

The Palgrave Star

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Issue 12 April 1981

ROBERT ROLFE
[REDACTED]

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of our friend and co-editor Robert Rolfe on 31 March 1981.

To express adequately our feelings at the death of this remarkable man is not really possible, especially for someone who only knew him for the past ten years. Many readers of the Star will have their own special memories of Robert, in our community he touched so many lives.

Some will remember him as a schoolfriend - he attended Palgrave school. Some will remember him as a craftsman. His skill as a signwriter that is so very evident at Bressingham Steam Museum is a mere fraction of his work. Some will remember him as an employer. His building firm employed local labour and was respected for high quality work.

Some will remember him as a churchman. He loved Palgrave Church, served on the Parochial Church Council and with his wife was the driving force behind the widely known Flower Festival. Some will remember him as an environmentalist. His passion for botany started by a wise headmaster when he was a boy, stayed with him for life. He organised with Cambridge University the successful archaeology and ecology classes and was also one of the most active members of the Diss Horticultural Society. Some will remember him as a parish councillor where he had served for many years devoting time and energy to the Footpaths and Village Green sub-committees. Some will remember him as a founder member of the community council where he has been one of our most valuable workers. Whatever the capacity in which you came into contact with him throughout the villages he soon became a friend and whichever side of this multi-talented man you touched it became obvious that this man cared. Many individual examples of Bob's kindness and concern will be gratefully cherished, his concern spread beyond his immediate loving family.

One of the most popular articles to appear in The Star was the one that Robert, my wife Margaret and I referred to as the 'I remember, I remember' piece that we included in the December issue. In this piece Bob indicated his concern for the changing environment. A big change to the Palgrave face, like the loss of the trees on the Green, raised strong feelings but our man thought it an offence to maltreat all growing things. He hated to see a tree cut so that it grew twisted and deformed but he also regretted the destruction of the smaller scale but equally important things like the banks of wild flowers that used to grow on the Green outside the Old Reading Room and down Millway Lane. He took these and numerous other things as examples of declining standards but despite this he was throughout an optimist.

His efforts to improve relationships within our community and his incredible workload on the plans for a suitable village hall is something that few of us fully appreciate. He believed in village life, he believed in a caring community and was fully prepared to work for it. We have all lost a friend but we are the better for knowing this compassionate man.

Ken Roberts

WILL YOU HELP US, PLEASE
[REDACTED]

The Friends of Palgrave School will be holding a Barbecue and Fete at Weavers' Mark on Wednesday evening 13 May in aid of school funds. Our money is used to provide extra opportunities for our pupils, visits, sports fixtures, competition entries, etc. and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Bob Perrett

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PALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

March Meeting

One of the main items on the agenda at this meeting was the provision and siting of a bus shelter in Palgrave, mainly to cater for parishioners waiting to go in the direction of Diss. The suggestion to provide a shelter was approved by the Council some months ago but the outstanding problem has been where to site such a shelter. Obviously it had to be fairly central, somewhere near the present picking-up point outside the church and, bearing in mind the traffic problem on the A143, preferably on the same side of the road as the church. Several suggestions were made but each one discounted either by the Church authorities, road safety experts or the Council itself. The most recent suggestion has come from the County Council who have suggested that a shelter be erected alongside Mr and Mrs Runacre's house on the site destined to accommodate two new houses. The actual specific placing has not been finalised but this site does seem to be the most acceptable. The bus company will have to be asked to slow down when approaching as it may be difficult to see the coach coming whilst sheltering from bad weather. It does seem a real possibility that next winter, waiting for the bus in Palgrave could be more pleasant.

Just across the road at an angle from the proposed site for the bus shelter, the Queen Mother's 80th Birthday tree has been planted. This Copper Beech Tree has been purchased, planted and protected at the parish's expense. It is situated at the junction of Crossing Road with the A143 on the piece of ground outside the Old Rectory. It is intended to have a suitable plate made to signify the trees importance to the village.

The Parish Council has again decided NOT to enter for the Best Kept Village competition. This is due to the general state of affairs but much more importantly to the fact that there is a fundamental disagreement with the judging panel as to what constitutes a 'Best Kept Village'.

The County Council continue to be concerned about the site on Denmark Hill where the derelict cars have sprouted. The owner has been asked to remove the cars by the County Council. They have written, telephoned and apparently photographed the site. The latest news is that 'legal action will be taken'.

The Suffolk Scanner Appeal in Palgrave raised a magnificent £248. and the Parish Council were pleased to be associated with this.

Two members of the public attended the March meeting, it is hoped that the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May will be taken as an opportunity by all parishioners to demonstrate their interest in village affairs.

STUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At its meeting on 12 March the Parish Council accepted with regret the resignation of Bernard Tinker who will shortly be leaving the village. Bernard (or 'Bunny' to everybody) was instrumental in the setting up of the Parish Council in 1975 and was Chairman from its inception until last year. His wife Jean represented the village on the School Managers body of Palgrave Primary School. They will both be missed and the thanks and best wishes of the Parish Council are conveyed to them and their family.

The Parish Council were pleased to learn that George Hall had been nominated by the County Association of Parish Councils to serve on the Suffolk Preservation Society. It was decided to press the County Council to provide footpaths along the Green and the Eye Road (from the cross roads to the Church) in view of the dangers to pedestrians from traffic.

The Annual Parish Meeting was fixed for 7 May at 7.30pm at Stuston Court (by kind permission of Mrs Laurie). Topics to be discussed include the Old Bury Road and village social on July 29 to mark the occasion of the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer.

D W Long

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WI NEWS

At the March meeting two new members were proposed and seconded. They were Mrs Saunders of Priory Close and Mrs Holbrook, The Old Coach House, Rose Lane. During the business discussion it was decided to enter the Inter WI section of the Diss Horticultural Society's Spring Show on 12 and 13 April.

Birthday posies were presented to Mrs J Clarke and Mrs Y Hutton Williams.

Mr Riches of Navire House, Mere Street Diss was our speaker for the evening and he soon had our feet tapping as he demonstrated the different effects made on one of the two organs he had brought with him. After he had played some request tunes Mr Riches moved over to the other organ which was smaller and less complicated but like the first one was very versatile. Members were invited to try the organs but all seemed too shy. However, two members later on had a bash and pronounced it very fascinating and wished they had tried earlier. Mr Riches gives organ lessons at his shop in Navire House, so if anyone would like to try they would be very welcome.

Mrs Fox of the Old Rectory attended the meeting to judge the marmalade competition. The result being 1st Mrs J Rolfe, 2nd Mrs M Jones 3rd equal Mrs B Chapman and Mrs J Jackson. After a break for tea and coffee, we had a Quiz, the winners being persuaded to go on to an Inter WI Quiz to be held later in the month. Finally Mrs Hutton Williams thanked Mr Riches for a most enjoyable talk and demonstration and Mrs Fox was presented with a small posy as a 'Thank you' for coming to judge.

Next month we have Mrs Willings coming to tell us about the growth of Bressingham Gardens over the past 25 years so if you would like to know if Bressingham Gardens was like Topsy, come to our April meeting on Thursday 9 April. You will be very welcome.

J R

PLAYING FIELD

Despite atrocious weather a few brave souls attended the Annual General Meeting at The Swan, nevertheless as all except one were Committee members there was no change in the elected members of the Committee.

The main report to the meeting was the Financial Report showing a slight increase in receipts over expenditure bringing the balance in hand to £907.26. Main item of expenditure was for grass cutting for the years 1979 and 1980, amounting to £90.27 and the main income came from the Christmas Whist Drive and Draw and amounted to £95.29.

At an earlier Committee meeting the same evening it was reported that new seats had been provided for the swings. The Committee spent some time discussing the problem of dogs fouling the Playing Field. The Chairman reported that since the issue had first been publicised in the 'Star' there had been a most favourable response from people in the village but in order to try to eradicate the problem altogether the Committee agreed with the suggestion of the Parish Council that signs be placed on the field requesting owners not to exercise their dogs on the field.

GEC

YOUNG MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP

A coffee morning to be held at Sun View Cottages, Crossing Road, Palgrave on Saturday 25 April 1981 from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Bottle stall, Bring and buy stall, Cake stall, Raffle.

All proceeds towards equipment for the toddler group.

Meetings will be held in the Pavilion during the summer months.

The Palgrave Star

MOBILE LIBRARY

Starting this month, we will be publishing the dates when the Mobile Library will be visiting Palgrave, Stuston and Thrandeston.

The dates for April are 1, 15 and 29.

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

There is still time for you to choose your veteran machine for the Sponsored Cycle Ride on 11 April. Mr South of The Priory will be pleased to show them to you or if you prefer, come on your own machine.

The ride will start from The Swan, Palgrave at 1.45 and Sponsor Forms are available from the Post Office. If you can't manage the ride yourself, your sponsorship will be very welcome, so please support this effort to raise funds for our village hall.

MARKET STALL

After your generous support last year, we have again booked three dates for our stall on Diss Market Place. They are:

2 May
11 July
19 September

It seems that we can never supply enough home cooking to satisfy demand so we would welcome your help in baking cakes, bread etc. whether on a percentage basis or as gifts. Garden produce is popular too so perhaps a few extra seeds planted now will make a profit for you or the Community Council later in the year.

All cakes, produce and craft items for the stall may be left with Mrs Hutton-Williams. The Old School House or Canon Rogers. Yew Trees.

DELAY

This issue has been delayed in order to include the article on Robert Rolfe. Some articles submitted have been held over until next month.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL OUTINGS

Whipsnade Zoo

Saturday 25 April

Adults £4.50 including admission
Children £3.50

Sandringham House

Wednesday 24 June

Adults £2.00 Fare only
Children £1.00

Kew Gardens

Sunday 31 May

Adults £3.20 Coach Fare Only
Children £2.00

Thursford Organ Museum and

Visit to Cromer

Sunday 19 July

Adults £1.75 Coach Fare Only
Children £1.25

ALL THESE TRIPS HAVE BEEN ADVERTISED BY SIMONDS SO EARLY BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.

DIARY

Saturday 11 April

Sponsored Cycle Ride
The Swan 1.45pm

John Gummer MP Surgery
Clarence House,
Fressingfield
10am - 12 noon

Saturday 25 April

Outing to Whipsnade
Zoo

John Gummer MP Surgery
Leiston Council Offices
5-7pm

Saturday 2 May

Market Stall Diss

Monday 4 May

Car Parking Duty
Bressingham Gardens

Thursday 7 May

Stuston Annual Parish
Meeting
Stuston Court 7.30pm

Saturday 9 May

Sioned Williams
Harp Recital 8pm

Sunday 10 May

Burgate Singers
Bach St John Passion
7.30pm

Tickets from Mrs Roberts
Diss 4474

Mrs Carlisle, Mellis 422
or choir members

Monday 11 May

Palgrave Annual Parish
Meeting
The School 7.30pm