



Duncan's Special Day

DECADES of service to the church and local community by a Hethersett village stalwart were celebrated in St Remigius Parish Church.

Over 200 invited guests came together to celebrate Duncan Pigg's 90th birthday on April 6th. The evening featured a concert by Hellesdon and Sprowston Brass with works ranging from pop and show classics to brass band marches.

Introducing the evening, John Head from the parish church paid tribute to Duncan's years of service. "Reaching the age of 90 is an outstanding achievement for such a stalwart of village life. Duncan has been the bedrock for so many things in Hethersett that we enjoy today.

"It is fitting that Duncan's birthday should be celebrated in this church and with music. Many will know

Duncan from his pantomime scripts, as a former parish councillor, a church warden and lay reader and through his association with cricket. He has been closely involved with music as a member of Norwich Cathedral Choir, choir-master at Hethersett and in choosing music for the annual village pantomime. It has all helped to bring music into our lives," Mr Head said.

Duncan himself reflected on what he referred to as "a wonderful life" built on four main factors – his job, his church, his village and the support of his wife



Jenny.

"I have been very lucky to have been involved in so many good things," he said.

Duncan's unceasing work in the local community was marked by the award of the British Empire Medal in the 2013 New Year's Honours.

Former Rector of Hethersett and a close friend of Duncan's, the Rev Michael Sexton, proposed a birthday toast and pointed out that Duncan's birthday falls just 15 days before the 90th birthday of the Queen.

"Duncan and the Queen have many things in common, not the least of which is their selfless service. Duncan has achieved so much, always with cheerfulness and a willingness to serve



the community," he said.

Church Warden Kate Wood also praised Duncan for his contributions to church and village life. Donations given during the evening will go towards the parish church roof repair fund.

Duncan was awarded the British Empire Medal (B.E.M) for services to the community which at the time of the award included producing and writing the annual village pantomime for 40 years. During this time over £80,000 was raised for various charities.

Duncan was also praised for being a leading light in Hethersett musical circles, President of Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club, Reader Emeritus for Hethersett Parish Church (where he has been a licensed reader for 56 years) and choir-master for 35 years, and a former governor of Hethersett High School and Hethersett Woodside Infants and Nursery School



Quite A Performance

In 2007 we interviewed Duncan Pigg about his role in Hethersett Pantomime. Here we reproduce part of that interview

When Duncan Pigg wrote his first pantomime in 1970 he never dreamed that he would still be coming up with ideas and scripts almost four decades later.

Duncan's 38th Hethersett Pantomime will be performed in the village hall from January 20th to 27th. There will be nine performances of Jack and the Beanstalk. Duncan admits that his enthusiasm has never waned over the years.

"I never seem to run out of ideas. I have a whole year to think about things and there's always current trends that can be included. I start thinking about the panto in the summer and we have a pre-production meeting in September and kick around ideas from there," he said.

Over the years the number of people involved in the productions has more than doubled. The 1970 version of Sleeping Beauty involved 33 people. This year over 70 will be involved either on stage or off.

It will also mark a landmark for producer Sarah Wright who will be in charge of her 10th panto. The Wright/Pigg partnership continues to flourish as the productions become much more hit-tech with computer graphics helping to plan

scenery this year.

"When we started we had four pieces of 8 by 4 hardboard which we switched around. Now thanks to grants from South Norfolk District Council and the village hall management committee we have automatic back drops and superb scenery thanks to the skill of Colin Wilson," Duncan said.

Over the years the panto has raised almost £50,000 for various charities. Last year's charities to benefit included Musical Keys, St Matthew's House, Friends of Woodside First School, Hethersett Middle School PTA, Hethersett Parish Church, Hethersett Methodist Church and Wymondham Roman Catholic Church.

This year both the script and scenery contain local and topical references and there will be one or two surprises along the way.

Sarah explained that as producer one of her major satisfactions is seeing members of the cast develop:

"We see people with potential and try and bring them on. We have a huge range of age groups taking part and they mix so well together. We have a lovely group of children. It is great that



from their home in Turkey.

If you ask Duncan and Sarah what makes a good pantomime, they are very swift to put together a list of ingredients which include the following:

- Good music
- Originality
- A good storyline
- Entertainment and above all
- A sense of fun.

youngsters can go on stage and do something for the community," Sarah said.

So what does pantomime mean to Duncan and Sarah:

"I love the variety of being able to use different music. I have a wide taste in music and our pantos are very musical," Duncan said. Indeed the first ever pantomime was referred to as "A musical fairy tale."

"I still find it great fun and it is wonderful that the teenagers still accept me at the age of 80," Duncan said.

"We really don't have any prima donnas," Sarah added.

The success of Hethersett's annual pantomime is reflected in the fact that people attend from all over Norfolk as well as from the north of England and the London area. Two former Hethersett residents have also travelled

- Entertainment and above all
- A sense of fun.

Indeed panto gives the audience the chance to forget the stressed and strains of modern life for a few hours - it is pure escapism.

Duncan is already thinking about pantomime 39 in 2008.

"The group is in such great shape that they could carry on without me," he added.

I think that Duncan is just being too modest!

© Peter Steward 2007

Energy, Enthusiasm, Colour

ENDLESS energy and boundless enthusiasm helped to make the Hethersett-based Yvonne School of Dance presentation “Stepping into Stardom” a colourful extravaganza at Norwich Theatre Royal.

Afternoon and evening performances on Sunday, May 1st, showcased over 30 routines and featured over 200 dancers from the youngest tots to adults.

At times you could be forgiven for forgetting that those on stage were amateur dancers from a Norfolk village school of dance. That is not meant in any way to demean the school, but rather to underline just how good it is.

For over two hours the cast tapped, jived and threw them-





selves mentally and physically into a huge variety of routines to music as diverse as Andrew Lloyd Webber and George Gershwin and shows as different as The Sound of Music and Les Miserables.

There was a colourful array of costumes that lit up the stage as a seamless show, without a single broken link, provided high octane entertainment. The number of costume changes must have led to organised chaos offstage but all was achieved with the effortless professionalism that has marked this bi-ennial show over the 30 plus years of its existence.

Choreography was by the school's principal Yvonne Cutting, along with Stella McLoughlin and Katie Andrews and the show was directed by Yvonne Cutting and co-produced by her and Stella McLoughlin.

Over the years, the show has also raised funds for a variety of charities and a retiring collection this year was in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

The photographs of this year's show were taken at rehearsals and are reproduced with permission.





Natural Hedge For Memorial Field

A new hedge has been planted on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field using natural British hedgerow plants.

A working party of volunteers put the new hedge in place on April 1st thanks to a grant from Busseys Motor Dealers who plant a tree for every car they sell.

The Hethersett planting took place under the auspices of the South Norfolk tree wardens' scheme and South Norfolk Council chairman David Bills, who represents Hethersett, was on hand to dig in the first of the 270 plants which will enclose the current croquet lawn and separate it from football pitches.

The hedgerow plants used include Hornbeam, Dogwood, Maple, Hawthorn, Spindleberry, Dogrose, Hazel and Alder.

Were You Fooled?

So were you fooled by our spoof article in the April edition?

The article about the remaining Beatles appearing in Hethersett Village Hall was of course an April fool..



Middle School Reunion

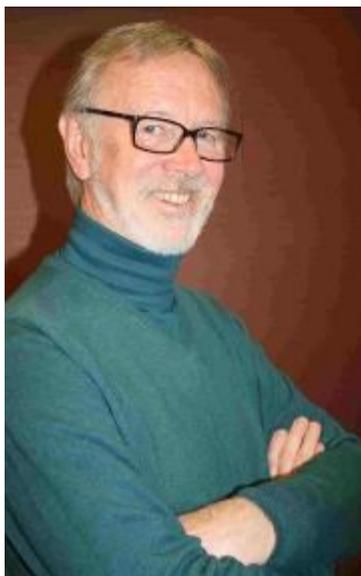
HETHERSETT Middle School staff from the past got together at Park Farm Hotel for a re-union buffet lunch.

The event was organised by retired teachers Anna Hallam and Sharon Felding. Nineteen teachers and ancillary staff attended what could be the first of a number of reunions.

All the staff were employed at the Middle School (now Hethersett Junior School) during the time that Tim Strugnell (pictured opposite) was Head Teacher.

“The more mature you get the more you realise the importance of connections. We shared a very worthy occupation over many years and cared for and taught thousands of children. There is a special bond between special people who have been through thick and thin together,” Sharon Fielding said.

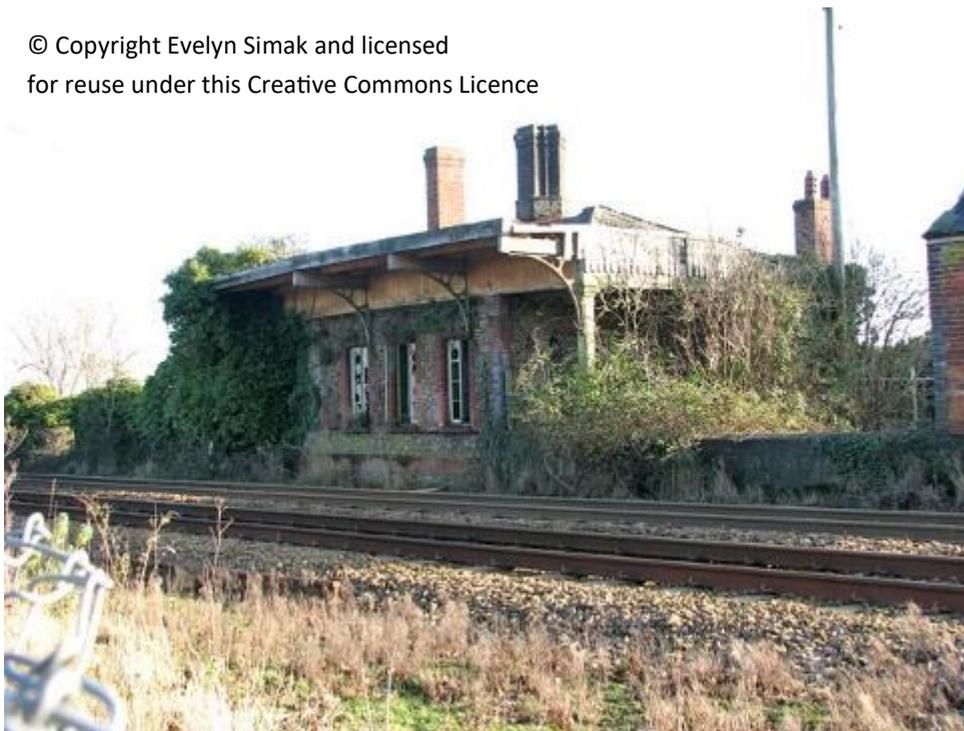
Tim Strugnell paid tribute to all those he had worked with: “You were a fantastic group of people to work with and we did have such fun,” he said.



Hethersett Railway Station

A Hethersett E-Magazine Picture Special

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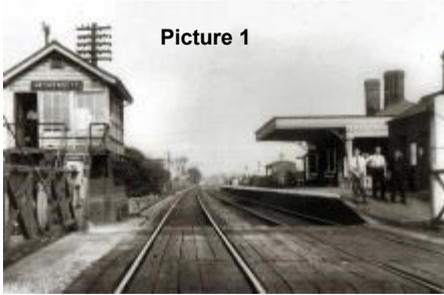


HETHERSETT Railway Station was built in 1845 and in the 1960s as many as 12 trains a day in each direction stopped there.

Hethersett was on the Great Eastern Railway main line between Norwich and Thetford/Ely. In the 1960s the majority of trains stopping there were part of the Norwich to King's Lynn/Wells Next the Sea service.

The station was almost 2 km from the main part of the village, down what is now Station Lane which is divided by the main A11. In 1966, the station was considered to be surplus to requirements and was closed. The platforms were removed. For a time the station buildings were used as part of a tyre store. Subsequently the station building was left derelict and photographs of its poor state are available on the internet and include the one above.

Another interesting part of the station's history saw sidings put into place lead-



Picture 1

ing to a Ministry of Defence oil depot during the Second World War.

The photographs on this page illustrate the history of the station. Unless otherwise stated they were either provided or taken by Hethersett archivist Gary Wyatt and we are grateful to him for permission to reproduce them



Picture 2

Picture One - Hethersett Station 1950 looking towards Norwich, taken from the 'down' (i.e. Norwich-bound) platform looking over the level crossing to the 'up' (i.e. Cambridge-bound) platform. Photographer unknown.



Picture 3

Picture Two - Hethersett Station with Bert Thrower in the signal box- The 'down' platform is hidden by the train. This photograph was taken by Norwich based photographer Tom Nokes around 1910. Noakes took a number of images in and around Hethersett.



Picture 4

Picture Three -Hethersett Station taken in 2011 when it was derelict. Taken from the Hethersett side of the line at the point where the level crossing gate originally stood. The main station building (still with canopy but platform gone) is on the left. Building on right is probably the parcels/goods building.

Picture Four - Hethersett Station's main building in 2011 -

Picture Five (over the page) - Hethersett Station taken in 2014. The same scene as Picture Three but after 'renovation' by an asphalt company. Note that the canopy and some of the chimneys have gone.

Picture Six and Seven show the Station as it was in 2014 after renovation. Pic-

Picture 5



ture Seven shows the current situation from the Ketteringham side. The main building after renovation is seen on the right and the goods building on the left.

Picture 6



Picture 7



Hethersett Pub Nominated for Protective Status



THE Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is nominating a Hethersett Public House for Asset of Community Value (ACV) status. The Norwich and Norfolk Branch of CAMRA has put the King's Head forward on the grounds that it is of significant importance to the local community.

To be included an asset must be currently used for social well being or be socially important to the community, for example it has a cultural, recreational or sporting use and it is realistic to think it will continue to be used in that way. A place can also be nominated if it has fulfilled the criteria in the recent past and it is realistic to think it will be used thus over the next five years. ACV status brings with it certain safeguards under the Localism Act of 2011. It means that the owner must obtain planning permission to change the building to any other use and if they want to sell it, the community will be given the chance to find someone to buy it as a pub. Members of the public also have the right to nominate buildings to be added to the Community Asset Register for five years.

Library Celebrates Queen's Birthday



HETHERSETT Library celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday on April 21st with a street party with a difference - it was held indoors.

Coffee, tea and cakes mingled with bunting and bright displays as residents joined in the celebration. There were also arts and crafts for younger visitors. The refreshments were provided by library staff. The tea party started at 2 pm and went on until 6 pm. The photograph at the top of the page shows residents enjoying the festivities and in the other pic-



ture, three year old Elliot Steward is pictured with library staff Helena Last and Tina Cook with artwork by local children.

In the evening, chairman of South Norfolk Council David Bills, who also represents Hethersett, was on hand to light one of thousands of beacons at South Norfolk House in Long Stratton. This is pictured opposite.

Before the lighting of the beacon there was a concert by Hellesdon and Sprowston Brass Band. The evening also featured stalls and activities for children.



The photograph above was taken during a children's activity day at Hethersett library in the 1980s and is reproduced with the library's permission. This was placed on the library Facebook page with the comment: "We're not sorry those brown curtains have gone.!" Picture courtesy of Hethersett Archive.

May In Hethersett Library

Monday 2nd		Library closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday 4th	10.30	Adult colouring in session
	14.00	Book Group
Thursday 5th	14.00	Social/Board Games afternoon
Monday 9th	14.00	Craft Group
	14.00	Hethersett Parish Council Pop In
Wednesday 11th	10.30	Adult colouring in session
Thursday 12th	14.00	Social/Board Games afternoon
	14.30	Family History Session - Fully Booked
Friday 13th	11.15	Bounce and rhyme time for babies/toddlers
Monday 16th	14.00	Craft Group
Wednesday 18th	10.30	Adult colouring in session
Thursday 19th	14.00	Social/Board Games afternoon
Monday 23rd	14.00	Craft Group
Wednesday 25th	10.30	Adult Colouring In Session
Thursday 26th	14.00	Social/Board games afternoon
Monday 30th		Library Closed - Bank Holiday

New Name for Publication

YOU will notice that from this issue we have changed the name of this e-magazine to Hethersett Herald. We employed some of the brightest brains known to mankind to come up with a name that reflected what we are trying to achieve. In the end we hit on the name Hethersett Herald for no other reason that it was a piece of alliteration. Hethersett Herald is published electronically on the first day of each month. It is available via the village web site at www.hethersett.org.uk

Outstanding Academy Visit



CHAIRMAN of South Norfolk Council David Bills, who is one of two Hethersett district councillors, visited Hethersett Academy to find out exactly why the school has been rated “Outstanding” by OFSTED just a couple of years after being put in special measures for being a failing school. In this article David explains what he found at the Academy and also some of the other important events he has attended recently in his official capacity.

David is pictured above left with Principal Gareth Stevens and four design and technology students. Above right David is with Naomi Birchall and her dress which features men’s ties. Opposite is some of the colourful artwork made at the Academy.

On page 16 David Bills reports on his visit to Hethersett Academy.



Chairman's Diary

By David Bills

I am coming to the end of my year as Chairman of South Norfolk Council. The past month has been very busy and events with a local connection have included

Hethersett Academy

I spent a truly stimulating morning with the Principal of Hethersett Academy, being shown around the premises, meeting with students and staff, hearing of the great things which have taken place at the Academy and their plans for the future. Having accomplished an "Outstanding" report from Ofsted there is a real feeling that they intend to keep to this in the future. Congratulations to all students and members of staff.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Principal Gareth Stevens for the time he spent with me and the students who showed me what creative people they are. Congratulations to Gareth Stevens for taking part in the London Marathon

St Walstans Patron Saint of Farm Workers and Agriculture

On a glorious Spring morning there was a ceremony to bless St Walstan's Well in Costessey. St Walstan was the Patron Saint of Farm Workers and Agriculture who died in Taverham 1000 years ago. This is one of three wells along the journey that the oxen stopped at when taking St Walstan's body to Bawburgh from Taverham, where a spring arose.



This spring has only recently been discovered. May 30th is the 1000 year of his death.

He is buried at Bawburgh. Many events are being arranged to mark this and it is well worth while searching the Internet for the history of this remarkable local saint.

Jenny Lind at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

I was delighted to present a cheque for £10,000 to the Jenny Lind Charity in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital to upgrade and refurbish the children's play area. Eleven South Norfolk Councillors and the chairs of three neighbourhood areas contributed to this to help bring this worthwhile project into being. It is a challenging project costing £80,000 but, with this £10,000, work can start as soon as possible. The Jenny Lind treats over 140,000 children every year, something we in Norfolk should be very proud of.

Special Olympics

I spent a lovely sunny afternoon at Norfolk Ski Centre Whitlingham where I opened the Inaugural Special Olympics Eastern Region Alpine Skiing Competition for children with certain difficulties. Over 40 entrants from all over the country from Bromley in the South to Rossendale, Lancashire, in the North came to compete for a number of medals. The enthusiasm and sheer joy of taking part was a real tonic to behold.

All levels of ability were there and each was judged with a first run which determined their rating. Hats off to the many volunteers who made this such a success and I am sure it will become a regular event. The Special Olympics are the third part of the Olympic Family.

The first is the Olympics themselves, the second is the Paralympics and then third are the Special Olympics. There are over 8,000 Special Olympics members in the UK with 4,000 helpers. Do look up Special Olympics to see what a fantastic organisation it is and how it helps those less fortunate than others in the community with all facets of sport.

Queens 90th Birthday

What a delightful way to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday at the South Norfolk Council event. It was a real community event with great atmosphere and plenty of face painting. Chrissie Jackson at Radio Norfolk talked me into having my face painted. I was very honoured to light the beacon.

Hethersett and Tas Valley rained off

Sadness as the opening cricket match of the season was called off due to bad weather. I was looking forward to a relaxing day watching the local club take on Tony Selby's Select XI for the Les King Memorial Trophy and also helping to raise money for the Wymondham based cancer charity Star Throwers.

Remembering Ralph

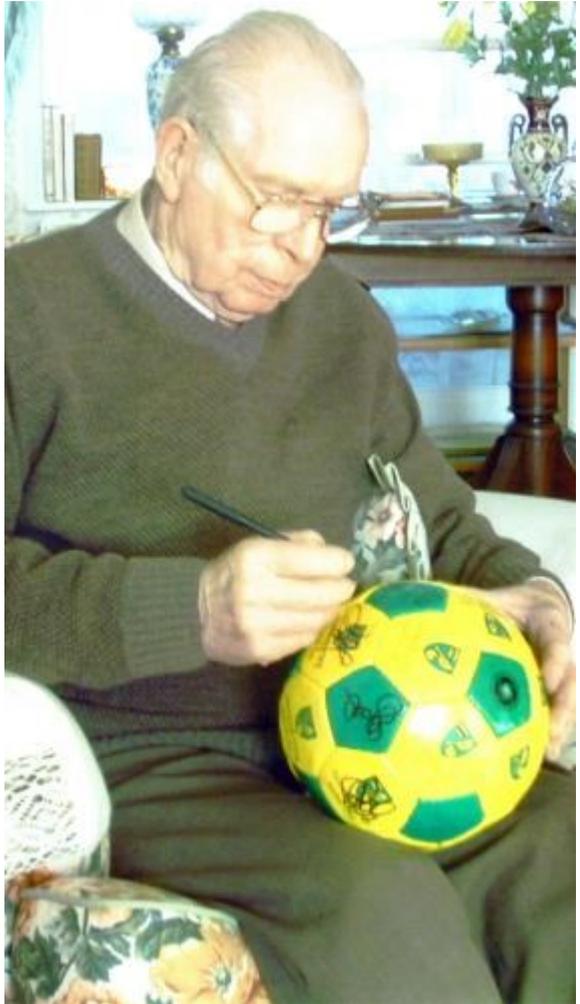
A FEW years ago Hethersett - A Norfolk Village on the Web, interviewed Ralph Johnson who still holds the record for the fastest goal ever scored at Carrow Road. Sadly Ralph died three years ago at the age of 91. Here we reproduce that interview.

WHEN it comes to scoring goals, Norwich City's greatest player is arguably a relatively unknown centre forward who today lives in retirement in Hethersett.

Ralph "Ginger" Johnson doesn't appear in any of the club record books for the simple fact that he was at the height of his goalscoring powers when the Second World War intervened.

Ralph was just 17 when war broke out and ruined his chances of a glittering career. His scoring statistics during the war years are quite astonishing. In wartime friendlies and regional competitions Ralph's scoring exploits became legendary.

He hammered 123 goals in just 107 matches and that included five hat-tricks, two hauls of four, two fives and two double hat-tricks. He once scored in 19 successive Norwich City games and in another spell found the net in 24 out of 25 matches. He still holds the record for the fastest ever goal at Carrow Road – 10 seconds against Leyton Orient in 1946.



Today Ralph has forgotten most of the goals but the 10 seconder remains vividly in his memory.

"I tapped the ball to Noel Kinsey and he played it back to me and I hit it from close to the halfway line. It could have gone into the river or the stands but on

this occasion it did a Beckham and sailed into the net. My mother was there and thought it had been a false start when Orient kicked off," Ralph said.

Today at the age of 85 Ralph still has a remarkable memory of those days.

There may not have been any official league football, but Ralph found himself playing against some of the country's top players who were stationed in different parts of the country. He remembers the likes of Sir Stanley Matthews, Dennis Compton, Alf Kirchen and Alex James. Indeed legendary Liverpool manager Bill Shankly guested three times for Norwich City under an assumed name!

Ralph was born in Hethersett in April 1922 and has lived virtually all his life in the village. As a youngster, athletics was his first passion and he met with some success in this as a pupil of the old British School in the village, competing at virtually every distance imaginable.

His brother Edward was a keen footballer and would rope the young Ralph into playing and by the age of 10 he was playing for Hethersett's men's team against local sides such as Ketteringham, Little Melton, Bawburgh and Barnham Broom. Ralph was already a precocious footballer.

"One day I ran into a player in the centre of the pitch and then ran down the wing with the ball only to get hit by a woman with an umbrella who told me I had hit her little Willie. I was old for my age," Ralph laughed. He honed his football skills by kicking the ball against a wall and didn't have to wait long for his first big break:

"When I reached the age of 14 a man

named Revell who was a butcher at Wymondham asked me to go to Chesterfield to play. This was just before the war. I don't know what his connection with Chesterfield was but it took me over five hours on the train to get there," Ralph said.

He went on to play two seasons at Chesterfield as an amateur against the likes of Barnsley, Sheffield, Doncaster and various clubs from the south of England.

At Chesterfield he lodged with Joseph Spence, a famous former Manchester United player who made 510 appearances for the club, scoring 168 goals. Ralph also worked as a garage mechanic until war broke out and at the age of 17 he returned to his native Norfolk to work as an engineer for Laurence and Scotts in Norwich.

"I was earning 2/6d (just under 13p in today's money) a week and having to cycle to and from Hethersett, seven days a week when I was approached to play for Norwich. There I got to make £3.50 on a Saturday afternoon with an extra £1 if we won and 10/- (50p) if we drew.

So Ralph continued to play football on a Saturday and work for Laurence and Scotts until he was old enough to join the forces and went for his medical.

"The first two doctors passed me A1 but the third categorised me as C3 which I couldn't understand until he told me he was the Norwich City club doctor and they weren't about to lose me to the services."

Competitions during the war years were slightly haphazard affairs but Ralph remembers travelling to Queens Park Rangers, Leyton Orient and play-

ing in front of 20,000 people at Carrow Road.

During the war years Ralph was described as being brilliant near goal with scoring ability akin to a metronome. Ralph looks back on those days with great affection:

“They were marvellous times. When we scored a goal we just touched hands. There was none of this kissing and cuddling like today. We had to go to matches either by coach or train. The only places we got a hotel stay were down in Torquay or Plymouth. We would travel for hours, play the match and then travel back. We played football for the love of the game. Matches went on even though London was being bombed.”

Ralph eventually signed professional forms for Norwich City on 17th May 1946 and made 23 league and cup appearances for the Canaries, scoring 10 goals. His professional debut was against Ipswich Town on September 7th, 1946.

In April 1947 Leyton Orient made a bid for him and he moved to London.

“I received £450 for the transfer, but I’m not sure how much Norwich received. At Orient I was earning £8 a week,” he said.

Ralph stayed at Orient for two seasons before returning to Norfolk to play non league football for Lowestoft Town where he suffered a broken jaw which effectively ended his playing days, apart from a few local matches.

With his football career behind him Ralph used his engineering skills to good effect, setting up business in Hethersett to make concrete moulds for coal bunkers and employing seven

people.

As the company expanded, Ralph moved his business interests to Silfield just outside Wymondham where he operated as Castle Moulded Products and Johnson Engineering. He also had a garage.

Today he rarely gets to a football game, although he was the second oldest player behind Bernard Robinson to be involved in the Canaries centenary celebrations in 2002 and was also introduced to the crowd before the heritage match between Norwich City and Ipswich Town Veterans last season.

Ralph is aghast at the amount of money in the game today; “I’m sure with players on huge sums of money, the last thing they want to do is get hurt. We played for the love of the game, although it was good to earn a little money. The game was very hard when we played it. You could barge the goalkeeper, a wet ball would weigh over five pounds and the boots were heavy with solid toe caps.”

However the game evolves in the future, Ralph is assured of a place in Norwich City history. It is unlikely that anybody will ever erase his fastest goal record which has already stood for over 60 years.

News From The Village

Hethersett Hub Cafe -Hethersett Hub Cafe is organised by Hethersett Dementia Support and welcomes all members of the community on the third Tuesday of each month between 10 am and noon. Those suffering dementia, memory loss, loneliness, bereavement and their carers are particularly invited to share activities, friendship and support. The next cafe will be held on 17th May in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall. For more information contact Anne Steward on 01603 811052.

McDonalds Restaurant for Thickthorn?- South Norfolk planners have received an application for a new McDonalds fast food restaurant and drive through on land off Thickthorn roundabout. All the plans and comments can be viewed on South Norfolk's web site.

Parish Diary Dates - Hethersett's annual parish meeting will take place in Hethersett Village Hall at 7.30 p.m on 4th May. Tea and coffee will be provided before the meeting which is open to all parishioners and which will receive reports from a variety of groups and organisations. The annual meeting of Hethersett Parish Council will take place in the village hall at 7.30 p.m on 16th May.

Neighbourhood Watch - Hethersett Parish Council will support any new Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the village. At the present time there are only two active schemes - Richardson Crescent and Haconsfield. "We will support any new schemes but as a parish council cannot initiate or organise them," said parish council chairman Jackie Sutton

Dog Mess - Hethersett Parish Council continues to be concerned at the amount of dog mess in the village and the irresponsibility of some dog owners who fail to clear up and use bins provided throughout the village. The council is looking at ways of involving the community in fighting this anti-social behaviour.

Pot Hole Watch - Hethersett residents are being urged to report any pot holes in the village to Norfolk County Council. A large and dangerous pot hole in Mill Road has been repaired and the parish council is keen to ensure roads in the village are brought up to standard.

Hethersett Connections World-wide

No 1 - Reigate, England by Georgette Vale

THERE are many instances of the name Hethersett cropping up in the most unusual places. In a new series we look at places with a connection to the village name and also people who have taken the name to the far corners of the earth. We start the series relatively near home with Wymondham historian Georgette Vale's memories of a college in Reigate Surrey.

From 1956 to 1992 there was a further education college for visually impaired young people called Hethersett at 32 Gatton Road, Reigate.

I went there on placement in 1985 when I was training to teach independence skills to blind and partially sighted people. Being inquisitive I asked where the name Hethersett came from - or what it meant. I was told it was the name of the original house before it became a college and that the original owner of the house "came from some place in Norfolk."

For many years in my mind that is what Hethersett meant and, when I came to live in Wymondham in 1997, it took me quite a while to remember that Hethersett was not the college but the village between Wymondham and Norwich.

In 1992 the college moved to Philanthropic Road in Redhill, not far away, and it became more specialised for those with special needs in addition to the visual impairment. There is still a centre there called Hethersett, so the name lives on. It also seems that the grounds of the house have been sold for development and there is now a Hethersett Close on the site.

It seems that the original house belonged to Julius Auerbach and the family did not claim it so the secretary left it to the RNIB.

Further research has established that the house was built in the 1850s and in the late 19th century was owned by architect Robert C. Baxter until he died in



1894. Then it became the property of the Auerbach family with Julius living there with his wife Helena from 1894 until 1956. The home was subsequently left to a secretary and then the RNIB in 1952.

Unfortunately to date we have not been able to find out just how Hethersett got its name. Any information would be gratefully received.

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In the June edition we take a trip further afield to the Hethersett tea plantation in Sri Lanka with original photographs.

Is Edward Scissorhands Coming Our Way?

STORIES have been circulating in certain areas of the Media that legendary American actor Johnny Depp will soon be living close to Norwich. But it appears that it is all a hoax perpetrated by the mock website Daily News 11. The story on that web site was as follows.

NORWICH, England – In a huge surprise to everyone in Los Angeles, Hollywood actor Johnny Depp reveals in a new interview that he is moving to the Norwich, England area. He tells the magazine that he is “tired of the L.A. lifestyle” and is looking for a big change in life.

“I’m just tired of the L.A. lifestyle and I feel like, at this point in my life, I’d rather just live in a place full of real, genuine people. I’ve been to Norwich a couple of times over the years and the people there are real... they’re genuine, and yeah every community has its problems but the people there are good, decent people and they care about their community. Those are the things I find most important in deciding where to live,” Depp told the magazine.

“I’m not retiring, I’m just looking for a change in life and I think I’ve found that in Norwich,” Depp reassured fans. Let us know what you think in the comments section below especially if you’re a resident of the Norwich, England area.

So sadly it looks as if Depp won’t be coming to Hethersett!

Listening to the News

NEWS from Hethersett is often included in the weekly output from the Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper, which is one of 12 independently-run Talking Newspaper (TN) groups in Norfolk and one of more



than 500 across the United Kingdom. A group of 50 volunteers produce a weekly local news and information service in audio format for blind and partially sighted people in and around Wymondham and Attleborough. The service is free and is also available to those for whom reading a newspaper is difficult because of a disability or health condition. The group concentrates on local news for the area including Hethersett, Mulbarton, Bunwell, Hingham, New Buckenham, Old Buckenham, Attleborough and Wymondham and the surrounding villages.

The Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper has recorded well over 900 editions and is available via post or the group's web site at www.watn.org.uk

The Talking Newspaper marked its 18th anniversary by hosting a regional conference of Talking Newspaper (TN) producers. Delegates from TN groups across the Eastern Counties gathered at the Town Green Centre in Wymondham on Saturday April 9th for a selection of presentations, workshops and information sharing.

The recently appointed CEO of the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind, Mike Talbot and Regional Manager for the Macular Society, Colin Daniels, were speakers.

Peter Steward (Hethersett website and online village magazine) and Su Leavesley (Fornsett Flyer) contributed to the discussions on local news gathering and ex-BBC producer, Jessica Thurtell, offered guidance on reader presentation

techniques.

The Mayors of both towns, Joe Mooney (Wymondham) and Tony Perkins (Attleborough) were present, as were Town Criers Pete Green (Wymondham) and Mike Wabe (Thetford and Brandon), who are both TN volunteers.



A presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation was made to retiring Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper volunteer, Marie Stevenson, during the course of the opening address. Marie was a very active member of the Hethersett Community prior to moving with husband Paul to Castle Acre three years ago. She produced a video record of Hethersett at the millennium and was a leading light in Hethersett Pantomime Group.

Any reader wanting more information about the Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper should contact their secretary Georgette Vale or chairman Tony Vale on 01953 605434 or visit www.watn.org.uk. Georgette has also written a special feature on a Hethersett-Reigate connection and you can read this on page 22.

Our photograph on the this page shows (left to right) Pete Green, Carol Hoeusler and Cath Clarke (Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper listeners), Marie Stevenson, Joe Mooney, Tony Perkins and Mike Wabe. Photo courtesy of Anna Meek and reproduced with permission.

Road Closure in May

The C185 Hethersett Road from the junction of New Road towards Great Melton for a distance of 90 metres will be closed from May 10th to 12th to renew a damaged water frame and cover

Moon Over Hethersett



The photograph above was taken on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field on April 19th

Dementia Café Success

By David Bills

The latest monthly Dementia Hub Café at Hethersett Methodist Church was well attended with a number of new people attending.

Woodcote Sheltered Housing complex loaned a shuffleboard game which proved to be a resounding success and it is hoped to repeat this at a later date. Dementia Group secretary Steven Baxter read an extract from a book about Hethersett in the 1930s. It is likely that the theme for the next café will be Her Majesty The Queen. I would like to thank all volunteers. We are always looking for more. If you can give a couple of hours a month please give me a call on 01603 813041

The Determination of Paul

HETHERSETT man Paul Draper was just 37 when he suffered a massive stroke, the month after he had proposed to his girlfriend Emily. The forklift truck driver was put in an induced coma and spent two months in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, following a bleed on the brain. His surgeon feared he would be bed-bound for the rest of his life in a vegetative state. But when Paul regained consciousness, his girlfriend was there by his side. "She said she still wanted to get married, so that gave me the incentive," he said. "If it wasn't for Emily, the motivation wouldn't be there," he told the local Media.

Spurred on by a desire to walk Emily down the aisle, Paul made incredible progress and the pair tied the knot in 2014 – less than a year after his stroke. The couple are now raising funds for a £3,000 synthetic turf garden so Mr Draper can enjoy the space independently with his family, including his wife's son Dylan, six, and his two children, Jessica, nine, and Niamh, seven, when they visit.

He currently has a ramp to his lawn, but cannot move round in his wheelchair. "It would give me so much freedom," he said. "It feels like for two years I've been trapped indoors. It will help improve my fitness." He can now walk short distances and communicate freely, but has no function in his left arm and hand and is a wheelchair user. "People think you get discharged and you're better, but it's ongoing," he said. "I would love to get back to work.

"I've had a very good support network. My wife and our friends and family have been fantastic. If I don't try my best to get better, I'm failing them. I can't just sit here and give up." Mrs Draper was with Mr Draper when he suffered the stroke. "He said he wasn't feeling very well and asked me to get him some painkillers," she said. "He slurred his words a bit and when he took a sip of water and it poured out of the side of his mouth.

"I instantly knew something was wrong and called an ambulance."

The couple moved into a bungalow in Hethersett together, fitted with ramps for Mr Draper's wheelchair, and he underwent rehabilitation at the Colman Hospital in Norwich.

From the Archives - May 2010

Village Forum- A Village Forum to view plans for proposed new development in the village was held on May 13th. Doubts now exist, however, over the legitimacy of the Greater Norwich Development plan. One of Hethersett's representatives on South Norfolk District Council, David Bills, has also hit out in the Media about the development. .

Bells Dedication -The weekend of May 22nd/23rd will be a very important one for St Remigius Parish Church. The church will be holding its annual gift weekend and on Saturday at 3.30 p.m the Bishop of Thetford, the Rt Rev Dr Alan Winton, will dedicate the refurbished church bells and clock in a special service. After the service the church tower (excluding the roof) will be open to visitors.

Overhanging Trees Warning -Hethersett Parish Council is asking residents to trim back overhanging trees. "The growing season is upon us and the parish council is asking residents to cut back trees and shrubs that are overhanging footways and street lights. This can cause difficulties for pedestrians and affects the quality and impact of street lighting," said parish clerk Ian Weetman. The council will be writing to those who do not comply with the request and may also enlist the help of Norfolk County Council in taking enforcement action. The council is also concerned at "inconsiderate parking" in the village: "Parking on verges, apart from the mess it causes, and on footways can be obstructive to footpath users with impaired abilities and dropped curbs are essential for users of mobility scooters," Mr Weetman added.

Views Needed - Hethersett Parish Council is asking residents for their views on the sports and recreation area around the Village Hall. The council is considering carrying out a refurbishment programme and is asking the public whether it wishes to continue with the existing set-up of sports and tennis court area or whether they would prefer something completely different.

Cricketers Close to a Giantkilling - Hethersett and Tas Valley cricket club went very close to a giantkilling when they lost to Norfolk Alliance Premier Division club North Runcton by one wicket in the prestigious Carter Cup competition.

Prepare for ipatter - ipatter is a new electronic business network with its headquarters in Little Melton.

Promotion for Hethersett Athletic - Hethersett Athletic Men's Saturday team made it two promotions in a row as they beat Northwold 2-1 on the Memorial Field to clinch runners-up slot in Division Three of the Crown Fire South and Central Norfolk League.

The Green Green Grass of Home - Hethersett Playing Field Bowls Club has installed a new sprinkler system thanks to a grant from the parish council.

Badminton Players Needed - A regular Thursday evening badminton group which plays at Hethersett Old Hall School is looking for new players. The group, which ranges from teenagers to pensioners, is informal and friendly, and there are no joining or membership fees with those taking part paying on the nights they attend

School Spring Fete - Hethersett Junior School is holding its annual Spring Fair on Saturday from 10 a.m until 1 p.m. Once again it will be a family affair with attractions including a mega slide, barbecue, circus skills arena, dance competition, an inflatable Subbuteo pitch, an auction of promises, raffle, tombola and numerous side shows and stalls. Refreshments will also be on sale and admission is 50p with accompanied children free.

Hethersett Revealed

A series looking back at events of the past - Number One

A special weekend event - Hethersett Revealed - was held on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June, 2005.

The event was designed to give the public a chance to "Discover the past, Enjoy the present and Welcome the future."

Numerous special events were lined-up with displays by local groups, a fete in the grounds of Hethersett Hall and much much more.

The community event was part of the St Remigius Church Development and Repair Appeal (CHUDARA). Throughout the weekend plans for the develop-

ment were on display in the church and a model was on display in the village hall on the Sunday.

The sun shone throughout the two days with temperatures approaching and even getting into the 90s.

A grand opening ceremony took place in Oak Square at 10 a.m on the Saturday when the village crier and the Rector of Hethersett combined to kick the weekend off with the help of a vintage fire engine.

St Remigius Church

Throughout the day there was an exhibition of Hethersett Life Past, Present and Future. This included baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, archive material, a domestic history of Hethersett and displays by the cricket team and Hethersett Hawks Cycle Speedway Club.

There were also tours of the church, music, singing, handbells and visits to the ringing chamber. Teas, coffee and soft drinks were also served.

The church also featured a competition for children to find 10 ducks hidden in the church.

Hethersett Village Hall

An arts and craft fair took place in the village hall. Exhibitors included S. Collett, I. Dack, B. Ewart, T. Greenhalgh, J and E Jenworthy, J. Larner, C. Murfin, C. Towells, S. Richardson and residents of Hethersett Hall. Refreshments were available and there were arts and craft activities for young people.

Hethersett Village Hall

Easy listening music from Glenn Miller to the Beatles and beyond was performed by the David Holgate Trio at Hethersett Village Hall during the evening with a ploughman's meal, a quiz and grand raffle.

Hethersett Church Hall

A table top sale was held at the church hall during the morning and there was also an Antiques Road Show which gave villagers the opportunity to find out more about their family heirlooms.

Hethersett Church Hall

Special teas were served during the afternoon featuring sandwiches, home made cakes and beverages provided and served by Hethersett Mothers' Un-

ion.

Hethersett Methodist Church

A special Shoppers' Coffee event was held during the morning with light lunches served. There was also a colourful exhibition depicting the life of the Methodist Church in Hethersett, past and present.

Cool Corner - Henstead Road

Villagers were able to get away from the heat and relax in a garden with a soft drink or ice cream.

Hethersett Library and Hethersett Social Club

Literary events were held at the library and social club featuring local authors Simon Scarrow and Neil Haverson.

This event was launched at the social club in the morning with book signings by Neil and Simon and the launch of Hethersett Recipes Revealed. There was also a book sale.

Simon acted as narrator as Hethersett Players/Panto Group performed an adaptation from "When the Eagle Hunts."

At noon there were presentations by pupils from Woodside First School, Hethersett Middle School and Hethersett Old Hall School.. There was also a children's story and activity time in the library.

Hethersett Middle School

A football training session took place during the afternoon led by the Norwich City Football Club Academy.

Fire Service Headquarters

The fire service held an open day at its headquarters from 11 a.m until 5 p.m.

Hethersett Old Hall School

There was a classic old car rally with competitions, ice creams and soft drinks between midday and 5p.m at Hethersett Old Hall School and the Hethersett Antiques Road Show was present between 2 and 5 p.m.

The day also featured a guided stroll back into history to see where early farmers settled and find evidence of the medieval green and the dwellings which once surrounded it.

SUNDAY

Village Fete

A special village fete was held at Hethersett Hall from 11.30 a.m until 5 p.m with the opening ceremony being performed by BBC Look East's Stewart White at 11.30 a.m. The event included a barbecue, Hethersett Middle School's steel band, stalls, side shows, entertainment and refreshments.

The fete was preceded at Hethersett Hall by a celebration praise event for all ages and once again the antiques road show was on hand during the afternoon.

St Remigius Church

Bosses made by children from Hethersett Middle School. The exhibition of Hethersett Village Life continued in the parish church and there were tours round the building and visits up the tower.

Hethersett Methodist Church

Morning Worship at 10.30 a.m and Songs of Praise at 6.30 p.m were both part of the Hethersett Revealed weekend.

Hethersett Village Hall

There was an exhibition of model boats, trains and planes from noon until 5 p.m. and a special children's exhibition of Camberwick Green models and videos of Camberwick Green, Trumpton and Chigley.

Hethersett Church Hall

The main feature of the day was a plant sale, flower arranging demonstration and display of locally made wrought iron work between 2.30 p.m and 5 p.m.

Hethersett Baptist Church

Sunday worship took place at 10.45 a.m and 6.30 p.m

There were also more guided strolls back into the history of the village.

What's On in May

BELOW are just some of the many events taking place in Hethersett in May. For regular updates and more information go to www.hethersett.org.uk/what.htm

To have events included e-mail petersteward@lineone.net

May 1st - Yvonne School of Dance show at Norwich Theatre Royal - two performances - 2.30 and 7 p.m. Tickets available from theatre box office on 01603 630000 or online by clicking here.

May 1st - Norfolk Plant Heritage Plant Sale - Hethersett Village Hall 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 4th - Hethersett Annual Parish Meeting, Hethersett Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

May 4th - Rheumatoid in Norfolk Group (The RiNG) - Eamon McGrath, community development manager on Age UK Supporting people in later life, Hethersett Village Hall 2-4 pm

May 9th - Hethersett Society meeting - "AGM and the Hethersett Archive" with Gary Wyatt. Hethersett Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.

May 9th - Parish Pop In, Hethersett Library, 2-4 p.m. Members of Hethersett Parish Council will be present to discuss village matters with residents.

May 14th - Hethersett Singers' Concert - Music from the Movies.

May 16th - Hethersett Parish Council Planning Committee in Hethersett Village Hall at 7 p.m, followed by full council meeting at 7.30 p.m.

May 21st - Hethersett Hawks Cycle Speedway Golden Jubilee Celebration - A day of events.

May 23rd - Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club Members' Evening - Cakes and Ale

Media Watch

Over the next two pages we feature some of the stories covered over the past few weeks in the pages of the Wymondham Mercury and EDP newspapers.

March 31, 2016

BADMINTON

Status boost for thriving village club

Many members of local club for Hethersett Badminton Club has paid off with the provision of a national award.

The club for the first time with a 50-year history of 70 members in the weekend fixtures in the English Premier Club Championship.

The club opens its Thursday evening at Hethersett Badminton Club at 7.30pm for beginners and intermediate players and 8.00pm for advanced players.

The award is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the coaches and volunteers. It is recognized that they are a major contributing factor to the sport, said the main Prize for B. "We recently have shared 10 prizes between the ages of seven and 12 to recognize their efforts. The award shows that we are growing in a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the sport. It helps to ensure that we have a good standard of coaches to look after the young people."

Hethersett Badminton Club now stands as the 10th best club in the country. The club has a long history of success in the sport.

The club recently has a long history of success in the sport. The club has a long history of success in the sport.

A prize winning to take advantage of the fact that the club has a long history of success in the sport.



Bench marks First World War

A south Norfolk village is celebrating the centenary of the First World War. Money for the new bench, which is in the centre of the village, was raised by the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) at the village open gardens event last year.

HEAT members celebrated the bench's arrival at the village with a Clean for the Queen litter pick, which helped clean up the village in time for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in June. Lightbulb Hethersett men lost their lives in the war and are commemorated on the village war memorial in the grounds of the parish church.

To find out more about these men, visit www.hethersett.van.norfolk.gov.uk/1649-1616.htm.

HEAT is a group of volunteers who get together to help the village along the main road through the village.



REMEMBER: The bench is Hethersett and HEAT members.

Village crime report is presented

Hethersett remains a very safe place to live with just seven crimes reported in the period from February 15 to March 20, the parish council heard.

PCSO Darren Sore reported on a smashed car window in St David's Road.

Cannabis had been found on drivers stopped at

Thickthorn Services and Little Melton Road, a gate was damaged in Muriel Kenny Court and a number of vehicles had sustained damage in Southcroft after being driven into.

The ninth crime revolved around an argument between two parents at a Hethersett school.

Hethersett Parish Council chairman Jackie Sutton said: "Hethersett continues to be a low crime area."

The parish council is making an audit of how many trees in the village have tree protection orders. People can apply to the district council to have protection orders placed on trees to safeguard them.



DIG IN: Volunteers at the plants



April 14, 2016

NOTE: The land that is prepared for a new hedge.

Volunteers plant hedge after grant is to be voted on

A new hedge has been planted on Halkett's Memorial Playing Field using natural British hedgerow plants.

A working party of members put the area

ready in place on April 1 thanks to a grant from Bowers Motor Dealers who grant a tree for every one they sell.

The hedge planting took place under the auspices of the South Norfolk conservation scheme at the playing field and represents the area from nearby football

pitch.

Members of Hethersett's hedgerow group are planting the hedge. The first hedge was planted in 1990 and the second in 2000. The third hedge was planted in 2010. The fourth hedge was planted in 2015. The fifth hedge was planted in 2016.

The hedge is to be planted in the area between the football pitch and the road. The hedge is to be planted in the area between the football pitch and the road.

The development will include a new road, the new road will be built in the area between the football pitch and the road. The new road will be built in the area between the football pitch and the road.

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Swimming Funding for Brothers

Two brothers who dream of swimming for England have received a cash boost to help them excel in their sport.

The Wymondham Mercury newspaper has reported on an award from South Norfolk Council's community sport achiever awards to Nathan Woodrow, 13, and Owen Woodrow, 14. They have been given £175 which will pay for some of the costs of taking part in swimming contests.

Mum Helen Woodrow, said "Nathan already competes in swimming competitions and Owen, who has cerebral palsy, competes in regional disability events but is hoping to make the British Para-Swimming International Meet in Glasgow next month.

"Obviously as a family we want to support the boys but the costs involved are huge, such as travel, competition entry, club subscription fees and accommodation."

Nathan, who is aiming to qualify for the Amateur Swimming Association's national summer championships in Sheffield this year, said: "It's great that we are being helped in this way.

"The brothers are among 30 young people across the district who have received the grants, which can be valued up to £200.

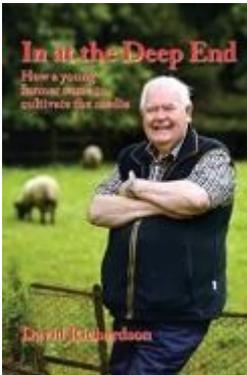
The council's deputy leader councillor Martin Wilby said he was delighted the scheme was helping the brothers as well as dozens of other keen young athletes.

Mr Wilby said: "Our sports achiever awards help young athletes and provide grassroots support to the voluntary sports sector in South Norfolk.

"We've invested thousands of pounds in supporting the district's young sports stars of the future. I'm pleased that these young swimmers from Hethersett, and the other 28 young people who received similar grants, will benefit from the scheme – they are certainly names to watch for the future."

The Community Sport Achiever Grants are open to young people who live in South Norfolk and are aged 18 and under, or 25 and under for disabled athletes. Applicants must be in full-time education be able to show that they excel in their sport.

David's In at The Deep End



WELL known local farmer and journalist David Richardson, who has close connections with Hethersett, has written his life story in a book published by Poppyland Publishing.

David has been involved with Hethersett Methodist Church for many years and played a major part in Operation New Look which re-built and modernised the church. His father Robert was also a leading Hethersett Methodist and produced his own autobiography many years ago entitled "Some Fell on Stony Ground."

David's book charts almost 80 years of agricultural changes from food rationing to grain mountains, and the career of a man who became a driving force in countless industry initiatives.

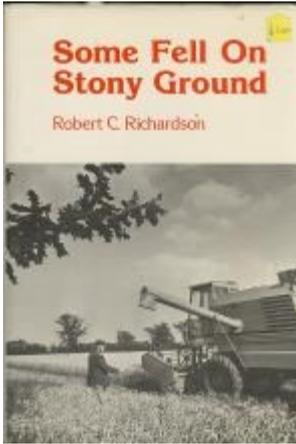
David used a fastidiously-filed collection of diaries in his loft to write the book. He says he felt a duty to record his life story for the benefit of his children and grandchildren. The book also contains a message for the industry on how it should face its future challenges.

"In some ways, it feels rather arrogant and presumptuous to think that someone wants to read about my life," David told the Media. "I'm just an ordinary old farm boy from Norfolk, but I have travelled around a lot and wherever I go, people always ask: 'How did you get into this job?'"

"The story of how I got into it was quite an interesting one. All the things I did subsequently were all done by diving in at the deep end – hence the title of the book. I just always happened to be in the right place at the right time. It was an inability to say no."

David's farming career began as an entrepreneurial 10-year-old, eager to make a few pounds from one of his father's pigs in 1947. He rented his first farm in 1958 at Whiterails in Great Melton.

After being recruited by Dick Joice to work on Anglia TV, he grasped every subsequent opportunity to develop his media career, working for BBC radio and writing columns for various publications. As his network of senior contacts developed, so did his influence in farming circles – with one of his proudest achievements being the formation of LEAF (Linking Environment and Food) in 1991, an organisation which he chaired for 10 years.



“Myself and two or three others realised we needed to do more than was being done on the public image of agriculture,” he said. “We were criticised severely by the green movement, sometimes justly, but sometimes unjustly. Look where that has gone now. It is in 37 countries and has a presence on 33pc of all the vegetables and fruit in this country which are LEAF-certificated.

“Because of Open Farm Sunday (organised by LEAF), a million and a half people have been on farms in the last 10 years. It has to be one of the most worthwhile things I have done for the industry and I have got a lot of pleasure out of it as well.

“Once you get out of the novelty of doing TV programmes, it can be a bore a lot of the time. It takes a lot of time and effort and you have to switch off being a farming personality and become a TV personality. But in doing that I have met some of the most fascinating people in our industry. That is a real privilege and it has led to a lot of other things.”

Mr Richardson was made an OBE for his work in 2000, and other accolades include becoming a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies (FRAGS) and the Sir Timothy Colman award for promoting a wider understanding of farming and the countryside – presented by the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, of which he was president in 2003. He was recognised last year with a Lifetime Achievement honour at the national Farmer’s Weekly Awards.

The book reproduces a discussion paper, written by David in 2007, which outlines the urgent global challenges of food production for a growing population in a changing climate, demanding the right balance between science, economic policy and environmental sustainability. He said those challenges still remain.

“I hope it (the book) is an enjoyable read. I hope that just like the programmes I have done and the articles I have written, it is not too heavy. But I also hope that it leaves people with a little bit of food for thought about how important agriculture is, and maybe to try and influence those who make decisions on our industry to treat it a little better than they have done on the past, or are doing at the moment.” David Richardson’s book “In at the Deep End: How a young farmer came to cultivate the media”, is published by Poppyland Publishing and will be available at bookshops throughout East Anglia.. It can also be ordered online at www.poppyland.co.uk.

A Remarkable War Story

A remarkable war story will be re-told in Hethersett Parish Church on Friday, 28th October at 7 pm.. The evening will feature the story of two soldiers from the Second Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment, one of whom came from Dereham, who survived the atrocity at Le Paradis. A powerpoint presentation will cover the events leading up to that fateful day, describing the events and how the perpetrators were tracked down.

The event is free with donations going to church funds. Light refreshments will be served. The presentation will be given by Dennis O'Callaghan (the son of one of the survivors), Nick Smith and John Head from the parish church. Every two years the trio go to Le Paradis to attend their Remembrance Day. The event attracts considerable Media interest on both sides of the Channel.

The Le Paradis massacre was a war crime committed by members of the 14th Company, SS Division Totenkopf, under the command of Fritz Knöchlein. It took place on 27th May, 1940, during the Battle of France, at a time when the British Expeditionary Force was attempting to retreat through the Pas-de-Calais region during the Battle of Dunkirk.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, had become isolated from their regiment. They occupied and defended a farmhouse against an attack by Waffen-SS forces in the village of Le Paradis. After running out of ammunition, the defenders surrendered to the German troops.

The Germans led them across the road to a wall, and machine-gunned them. Ninety-seven British troops died. Two survived, with injuries, and hid until they were captured by German forces several days later. After the war, Fritz Knöchlein was located, tried and convicted by a war crimes' court, with the two survivors acting as witnesses against him. For his part in the massacre, Knöchlein was executed in 1949.

Source - Wikipedia

Tired of Intrusion?

A report in the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper suggests that communities fed up with the sight of diggers and construction sites are likely to be in for years of more work.

Statistics reveal that, as of last March, planning permission had been granted for 20,014 homes in Norfolk which are as yet unbuilt.

While work has since started on some, the worst-affected areas include our village, which had 60 homes built and 1,366 more approved.

Hethersett resident James Utting, who has campaigned against development in the past, put the village's high figure down to a lack of a five-year land supply at South Norfolk Council.

"These applications have been rushed through as they did not have a supply and then the work can't start," he said. "For the people in Hethersett who are near the developments that have already been built, I think they are fed up. They are tired of access routes being closed and mud on the roads. The development is likely to go on for 10, 15 years, and people aren't happy."

Changes to Bin Collections

POSSIBLE changes to refuse collection days in Hethersett could be on the cards.

South Norfolk Council will be changing its waste and recycling routes from June 6th and this could lead to a change of day for collections.

"We already knew that we were going to have to make changes to the rounds as the amount of planned housing growth in the district will soon be adding pressures to our waste and recycling routes, so it made sense for us to make the required changes now," said a South Norfolk spokesman.

Further details of an changes will be available on www.hethersett.org.uk as soon as they are made public.

Date Set for Run The Square

This year's annual Hethersett two mile Run the Square funrun will take place on June 26th, members of Hethersett and the Meltons' Sports Association heard at its latest meeting. The funrun, which follows a square of the original village, is in its seventh year after being launched as part of an Open Weekend of events in support of the London 2012 Olympic Games. It regularly attracts over 200 runners of all ages and abilities.

Since 2010, Hethersett has continued to support sport, fitness, health and well being as part of the village's Olympic legacy. Entry to the run will be £3 for adults and £1.50 for Under-16s. Queen's Road, part of Great Melton Road, Mill Road, part of New Road and the Old Norwich Road will be shut for the duration of the run which will start and finish outside Hethersett Junior School. It will be led off by riders from Hethersett Hawks Cycle Speedway Club which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year.

Hethersett and the Meltons' Sports Association continues to support groups and individuals through grants and is hoping to set-up a new tennis club in the near future. Money from the association has seen clubs established in croquet, yoga, junior netball, table tennis and running and has also funded a petanque piste on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field. In addition the sports association has made grants to existing clubs. The association also takes a keen interest in local environmental issues.

"We started the association in response to the rallying cry in the build-up to the London Olympic Games. After the Games we were determined not to allow the ideas we had to die and now four years on we are continuing to help and support sports clubs, groups and individuals working together to improve the health and fitness levels of local people.

"We are delighted that, through the work of the association, hundreds of people have taken up regular exercise by joining new or existing clubs and groups. There is no doubt in our minds that this has helped to improve their general health," said association chairman Peter Steward.

Membership of Hethersett and the Meltons' Sports Association is open to clubs for a £5 annual membership and is free to individuals. The next meeting will be at Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett on July 11th when all are welcome.

All Welcome at New Running Course

A NEW six week running course will take place on consecutive Thursday evenings from May 19th.

The course, which is suitable for all abilities from beginners to advanced, will be led by former Olympic runner Paul Evans and will take place from 7 to 8 pm on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field and is free to take part.

The course is being organised and sponsored jointly by Active Norfolk and Hethersett and the Meltons' Sports Association. There is no need to book, just turn up on the first night.

In Memory of Lee

A NUMBER of former Hethersett Athletic footballers will be returning to Norfolk in May for a match in memory of Lee Thompson.

The match between Mulbarton and Old Hethersett will take place at Mulbarton on May 28th with a 10:30 am kick off.

Lee Thompson played for a number of Hethersett youth teams and made 49 appearances for Hethersett Athletic before he was tragically killed in a road accident. Every year the football club awards the Lee Thompson Memorial Trophy for an outstanding contribution to the club.

Pantomime Group Donations Reach £100,000

EVERY year since it started in 1970, the annual Hethersett pantomime has donated money to charity. This year's production saw £3,500 distributed to 10 good causes, taking the total raised to £100,000.

The bucket collection, held at the end of each performance, raised £2,200 for the new lifeboat station at Wells on the North Norfolk coast. Other donations were £1,000 for the St Remigius Church roof appeal, £500 to the Norwich Hamlet Centre, £500 to the Respect Yourself charity, £500 to Hethersett First Steps Mother and Toddler Group and £200 each to Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper, Hethersett Methodist Church, Great Melton Parish Church, Little Melton Parish Church and Wymondham Catholic Church.

These Girls Can and Did



HETHERSETT Netball Club (pictured opposite) made it successive wins in the annual Active Norfolk tournament on April 24th at Norwich Sportspark. Teams from 14 Norfolk villages took part in a fun and friendly competition, run as part of the This Girl Can campaign to get more women and girls taking part in sport. The competition was incredibly close.

For the third year running, the final went to extra time as the teams could not be separated during the first 12 minutes.

Hethersett went on to beat Briston and Melton Constable in a very close match. Organiser Ellen Vanlint said, "Congratulations to all the teams who took part in this event. The teams enjoyed some really exciting matches and the atmosphere was really positive, proving that This Girl REALLY Can in Norfolk!"

Hethersett won through to the final by winning Pool Two where they came up against Long Stratton, Diss and Roydon, Old Catton, Rackheath, GLEAM (Gayton,Leziate,East Winch,Ashwicken and Middleton) and Downham Market

Big Night for Hawks



By Mel Perkins

On Tuesday, April 19th, 1966, Hethersett Hawks entertained Norwich Ice-nians in the first-ever competitive match at the new cycle speedway track on the Memorial Playing Field. On the same date 50 years later, 20 current members aged from six to 62 rolled up for their regular Tuesday Club Night in glorious but chilly sunshine to find the night going with a fizz.

In addition to the normal mix of graded races, time trials, a manic nine-a-side relay race, handicap races and the popular 30-lap eliminator race, they,

plus committee members and supporters, were treated to champagne, soft drinks and cakes to celebrate this very special anniversary for the village club started by a group of teenagers all those years ago.

This celebration was just the first of a series of events during the year to mark the anniversary. Five riders and two club officials are off to Poland to contest the European Club Championships, taking the Hawks team abroad for the first time. They are one of only four British Clubs making the trip.

The club will be having a day of special events on Saturday, May 21st, at the track and hope to welcome as many former riders as can make it to share their memories and maybe show their old skills on the track before a social evening at Hethersett Social Club.

On Sunday June 26th club members will parade through the village streets at the head of the annual Run-the-Square fun run which will be followed in the afternoon with the staging of the





Norfolk Championships at the track. Later this year a book will be published cataloguing the history of the club. The photographs printed in this article

were taken at the special 50th anniversary club night.

Cricket Gets Underway At Last

HETHERSETT and Tas Valley opened their season after a number of cancellations through bad weather.

On a cold day at Flordon they defeated Dorset touring team Verwood by 14 runs. Valley batted first and were reduced to 17-5 and 36-6 before new first team skipper Damian Fahy hammered 137 to take Hethersett to 178 all out. Verwood struggled to keep up with the required run rate and finished on 164-6. The following day Hethersett took on Great Melton in their first Mid Norfolk Sunday League match of the season.

Hethersett scored 149 with Ian Bryce top scoring with 68. They then bowled Great Melton out for 90 for a 59 run victory. Tom Thornhill and Sam Morton both took three wickets.

Hethersett's Norfolk Alliance and Norfolk League campaigns were due to get underway at the end of April and we will have the first results from both leagues in the June edition of Hethersett Herald.

Charity Game Off

THE charity cricket match between Hethersett and Tas Valley and a Norfolk Select XI in aid of the Wymondham based cancer charity Star Throwers for the Les King Memorial Trophy scheduled for April 17th was postponed following heavy rain and a waterlogged pitch. It is hoped to re-schedule the game later in the year



Congratulations to Chris and Son

CHRIS Doggett and son Dominic (pictured opposite) not only completed the London Marathon in a creditable 3 hours 42 minutes, they also raised a massive £7,000 for the RP Fighting Blindness charity.

Chris lives in Little Melton but has had a long association with Hethersett and is a former vice chair of Hethersett Middle School Governors. Dominic is a keen sportsman and has played for a number of Hethersett Ath-

letic Football teams.

Chris suffers from RP (Retinitis Pigmentosa) which is a disease that leads to loss of vision and blindness. Before the marathon Chris and son covered over 600 miles in training. They were aiming to raise £5,000 for the charity but exceeded their wildest expectations in reaching over £7,000.

“Despite a number of challenging obstacles along the course, I was delighted with my time of three hours 42 minutes and raised an incredible £7,000 for RP Fighting Blindness. I

“ am very grateful to everyone for their extremely generous support and good wishes. It was a memorable day for Dom and I and one I will never forget,” Chris said.

Chris was part of the ingeniously named “Blind as a Bat” team and money raised will go towards funding research overseen by RP Fighting Blindness Medical Advisory Board.

Simply Champion



HETHERSETT Athletic Old Boys have retained their Norwich and District League Division One title after beating Aslacton Reserves 2-0 on the Memorial Field. Goals from Mori Elliott and Kevin Thurston made sure of the title as Old Boys ended their league season in style against the only team that could displace them at the top.

It is the first season that Old Boys have been part of the Hethersetts set-up, previously playing their football as Marlborough Old Boys. A number of the players come from the village and they applied to join the Hethersetts club from the start of this season. The league title was the first leg of a possible league and cup treble for the side.

They were due to play One Love United in the final of the F.J. Potter Cup on April 30th and Aslacton Reserves again in the final of the Shoe Trades Cup on May 5th at the Football Development Centre (FDC) in Bowthorpe (kick off 7.30 p.m). We will have reports on those two cup finals in the June edition of the Hethersetts Herald.

Meanwhile Hethersetts Athletic Under-14s and Under-13s have both finished runners-up in their respective sections of the Norfolk Youth Combination.

Hethersett Triumphant



Hethersett Athletic 3

Rocklands Reserves 0

HETHERSETT Athletic Men's Saturday team produced a display of pace and power to take the Crown Fire Ambulance Cup.

Athletic were always in control of a cup final which they led from the sixth minute when leading scorer Danny Gray nipped in to open the scoring with a typical poacher's goal. Hethersett led 1-0 at the break but were soon on the offensive after the interval and midway through the half Rob Warminger scored the goal of the night to double their advantage. A surging run by full back Richard Manington ended with a pin point cross which saw Warminger stoop to head home.

Hethersett wrapped the game up five minutes from times as Mark Lance made it 3-0 with a fine finish. Rockland had their chances but Adam Sturman in the Hethersett goal was rock steady and Athletic had plenty of chances to make the scoreline even more emphatic. At the end of the game skipper James Rice was presented with the trophy by league officials. Our picture above shows Hethersett's three scorers who are (left to right) - Rob Warminger, Mark Lance and Danny Gray.

Ambulance Cup Final Action



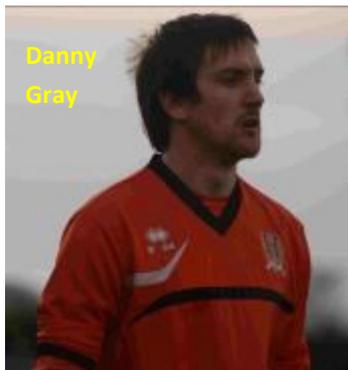
Action above from the Cup Final between Hethersett and Rocklands.

Hethersett Lift the Cup



IT'S shaping up for an exciting end to the football season for Hethersett Athletic teams with cup and league honours.

The club's long established men's Saturday team beat Rockland Reserves 3-0 at Dereham Town's ground on April 27th to take the Crown Fire South and Central Norfolk Dick Davey Memorial Ambulance Cup. At the time of writing the team had two league games remaining and still had an outside chance of finishing runners-up in the Crown Fire South and Central Norfolk League Division Two. Third place for the team could well be good enough for them to win promotion to Division One for the first time due to likely league re-organisation for next season.



The winning cup final team is pictured above and on the left is scorer of the first goal Danny Gray who is one of only two players at the club to score over 200 league and cup goals.

Athletic's other men's Saturday team - Hethersett Old Boys - are in the hunt for a league and cup treble. For more details of this and a match report of the Crown Fire final see pages 47 to 49.