hall seems secure.





Photographs of various Alburgh teams or groups details unknown.

Parish Plan for Alburgh –

As a result of the village appraisal, which took place in January/February 2003 a number of issues, needed to be considered the Parish Council approved the following plan in September 2003.

1. The Quality of Life and the Environment

- 1.1. The environment was most important to almost 75% of the village and 62% felt that it had not improved over the last ten years in fact 33% said it had deteriorated.
 - 1.1.1 Continue to Lobby Norfolk County Council to stop the erosion of the verges by the constant lorry traffic through the village.
 - 1.1.2 Consider further initiatives, similar to the bulb-planting programme, to improve the countryside and in particular the road verges.
 - 1.1.3 Consideration should be given to introduce “dog bins”. Locations favoured by the villagers are The Street 88%, School Road 56%, and Church Road 51%. Cost to be investigated.
 - 1.1.4 Car parking outside the school was criticised by some 32% although 39% were happy with the parking. Further improvements are already planned.
 - 1.1.5 Investigate cost and possible grant income sources for placing overhead wires below ground.

2. Village Safety

- 2.1. The village appraisal identified strong views on the poor police presence and road dangers were feared by some 70% of the respondents. Although one villager asked for street lighting some 52% were against.
 - 2.1.1 Will continue to Lobby the Police Authority to have the mobile Police Station visit the village each month.
 - 2.1.2 Will continue to Lobby the County Council to extend the speed limits to cover all areas of the village (60%). Will investigate the cost of flashing signs.
 - 2.1.3 To discuss with Highway Authority speed control measures to slow down the traffic through the village. Traffic Calming (30%) was preferred to a 20 M.P.H. speed limit (21%). E.g. coloured bands, road narrowing and re-instatement of verges.
 - 2.1.4 Strongly resist Norfolk County Council's plans to change priority at Piccadilly Corner and to request a Stop Sign in place of the present Give Way sign on Station Road
 - 2.1.5 The Homewatch scheme is appreciated and some 24 people stated that they were willing to help by being a Street Co-ordinator. Give positive support, and if necessary leadership to the village Co-ordinator Mr Alan Higbee encourage an open meeting/training evening with a view to extending and enhancing the scheme in Alburgh. Extend the scheme to include Pied Bridge.

3. Environmental Services

- 3.1. The majority of the respondents were happy with refuse collection, mains water and electricity. However they were very unhappy with road gritting in winter and there was some concern regarding mobile phone reception within the village.
 - 3.1.1 To monitor the gritting of all roads in the village when snow or ice is forecast.
 - 3.1.2 The Parish Council is waiting for specific complaints and names of the mobile phone providers in order to lobby them to improve reception.
 - 3.1.3 Continue to pressurize electricity supply reliability by having supply to the village underground to avoid breaks in supply when storms are in the area.

4. Housing

- 4.1. Although the survey identified that 91% were not seeking accommodation in Alburgh three whole families were seeking a new home and four sons/daughters of Alburgh families were also seeking accommodation in the village. Small family homes were identified as the most important need and 60% had no objections to new homes being built in Alburgh if a need was identified. The four main roads, The Street, Low Road, Church Road and Station Road were all identified as possible locations for additional homes.

- 4.1.1 Liase with South Norfolk with a view of reinstating the parish boundary to allow infilling development.
- 4.1.2 With Wortwell Parish Council submit the Wortwell allotment site as a possible affordable housing location.
- 4.1.3 Investigate the South Norfolk exceptions policy with a view to identify suitable village locations for affordable housing in Alburgh if we can prove there is a need.

5. Village Facilities

- 5.1. Some 50% of the villagers said that they never used the tennis courts; the children's play equipment or the playing field. Only 19% thought that the children's play equipment was good, 15% thought it to be poor. There is also a desire for more clubs/activities to be provided within the village.
 - 5.1.1 Consider ways of encouraging the villagers to use the facilities provided.
 - 5.1.2 The Parish Council will organise a meeting to seek more detailed opinions from families and young children on the present Children's Play Equipment and investigate possible sources of grant to improve or provide more equipment.
 - 5.1.3 Parish Council to take a lead by calling public meetings to discuss the formation of new clubs. People who wished to join such clubs supported a Gardening Club, an Art Club, a Rambling Club

and a Youth club and sufficient people offered themselves as organisers.

6. Publicity

6.1. The Parish News was identified as the favourite medium for publicity with 95% stating that it is their main source of knowledge on village activities. Some 43% of the respondents do not know how the Parish Council spend their money, 52% would not be happy to pay more local tax but 31% would be if the money was spent on village projects.

6.1.1 Parish Council to make more use of the Parish News to improve knowledge on their activities including planning decisions and financial issues.

6.1.2 As only 25% of the village have ever attended a parish council meeting and only 18% the Annual Parish Meeting strategies should be considered to make meetings more attractive for villagers to attend and take advantage of their opportunity to raise issues. For the year 2004 we are considering holding a Parish Meeting and a Parish Council A.G.M. on separate evenings in May.

7. Schools

7.1. The school in the village is very important and every effort should be made to retain it. (81% very important, 11% important). There was some opposition to the conversion of the school to a 5 to 11 status, however over 54% were in favour. Parishioners were also very satisfied or

satisfied with Canon Pickering Middle and Archbishop Sancroft High schools.

7.1.1 Parish Council to give positive support to the governors, staff and parents of the village school in its efforts to convert to a 5 to 11 status school.

8. Transport

8.1. Over 70% stated that they never had any difficulties getting to the doctor, chemist, chiropodist, optician, hospital or any other medical facility. Some respondents were unhappy with the service bus routes, cost and timetable. Improvements in the timetable and journey times were requested. Most people had no opinion on the Community Bus service but 84 people some 31% of those who answered the question would like to see a bus shelter in the village.

8.1.1 Parish Council to organise a public meeting on transport to delve more into the problems and improvements required by the users and those who might become users if the service was improved. Remember to invite bus companies.

8.1.2 Ask the users of the community bus to find out in more detail what is good and what could be improved.

8.1.3 Investigate cost of providing, and a suitable location for a bus shelter in the village.

9. Village Hall

9.1. Of the 142 replies to the desirability of enlarging the facilities, 79% wanted the kitchen enlarged, 66% the provision of showers and changing rooms, 52% a larger

club room and 39% a larger main hall. Some 114 people said that they would use a community shop weekly if one were set up in the village hall. A number of villagers were willing to help with counter, accounts, filling shelves, fetching supplies and one person was willing to act as the Post Officer.

9.1.1 Parish Council through the Village Hall Committee to support any applications for help in achieving improved accommodation. The village hall committee, with representatives from all the village organisations should decide which if any of the planned extensions are provided.

9.1.2 Parish Council to call a meeting to see if a community shop is really viable in Alburgh. Villagers and representatives from South Norfolk Council to attend.

10. Church

10.1. Almost 70% of the replies stated that they felt the building was important as a Historic Building and some 63% said it was important to them for weddings and funerals. Some 35% said it was important for Sunday worship.

10.1.1 Parish Council to continue to support the Parochial Church Council, in their efforts to keep the church and the surrounding churchyard in good repair for future generations to enjoy.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

11.1. Most villagers had no difficulty in using the footpaths within the village boundary. Some had problems with mud/water, Bushes/nettles and a few encountered

problems with crops and no signage. Many, 177 (or 66%) would like to receive a free footpath map.

11.1.1 Parish Council to encourage and organise the 42 people who said they were willing to work on keeping the footpaths clear. A programme of general improvement and signage would be sensible.

11.1.2 Parish Council to consider publication of a leaflet detailing all the footpaths in the village. South Norfolk may well support this financially. Once this is ready, hold an event to encourage villagers to walk together round the paths.

Alburgh Village Appraisal Questionnaire

HOUSEHOLD SECTION

In this first part of the questionnaire we ask one member of your household to answer the following 16 questions. In the next personal section each member of your household who is 11 years or over should answer for themselves, there are spaces for 6 separate answers to each of those questions.

Question: 1

How many people including children normally live in your household?

Enter Number

Question: 2

Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group:

Enter number

	M	F
0-4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5-10	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
11-15	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
16-17	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
18-24	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
25-44	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
45-59	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
60-64	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
65-74	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
75-84	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
85+	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Question: 3

Is this dwelling your household's main residence?

Yes or No

Yes	<input type="text"/>
No	<input type="text"/>

Question: 4

Is this dwelling?

Tick one box only

Private rented	<input type="text"/>
Local authority rented	<input type="text"/>
Owner occupied	<input type="text"/>
Provided as part of employment	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Question: 5

What type of dwelling is this?

Tick one box only

Detached house	<input type="text"/>
Semi-detached house	<input type="text"/>
Terraced house	<input type="text"/>
Bungalow	<input type="text"/>
Purpose built for elderly or disabled with alarm but no resident warden	<input type="text"/>

Question: 6

How many bedrooms do your dwelling have?

Enter number.

Question: 7

When was this dwelling built (approximately)?

Tick one box only

Pre 1900	<input type="text"/>
1901-30	<input type="text"/>
1931-50	<input type="text"/>
1951-70	<input type="text"/>
1971-80	<input type="text"/>
1981-90	<input type="text"/>
1991+	<input type="text"/>

Question: 8

How do you heat your home?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

Solid fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question: 9

Which sewage disposal system do you use?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

Mains drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Septic tank	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question: 10

Is any individual in your household, or your whole household, currently in need of alternative accommodation?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question: 11

If 'yes' who is looking for alternative accommodation?

Tick more than one box as appropriate

Whole family	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Son	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question: 12

Enter the number of children under 16 in your household who attend the following: Enter number in the box

Play group	<input type="text"/>
Nursery school	<input type="text"/>
Primary school	<input type="text"/>
Middle school	<input type="text"/>
Secondary school	<input type="text"/>
School for those with special needs	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Question: 13

Please enter the number of people in your household over 16 who attend the following:

Enter number in boxes

Sixth form college	<input type="text"/>
University	<input type="text"/>
Training courses	<input type="text"/>

Question: 14

If any of your children under 16 are unable to take part in after school activities, please give the reasons why:

Tick more than one box if appropriate

Lack of transport home	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distance between home/school	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special needs not catered for	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question: 15

How many roadworthy vehicles does your household keep?

Enter number in box

Cars	<input type="text"/>
Vans	<input type="text"/>
Motor bikes	<input type="text"/>
Lorries	<input type="text"/>

Question: 16

How many private cars/vans does your household use during the week for journeys to work or education outside Alburgh?

Enter number

PERSONAL SECTION

The remainder of the questions should be answered by all members of your household who are 11 years of age or above. You will see that each question has a place for 6 answers please keep to your allocated column number throughout the section. E.g. First person to fill in questions using column 1 throughout, second person use column 2 etc etc.

Question: 17

Sex

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Male						
Female						

Question: 18

What age group do you belong to?

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
11-15						
16-17						
18-24						
25-44						
45-59						
60-64						
65-74						
75-84						
85+						

Question: 19

How long have you lived in your current home?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Less than a year						
1-5 years						
6-15 years						
16-25 years						
26-50 years						
51 + years						
Whole life						

Question: 20

How long have you lived in Alburgh?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Less than a year						
1-5 years						
6-15 years						
16-25 years						
26-50 years						
51 + years						
Whole life						

Question: 21

How did you come to live in Alburgh?

Tick more than one box as appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Born here						
Work in area						
Relatives live nearby						
Love of village life						
Love of country life						
Retired here						
Other						

Question: 22

What is most important to you about Alburgh?

Tick more than one box as appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
The community						
The environment						
Other						
Not sure						

Question: 23

How is the quality of life in Alburgh compared to 10 years ago?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Better						
Worse						
The same						
Don't know						

Question: 24

Are you at present?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
An employee						
Unemployed						
Self-employed - employing other people						
Self employed - not employing anyone						
In full-time education						
Unwaged housewife/husband						
Retired						
Permanently sick/disabled						

Question: 25

Where is your main place of work? Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Alburgh						
Harleston						
Bungay						
Flixton						
Diss						
Norwich						
Elsewhere in Norfolk /Suffolk						
Outside Norfolk/Suffolk						

Question: 26

What is, or would be, your main means of transport to work, training or study?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Car/Van						
Public Bus						
Private Bus						
Bicycle						
Motor-cycle/Scooter/Moped						
Other						
Not applicable						

Question: 27

Do you experience transport difficulties in getting out of Alburgh to other places?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Often						
Occasionally						
Never						

Question: 28

Do you have any difficulty in getting to the following?

Enter code: 1 for often 2 for occasionally
3 for never

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Doctor						
Chemist						
Chiropodist						
Optician						
Dentist						
Hospital						
Other medical facility						

Question: 29

How do you rate the bus service for?

Enter code: 1 for good 2 for reasonable
3 for poor 4 for no opinion

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Route						
Timetable						
Cost						
Disabled Access						
Journey times						

Question: 30

Would you like to see any improvements in the bus service with regard to?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Routes						
Timetable						
Cost						
Disabled Access						
Journey times						
No opinion						

Question: 31

How do you rate the community bus service for?

Enter code 1 for good 2 for reasonable
3 for poor 4 for no opinion

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Route						
Timetable						
Cost						
Disabled Access						

Question: 32

Would you like to see any improvements in the community bus service with regard to?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Routes						
Timetable						
Cost						
Disabled Access						
No opinion						

Question: 33

Would you like to see a bus shelter constructed in the village?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
YES						
NO						
No opinion						

Question: 34

Do you think there are any major 'danger-spots' on the roads in Alburgh?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yes						
No						
No opinion						

Question: 35

Norfolk County Council are considering changing the road priorities at Piccadilly Corner giving traffic from Station Road priority.
When this was tried a few years ago there were a number of accidents. Are you in favour of this proposal?

	Tick one box only					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
YES						
NO						
No opinion						

Question: 36

Do you think speeding traffic is a problem in Alburgh?

	Tick one box only					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yes						
No						
No opinion						

Question: 37

Would you support the following speed control measures in Alburgh?

	Tick more than one box if appropriate					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Extension of the speed limit						
Traffic calming						
20 mph speed limit						
None of the above						

Question: 38

Would you like to see street lighting introduced in Alburgh?

	Tick one box only					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
YES						
NO						
No opinion						

Question: 39

Do you regard the police coverage of Alburgh to be?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Good						
Reasonable						
Poor						
No opinion						

Question: 40

There is a Home Watch Scheme operating in Alburgh. What is your opinion of the scheme as it operates in Alburgh?

Enter code:

1 for YES 2 for NO 3 for No Opinion

PERSON | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 |
Does the Alburgh scheme operate in your area of the village?

| | | | | | |
Do you know what Home Watch is all about?

| | | | | | |
Are you happy with the Alburgh scheme?

| | | | | | |
Are you willing to help by being a "Street Co-ordinator" for your area?
| | | | | | |

Question: 41

What are your views on the standard of the following environmental services in Alburgh?

Enter code: 1 for good 2 for reasonable
3 for poor 4 for no opinion
5 for not applicable

PERSON

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Mains water supply

| | | | | | |

Mains electricity supply

| | | | | | |

Refuse collection

| | | | | | |

Winter weather service (snow clearance)

| | | | | | |

Mobile phone reception

| | | | | | |

Question: 42

Do you think Alburgh can accommodate more new housing?

Tick one box only

PERSON

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Yes

| | | | | | |

No

| | | | | | |

Don't know

| | | | | | |

Question: 43

What kind of accommodation do you think Alburgh needs?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Small family homes

| | | | | | |

Large family homes

| | | | | | |

Sheltered Homes

| | | | | | |

Executive homes

| | | | | | |

No further homes needed

| | | | | | |

Question: 44

Would any of the following locations be suitable for new homes?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

The Street

| | | | | | |

Low Road

| | | | | | |

Church Road

| | | | | | |

Station Road

| | | | | | |

Question: 45

Would you have any objections in principle to a development, which might help to meet the housing needs of local people?

Tick one box only

PERSON

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Yes

| | | | | | |

No

| | | | | | |

No opinion

| | | | | | |

Question: 46

What is your opinion of the appearance of new buildings in Alburgh?

Tick one box only

PERSON

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Totally satisfied

| | | | | | |

Quite satisfied

| | | | | | |

Quite dissatisfied

| | | | | | |

Totally dissatisfied

| | | | | | |

No opinion

| | | | | | |

Question: 47

Do you feel that the countryside around Alburgh has changed in recent years?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
For better						
For worse						
Not changed						
Don't know						

Question: 48

What do you think could be done to improve the environment of Alburgh?

Enter code: 1 for very important 2 for worth doing
 3 for not necessary 4 for don't know

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cut down some trees						
Look after woodlands						
Preserve single trees in special places						
Keep hedges tidy						
Plant more hedges and trees						
Don't know						

Question: 49

Is the appearance of the following?

Enter code: 1 for Good 2 for Reasonable
 3 for Poor 4 for No opinion

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Millennium Garden						
Playing Field						
Village Hall						
Village Hall Car Park						
School						
School Car Park						
Verges						

Question: 50

Are 'dog mess' bins required in the following locations?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Street						
Low Road						
School Road						
Church Road						
Station Road						
Mill Road						

Question: 51

Should the following be encouraged in and around Alburgh?

Enter code: 1 - strongly in favour 2 - in favour
 3 - no strong opinion 4 - have reservations
 5 - definitely not

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Tourism development/attractions						
Small business development						
Small scale industrial workshops						

Question: 52

Where do you usually buy the following?

Enter code:

1 for Harleston 2 for Bungay
3 for Diss 4 for Norwich/Ipswich
5 for mail order/ home delivery

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Groceries						
Fresh fruit and vegetables						
Meat and fish						
Clothes						
DIY supplies						
Electrical goods						

Question: 53

How do you rate the postal service for Alburgh?

Enter code: 1 for good 2 for reasonable
 3 for poor 4 for no opinion

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Location of post boxes						
Number of post boxes						
Number of deliveries						
Number of collections						
Size of post box (will it take large envelopes?)						
Time of deliveries						
Time of collections						

Question: 54

Are you in favour of any/all of the following possible extensions to the Village Hall?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Changing rooms with showers						
Larger Club room						
Larger Kitchen						
Larger Main Hall						

Question: 55

If a community shop/Post Office were opened in Alburgh Village Hall how often would you use it?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Weekly						
Monthly						
Occasionally						
Would not use						
Don't know						

Question: 56

Would you volunteer to help with the community shop/Post Office in the following ways?

Enter code: 1 for weekly 2 for monthly
 3 for occasionally 4 for could not help
 5 for don't know

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Counter work						
Accounts						
Filling shelves						
Fetching supplies						
Acting as Post Officer						

Question: 57

How important is Alburgh School to the local community?

	Tick one box only					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Very important						
Important						
Not very important						
No opinion						

Question: 58

Are you in favour of the plans to enlarge our school and convert it to primary education for children from 5 to 11 years of age?

	Tick more than one box if appropriate					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
YES						
NO						
No opinion						

Question: 59

Many of our village children attend Harleston schools. What is your opinion of them?

Enter code:	1 for very satisfied	2 for satisfied				
	3 unsatisfied	4 no opinion				
	5 not applicable					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Canon Pickering Junior School						
Archbishop Sancroft High School						

Question: 60

How often do you use the following facilities?

Enter code:	1 for weekly	2 for monthly				
	3 for occasionally	4 for never				
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Millennium Garden						
Playing Field						
Children's Play Equipment						
Church						
Tennis Court						

Question: 61

Are the facilities provided in the children's playground?

	Tick one box only					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Good						
Reasonable						
Poor						
No opinion						

Question: 62

Which new clubs/activities would you attend in Alburgh if they were provided?

	Tick more than one box if appropriate					
PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Whist drive						
Senior Citizens Group						
Gardening Club						
Rambling Club						
Art Club						
Youth Club						

Question: 63

Would you be prepared to help organise and run any of the following?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Whist drive						
Senior Citizens Group						
Gardening Club						
Rambling Club						
Art Club						
Youth Club						

Question: 64

Where do you usually get information about events taking place in Alburgh?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Notice Board						
Parish Magazine						
Free paper						
Local paper						

Question: 65

Do you think the amount of information available about what's going on in Alburgh is?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Good						
Reasonable						
Poor						
No opinion						

Question: 66

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Alburgh Parish Council?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yes						
No						

Question: 67

Have you ever attended the Annual Parish Meeting, which is open to all the electors of the Parish?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yes						
No						

Question: 68

How well does the local council publicise its decisions and activities?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Very well						
Reasonably well						
Badly						
No opinion						

Question: 69

The Parish council is empowered to raise money through the council tax. Are you satisfied with the way this money is spent?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Very satisfied						
Quite satisfied						
Quite dissatisfied						
Very dissatisfied						
Don't know how it is spent						
No opinion						

Question: 70

Would you be prepared to pay a slightly higher council tax to meet some of the needs of Alburgh? Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yes						
No						
No opinion						

Question: 71

Do you think sufficient publicity is given to planning applications, which affect Alburgh?

Tick one box only

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yes						
No						
No opinion						

Question: 72

Is the Alburgh Parish Church important to you?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
For Sunday worship						
For baptisms						
Weddings and funerals						
As a focal point for the community						
As an historic building						
Every place should have one						
Other						

Question: 73

In relation to local footpaths and bridleways, can you answer the following questions?

Enter code:

1 for Yes 2 for No 3 for No opinion

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Do you know where the local paths are?						
Can you use them without difficulty?						
Are they well signposted?						
Would you be willing to maintain them?						

Question: 74

If you experienced difficulties when using local footpaths and bridleways, which if any, of the following difficulties did you find?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Farm animals						
High stiles						
Locked gates						
Barbed wire						
Mud/water						
Crops across path						
Bushes/nettles						
No signposts						
No difficulty experienced						

Question: 75

In relation to footpaths and bridleways - would you like to see any of the following?

Tick more than one box if appropriate

PERSON	1	2	3	4	5	6
Free local footpath maps						
Free Guided Walks of area						
No opinion						

END of QUESTIONS

INDIVIDUAL QUESTION COUNTS

HOUSEHOLD SECTION

Question Number: 1 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

How many people including children normally live in your household? **356**

Question Number: 2 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group:

	Male	Female			
0-4	9	11			
5-10	12	16			
11-15	6	13			
16-17	4	3			
18-24	18	11			
25-44	34	35			
45-59	51	44			
60-64	9	12			
65-74	17	17			
75-84	13	10			
85+	4	7			
TOTAL			177	179	= 356

Question Number: 3 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

Is this dwelling your household's main residence?

Yes	136 (96.0 %)
No	5 (3.5 %)

Question Number: 4 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

Is this dwelling?	Private rented	5 (3.5 %)
	Local authority rented	8 (5.7 %)
	Owner occupied	125 (88.0%)
	Provided as part of employment (e.g.MOD	0 (0.0 %)
	Other	3 (2.1 %)

Question Number: 5 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

What type of dwelling is this?	Detached house	58 (41.1%)
	Semi-detached house	37 (26.2%)
	Terraced house	6 (4.3 %)
	Bungalow	40 (28.4%)
	Purpose built for elderly	0 (0.0 %)

Question Number: 6 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

How many bedrooms does your dwelling have?

459 = 3.26 average

Question Number: 7 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

When was this dwelling built (approximately)?

Pre 1900	58 (41.1%)
1901-30	9 (6.4 %)
1931-50	18 (12.8%)
1951-70	32 (22.7%)
1971-80	15 (10.6%)
1981-90	2 (1.4 %)
1991+	3 (2.1 %)

Question Number: 8 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

How do you heat your home?

Solid fuel	32 (22.7%)
Wood	42 (29.8%)
Oil	107 (75.0%)
Gas	1 (0.7 %)
Electricity	31 (22.0%)
Other	1 (0.7 %)

Question Number: 9 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

Which sewage disposal system do you use?

Mains drainage	68 (48.2%)
Septic tank	73 (51.8%)

Question Number: 10 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

Is any individual in your household, or your whole household, currently in need of alternative accommodation?

Yes	7 (5.0%)
No	129 (91.0%)

Question Number: 11 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

If 'yes' who is looking for alternative accommodation?

Whole family	3 (2.0%)
Daughter	2 (1.4%)
Son	2 (1.4%)
Parents	0 (0.0%)

Question Number: 12 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

Enter the number of children under 16 in your household who attend the following:

Play group	2
Nursery school	6
Primary school	18
Middle school	15
Secondary school	14
School for those with special needs	0
Other	1

Question Number: 13 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

Please enter the number of people in your household over 16 who attend the following:

Sixth form college	9
University	14
Training courses	6

Question Number: 14 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

If any of your children under 16 are unable to take part in after school activities, please give the reasons why:

Lack of transport home	5 (3.5 %)
Distance between home/school	7 (5.0 %)
Expense	2 (1.4 %)
Special needs not catered for	0 (0.0 %)

Question Number: 15 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

How many roadworthy vehicles are kept by your household?

Cars	207
Vans	19
Motor bikes	5
Lorries	0

Question Number: 16 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 141

How many private cars/vans are used by your household during the week for journeys to work or education outside Alburgh? 142

PERSONAL SECTION

Question Number: 17 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 300

Sex

Male	150 (50.0%)
Female	150 (50.0%)

Question Number: 18 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 300

What age group do you belong to?

11-15	15 (5.0%)
16-17	6 (2.0%)
18-24	27 (9.0%)
25-44	69 (23.0%)
45-59	95 (31.7%)
60-64	22 (7.3%)
65-74	34 (11.3%)
75-84	22 (7.3%)
85+	10 (3.3%)

Question Number: 19 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 295

How long have you lived in your current home?

Less than a year	24 (8.1%)
1-5 years	58 (19.7%)
6-15 years	79 (26.8%)
16-25 years	67 (22.7%)
26-50 years	56 (19.0%)
51 + years	6 (2.0%)
Whole life	5 (1.7%)

Question Number: 20 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 294

How long have you lived in Alburgh ?

Less than a year	23 (7.8%)
1-5 years	56 (19.0%)
6-15 years	71 (24.1%)
16-25 years	63 (21.4%)
26-50 years	58 (19.7%)
51 + years	9 (3.1%)
Whole life	14 (4.8%)

Question Number: 21 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 296

How did you come to live in Alburgh ?

Born here	39 (13.2%)
Work in area	57 (19.3%)
Relatives live nearby	29 (9.8%)
Love of village life	27 (9.1%)
Love of country life	91 (30.7%)
Retired here	19 (6.4%)
Other	94 (31.8%)

Question Number: 22 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 287

What is most important to you about Alburgh?

The community	80 (27.9%)
The environment	212 (73.0%)
Other	19 (6.6%)
Not Sure	20 (7.0%)

Question Number: 23 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 288

How is the quality of life in Alburgh compared to 10 years ago?

Better	12 (4.2%)
Worse	96 (33.3%)
The same	82 (28.5%)
Don't know	98 (34.0%)

Question Number: 24 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 294

Are you at present?

An employee	100 (34.0%)
Unemployed	1 (0.3%)
Self-employed - employing other people	13 (4.4%)
Self employed - not employing anyone	38 (12.9%)
In full-time education	30 (10.2%)
Unwaged housewife/husband	28 (9.5%)
Retired	75 (25.5%)
Permanently sick/disabled	9 (3.1%)

Question Number: 25 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 180

Where is your main place of work?

Alburgh	37 (20.6%)
Harleston	18 (10.0%)
Bungay	11 (6.1%)
Flixton	2 (1.1%)
Diss	11 (6.1%)
Norwich	21 (11.7%)
Elsewhere in Norfolk or Suffolk	66 (36.7%)
Outside Norfolk or Suffolk	14 (7.8%)

Question Number: 26 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 244

What is, or would be, your main means of transport to work, training or study?

Car/Van	180 (73.0%)
Public Bus	17 (7.0%)
Private Bus	7 (2.9%)
Bicycle	5 (2.0%)
Motor-cycle/Scooter/Moped	1 (0.4%)
Other	5 (2.0%)
Not applicable	29 (11.9%)

Question Number: 27 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 285

Do you experience transport difficulties in getting out of Alburgh to other places?

Often	16 (5.6%)
Occasionally	62 (21.8%)
Never	207 (72.0%)

Question Number: 28 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 279

Do you have any difficulty in getting to the following?

	often	occasionally	never
Doctor	14 (5.0%)	26 (9.3%)	234 (83.0%)
Chemist	9 (3.2%)	18 (6.5%)	231 (82.0%)
Chiropodist	5 (1.8%)	14 (5.0%)	190 (68.0%)
Optician	9 (3.2%)	16 (5.7%)	222 (79.0%)
Dentist	15 (5.4%)	19 (6.8%)	220 (78.0%)
Hospital	21 (7.5%)	36 (12.9%)	209 (74.0%)
Other medical facility	9 (3.2%)	17 (6.1%)	187 (67.0%)

Question Number: 29 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 273

How do you rate the bus service for?

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion
Route	62 (22.7%)	78 (28.6%)	21 (7.7%)	108 (39.0%)
Timetable	46 (16.8%)	74 (27.1%)	34 (12.5%)	108 (39.0%)
Cost	36 (13.2%)	87 (31.9%)	16 (5.9%)	120 (44.0%)
Disability Access	28 (10.3%)	24 (8.8%)	19 (7.0%)	167 (61.0%)
Journey times	21 (7.7%)	84 (30.8%)	34 (12.5%)	115 (42.0%)

Question Number: 30 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 260

Would you like to see any improvements in the bus service with regard to?

Routes	49 (18.8%)
Timetable	60 (23.1%)
Cost	27 (10.4%)
Disability Access	14 (5.4%)
Journey times	53 (20.4%)
No opinion	172 (66.%)

Question Number: 31 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 252

How do you rate the community bus service?

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion
Routes	35 (13.9%)	24 (9.5%)	4 (1.6%)	181 (71.0%)
Timetable	29 (11.5%)	20 (7.9%)	9 (3.6%)	180 (71.0%)
Cost	35 (13.9%)	15 (6.0%)	4 (1.6%)	180 (71.0%)
Disabled Access	20 (7.9%)	11 (4.4%)	6 (2.4%)	193 (76.0%)

Question Number: 32 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 231

Would you like to see any improvements in the community bus service with regard to?

Routes	19 (8.2%)
Timetable	16 (6.9%)
Cost	7 (3.0%)
Disability Access	9 (3.9%)
No opinion	207 (89.0%)

Question Number: 33 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 273

Would you like to see a bus shelter constructed in the village?

YES	122 (44.0%)
NO	67 (24.5%)
No opinion	84 (30.8%)

Question Number: 34 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 285

Do you think there are any major 'danger-spots' on the roads in Alburgh ?

Yes	199 (69.0%)
No	65 (22.8%)
No opinion	21 (7.4%)

Question Number: 35 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 284

Norfolk County Council are considering changing the road priorities at Picadilly Corner giving traffic from Station Road priority. When this was tried a few years ago there were a number of accidents. Are you in favour of this proposal?

YES	89 (31.3%)
NO	152 (53.0%)
No opinion	43 (15.1%)

Question Number: 36 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 291

Do you think speeding traffic is a problem in Alburgh ?

Yes	220 (75.0%)
No	48 (16.5%)
No opinion	23 (7.9%)

Question Number: 37 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 287

Would you support the following speed control measures in Alburgh ?

Extension of the speed limit	173 (60.0%)
Traffic calming	86 (30.0%)
20 mph speed limit	60 (20.9%)
None of the above	66 (23.0%)

Question Number: 38 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 287

Would you like to see street lighting introduced in Alburgh?

YES	108 (37.0%)
NO	148 (51.0%)
No opinion	31 (10.85%)

Question Number: 39 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 291

Do you regard the police coverage of Alburgh to be?

Good	6 (2.1%)
Reasonable	84 (28.9%)
Poor	140 (48.0%)
No opinion	61 (21.0%)

Question Number: 40 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 282

There is a Home Watch Scheme operating in Alburgh. What is your opinion of the scheme as it operates in Alburgh?

	YES	NO	No Opinion
Does the Alburgh scheme operate in your	186 (66.0%)	29 (10.3%)	57 (20.2%)
Do you know what Home Watch is about	220 (78.0%)	44 (15.6%)	12 (4.3%)
Are you happy with the Alburgh scheme?	152 (53.0%)	30 (10.6%)	87 (30.9%)

Question Number: 41 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 288

What are your views on the standard of the following environmental services in Alburgh ?

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion	not applicable
Mains water supply	192 (66.0%)	56 (19.4%)	22 (7.6%)	12 (4.2%)	6 (2.1%)
Electricity supply	92 (31.9%)	106 (36.0%)	80 (27.8%)	9 (3.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Refuse collection	225 (78.0%)	4 (1.5%)	3 (1.0%)	9 (3.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Snow clearance	26 (9.0%)	72 (25.0%)	147 (51.0%)	29 (10.1%)	10 (3.5%)
Mobile phone recep	27 (9.4%)	79 (27.4%)	33 (46.0%)	28 (9.7%)	12 (4.2%)

Question Number: 42 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 288

Do you think Alburgh can accommodate more new housing?

Yes	123 (42.0%)
No	143 (49.0%)
Don't know	22 (7.6%)

Question Number: 43 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 270

What kind of accommodation do you think Alburgh needs?

Small family homes	138 (51.0%)
Large family homes	37 (13.7%)
Sheltered Homes	24 (8.9%)
Executive homes	1 (0.4%)
No further homes are needed	128 (47.0%)

Question Number: 44 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 118

Would any of the following locations be suitable for new homes?

The Street	65 (55.1%)
Low Road	58 (49.2%)
Church Road	53 (44.9%)
Station Road	53 (44.9%)

Question Number: 45 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 281

Would you have any objections in principle to a development which might help to meet the housing needs of local people?

Yes	62 (22.1%)
No	169 (60.0%)
No opinion	50 (17.8%)

Question Number: 46 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 282

What is your opinion of the appearance of new buildings in Alburgh ?

Totally satisfied	7 (2.5%)
Quite satisfied	133 (47.0%)
Quite dissatisfied	41 (14.5%)
Totally dissatisfied	37 (13.1%)
No opinion	64 (22.7%)

Question Number: 47 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 284

Do you feel that the countryside around Alburgh has changed in recent years?

For better	10 (3.5%)
For worse	60 (21.1%)
Not changed	128 (45.0%)
Don't know	86 (30.3%)

Question Number: 48 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 286

What do you think could be done to improve the environment of Alburgh ?

	very important	worth doing	not necessary	don't know
Cut down some trees	18 (6.3%)	16 (5.6%)	192 (67.0%)	9 (3.1%)
Look after woodlands	127 (44.0%)	102 (35.0%)	7 (2.4%)	17 (5.9%)
Preserve trees in spec plcs	124 (43.0%)	99 (34.6%)	20 (7.0%)	10 (3.5%)
Keep hedges short and tidy	167 (58.0%)	88 (30.8%)	10 (3.5%)	9 (3.1%)
Plant more hedges and trees	119 (41.0%)	97 (33.9%)	29 (10.1%)	9 (3.1%)
Don't know	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.7%)	4 (1.4%)

Question Number: 49 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 289

Is the appearance of the following?

	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No opinion
Millennium Garden	207 (71.0%)	54 (18.7%)	3 (1.0%)	20 (6.9%)
Playing Field	148 (51.0%)	109 (37.0%)	19 (6.6%)	10 (3.5%)
Village Hall	126 (43.0%)	124 (42.0%)	27 (9.3%)	9 (3.1%)
Village Hall Car Park	128 (44.0%)	132 (45.0%)	19 (6.6%)	7 (2.4%)
School	150 (51.0%)	76 (26.3%)	4 (1.4%)	48 (16.6%)
School Car Park	48 (16.6%)	65 (22.5%)	96 (33.2%)	68 (23.5%)
Verges	22 (7.6%)	101 (34.0%)	146 (50.0%)	14 (4.8%)

Question Number: 50 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 142

Are 'dog mess' bins required in the following locations?

The Street	125 (88.0%)
Low Road	55 (38.7%)
School Road	79 (55.6%)
Church Road	73 (51.4%)
Station Road	40 (28.2%)

Question Number: 51 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 278

Should the following be encouraged in and around Alburgh ?

	Strongly In favour	in favour	no strong- opinion	have reservations	definite not
Tourism	17 (6.1%)	23 (8.3%)	56 (20.1%)	49 (17.6%)	125 (45.0%)
Small business	40 (14.4%)	56 (20.1%)	70 (25.2%)	47 (16.9%)	64 (23.0%)
Industrial workshops	28 (10.1%)	42 (15.1%)	60 (21.6%)	56 (20.1%)	87 (31.3%)

Question Number: 52 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 276

Where do you usually buy the following?

	Harleston	Bungay	Diss	Norwich/Ipswich	Mail Order
Groceries	140 (50.0%)	12 (4.3%)	20 (7.2%)	73 (26.4%)	11 (4.0%)
Fruit and vegetables	153 (55.0%)	15 (5.4%)	14 (5.1%)	55 (19.9%)	9 (3.3%)
Meat and fish	160 (58.0%)	9 (3.3%)	11 (4.0%)	59 (21.4%)	5 (1.8%)
Clothes	32 (11.6%)	5 (1.8%)	5 (1.8%)	199 (72.0%)	22 (8.0%)
DIY supplies	91 (33.0%)	17 (6.2%)	24 (8.7%)	105 (38.0%)	7 (2.5%)
Electrical goods	78 (28.3%)	5 (1.8%)	11 (4.0%)	147 (53.0%)	5 (1.8%)

Question Number: 53 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 284

How do you rate the postal service for Alburgh ?

	good	reasonable	poor	no opinion
Location of post boxes	137 (48.0%)	106 (37.0%)	29 (10.2%)	10 (3.5%)
Number of post boxes	117 (41.0%)	98 (34.5%)	53 (18.7%)	10 (3.5%)
Number of deliveries	136 (47.0%)	122 (43.0%)	9 (3.2%)	8 (2.8%)
Number of collections	140 (49.0%)	106 (37.0%)	8 (2.8%)	16 (5.6%)
Size of post box	44 (15.5%)	84 (29.6%)	90 (31.7%)	22 (7.7%)
Time of deliveries	135 (47.0%)	96 (33.8%)	20 (7.0%)	18 (6.3%)
Time of collections	126 (44.0%)	106 (37.0%)	14 (4.9%)	17 (6.0%)

Question Number: 54 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 142

Are you in favour of any/all of the following possible extensions to the Village Hall?

Changing Rooms with showers	93 (65.5%)
Larger Club Room	74 (52.1%)
Larger Kitchen	112 (78.0%)
Larger Main Hall	56 (39.%)

Question Number: 55 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 280

If a community shop were opened in Alburgh Village Hall how often would you use it?

Weekly	114 (40.0%)
Monthly	14 (5.0%)
Occasionally	93 (33.2%)
Would not use	28 (10.0%)
Don't know	31 (11.1%)

Question Number: 56 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 256

Would you volunteer to help with the community shop in the following ways?

	weekly	monthly	occasionally	could not help	don't know
Counter work	7 (2.7%)	2 (0.8%)	26 (10.2%)	206 (80.0%)	8 (3.1%)
Accounts	2 (0.8%)	5 (2.0%)	9 (3.5%)	214 (83.3%)	7 (2.7%)
Filling shelves	10 (3.9%)	2 (0.8%)	29 (11.3%)	203 (79.0%)	8 (3.1%)
Fetching supplies	2 (0.8%)	4 (1.6%)	23 (9.0%)	209 (81.0%)	7 (2.7%)
Acting Post Officer	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	8 (3.1%)	219 (85.0%)	7 (2.7%)

Question Number: 57 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 281

How important is Alburgh School to the local community?

Very important	228 (81.0%)
Important	31 (11.0%)
Not very important	6 (2.1%)
No opinion	16 (5.7%)

Question Number: 58 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 281

Are you in favour of the plans to enlarge our school and convert it to primary education for children from 5 to 11 years of age?

YES	152 (54.0%)
NO	39 (13.9%)
No opinion	90 (32.0%)

Question Number: 59 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 264

Many of our village children attend Harleston schools. What is your opinion of them?

	very satisfied	satisfied	dissatisfied	no opinion	not appl
Canon Pickering Junior School	46 (17.4%)	48 (18.2%)	12 (4.5%)	96 (36.%)	62 (23.5%)
Archbishop Sancroft High Sch	39 (14.8%)	48 (18.2%)	20 (7.6%)	92 (34.8%)	60 (22.7%)

Question Number: 60 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 283

How often do you use the following facilities?

	weekly	monthly	occasionally	never
Millennium Garden	6 (2.1%)	8 (2.8%)	87 (30.7%)	176 (62.0%)
Playing Field	7 (2.5%)	21 (7.4%)	101 (35.0%)	147 (51.0%)
Children's Play Equipment	7 (2.5%)	15 (5.3%)	65 (23.0%)	185 (65.0%)
Church	12 (4.2%)	21 (7.4%)	126 (44.0%)	116 (41.0%)
Tennis Court	3 (1.1%)	15 (5.3%)	42 (14.8%)	214 (75.0%)

Question Number: 61 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 274

Are the facilities provided in the children's playground?

Good	53 (19.3%)
Reasonable	89 (32.5%)
Poor	40 (14.6%)
No opinion	92 (33.6%)

Question Number: 62 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 94

Which new clubs/activities would you attend in Alburgh if they were provided?

Whist drive	8 (8.5%)
Senior Citizens Group	10 (10.6%)
Gardening Club	41 (43.6%)
Rambling Club	31 (33.0%)
Art Club	31 (33.0%)
Youth Club	19 (20.2%)

Question Number: 63 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 30

Would you be prepared to help organise and run any of the following?

Whist drive	3 (10.0%)
Senior Citizens Group	3 (10.0%)
Gardening Club	3 (10.0%)
Rambling Club	9 (30.0%)
Art Club	5 (16.7%)
Youth Club	14 (46.7%)

Question Number: 64 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 256

Where do you usually get information about events taking place in Alburgh ?

Notice Board	48 (18.8%)
Parish Magazine	242 (94.0%)
Free paper	10 (3.9%)
Local paper	22 (8.6%)

Question Number: 65 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 281

Do you think the amount of information available about what's going on in Alburgh is?

Good	63 (22.4%)
Reasonable	146 (52.0%)
Poor	47 (16.%)
No opinion	25 (8.9%)

Question Number: 66 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 284

Have you ever attended a meeting of the Alburgh Parish Council ?

Yes	70 (24.6%)
No	214 (75.0%)

Question Number: 67 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 284

Have you ever attended the Annual Parish Meeting which is open to all the electors of the Parish?

Yes	50 (17.6%)
No	234 (82.0%)

Question Number: 68 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 283

How well does the local council publicise its decisions and activities?

Very well	29 (10.2%)
Reasonably well	141 (49.0%)
Badly	57 (20.1%)
No opinion	56 (19.8%)

Question Number: 69 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 284

The local council is empowered to raise money through the council tax. Are you satisfied with the way this money is spent?

Very satisfied	13 (4.6%)
Quite satisfied	86 (30.%)
Quite dissatisfied	3 (4.6%)
Very dissatisfied	14 (4.9%)
Don't know how it is spent	122 (43.%)
No opinion	36 (12.7%)

Question Number: 70 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 279

Would you be prepared to pay a slightly higher council tax to meet some of the needs of Alburgh ?

Yes	86 (30.8%)
No	145 (52.0%)
No opinion	48 (17.2%)

Question Number: 71 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 281

Do you think sufficient publicity is given to planning applications which affect Alburgh ?

Yes	74 (26.3%)
No	135 (48.0%)
No opinion	72 (25.6%)

Question Number: 72 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 264

Is the Alburgh Parish Church important to you?

For Sunday worship	92 (34.8%)
For baptisms	97 (36.%)
Weddings and funerals	165 (62.0%)
As a focal point for the community	130 (49.0%)
As an historic building	184 (69.0%)
Every place should have one	129 (48.0%)
Other	12 (4.5%)

Question Number: 73 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 282

In relation to local footpaths and bridleways, can you answer the following questions?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Do you know where the local paths are?	195 (69.0%)	67 (23.8%)	15 (5.3%)
Can you use them without difficulty?	139 (49.0%)	54 (19.1%)	77 (27.3%)
Are they well signposted?	149 (52.0%)	71 (25.2%)	50 (17.7%)
Would you be willing to maintain them?	42 (14.9%)	179 (63.0%)	48 (17.0%)

Question Number: 74 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 210

If you experienced difficulties when using local footpaths and bridleways, which if any, of the following difficulties did you find?

Farm animals	7 (3.3%)
High stiles	7 (3.3%)
Locked gates	8 (3.8%)
Barbed wire	21 (10.0%)
Mud/water	78 (37.1%)
Crops across path	36 (17.1%)
Bushes/nettles	78 (37.1%)
No signposts	33 (15.7%)
No difficulty experienced	96 (45.7%)

Question Number: 75 NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION: 268

In relation to footpaths and bridleways - would you like to see any of the following?

Free local footpath maps	177 (66.0%)
Free Guided Walks of the area	63 (23.5%)
No opinion	88 (32.8%)

