

# The Tostock Chronicle

No. 172

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1989

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## 'DOMESDAY' UPDATE !

When William the Conqueror commissioned his 'Domesday Book' in 1086, Tostock it seems did not justify much of a write-up and, as you will see from the report on page 4 (of this 'Chronicle' - not the Domesday Book!) our enthusiastic Past and Present Society are embarking upon an exciting and ambitious project to produce a comprehensive present-day photographic survey of our little community.

An undertaking of this complexity relies upon, and deserves, the co-operation of each and every one of us and it would be a great help if the questionnaire enclosed with this issue could be completed before they have a chance to get themselves lost or mislaid, and returned as soon as reasonably possible to one of the organisers.

Hopefully one of the interesting results of this survey will be to identify the oldest ratified building in Tostock, a question on which most of us must have pondered at some time.

Tavern, Farmhouse, Cottage or Hall,  
Which is the oldest of them all ?

## PARISH COUNCIL

(Clerk : Miss Jean Wheeler, The Post Office. tel. 70278)

A short meeting was held recently to discuss the Budget for 1989/90 and it was agreed to precept for £700, being approximately a 2p rate.

The Council has also been notified by Anglian Water that an additional water main will be laid in New Road, to provide an alternative supply to the village and remove the risk of its being isolated should the existing main be disrupted for any reason.

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+ My grateful thanks to everyone for all the cards, letters and +  
+ other expressions of sympathy and support which I have received +  
+ following the death of my dear Edna. +

+ The attendance of so many at the church, some of whom had come +  
+ very considerable distances, was a wonderful tribute to the +  
+ affection in which she was obviously held by all who knew her. +

+ My special and sincere thanks to so many of you from the +  
+ village who went out of your way to make her last few months +  
+ bearable. Thank you, Tostock. +

Bill Parslow +

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ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

(Rev. Richard Addington, The Vicarage, Church Hill, Pakenham (tel. 30287))

Services :

FEBRUARY : 5th : 10.00 a.m. Joint Family Communion at Norton  
12th : 11.15 a.m. Family Service  
19th : 11.15 a.m. 1662 Communion  
26th : 11.15 a.m. Matins

MARCH : 5th : 10.00 a.m. Joint Family Communion at Tostock  
12th : 11.15 a.m. Family Service  
19th : 11.15 a.m. 1662 Communion  
24th : 9.30 a.m. (Good Friday) Matins  
26th : 11.15 a.m. Family Communion (Easter Day)

APRIL : 2nd : 10.00 a.m. Joint Family Communion at Pakenham

Ash Wednesday : (February 8th) Services at the Community Room in School Close, Norton, at 10.30 a.m. and in Pakenham Church at 2.15 p.m.

Lent Meetings : for Worship and Bible Study : 8 p.m. on Tuesdays from February 14th at Norton School.

Mothering Sunday : (March 5th) At the service at 10.00 a.m., we will have posies for the children to give to their mothers.

Women's World Day of Prayer : (March 3rd) : There will be services at Pakenham in the morning and in Norton in the afternoon. Watch out for details.

Easter Day : (March 26th) Rev. Ken Robinson from Bury St. Edmunds will be coming to take the Family Communion Service (Rite B - Series 2) at 11.15 a.m.

CHURCH SOCIAL COMMITTEE

(Mrs. Pat Reynolds, "Better View", The Green. tel. 70341)

'Afternoon Tea at the Croft' resumed on 31st January and will be held on Tuesdays 28th February and 28th March.

We are holding a Jumble and Bric-a-Brac Sale on Saturday 25th February at the Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Offers of help gladly received and items for the sale will be accepted up to the morning of the sale.

On Friday June 2nd, a Coffee Morning will be held at "Better View" from 10 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. with a Bring-and-Buy Stall. Both of these fund-raising events are to raise money for the Church Vestry Repairs.

Would anyone wishing to contribute money to help buy Easter Lillies for the Church please let me know.

We are very sorry to lose Austin and Isabel Higgins from the village ; they have been so willing to help in so many ways in the life of the Community. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

Edna Parslow : We will remember dear Edna with love and affection. As a loyal member of our committee nothing was too much trouble and her generosity and kindness were an example to us all. Edna will be so sadly missed.

Pat Reynolds

CAROL SINGING

Carol Singing around the village on Friday 23rd December raised £50 for the West Suffolk Scanner Appeal. Many thanks to all who contributed, especially the stalwart singers!

Julie Harrison

YOUTH CLUB

A Youth Group for teenagers of Upper School age, is meeting every other Sunday evening in the Village Hall, 7 - 9 p.m. Sponsored by St. Andrew's Church, it aims to provide a relaxed atmosphere with activities such as table tennis, snooker, etc., and occasional special events.

The February meetings are on the 12th and 26th, followed by 12th March, 9th April, 23rd April. Further details can be obtained from Barney Harrison, Beyton 70247.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(Secretary : Mrs. Heather Spencer, 'Bosmere', Perkins Way, tel. 70395)  
(Bookings : Mr. Peter Buckle, 'Crosswinds', Flatts Lane, tel. 70605)  
(Key Holder : Mr. Simon Reynolds, 'The Hawthorns', Perkins Way, tel. 70675)

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W A N T E D U R G E N T L Y

A CLEANER for the VILLAGE HALL to start immediately. Approx. 15/20 hours per month. £2.50 per hr. Please contact Heather Spencer, tel.70395 for details.

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We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Laverick for helping us out with the Village Hall cleaning for nearly a year but due to other commitments, they wish to give up the job at the end of January. It is difficult to give exact monthly hours as it depends so much on bookings and how the hall is left after hirings.

The Committee has bought a second-hand Gestetner duplicator for running off various letters, art exhibition catalogues and flower show schedules etc.

The next project - the infilling of the front porch - is in hand.

Please make a note of the forthcoming events :- Village Hall A.G.M. - 19th April : 10th Art Exhibition in St. Andrew's Church which will be on 17th-19th June.

BROWNIES

(Mrs. Doreen Buckle, "Crosswinds", Flatts Lane, tel. 70605)

Once again the annual Brownie Carol Concert was well attended by parents and friends ; our thanks to them for their support. Unfortunately due to illness some Brownies had to drop out at the last minute. Items by the girls included recorder, flute, trumpet and keyboard - solos and duets - three carols on the hand-bells and a play adapted by one of the Brownies. We were able to present a cheque for £40 to the Scanner Appeal Committee at the hospital, after which we were shown around the X-ray department. Refreshments were also laid on for us.

After Christmas, the pack went to the Theatre Royal to see the pantomime "Aladdin" which they thoroughly enjoyed.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mr. Bill Farslow at this time on the death of Edna who was a former Tawny Owl with the Pack.

TOSTOCK OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY (T.O.A.D.S.)

(Secretary : Mrs. Lynn Coward, 6 Fox Cottages, Stanningfield, Bury St. Edmunds,  
tel.9-828599)  
(Chairman : Mrs. Lorna Walker, "The Gables", New Road, tel. 70186)

Rehearsals are now well under way for our next production, which unfortunately is not yet named. The production consists of two one-act plays with musical interludes. One play is by the children and the other by the adults. The dates for the productions are FRIDAY 10th and SATURDAY 11th MARCH, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Please look out for notices/posters for more information and Box Office details.

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to support us, and we can assure you of an interesting and enjoyable evening.

PAST AND PRESENT SOCIETY

(Mrs. Heather Spencer, "Bosmere", Perkins Way, tel. 70395)

The Christmas meeting was a happy occasion held at the Old School with members dressed in Victorian costume providing their own entertainment and refreshments. We are grateful to Mrs. Ann Livett for her hospitality.

Mr. David Livingston was Master of Ceremonies and introduced the following :- Monologues by Mr. R. Sulman and Mrs. Mary Addington ; Solos by Mr. George Taylor and Miss Lucy Ann Pillars from Gilbert and Sullivan ; A talk and demonstration on Victorian Flower arrangements given by Mr. and Mrs. Barry Jagger ; a Dickens reading by Mr. Bill Hoadley ; Violin Solos by Raff and Elgar from Miss Jean Wheeler ; a short Piano recital of music by Schumann, Mendelsohn and Chopin from our hostess, Mrs. Ann Livett and finally Carols round the piano led by Mr. Don Delaney.

At the well attended A.G.M. on 9th January the Chairman gave a brief report on the Society's first year and the Treasurer presented a balance sheet showing a credit of £23. It was decided to keep subscriptions at the same reasonable rates of £8 per double and £5 single. These were now due. A programme of speakers and two visits had been arranged for the forthcoming year. Condolences were offered to Mr. Bill Parslow. Edna and Bill had been founder members and although Edna was unable to attend recent meetings, she always took a very keen interest.

The following Committee were elected :-

Mrs. Jeanne O'Reilly (chairman), Mr. David Livingston (Treasurer), Mr. R. Sulman, Mr. D. Rochford and Heather Spencer (Secretary).

Plans for the year also included Field Walking, particularly sparked off by the excellent talk given after the A.G.M. by Dr. S. West of the Archeological Unit of Suffolk County Council. It was hoped to arrange some field walking very soon, once permission had been granted by local land-owners.

Another project was to undertake a Photographic Survey of the village, to include every house and building. This would be split up road by road and several of our own members had kindly offered to act as photographers. We hope no-one will have any objections to this, but if so perhaps they could let one of the Committee know by 14th February please. In conjunction with the survey we hope to add a few details to each photograph and with this in mind we are enclosing a form with this issue of the 'Chronicle' which we would be most grateful if house-holders could complete and return to a Committee member or leave with Miss Wheeler/Miss Stevens at the Post Office. Incidentally this survey should help to identify the oldest building as requested in the 'Gardener's Corner' last time.

PAST and PRESENT SOCIETY (Cont'd)

If anyone has any old photographs of the village or residents we would be delighted to have them to add to the collection.

The next meeting of the Society will be at the Village Hall on Monday, 5th February at 8 p.m. when a talk will be given by Mrs. Jane Fiske on 'James Oakes' the Bury banker of the late 18th/early 19th century and father of the Tostock Rector.

The topic for the March meeting on Monday, 6th March at 8 p.m. will be tracing your family tree, the speaker being Dr. Joanna Martin. ALL ARE WELCOME TO THESE MEETINGS.

"TRICK OR TREAT"

(See page 5. Issue No.171)

We reproduce the following letter received in response to comments made in the last 'Chronicle' :-

Daltry House,  
The Green,  
Tostock

" Apologies are given to anyone that took offence to the 'Trick or Treat' visits that took place on Hallowe'en Night 1998. Had it been realised that there were so many "old" people in the village, the Trick or Treat visits would not have taken place. However it should be mentioned that the money raised on this night was given to the Scanner Appeal for the benefit of those people who suffer with Cancer.

It is quite obvious from the comments made in the news chronicle no.171 that the good intentions of the young were not appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

The Wicked Witch of the West  
(alias Rachele Ford) "

"LOOK. ISN'T THAT SUCH-AND-SUCH IN THE BACKGROUND?"

The season of four mystery novels by Margery Allingham under the series title of "Campion" has now 'hit' (if that's the word) our B.B.C.1 T.V. screens on Sunday evenings and in the first one Kersey has been well in evidence. Familiar locations, including interiors, much nearer home will be cropping up later in the series so keep - or start - watching, if you like playing "I've been there! "

ANYONE FOR SQUASH ?

For a village of its size Tostock is indeed fortunate to be able to enjoy the use of both a Tennis court and a Squash court and is in fact the only village in the whole of Suffolk that can make this enviable claim.

The departure of Mr. Austin Higgins to the West Country has left the Squash Club without a Secretary. It would be unfortunate indeed if the club should have to fold for lack of appreciation of what it has to offer and with the considerable recent influx of new residents there are possibly some who have not been aware of what is available to them right here in the village. The court is newly redecorated and the annual subscriptions extremely moderate £6 per Adult and £1 for Juniors. The Treasurer is Gareth Jagger of 'Greenlees', Flatts Lane (tel. 70613) and he will be only too happy to supply further information to any prospective users of the court.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

CARPET BOWLS : (Mrs. Doreen Buckle, "Crosswinds", Flatts Lane, tel. 70605)

It was with great sadness that members learnt of the death of Mrs. Edna Parslow. Edna was a keen bowler and was one of the founder members of the Club. Our sympathy to Bill at this time.

Over half of the League games have been played giving us a total of 29 points.

Remaining League Fixtures :

Wed. 8th February v. Fornham All Saints (A) : Tues. Feb. 21st v. Woolpit (A) :  
Mon. 27th " v. Bardwell (A) : Thurs. 16th March v. Fornham All Saints (H).

Sunday Meeting nights : 5th and 19th Feb. : 5th and 19th March.

Anyone wishing to try their hand at Carpet Bowling are welcome to come along on Thursdays between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m. (Senior Citizens) and between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. (All ages).

TENNIS : (Mrs. Carolyn Heywood, "King's Acre", Leys Road (tel. 70101)  
(Court Bookings & Membership : Mrs. H. Spencer, "Bosmere", Perkins Way,  
(tel. 70395)

What can we say about Tennis in mid-Winter except that we are looking forward to Spring!

Notice will be given before long of the Club's Annual General Meeting to be held sometime in March.

SQUASH : (Mr. Gareth Jagger, "Greenlees", Flatts Lane, tel. 70613)

No replacement has as yet been found for Mr. Austin Higgins who has left Tostock but the Treasurer (Mr. Jagger as above) is 'holding the fort' and will be pleased to give full information to anyone interested in joining or seeking a game.

FOOTBALL : (Mr. Martin Durrant, 4 Orchard Close, Rougham, tel. 70076)

Saturday Side : After a poor start to the season we have started to put a few results together, our League position has started to improve and we are still in two Cup Competitions, the Bill Utting Trophy and the League K.O. Cup. We will be playing in both competitions in the next few weeks.

On the last Saturday (Jan. 21st) we defeated fellow strugglers from Thetford, King's Head. Our first goal was scored in 23 seconds, certainly the fastest goal in Tostock's history, the scorer, for the record, being Paul Thurlow. Our second was scored by Mark Rainbird and then King's Head scored with the last kick of the match!

Sunday Side : We started the season very well, winning the first three matches but since then the club has suffered several injuries. Our Goalkeeper injured his shoulder and has not played since 31st October. Trevor Hughes broke his arm in a 'Friendly' against Felsham and Gedding and sadly has decided to end his football. Barry Scarfe, our Captain, broke his left leg in early October and has only just returned to work.

Sadly (but hardly surprisingly Ed.) we have been knocked out of the K.O. Cup and the Jubilee Cup, but our League position at the moment is fifth place and we must keep winning to improve on this position. Our league record to date :-

<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Points</u>
14	7	1	6	28	31	15

CRICKET CLUB : (Mr. Andrew Brown, 4 Church Road, tel. 70935)

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at the Village Hall (Committee Room) on Thursday, 16th February at 7.30 p.m. Anyone interested in playing this year is most welcome to come along.

"THE GARDENERS' CORNER"

(Minchost : Mr. Reg Ransome, "The Gardeners' Arms", tel. 70460)

Thurston Cribbage League has seen us slowly slipping down the table, but not into oblivion yet. Everybody is still very buoyant and a good run through to the end of the season could drag us up to one of the lesser positions although I think the title itself may be just beyond our grip.

St. Edmunds Village Pool League sees the team going under at a vast rate of knots with some bad defeats behind us ; reasons being a certain lack of experience in some quarters and a lack of subtlety in others.

Stowmarket Dart League, played on Wednesdays, found us top of the league just after the Christmas break, a little bit of a false position which has been compounded by a defeat this month which dropped us down to third place. Still a long way to go though and some large victories could put us in the running for honours.

Fridays darts in the Ingham and District League has carried on as described in the last 'Chronicle' with a half-way position in the league and form which is very much up and down.

Now to end up on a much more cheerful note, and let's hope I don't put the 'hex' on them, but the Quiz Team playing on Sunday nights are still going great guns and are undefeated so far this season and sit very proudly on top of the league. No room for complacency though the neck is still being breathed on fairly warmly.

THIS IS HOW YOUR 'CHRONICLE' REACHES YOU

The departure of Mr. Austin Higgins from Tostock and the sad loss of Mr. Len Moore left the 'Chronicle' distribution team very depleted but we are grateful for the offers of help in these areas from Mrs. Pamela Durrant (Church Road) and Mr. Reg Sullman (Leys Road). Incidentally the existing distributors who have been doing this cheerfully in all weathers for years are : Mr. Mick Spencer (Norton Road), Mr. Ray Rouse (The Green), and Mr. Graham Matthews (New Road), whilst the residents of Flatts Lane receive their copies directly from me. Others are distributed through the good offices of the Post Office Ladies. Altogether just over 200 copies are issued each time, including those to the Suffolk Records Office, the Police and our District and County Council representatives.

Letter to the Editor

" Sir,

It has been suggested that as I have now retired as Chairman and Producer after 25 years with the T.O.A.D.S., a potted history of the Society would be of interest to the many newcomers to our village. I am very happy to provide this as it also gives me the opportunity to express my gratitude to those many people who have helped me so much over the years - too numerous to mention by name, but I thank them all now most sincerely.

The Tostock Operatic and Dramatic Society was formed in 1963 as a Junior offshoot of the then Tostock Drama Club, whose members presented many plays, including 'The Happiest Days of Your Life', 'Running Riot', 'Arsenic and Old Lace' etc. in the Old Tostock Village Hall. Fred Armstrong was the excellent Stage Manager in those days, and he, Doris and Hillyud achieved wonders in very cramped conditions.

Continued overleaf..

Letter re. T.O.A.D.S. continued

My aim for the T.O.A.D.S. was, and always has been, to give the young people of the village (and there were a great many in those early days) a worthwhile recreational interest, the opportunity to build up self-confidence in their own abilities, and to share in the pleasure that comes from being a member of a 'happy band of players'. During the mid-sixties when the West Suffolk Youth Drama Festivals were being held at the Theatre Royal, the T.O.A.D.S. entered for three years running. Their first entry 'Pandora' was highly commended, and their second 'The Thrice-Promised Bride' and third 'The Man in the Moon' both succeeded in winning the Cup. Unfortunately, the Festivals were then discontinued, thus preventing the T.O.A.D.S. from completing a 'hat-trick'!

In the early seventies, we amalgamated with the Adult players and successfully presented many plays and musicals at Beyton School Hall and in the well equipped School Theatre at Thurston. However, we were delighted to be able to return to our homeground on the completion of the New Tostock Village Hall, and have gradually built up a good stock of Scenery, Costumes, Sound and Lighting equipment which has enabled us to maintain the high standard of production that audiences have come to expect from a T.O.A.D.S. Show.

During the 25 years, a total of 34 main productions has been presented, and well over 400 members of all ages have passed through the Society. Some of these children who grew up with us, returned later with their children to once again enjoy the happy family atmosphere which has always existed in T.O.A.D.S.

It was also our policy to try to give something back to the community that supported us so loyally, and we were able to donate the proceeds of our very first show to the Theatre Royal Restoration Fund. Since then donations have been made to many other causes including the R.N.I. Blind, R.N.I. Deaf, Beyton School Swimming Pool Fund, Tostock New Village Hall, the British Heart Foundation, and most recently the St. Osmond Street Hospital for Children Wishing Well Appeal.

Before I close, I would like to pay a special tribute to the 'Three Wise Men' who have also retired from active service with the T.O.A.D.S. I speak of course of Simon Reynolds, Derek Beales and my husband John, for whose dedication, unflinching support and determination to provide scenery, sound and lighting effects of the highest standard, I shall always be truly grateful, and I know all members will join me in thanking them and wishing them the best for the future.

We all wish the Society and their new committee every success with the forthcoming show. In circumstances like these, change is inevitable - there will be fresh ideas, a new format, a different style, and there are some who think that possibly a different name might be appropriate now that we have come to the end of an era. If this be the case, may I suggest - now that the 'oldstagers' have stepped into the wings, that the 'New Tostock Stagers' enter and take their bow as the 'NEWTs' instead of the 'TOADS'! In any case, whatever is decided, I am sure that the people of Tostock will continue as always to give them their loyal support.

Thank you.

Sheelagh Millman "

HOW TIME FLIES

It seems such a short while ago that we were putting our clocks back and bracing ourselves for a spell of Winter Time, yet it is already our pleasant duty to remind you that before the next 'Chronicle' is issued, we must put them all FORWARD again. Yes, British Summer Time Starts on Sunday 26th March, which by happy coincidence is also Easter Day so what a joyful weekend that will be - unless of course the Clerk of the Weather suddenly realises that we haven't had our quota of snow this year and we find our fully flowering daffodils flattened beneath it's blanket - it's happened before!

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All events in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated)

FEBRUARY :

Monday 6th : MOBILE LIBRARY  
" 6th : 8 p.m. Past & Present Society meeting : Subject - "James Oakes",  
18/19th C. Banker and father of Tostock Rector (page 5)  
Thursday 9th : MOBILE BARBER "Gardeners' Arms" 1.30 - 4 p.m.)  
Tuesday 14th : Latest date for registering objection to Past & Present Society's  
forthcoming photographic survey of Tostock community (page 4)  
Thursday 16th : 7.30 p.m. Cricket Club A.G.M. (page 7)  
Monday 20th : MOBILE LIBRARY  
Saturday 25th : 2.30 p.m. Jubilee Sale and 'Bric-a-Brac' (page 2)  
Tuesday 28th : 2.30 p.m. "Afternoon Tea at the Croft" (page 2)

MARCH :

Monday 6th : MOBILE LIBRARY  
" 6th : 8.00 p.m. Past & Present Society meeting : Subject -  
"Tracing Your Family Tree" (page 5)  
Friday 10th : ) 7.30 p.m. T.O.A.D.S. PRODUCTION (page 4)  
Saturday 11th : )  
Monday 20th : MOBILE LIBRARY  
Friday 24th : (Good Friday) LAST DAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT CHRONICLE  
Saturday 25th : CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR TONIGHT  
Sunday 26th : Easter Sunday. B.S.T. commences  
Tuesday 28th : 2.30 p.m. "Afternoon Tea at the Croft" (page 2)

AND SOME ADVANCED DATES

Wednesday 19th April - Village Hall Management A.G.M. (page 3)  
Friday 2nd June - Coffee Morning at "Better View" (page 2)  
Saturday - Monday, 17th - 19th June - Art Exhibition (page 3)

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Stencils and duplicating : Heather Spencer