PALGRAVE PAST

A HISTORY OF PALGRAVE BY THE VILLAGERS AND LOCAL HISTORIANS FOR ALL PALGRAVIANS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

FOREWORD

A history of Palgrave book was conceived by Ken Knockles in 2011. A number of interested villagers and local historians became involved and started researching and writing about their chosen topic. Sadly Ken passed away, a book of photographs and anecdotes was published, but there was so much excellent and interesting material produced and it would be shameful if it were lost. I am sure the main contributors must have put in hours and hours of work. Margaret Roberts, Alan Spoors, Tim Holt-Wilson and Rodney Howell plus others must have their efforts recognised and enjoyed.

Large parts of their writing was completed nearly ten years ago, while other sections have only recently been put together. There is room for other sections to be added. If there is anyone who would like to add to ***Palgrave Past*** please feel free to do so. I hope that a copy can be put on the village website for those interested and the intention is to have two loose leaf folders, one in the church and another in the community centre for those unable to access the internet. I accept that history is not everyone's cup of tea!

Peter Atkinson

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ORIGINS, ANCIENT HISTORY and ARCHAEOLOGY

It is almost certain that originally Palgrave was a pagan settlement, the existence of both documented and undocumented objects found within the village confirm that people have lived here since pre-history. The name Palgrave itself may be a reference to a grove (grava A.S.) which is traditionally the meeting place for pagan ceremony. The geographical location of the village, a hill overlooking a river valley is also significant as it is typical of many bronze and iron age settlements giving both good defence and communication. Roman artefacts such as pot shards have been found within the village so it is quite possible that some form of Romanisation took place within the village. The Suffolk County Sites and Monument Record lists over 20 sites of archaeological interest from all periods in the parish of Palgrave. These include some crop marks, ring ditches and a skull of unknown date. The earlier of the dated finds include three Neolithic flint axes. The Iron Age has left us some scatter finds of pottery. Roman remains include potsherds, bone and some coins, one of them from the reign of Claudius, relatively early in the Roman occupation. Medieval sites listed include the parish churchyard and the site of the former St. John's Chapel, south-west of the main village towards Wortham. There is also some Post Medieval interest, represented by the sites of a windmill and two bridges over the Waveney. Overall we see a rich tapestry of remains, indicating that Palgrave has long been a centre of human activity. Palgrave has only one mention in the Domesday survey of 1086. It was held by St. Edmund's with two churches and 30 acres of land.

Life in Palgrave is lived out against a background of the physical landscape, the terrain, the land – call it what you will. The underlying sands, gravels and clays are expressed in the lie of the land and the soils of the parish. While farmers, builders and gardeners wrestle on a daily basis with it, most people are only reminded of it, perhaps, as they strain up Denmark Hill on a bicycle, or wipe the sticky clay off their boots after a Sunday ramble.

Palgrave is part of the landscape of the East Anglian Plain, an undulating plateau area spanning much of Suffolk and Norfolk, developed on a thick sequence of glacial deposits. This plateau is dissected by river valleys, and from a landform point of view, Palgrave is part of the Waveney river system: surface water in the parish either drains northwards directly into the Waveney or south-westwards into the tributary valley of the Thrandeston Brook.

The bedrock of Palgrave is Cretaceous Chalk. It is the northernmost tip of a buried whaleback ridge of Chalk which runs north-eastwards from the Stanton area. The alignment of this buried landform is echoed by the valley of the Thrandeston Brook. Interestingly, the north-eastward drainage of the Brook may reflect elements of a pattern which was laid down before the Ice Age (something which it shares with several other streams in the area, as can readily be seen from a map). The Chalk is the aquifer in this part of Suffolk, supplying "hard", lime-rich water. Palgrave once had its own local supply. Hartismere Rural District Council built a pumping station at Millway Lane in 1938, and the borehole reached Chalk at 25 metres (81 feet), and on testing yielded 6132 litres (1620 gallons) per hour. There are plenty of old wells dotted around the parish; the deepest draw water directly from the Chalk, as at Goodrich Park and Oak Farm, otherwise they draw it from overlying glacial deposits, which tend to yield softer water due to the influence of the sands they contain. There is a notable natural spring at Spring Farm, where lime-rich water wells up through glacial deposits where the Chalk is close to the surface.

Anyone who digs a few feet down in Palgrave will discover a profuse variety of sands, gravels, silts and clays. This is a legacy of the Ice Age. Colours range through orange, yellow, grey and brown with

hints of blue in the clays. Flints are as common in the parish as flies are in summer; they come in a fascinating range of shapes and colours, and some are big enough to be suitable for a garden rockery. Other rock-types found in the top-soil include tough, liver-coloured quartzite from the Midlands, Jurassic rocks from the Fenland basin and greenish volcanic rocks from northern Britain. All types were collected in the past by stone-pickers to make up the roads and lanes of the parish; they were also used to build St. Peter's church: see the yellow sandstones in the side walls of the porch, for example, or the glowing, blood-red quartzite in the south-west corner of the tower. This diverse wealth of stony material was laid down during the Anglian glaciation, an intensely cold climatic phase about 450.000 years ago. Ice sheets perhaps a half a mile thick covered Palgrave, slowly grinding their way south-eastwards. They deposited sheets of sand and gravels flushed out of the advancing ice-front by meltwater, and masses of unsorted clay known as till ("boulder clay"), made of ground up rocky debris deposited directly beneath the ice, plastered onto the frozen land surface. Palgrave is thus founded on a thick sequence of sands, gravels and till; these tend to have a high chalk content due to the presence of local Chalk bedrock in the ice sheet's bedload. The Millway Lane borehole penetrated 15 metres (51 feet) of sands and gravels overlain by 9 metres (30 feet) of chalky till; it records a transition from water-lain to ice-deposited sediments, thereby recording the approach of the Anglian ice sheet. A borehole at Oak Farm penetrated no less than 30 metres (98 feet) of till. As the ice sheet retreated, perhaps 430,000 years ago, the Waveney valley became a major escape route for meltwaters.

The landscape we know today has evolved through several climatic cycles of warm and cold periods since the Anglian. The shape of the land has been modified through the action of ground water, surface water, freeze-thaw processes and soil creep. As a result the valleys of the Waveney and Thrandeston Brook have developed, and the area of Palgrave village has become an upland.

There are tracts of flat, sandy land along the sides of the Waveney valley between Oak Farm and Lower Rose Lane. These are a river terrace land form, the remains of an earlier floodplain of the Waveney, formed during one of the cold periods between 375,000 and 130,000 years ago. Prof Richard West of Cambridge has proposed another theory, that they represent the bed of a glacial meltwater lake which filled the Fenland Basin, with an arm stretching eastwards up the Little Ouse and Waveney valley corridor.

We currently live in a warm period which began 10,000 years ago, and which has seen the creation of two significant features of Palgrave's Earth heritage. Firstly, soil development: alluvial and peaty soils have developed in valley bottoms, while a variety of sandy or clayey loam soils have developed on valley slopes and plateau areas. Secondly, the impact of human activity: spades and mechanical diggers have altered the shape of the land in several places, excavating cuttings and making embankments, notably along the course of the railway and as part of housing development.
The land of Palgrave will continue to evolve as long as the Earth exists, though for how long the human species will be part of the picture is an interesting point for discussion. Geology invites us to consider the story of Palgrave against a timescale of thousands and millions of years.

Tim Holt-Wilson

LISTED BUILDINGS

A number of dwellings in the village have been listed Grade II as being of special architectural or historic interest. The owners of such buildings have a legal obligation, broadly, to retain their character. The buildings tend to be graded according to the manner of their construction and most have a timber frame. Many have been altered or extended over the years.
The only grade I listed building in the village St. Peter's Church and is probably the oldest surviving building in Palgrave. Its tower and chancel arch date from the early 14th century and the original church is probably beneath the existing building. This is suggested by remains examined below the chancel. Here is a list of the Grade II buildings:

Central Palgrave, Lion Road and The Green

Priory Farm Cottages ------17th century
Fairways or Pell Howell-------early 16th century
The Priory-------16th century
Brackendale-------circa 1510
The Swan (public house closed 1973)-------late 16th century
North View----------late 16th or early 17th century
Lime Tree Farm House------mid 16th century
Orme House------ 1830's
Weavers Mark or Holly house------mid 16th century
Tudor House or Clarke's Yard------ late 16th or early 17th century
Hemplands------- early 19th century
The Hollies---------circa 1730
The Cottage or Corner Cottage-------early 19th century
Church Farm House-------mid to late 16th century
Garnet House-------mid to late 17th century
The Paddocks and Paddock Side------early to mid 17th century
The Post Office or Shangarry House------late 16th century
Forge and Harrow Cottages-----early to mid 16th century
Sunnyside Cottage Top of Lows-------1604 on internal stack

Millway Lane, Palgrave Hill and Denmark Bridge Area

Ivy Cottage--------17th century
Long's Farm House-------early 17th century
Peanut Cottage and Hill Cottage-------16th century
Wood Cottage--------mid 16th century
Elm Vale Farm House-------circa 1700
Denmark Bridge House-------mid to late 17th century
Bridge Farm Cottages----------16th century
Bridge Farm House---------15th century

Crossing Road, Old Bury Road onto Goodrich Park

The Cottage or Waveney Lodge-------17th century
Burlington Cottages---------17th century
Sun View Cottages---------late 16th century
The Thatches--------early to mid 16th century
Ivy House--------mid to late 17th century
Valley Farm House-------17th century
Spring Farm Barn--------17th century
Former Grooms House and Coach House east of Park House----early 19th c
Stable Block north of Park House--------early 19th century
Park House---------17th century

There is an excellent website (britishlistedbuildings.co.uk) giving very detailed descriptions of all these buildings as well as some photographs and in some cases videos.

THE CENSUS for PALGRAVE 1841 to 1911

I have spent a considerable amount of time trying to analyse all the information available. It seems that so much information is either missing, illegible or has been scribbled over. To try and make comparisons over the eighty years span seems rather futile. There are obvious situations that make sense, like there being far fewer farmers in 1911 than in 1841. The percentage of residents of independent means increased considerably over the same period. Trying to find the percentage of children is impossible when you find children usually employed at the age of twelve also the occasional ten and eleven years old, especially if their father was a labourer. Whereas the children of a landowner farmer were in many cases still being educated at the age of fifteen. In the first census there is no record of residents receiving parish relief, paupers or "at home" and well over two hundred residents of working age with no occupation beside their names. The swing riots were in the early 1830's, so there must have been a number of men out of work. There existed a number of village charities and those in the village who were well off at that time most likely helped the really poor, but there must have been severe hardship over many years.

The 1841 census was carried out in two parts, the total number of residents was 730. There were most of the expected occupations:- agricultural labourers, general labourers, female labourers, farmers, carpenters, blacksmiths, shoe makers, millers etc., one curate and one or two less obvious ones. Fifteen year old James Tofts living on the green was an apprentice gunsmith. Pigot's Norfolk Directory of 1839, lists John Mallott, gunsmith, Mere Street, Diss. Young James did not have to walk too far to work! Charles Browning aged twenty five living with his parents at Holly Farm was a veterinary surgeon. Twenty five year old Samuel Churchyard and his sister Amelia five years his junior, living somewhere on the Turnpike with their parents, were both drabbet weavers, drabbet was a cheap coarse linen used for making smocks. In 1838 Henry Warne had a factory in Mere Street, Diss. A large part of the factory was for weaving cotton, linen and drabbet, he also used flax, presumably the retting of the flax was done in the Mere. (Amelia is my 3 X Great Grandmother) There were four cordwainers, who not only made shoes and other leather commodities, but probably used a better quality leather and were considered to be better craftsmen than the other four shoe makers of the village. Ten of the agricultural labours were over seventy, one was eighty six! At the other end of the age range there were two lads aged twelve listed as Ag/labs. It should also be noted that George Howell was an apprentice blacksmith. The beginning of a long line of "Howell" village blacksmiths.

The 1851 census shows a few changes, 743 residents, of which twenty two were on parish relief and twenty four were "at home", there was still obviously a lot of hardship, it's difficult to imagine how they managed to survive. A little help was the arrival of the railways in 1849, the village residents included:- a railway platelayer, two railway labourers and a gatekeeper. Six enterprising ladies were dressmakers, with age ranges of twenty three to fifty one, wives and daughters doing their bit to put bread on the table. There were several agricultural labourers over the age of seventy, Robert Shemming was still making baskets at the age of seventy five, Samuel Runnicles a builders labourer of seventy six, Richard Mailer a whitesmith (tinsmith) in his mid seventies, eighty one year old widow Mary Seaman was still working as a nurse. The oldest person on the census, Martha Waller, ninety one was just visiting! The most disturbing entry was that for eight year old David Hawes, there was just one word after his name, Idiot! I remember a Hawes family

living down the Lows back in the 1950's the parents were both deaf and dumb, but they had two or three children and were able to communicate with them.

The school, or maybe it should be called The Academy in Lion Road had twenty two students presided over by Alice Hall who is described as a Seminarian! There were a few widows of independent means, Elizabeth Potter whose husband had been a farmer was in a position to educate her daughters, Mary aged fifteen and Betsy aged eighteen. Whereas widows of labourers were working themselves as well as any children aged twelve or more. In some cases if they were unable to get work most of the family was on parish relief.

The 1861 census introduced law and order to the village with three Policemen. Samuel Reeve was living in (what is now) Corner Cottage with his wife and family and a lodger, Walter Cook, another Policeman, Robert Clarke, their colleague was living elsewhere in the village. One wonders what events caused such an influx of law enforcement on the 741 residents! Hardship was again evident with ten people on parish relief and five paupers. The railways had helped to make coal more readily available with James Thurlow now a coal merchant. The rector, Charles Martyn was employing:- a cook, coachman, butler, page, three housemaids and a kitchen maid, his son also Charles was the curate, living at The Priory and employing:- a cook, butler, housemaid, lady's maid and two nurses. This was a great help. Times have changed, we now have one rector trying to look after seven or eight parishes! Mary Harrison, living at St. John's also helped, employing:- an upper servant, housemaid, cook, footman, coachman, gardener and a servant boy. The ladies of the parish kept the wheels turning, with Sophia Ship a seeds woman, Mary Bolderson a vantua maker, which was a ladies garment made all in one piece, instead of the bodice and skirt being made separately, a milliner, seamstress, two tailoresses, seven dressmakers and eight laundresses. Philip Goold a tailor passed his skills onto his children, his son William, a tailor, daughter Suzanna, a tailoress and daughter Elizabeth, a dressmaker. Elizabeth Teasel was a school mistress, also teaching was her fourteen year old son John.

There were some other very young workers as well, Anna Churchyard was an eleven year old nurse girl, John License the same age was a farm labourer and ten year old Elizabeth Perry was a servant working at Church Farm. At the other end of the age range Robert Shemming was still making baskets, and gives his age as eighty two. In the 1851 census he was seventy five! I checked BMD and found that he died in 1866 aged 90, so we must assume that he forgot how old he was! The enumerator was William Rix.

A drop in population to 696 in 1871, there don't appear to be any paupers or residents on parish relief, but life was probably just as hard and unrewarding. A ten year old, George Eames was stone picking and William Goodson the same age was a labourer. The villagers must have been behaving themselves as there was just one policeman, Robert Barnard living in Corner Cottage. There were ten brush makers, one of them, Edwin Capon would in a few years time set up his own brush making business in the village and employ local men. At this time brushes were being made at the Roydon factory of Aldrich's, in factory lane and all the village brush makers would have worked there. William More was living in Goulds Lane and was a Maltster/Brewer employing three men, looking at old maps of Malthouse a map of 1804 shows an outbuilding to the west of the house and another map dated 1885 shows the outbuilding is even larger, it would seem likely that malting and brewing was done in these buildings. A later map of 1904 has Just the house on it.

James Bayley was a Unitarian Minister, serving a group who worshipped at the Chapel in The Park, Diss, now used as The Masonic Lodge. Mary Ager was a tailors machinist, the start of mechanisation locally, it was probably a treadle machine. George Alexander was a moulder for the foundry, Aldrich's

had been in Diss on the site that is now Larter and Fords since 1832 and were iron founders amongst other engineering processes. Harry Cobb was a civil engineer and Robert Cooper a warehouseman. Arthur Harvey and Joseph Heyhoe were stone masons and William Haunton was a printer. Sophia Ship was a seeds woman in 1861 described herself as a florist in this census. There was a little more variation in the workplace. The enumerator was again William Rix.

In 1881 there has been a rise in residents to 745. An increase in law enforcement. The police station had moved and was part of the building North of the Smithy, an ordnance survey map of 1885 marked this building as Police Station, Joseph Cook was the occupant and his colleague, Henry May was a few doors away at the top of The Lows. There were just two paupers, but this will not necessarily tell the whole story of undoubted poverty in Palgrave and elsewhere in the country. Martha Crane was obviously struggling, her husband Levi, a small farmer with 18 acres of land had died in 1876 and she was trying to farm just 5 ¼ acres with her sons Samuel 13 and Charles 12, Alfred was 10 and still at school, but was certain to be helping. There are still a number of very young workers, twelve year old Leonard Cullum a mat warper, Horace Rogers, eleven year old farm boy, Frederick and Alfred Nurse were twelve year old errand boys, Solomon Lines thirteen year old gardeners boy and Eliza Cooper a fourteen year old servant.

The railways employed a number of villagers, three platelayers, a porter, signalman, gatekeeper and two carmen, who delivered goods locally with horse and cart. There were three sawyers, who probably worked in Diss, either at Mason's saw mill in Victoria Road or at the saw mill in Sandy Lane near the railway station. (from the Norfolk Directory for 1883) There were three dealers, Solomon Lines cattle, John Alder pigs and Charles Easto fish. The Easto family were fishmongers, with a shop on the market place in Diss until the 1970's. It became a fish and chip shop and still is. Francis Bennett was a geologist originating from London. John Calver Brook was a solicitor. Walter Clarke, a printer/compositor, who worked at Francis Cupiss the printers at The Wilderness in Diss. He went on to run the company followed by his son, grandson and great grandson, who is still at The Wilderness. Samuel Cole was a brick maker and most probably worked in Victoria Road, Diss for Robert Chenery who from the 1883 Norfolk Director was manufacturing bricks there. Matilda Goodson was a midwife. William Kingsbury was a coach trimmer and from the same Directory, William Fulcher from Stuston was a coach builder and was soon to move to Holly Farm in the village to carry on his business. Henry Buff was a soldier and George Nurse a lime burner. Quite a variety of occupations. The enumerator was George Ford.

In 1891 there were 763 residents. Charles Mills Clements was the resident police officer. The youngsters still being called upon to help put bread on the table, Benjamin Clarke, an eleven year old gardeners boy, Elizabeth Weavers the same age was a domestic servant, Harry Harrold an errand boy and twelve year old Albert Collins a farm worker. There were another fifteen children a year or two older in employment. At the other end of the age range there were several agricultural labourers over seventy and Henry King aged eighty two was still making baskets, a number of elderly widowed mothers were living with their sons and his family.

There was a rise in the number of residents of independent means, the widows of three village farmers and it seems that two or three farmers had come into the village to retire. The variety of occupations was increasing. There were three market gardeners, two insurance agents, a machine agent, an oil cake merchant, Margaret Herbert was a teacher of English, foreign languages and music, the village had its own plumber painter and glazier, two stay makers, who would have worked for the Ipswich company of William Pretty at his stay factory on Heywood Road (it was known as Cemetery Road then) in Diss, (where the scouts hut is now) Joseph Thurlow was carman to the ginger beer works, from Whites Directory of 1905 Frederick William Doubleday was a mineral water

manufacturer in Denmark Street, Diss and the firm was operating there into the 1970's. Charles H Farrow was a chemist in the stores near Forge Close, most of the fittings of the old chemist shop remained there until Dick Erith took over the premises in 1953. Emma Weavers a widow was a newsagent. Albert Trudgill living near the rectory was a horse breaker, older folks in the village spoke of George Trudgill, most likely a grandson, living at The Barn in the 1940's, looking after the stallion of Charlie Saunders, a well known local horse breeder. There was a coffee room, "Berry Hall", somewhere near the Police Station, it is difficult to pinpoint, it may have been part of the buildings that housed the policeman. The enumerator was Albert Kerridge.

The 1901 census finds the same policeman, but he now prefers to be known as Charles Mills. Some of the 729 parishioners were still struggling, seven on parish relief, whilst the children are working, nearly twenty, thirteen and fourteen year olds, fortunately none any younger. At the other end of the scale there are five farm labourers aged seventy or more, the oldest was Samuel Bartrum at eighty three and George Ford, postmaster and builder was still working at seventy six.

Fostering of school age children by widows and other families was taking place. In most cases the birthplace of the fostered children was unknown. There were payments made to the foster carers, widow Anna Neobard was "kept by son and payments of boarders". There was a total of seventeen boarders (fostered children) at this time. There were more folks retired or of independent means. Harriet Rix, Ann Thurlow, Anne Howe and Emily Pike all widows of village farmers, there were also farmers who retired to the village, William Ellis from Gislingham, William Harper from Stuston and William Barker from Thurston. George Whiting at fifty six was a retired bank runner, Robert Barkley a retired civil engineer and a very young Horace Tibbenham was a retired draper of thirty six! In all there were thirty three residents of independent means. The village had a cycle dealer, tea dealer, Arthur Abbott was a rope maker and landlord of The Red Lion, Walter Bullock was a cooper and grocer at the stores (now North View opposite the church), there was also a butchers shop run by Robert Chapman down Crossing Road, Thomas Luck was bandmaster to 4th V.B.N.R. May be:- Volunteer Brigade Naval Reserves? Walter Smith was employed as an agricultural engine driver and Arthur Clarke as a motor car driver! The enumerator was schoolmaster Charles Henry Corbett.

In 1911 the police station had moved back to Corner Cottage and John Hammond was in charge. The census gave more information about the 703 residents. Each family filled in a separate page, or if they were unable to write, Rev Savory completed it for them. We found out how many years they had been married, how many children had been born and how many survived. Child mortality was a lot higher in those days combined with the lack of birth control, William and Maria French had thirteen children and had lost four of them, Harry and Sarah Potter had fifteen and lost six of their children! There were a lot fewer fourteen year old children at work, but one twelve year old, Jesse Collins was working as an agricultural labourer in April 1911 and sadly was lost in the war after only two months in France, April 15th 1918. A short and hard life! (my great uncle) There were not so many aged labourers, but George Ford the builder was still going at eighty six.

The variety of occupations continued. William Threadgle was a harness maker, there were two in Diss in the 1912 directory, Alfred Nurse was an engineer, turner and fitter and would most likely have worked at Youngs engineering works in Victoria road in Diss, who made just about everything, or so the Directory said. Alfred Rout was a poultry farmer almost opposite Grange Farm, where Bob Hall was for many years. Thomas Keely was a vermin destroyer, (sounds horrible) Claude Hood was a chauffeur, Alice Nice, a lace maker. Edgar Stevens had his threshing machine business opposite Denmark Bridge, which is now Rackhams builders yard. William Gladwell was District Surveyor, (main roads) for Norfolk County Council, Hugh Thomas was District Surveyor for Suffolk County Council. Ernest Read was a Relieving Officer (Poor Law). Alfred Rushton, living at Ashby Villa was managing

director, printer and veterinary medicine manufacturers, (Francis Cupiss, The Wilderness, Diss). Catherine Rix was a boarding house keeper at Orme Villa. Clement More was the enumerator.

It was difficult to read a lot of the Christian names of residents, some seemed obscure, after further investigation it was found that a large number were of Biblical/ Hebrew origin:- Augustin, Barzillia, Hezekiah, Israel, Jeptha, Josiah, Jabez, Levi, Mahala, Mahalath, Phoebe, Shadrick, Tabitha, Vindive, Zachary and Zacharia. Septimas was a seventh child! Adelaide and Horatio have Roman roots, Lachlan has a Celtic background and Featonby originates from Scandinavia. Moldanath and her children Shelomith and Alucaner seemed more difficult to place!

PALGRAVE'S PROVISION FOR THE POOR

In July, 2012, our parish magazine, The Palgrave Star, carried a notice which began:

> "Did you know that the Palgrave Welfare Trust, which is a combination of several old charities, one of them dating back to 1655, still exists to offer modest financial help to residents of Palgrave? The trust can help, for example, with travel expenses for repeated hospital appointments or frequent visits to someone in hospital or after they have been discharged. It can also make grants for educational activities… and certain other unexpected costs that could not readily have been covered by insurance or state benefits."

The existence of the Palgrave Trust brings right up to date a Palgrave tradition of looking after members of the community less fortunate than ourselves. The charities which combined to form the Trust are several and varied. They include Martyn's Charity, Henry Bootle's Charity, Eliza Bumstead Charity, Charles Goodrich Charity and the John Stebbens Charity. These charities all depended on money bequeathed by individuals for aspects of the relief of poverty. Others were more corporate and depended on regular income from land, perhaps, or donations. The Town Estate Charity, for example, derived revenue from land at Guestwick and Foulsham, which was sold in 1941. Palgrave also benefited from the Town House and Allotments Charity, the Reading Room Charity (the reading room was erected in 1906 by the rector Rev Savory), and the Palgrave Clothing Club, which was founded in 1850 and, as its name suggests, provided clothing for the poor out of contributions from the local gentry.

One of the most interesting of the bequest charities is the John Stebbens Charity. Stebbens was a Palgrave landowner whose charitable instincts were passed on to his nephew in Stebbens' will in 1677. He left his nephew, William Bibbe, all his land in Palgrave, but stipulated that William should pay "Ten Shillings a Yeare Yearly and every Yeare soe long as the World indure… in to the hands of ye Overseers of ye Poore… to be by them… disposed of according to their Discretion to Ten Families… in and upon the Second Day of February Yearly and every Yeare soe long as the World continue." The ten shillings had to be paid in "good and lawful Money of England". Payment was to be made by William on the 15th of January "att or in the Porch of ye Parish Church of Palgrave". Moreover, Stebbens decreed that if the money were not handed over the overseers had his authority to visit William and confiscate good: "and them Detaine until they be fully satisfied and payd"! The link made by Stebbens between charity and the church is interesting. Two hundred years later in 1869, Miss Harrison of St. John's, Palgrave left £100 (90 after the payment of Legacy Duty) to be distributed

to the poor for clothing and bedding. Again, distribution was to be made by the Rector and Churchwardens. This link is a continuation of ancient practice.

During the Medieval period religious institutions did much of the work of looking after the poor. With the dissolution of the monasteries during 1535-40 parishes became responsible for the poor, sick and elderly. Legislation in the latter part of the 16th century allowed parishes to elect overseers of the poor and to levy a poor rate. The Poor Law Act 1601 became the basis of provision by parishes for the poor and it sought to identify and separate the "deserved poor" from vagrants and layabouts.

The Act had as its intentions:

a to bring up unprotected children in habits of industry;
b to provide work for those capable but unable to find employment; and
c to provide materials such as flax, wool or hemp as a means of employment.

The gradual decline of the draperies trade in the earlier part of the 17th century and early 18th century were a significant factor in the growth of unemployment in Suffolk. Whole families who had eked out a living in spinning, weaving, dying and fulling found themselves unable to afford the most basic essentials and, as a consequence, sought relief. Relief could be "outdoor" through payments to people living in their own homes or "indoor" by maintaining in a House of Industry or Workhouse. Relief was not necessarily easy to come by, and the official approach to poverty could be harsh-- even in this part of the world. By 1805 the branding, mutilating and whipping of paupers had been abandoned but on Saturday, 13th July the London Gazette carried this report:

> "At Diss a number of Labourers in husbandry having refused to work for the customary wages, and being out of employment, applied to the Magistrates, who advised the Parish Officers to put them to work, which they accordingly did. Their business was to carry bricks in a hod, on their shoulders, from Palgrave to Diss, a distance of two miles; this medicine had the desired effect, after two days, they returned peaceably to their former employment."

In 1722 Knatchbull's Act had given parishes the option of refusing outdoor relief and paupers as a consequence had to be admitted to the workhouse to obtain relief. The Act also made the procedure for providing a workhouse easier and as a result there was an increase in the number of parishes providing workhouses.

In 1776 Parliament carried out a survey of poor relief expenditure in England and Wales. The "Abstract of Returns made by Overseers of the Poor" included an inventory of workhouse provision. The inventory refers to a workhouse in Palgrave with capacity for thirty paupers. This workhouse had been provided by the utilisation of the former Guildhall (now known as Brackendale) situated opposite the church on the southern side. The Guildhall was a leftover from the glory years of textile wealth. The property was described in a publication "The Charities of Suffolk" during this period as being owned by the Town Estate Charity and "comprising a messuage called the Guildhall used as a workhouse with adjoining premises and ground cultivation; the whole being in extent of 2 acres." It may be typical of Palgrave that the building chosen to be the workhouse lay in the heart of the village. Many parishes banished their paupers to the outskirts, where they would be seldom seen. However, the current occupiers of 'Brackendale' might be horrified at the thought of thirty people living under their roof. In the workhouse you slept four to a bed!

Records of the administration of the workhouse in Palgrave are scant. A primary decision vestries had to make was the type of work to be carried out by the inmates. In rural Suffolk the principal industries were agriculture and textiles. By requiring parish officers to provide a stock of hemp, flax and wool the 1601 Act identified the textile industry as the principal occupation of inmates. Another textile produced along the Waveney Valley was oakum, otherwise known as jute, and this was plaited into waterproof ropes. Inmates were also transported to farms where they would undertake work in the fields; weeding, bird scaring or stone picking. As there was an extensive area, 2 acres, attached to the workhouse it seems likely that inmates were engaged in gardening.

The number of inmates fluctuated with the seasons with an increase of persons seeking relief during the winter. Conditions were deliberately basic and were as such that most inmates were only to pleased to free themselves as soon as they felt able to care for themselves.

Everyone had a place of settlement where he or she was entitled to claim poor relief. Complications arose when someone left their place of settlement, which many did. The parish to which they moved would require them to bring a Settlement Certificate from the parish of origin. This provided a guarantee that they would be provided for if they became unable to support themselves. If someone became a burden on the parish to which they moved J P's would conduct a Settlement Examination to establish which parish was responsible for paying relief. The J P's could issue a Removal Order reassuring that the person be sent back to the parish of origin. A copy of such a Removal Order survives and this required the removal in July 1841 of Robert Murton, his wife and six children from Alburgh (Norfolk) to Palgrave. The children were aged from six months to nine years. Examined by the Overseers of Poor in Alburgh, Robert explained that he was a tradesman – a blacksmith. He had been apprenticed in Palgrave to his uncle and served his time. Unfortunately, Robert's indentures, which were drawn up by a Diss solicitor (at a cost of 25 shillings) were lost, so Robert could not prove his status to the Alburgh overseers, and, presumably, his ability to provide for himself and his family. So the removal order was passed. Robert's fate is uncertain but in the 1851 census his wife, Susan, is recorded living back in Alburgh with two of the children. She is listed as a pauper.

The business of resettlement, of course, worked both ways, and there are several records in the Suffolk Record Office of people being moved out of Palgrave back to their place of settlement. In fact the process was common enough for blank forms to be printed (by Edmund Abbott of Diss) on which parish officers simply filled in details such as names dates and the circumstances of resettlement. So in September 1787 the examination took place of Daniel Chilestone, "residing in Palgrave, concerning the place of his last settlement"; and on the 26th December1787 (no concession was made to the spirit of Christmas) Roger Rose, "hemp dresser, residing in Palgrave" was interrogated about his entitlement to live in Palgrave at the expense of the parish. Later, on the 25th June 1793 Elizabeth Goddard, singlewoman, was ordered to be removed from Palgrave to Wortham.

The parish workhouse in Palgrave survived until 1822 and afterwards it appears to have been sub-divided to provide almshouses. Several factors contributed to its demise. There had been dissatisfaction with the ever increasing amount of the poor rate and towards the end of the 18th century there had been a number of new initiatives with schemes being adopted to provide food and clothing for the poor. These were often instigated by local gentry and other concerned parishioners. The final downfall came with the passing of the Poor Law (Amendment) Act of 1834 which required all destitute, disabled and infirm persons to be placed in the Union Workhouse. The Hartismere Poor Law Union formerly came into being on 1st September 1835. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, 37 in number, representing its 32 constituent parishes; one Board member represented Palgrave. The establishment of the new Union Workhouse was not at all popular with the people of Eye and in 1835 they asked Judge William Erle for advice on their case:

> "The inhabitants and Corporation of Eye considering it will be a great annoyance to have a large workhouse and a great number of paupers brought from different parts of the union to the workhouse in Eye and also injurious to the Town generally are desirous (if possible) of resisting these proceedings on the part of the Poor Law Commissioners."

Erle delivered his opinion on the 14th December 1835: the Poor Law Commissioners had authority, and the establishment of the new workhouse went ahead.

The new union took over two existing workhouses at Castle Hill, Eye (building now demolished) and at Wortham. The latter was situated on the south eastern corner of Wortham Ling a hundred yards or so from the parish boundary with Palgrave and still exists today, now known as The Homestead. It is approached by a narrow roadway still known as Union Lane. Initially this workhouse provided for all categories of persons seeking relief but after a few years it was used to accommodate children up to 85 in number. Boys were employed in gardening and spade husbandry, and girls in sewing and general domestic work so as to fit them for service. The school closed in around 1898 because the cost of keeping the children was declared too great. A new poor law infirmary was erected during 1915-16 at Castleton Way, Eye (Hartimere Hospital).

Soon after its foundation the Hartismere Union had become the centre of scandal and the controversy involved at least one Palgrave man.

In July 1838 The Times published allegations made by the Rev J Ward, rector of Stoke Ash and a Mr Rogers of the "Anti Poor Law Association." Ward and Rogers alleged that paupers in the Eye Workhouse were subjected to inhumane treatment, and were fed a diet that was tantamount to starvation rations. One of the witnesses was "Henry Aldrige, of Palgrave, Labourer":

> "I earn 1s and 6d a day when I work. I went into the Eye Union house five weeks after Christmas last, having applied by my wife to the guardians of Palgrave, and to the board for relief without success, except by an order for the house. My disease is called the Evil, and the winter before last I was laid up for twenty two weeks and relieved out of doors; but although I was on the last occasion confined to my bed and impotent in my feet, I was refused relief out of the house, and I, my wife, and three children, under four years old, went into the house … My three children who were quite well when they went in, had the measles, and were very ill for three weeks, and when they went out Dr Ward of Diss told me he had no hopes of them. My wife was middling, because in addition to my own, she had the allowances of the children who were ill. The cheese was not so good as I can buy in my parish at 2d per pound."

Even if Aldridge's evidence is coached – and it reads as if it is – it gives a horrifying glimpse in to the way in which the destitute were treated in our own community.

The Poor Law commissioners reacted to the allegation in The Times by commissioning their own report into conditions at Eye. An investigation was carried out by Charles Mott, an Assistant Commissioner and a notorious New Poor Law apologist. Mott re-examined all the witnesses who had given evidence to Ward and Rodgers, and either they changed their stories or they were dismissed as imbeciles or bad characters. One witness, under oath, said that the sick and infirm were supplied with

everything they desired under the direction of the medical officer, and the deponent further declared that he had repeatedly given to the sick poor, by direction of Mr Edwards, the surgeon, wine, jellies, oranges and other fruit, as also tarts, cakes, pudding or anything the sick person could eat. He concluded, "The comforts and indulgences under the new arrangements are far greater than the poor ever received under the old Poor Law."

The Times, vigorously opposed to the New Poor Law, was scornful of the Mott Report, and in particular drew readers' attention to the spirit in which it had been set up by the Poor Law Commissioners … "they entered up the examination, not only prejudiced, but prepared to make out that everything in the statement of Mr Rodgers was either 'without foundation' or a 'distorted and exaggerated representation.'"

The principles of the New Poor Law were never fully enforced. Old people in many areas did continue to receive relief outside the workhouse; for instance six parish residents are recorded in the 1901 census as receiving "parish relief", they are either widows or aged, there is no way of knowing if any of them had any health problems that prevented them from working. The workhouses became increasingly to rest on a fearsome reputation – the 'stigma' of pauperism – rather than bad conditions.

The Poor Law system began to decline with the availability of other forms of assistance. The growth of friendly societies provided help for its members without having to make use of the poor law system. Some of the trade unions also provided help for their members. In 1905 the Unemployed Workman Act came into being and it provided temporary employment for workers in times of unemployment. About the same time the government welfare reforms made a number of provisions to supply social services without the stigma of the Poor Law; the old age pension and national insurance. In 1911 the term "Workhouse" was replaced by "Poor Law Institution". During WWI some workhouses were used as makeshift hospitals for wounded servicemen.

Between the wars various pieces of legislation were introduced to help the situation, the Board of Guardians Act helped in supporting the miners during the general strike. The Unemployment Assistance Board was set up to assist those not covered by the National Insurance Act. The workhouses theoretically came to an end with the transfer of responsibility of the poor and infirm to local authorities in 1929, but in reality they continued under local authority control in the form of "Public Assistance Institutions." In 1948 the poor law system was finally abolished with the introduction of the modern welfare state including the national health service.
---- Author unknown

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FARMING

Archaeologists have firm evidence of farmsteads in Suffolk from as early as 3500 BC, where the neolithic inhabitants moved from hunter gathering, to domesticating animals clearing land and growing crops to eat and feed their animals. These were our first village farmers. The first

documentary evidence of farming is in the Domesday Book, which only recorded things of value, that is, property, livestock, workforce, villains or freemen.

From 1066 to 1300 the population of Suffolk doubled, consequently farming had to intensify to cope with demand. At this time there were large numbers of people cultivating quite small plots of land. A family may have several brothers owning very small plots of the same field, and in some cases plots in other fields, sometimes quite widely spread.

The Black Death accounted for about a third of the population of Suffolk. The nearby village of Redgrave reported the number of deaths for July in 1349 being 169. This would normally have been less than 10. This must have devastated the farming communities, but life carried on and gradually the population recovered. Another almost doubling of the population occurred between 1450 and 1650. The demand went up seven fold, but the wages only trebled in that time. Over the years more and more land was owned by fewer farmers or yeomen as they were called. This made more efficient use of the land. There were also husbandmen who farmed land rented to them by other landowners. Much is made of the Enclosure Act between 1790 and 1840. (that is, dividing fields from each other by hedge, ditch or fence) In East Anglia enclosure carried out during this period was mainly for small plots of land, plus greens, commons, water meadows and fens, the majority of land having already been enclosed for various reasons, hundreds of years previously, some even before Roman times.

From Suffolk Parish History (East Suffolk) Palgrave, Area 1504 acres. Soils: Mixed-

(a) Deep permeable sand and coarse loam.
(b) Some deep peat soil with clay over sandy soil, risk of flooding.
(c) Fine loam over clay soil, some areas affected by groundwater and seasonal water logging

Types of Farming:-

1500 – 1640, Thirsk: Sheep/corn region where sheep are the main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley is the main cash crop. Also some similarities with wood/pasture region, with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig keeping.

1818, Marshall: Wide variations of crop and management techniques, including summer fallow in preparation for corn, and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.

1937, Main Crops: Four course system: wheat, barley, clover and roots.

1969, Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

In 1831 almost 50% of the village workforce were employed in agriculture, which was twice the national average, but by 1920 this had dropped to about 20%. In those days, when a lad left school in Palgrave, he had two options – work on the land or at Aldrich's Brush Factory in Diss. (which is what my father did. He passed to get to the Grammar school, but his parents needed his income to make ends meet) Only the fortunate few managed to get scholarships or apprenticeships. Nowadays the numbers in agriculture have dropped well below 5%.

From W. E. Ling's book "More Time to Mardle", when he took over Church Farm in 1931 there were ten farmers in the village. By the end of the 30's only two of them survived, the rest went bankrupt. Mechanisation has been the main factor in the decrease of the agricultural workforce. In the 1930's and before, farms were described in terms of being a 3, 4 or 5 horse farm. The Bland family at Burlington Lodge Farm were the first farmers in the village to own a tractor. Others soon followed and the Anness family, had one in 1937. Billy Ling bought one a year or two later.

A tractor can plough at least 25 times the amount in a day than a horse team can. This information is bound to be outdated by the modern monsters available to farmers now. Harvesting was very labour intensive. Three horses would be needed to pull the binder, one man looking after the horse team and checking the binder was cutting the corn and tying the sheaves properly. Two or more would be stacking the sheaves into stooks. (known locally as shocks) There would generally be three horse and wagon teams, one loading sheaves, one on its way to the stack yard and one in the stack yard unloading onto the stack, being built by at least two men. A similar number would be needed, when the stack was threshed later in the year.

Sugar beet harvesting also needed a large workforce. Men had to physically pull beet out of the ground, one in each hand, knock them together to shake the soil, and sometimes the snow off them, before topping them with a beet hook. The beet were left in heaps, and the teams of horse and tumbrils came along loaded them with beet forks and transported them to the beet heap by the roadside, where the lorry was already being loaded by hand. The lorry made numerous journeys to Bury St. Edmunds sugar factory per week and the beet harvest lasted many weeks. Gradually new machines were introduced, and by the late 1950's, tractors had taken over from horses. Modern combine harvesters, cut extremely wide swathes, thresh the grain, transfer it to a vehicle running alongside, which takes it directly to the grain store, where it can be dried, if necessary, and stored until the price is right. The harvesting of beet has also become highly mechanised. No one has to touch the beet. It is harvested and delivered to the beet factory without any handling.

Over the last hundred years or so. Between the wars, large swathes of land lay uncultivated. Farmers only used the most productive land in order to make a reasonable living. During each war, national self-sufficiency caused more land to be brought into cultivation. During the last war, the government pushed for a 60% increase in grain production. Various subsidies led to the uprooting of hedges, draining and filling of ditches, as the larger farm machinery being produced, worked more efficiently in larger fields.

Following on we joined the Common Market and in the early 1980's, political decisions were made by the EEC to subsidise certain areas of agriculture, which had the effect of creating so-called grain mountains and wine lakes. At this time the main losers were those in pig production, and I know of several local farmers moving out of pigs completely, having spent up to thirty years or more building up quality herds. Others even emigrated and took their expertise elsewhere. In order to control these "mountains and lakes". Emphasis moved to "set aside", that is, leaving fields fallow and being paid to do so. It seems that agriculture has always been a pawn in the hands of politicians. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose-depending on what you are producing!! Dairy farmers started declining after the Milk Marketing Board was disbanded. It seems that now the price of milk is controlled by the big supermarkets. Nearly all farmers at one time kept cows for milk production. Now there are only a handful of farmers within fifteen to twenty miles of us in milk production, and they tend to have very large herds.

Stewardship seems to bring a slightly more rational approach to farming. The public perception of it, though, is of low quality margins round fields left uncultivated, whereas in reality much more is required: the good management of hedges and ditches, plus, where possible, four metre square patches in cornfields, left unseeded for skylarks. These and other points are all policies paid a pound a point. It is not a great income, but is seen by most as a help to both wildlife and farmers. There is a higher level of stewardship, much more competitive, with farmers paid for capital work. This level is usually taken on by bigger farms and the organic section. Various charities take a big interest in the effects of stewardship, The National Trust, RSPB and the local wildlife trusts, but in the end farmers are not charities and have to make a living to survive.

St JOHNS FARM 140 Acres

Over the years the Harrison family have been one of the largest landowners in the village. From the 1865 Directory:-" The Harrison family has resided in Palgrave upward of 200 years." At the time of the Tithe map being produced in 1837, Mary Harrison owned St Johns, Spring and Millway farms, renting out the latter two. Before her, other family members had owned the biggest part of the village. The Harrison dynasty ended when Mary died in 1868. William Goodrich from Cotton, took over St Johns and the surrounding area. In 1885 his nephew John was drowned while skating on the "basin", a deep pond in the park, the ice was thin over a spring in the pond. When William died in1889, his brother Charles, who had been farming at Rookery Farm Wortham a number of years, moved down the road and took over from him.

There were no male members of the Goodrich family, John having died some years earlier, so when Charles passed on in 1903, the estate was left to his three nieces, Mary, Sarah and Elizabeth. They lived in the house, the farm being let to tenant farmers. Frederick Millen being the first. It was he that had St Johns Cottages built in 1912. The Miles family, who already farmed at Burgate, Great Ashfield and Rickinghall, followed on and were here until the last Goodrich, Sarah, died in 1952. John Gaze took over the farm. Jack Walker had moved to St Johns Cottages in 1936, coming from Burgate as a sheep specialist, St Johns was one of the few farms around here at the time keeping sheep. Jack's daughter remembers sheep being here right through to the late 60's. Beef cattle were also kept and one house cow. Sugar beet, barley and wheat were grown. John Gaze died in 2000. Part of the land was bought by Ian Colchester of Thrandeston, the rest, the park and a bungalow John Gaze had built were bought by Ted Ling. Ted still lives in the bungalow, and Goodrich Park is used to host Vintage Vehicle Rallies and Craft Fairs.

The House was left to the Church of England Children's Society. When Sarah, the last of the three nieces passed on, it was converted into a children's home and occupied by the residents of Gordon House Home, Croydon, from the early 50's until 1970. It was decided that its position was too remote so the Home was closed. The residents were dispersed to suitable society homes and the house was sold to Partnerships in Care. They added new buildings in order to look after patients with learning disabilities, as well as mental health and personality problems. This is now a medium security complex.

MILL HOUSE FARM 38 Acres

The farmland is mostly in Thrandeston, with just a few fields, the house and yard in Palgrave. Back in the early 1830's, Abraham Thurlow owned the farm and his son, Samuel Cutting Thurlow (born 1801) ran the mill and the farm. Looking at the census and various Directories, he is recorded as farming here right up to 1881, shortly afterwards handing over the reins to his son George, who was in turn replaced by Samuel, at the start of the 1900's. Alfred took over in 1925, and he was followed by yet another Samuel in the 1940's. When he passed on in 1973 his son Ronnie carried on the family business. At about this time the Mill House was sold for residential use. Later on a house was built near to the site of the old windmill, Ronnie's son Greg and his family live there and look set to carry on farming, as another field was added in the late 1980's. In 2001 the Thurlow family were thrilled to have a visit from the American branch of the family. William Thurlow, a son of Samuel Cutting Thurlow born in 1850, emigrated to Kansas in 1871. His grandson (also William) along with his two sons came and spent some time with Ronnie and his family, and have kept in contact since with annual Christmas updates, while the younger members of the family use the social media to keep in touch.

OAK FARM 50 Acres

Henry Potter was one of the big landowners when the Tithe map was drawn up in 1837, he owned Oak and Grange Farms. George Calver was tenant farmer at the time and was here about twenty years. Followed by Philip Musk in the 1860's, John Taylor 1870's, Theodore Howes 1880's and Edward Goodchild in the 1890's. Walter Anness bought the farm in the 1890's, and his tenants were George Earl in the early 1900's and Messrs Bendell and Gladwell, until Walters son Frank, took over in the early 1920's. He farmed here until Arthur, born at Bridge Farm in 1922 and had worked at Midland Bank for eleven years, eventually, in 1951, followed in his fathers footsteps and farmed here at Oak plus the land at Bridge, Longs and latterly part of Millway Farm totalling some 220 acres. He was one of the few farmers around here not in milk production. He kept beef cattle and pigs, growing barley, wheat, oats, sugar beet and in the 1960's secured a contract with Birds Eye to produce peas, sprouts, strawberries and beans. After over forty years he retired and was followed by Paul and Jill Whiting, who have diversified. The Farm is now only 80 acres, a field of that is let out for cereal production, the rest is grassland, mostly grazing, some for hay. Holiday Chalets have been built, several horses are kept for the leisure industry. They keep geese, chickens, a few pigs some suckling cows and a small herd of Red Poll (local breed) have been introduced. Being accepted into the higher band of stewardship has resulted in one and a half miles of hedges replanted, to replace previously removed hedging. An old orchard has been revitalised, replanted with old varieties of fruit trees. Two acres each of nectar seeds and song bird seed have been sown, and two and a half acres of woodland planted. More footpaths have also been created.

BRIDGE FARM 84 Acres

In 1837 Robert Sheriffe was the landowner and the tenant farmer was Ganard Rugilac, not certain of his origins but he does not sound local! From the 1841 census, John and Mary Garrard were farming here and into the 1870's. William Moore described as a farmer/maltster in the 1879 Directory was here until Walter Anness took over in 1890, and over the turn of the century the Anness family between them were farming Bridge, Longs and Oak farms as well as running a successful butcher's business. It all appears to have slotted in well together. Bridge Farm House has been residential for many years now. Just one field was bought by an Ipswich business man as an investment, and is being hired back to the current farmer. The rest of the land was split between Longs and Oak farms, during the time Arthur Anness was at Oak Farm.

ELM VALE FARM 120 Acres

In 1837 Elm Vale Farm was owned by the Taylor family, Edward Chaplyn, son of Edmund of Millway Farm, was the tenant farmer. Shortly afterwards, he gave up farming most of the land here to concentrate on the family farm. By the time of the 1841 census Nathaniel Hart was farming 80 acres of land here, at this time it was known as Meeting House Farm. He was here for about fifteen years until William Rix took over in the early 1850's, farming here over forty years into the 1890's. The turn of the century found Alfred Self here. He was followed by James Cutting in the early 1920's. His sons Ernest and Sydney continuing after him into the 1930's. The two brothers parted company during the war, Sydney ended up managing a farm in North Norfolk and Ernest carried on here, until Ron Chitty bought the farm from the Taylors in the late 1950's. He ran it for about ten years before selling it to Geoff Bowles, who still owns it. The farmhouse was then used for residential purposes, and about the same time the Mortlock family from Thrandeston started farming here, and are still here over forty years on. The Unitarian burial ground that can be seen from the Lows, is on the site of a building that was used as a meeting house, by a small Dissenting Congregation from Diss. Rochemont Barbauld was invited to take charge of the group, he was ordained there on September 13th, 1775. Earlier, before it was known as Elm Vale Farm it used to be called Meeting House Farm.

SPRING FARM 150 Acres

The Tithe records 1837 show William Gooderham and Jeremiah Coleman sharing the farmyard, William farming land to the north-west of the farmyard and Jeremiah to the south-east. By 1844 William was farming all the land here and did so until William Pretty took over in 1850. He was replaced by David Simpson at the start of the 1870's, who stayed here nearly forty years. The 1911 census records Arthur Saville farming here, his son Egbert followed on in the late 1920's and continued through the war until Billy Ling bought the farm in 1945, Egbert stayed in the farmhouse a few years before retiring to Roydon. The dairy was converted for residential use in the 1950's enabling Billy to house more labour locally, and a pig unit was set up in the outbuildings. The spring of water that used to gush out of the ground and make its way down to the beck, is now just a trickle. The extensive roadworks carried out in the 1980's partially severed the underground spring, the water being diverted elsewhere. Ted Ling, sold the farmhouse, buildings and some of the land in the 1990's. The barn was converted for residential use shortly after. The farmhouse was completely renovated in the early years of this century, the owners retaining a few acres of land surrounding the house, with views out of the back looking over the Beck Valley towards Marsh Farm, Thrandeston.

GRANGE FARM 200 Acres

In 1837 the farm was owned by Henry Potter, and farmed by Henry Rush. There seem to have been several tenants here. Henry Saunders in 1851, Henry Edwards in1858 followed by his son Thomas in 1861, who carried on until William Potter Harris took over in 1883. Harry Derisley was here in 1891 and Robert Killingworth was bailiff briefly in 1911 before handing back to Harry. By 1922 George Rose was farming here, followed by his son Frederick in 1933. In 1942 Billy Ling bought the farm from Oliver West of Brome. During the late 1940's Mrs Symonds lived here and ran a small shop. I remember going through the house to the far room and buying a packet of crisps. I don't remember what else she sold. In 1995 a reservoir was built and an irrigation system installed to serve seventy acres of land. The farm ceased milk production in 2002 as it was no longer economic on a small scale. The Ling family still farm here, one of Billy's grandsons lives in the Grange.

BURLINGTON LODGE FARM 100 Acres

An enclosure document issued in 1814, made mention of Martin Howe as landowner here at that time. The family farmed here a very long time. His son took over from him in the 1850's and carried on into the 1870's, when Edward Day took over. He seems to have had financial problems, an auctioneers document, advertising the sale of the farm, due to bankruptcy in 1888 was found at the Ipswich Record Office. His wife must have taken responsibility after then, because after that date the Directories list Mrs Lucy Day as farmer here, right up to 1912. John Bland seems to have taken over shortly afterwards, passing ownership to his son Bernard, by 1929. After the war the farm was bought by Mr Laurie of Stuston, apart from one field about twenty acres off Rose Lane. This was bought and farmed by Mr Brett for many years and still is a smallholding. The Laurie family still farm here. The field from the bypass running down to the railway line was purchased by the Thurlow family (Mill House Farm) comparatively recently. Burlington Lodge was split up some time ago and a development has added "Blands Farm Close" to part of the field where cricket was played for many years.

MILLWAY FARM 107 Acres

In 1837 the farm was owned by Miss Harrison of St John's and Edmund Chaplyn was farming here with his son Edward. When he died in 1852, Edward took over, and carried on ten years or so. The 1871 census records William Read farming here, followed by John Brown a few years later. By the 1890's William Chenery had taken over and stayed into the 1920's, when George Bean started farming here. Pearl Rodwell has told us that her father, Alec Constance took over in November 1936 and farmed through the war and up to 1970 when he retired. During this time he grew sugar beet,

mangolds, barley, wheat and oats. He kept beef cattle that were fattened at Longs Farm before being sold to Ernie Anness, the butcher. (now Dan Browns) A few cows were kept for farmhouse use. Mrs Constance used to make butter for a few regular customers, Mrs Howell (senior) and Joyce Watkinson, who used to bike to the farm every Saturday to collect it. Chickens and pigs were also kept for farmhouse consumption. In 1970 the farm was sold and the land split between the Ling family and Arthur Anness (Oak Farm). One of Billy's grandsons lives in the farmhouse but the rest of the buildings have been converted for residential use.

LONGS FARM 34 Acres

In 1837 John Roper owned the farm and Phyllis Long was the tenant farmer. The tenancy kept in the Long family, and John was farming here in 1855. By the time of the 1861 census Thomas aged fifty eight was in charge and from the next census in 1871 his son also Thomas had taken over. In 1881 William G More junior,(whose father farmed Bridge Farm) was farming here and remained until Horace Tibbenham, who lived at the Paddocks, bought the farm and employed Elijah Beales as farm bailiff from the early 1900's through to the mid 1930's. When Herbert and Ernest Anness, already farming Bridge Farm, took over Longs Farm, it was used partly as a cattle holding place, awaiting slaughter, for Ernest the butcher. By the 1950's the land was being farmed by Arthur Anness, alongside Bridge and Oak Farms. Alan Collins worked for Arthur, and with his family lived in the farmhouse for many years. During the 1980's Ian and Jane McClintock bought the farm for their retirement and have kept just a small acreage of the original farm.

PRIORY FARM 72 Acres

The farm back in1837 was owned by Rev Henry Hanson, and the tenant farmer was Robert Shemmings. Very little is known as to how long he was here, Sarah Gounds and her three lads arrived in the 1850's and worked the land over the next ten years or so until James Brooks took over operating as farmer and miller, his mill was close to the farm situated just off Priory Road, he seems to have been here into the 1880's, and was followed by David Osborne Simpson, son of David Simpson farming at Spring Farm and he was here until the turn of the century, John Denny taking over in 1901. A document came to light from that time, a certificate for fire insurance, insuring the house for £200 and the farm for £250. The Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company charged twelve shillings and three pence (about 61p new money) initial premium, with a renewal charge of ten shillings and sixpence (52.5p) the next year. John Denny farmed here many years, eventually selling the farm to Billy Ling in 1949. Billy's father lived in the house until his death in the mid 1950's, looked after by a (reported) dragon of a housekeeper, Miss Squirrel. Part of the land was sold for development in the 1970's, now Priory Close, and the farmhouse was sold to Malcolm Nash, who renovated it in the early 1990's and still lives there.

LIME TREE FARM 80 Acres

The Tithe map of 1837 records that Suzanna Rix owned and farmed here. The acreage was much smaller than in the late 20th century. Her husband had farmed here a number of years before he died, when her son William took over the running of the farm. In the 1850's he bought Elm Vale Farm and moved there, but continued to farm Lime Tree Farm as well until his demise in1893. Robert Murton from Thrandeston farmed here until 1903 when George Coleman took over. Some land was added to the farm from next door, Holly farm.

The 1922 Directory lists George Coleman as "farmer, carter, furniture remover and dairyman". Sadly, George died this year. During the hard winter he was out clearing the roads with a horse drawn snow plough and was discovered in Lion Road suffering from hypothermia, and he never recovered. His widow, Elizabeth, carried on the business with sons George and Charles. In time George moved to a farm in Wortham, and Charles took over the family farm. Lardy Baldwin recalled his first day at Lime

Tree Farm. He took a horse and cart to Victoria Road, Diss, loaded the cart with sand by hand and walked with the horse and cart to Tibenham Long Row (approaching ten miles). The sand was unloaded and Lardy had the luxury of riding back to Palgrave, quite a days work for a sixteen year old! Charles gave up carting and furniture removal but carried on with the dairy round until the late 1940's. He concentrated more on land cultivation and acquired Valley Farm. By the time he retired in the late 1980's the farm was over a hundred acres. The land was sold to the Laurie Family from Stuston, but the farmhouse and yard were sold to Rackham's the builders from Diss, who as part of the deal, built Charles a house at Bressingham, where he spent the rest of his life. The barns were converted for residential use and one or two new properties were added to what is now "Coleman Close".

HOLLY FARM 29 Acres

Back in 1837 the farm was owned by Mary Trenchard and farmed by John Browning who was also a cattle dealer. He stayed until the late 1850's, and was followed by John Holman. From the 1871 census William Humphrey a farmer/glazier was living here. In 1881 the census records William still here farming and his son, also William, plumbing and glazing. Shortly afterwards William Fulcher moved here from Stuston combining farming with his coach building business, he sadly died in 1896, it is not certain who took his place, but from the 1901 census, Solomon and Harriet Hawes were living in the house with their family, he was working on the farm. William Baldwin a farmer/ cattle dealer and also the local knacker was here shortly afterwards, exporting worn out horses to the continent for their meat. An old document dated 10/10/1908 records the Rev Savoury, having repossessed Land used by William for his business, requests that he remove all his tools from the land and not set up in business within a five mile radius. The land in question is a field half way down the Gassicks on the left which runs down to the beck. Lardy Baldwin who is a relative of William, remembers the field being known as "slaughter field"! William was still here in 1912 but over time the land was sold to George Coleman, the farmer next door at Lime Tree Farm. The house became known as Holly House and old Palgravians will remember Miss Jefferies living here with an extensive garden lovingly looked after by her cousin, Mr Danby. Much later the house was renamed Weavers Mark to avoid confusion with The Hollies in Lion Road.

VALLEY or CHASE'S FARM

The 1837 Tithe map shows Henry Pike here, a farmer and maltster farming land owned by James Buckley and George Bumstead, (the shopkeeper). He was here into the 1850's. Some time later Reginald Chase bought the farm, he also owned land in Diss. The farmhouse was occupied by his workers, George Cotton in the 1880's and his bailiff Horace Lanchester mentioned in the 1901 and 1911 census. Frank Hume is documented in the 1929 Directory as farming here, eventually Charles Coleman bought the farm and his workers occupied the farmhouse. The Race family followed by the Bartrum family. Like other farms in the village the farmhouse was sold and the barn converted for residential use.

CHURCH FARM 80 Acres

The Tithe records of 1837 show Mary and Jane Brooke as landowners and Henry Haynes farming here, he was followed by his son Robert in 1844. From an old sale document of 1859, Robert S Howe was in occupation of the farmhouse, but it is not certain if he farmed the land. The Directory of 1858 describes him as a maltster and merchant. Charles Weavers lived in the farmhouse a long time, as farm labourer in the 1870's to farm bailiff in both the 1901 and 1911 census, when Horace Tibbenham, living at the Paddocks was the landowner. W E Ling (Billy) and his father bought the farm in 1931, 80 acres of land, in 1938 this was increased to 152 acres. Such was Billy's ability to work the land profitably, that Grange Farm, 200 acres was added in 1942, Spring Farm 150 acres in 1945, Priory Farm 72 acres in 1949, Rookery Farm (Wortham) 306 acres in 1957, Millway Farm 118 acres

was shared with Arther Anness in 1970, Arthur had the fields to the north of Millway Lane and Billy the fields to the south. During the late 1950's, Billy grew cabbages, sprouts and other produce on a small plot in Lion Road to service a shop he had bought in Mere Street, Diss, for his daughter, Enid (where Musker-Mackintyre are now).

Sometime in the early 1960's some children playing with matches started a fire in the stackyard at Church Farm it caused absolute havoc. Several buildings were lost, the glow could be seen for miles. Many nearby property owners became concerned about windblown sparks. Jim Moule was especially worried, his house being thatched, fortunately no other properties were damaged. Billy died in 1992 as the result of a car accident. The land was split between his sons Ted and Dick. They now farm about 750 acres each. Church farmhouse and buildings were sold and the farmyard developed in the 1990's, now Church Farm Close. Billy stands out as one of the most successful farmers of his era. He had his critics, and some were jealous of his success, but he worked very hard and had an innate ability to make money, that a lot of today's entrepreneurs would envy. Even into his seventies he could be seen working alongside a group of men hoeing sugar beet. He was thought of as a hard taskmaster and there is the tale told:- When he was in the next field to a team hoeing beet, one of them had the blade break off his hoe. His mates said "don't stop, just keep doing the actions until Billy's gone, we'll put it right afterwards". Despite stories like this, Billy's heart was in the right place. When playing bowls for Palgrave, they usually stopped for a pint afterwards. One of the team was not particularly well off but Billy always made sure he didn't go without, in a quiet undemonstrative way.

OTHER PALGRAVE FARMS AND FARMERS

There were other small farms in the village. Now known as The Barn, almost opposite the rectory was farmed by Rev Robert Rose who owned land on both sides of the road in the early part of the1800's. Old maps label the road as Rose's Lane. Samuel Bond owned 26 acres of land behind Tom Ford's old house (now Wheelwrights) and his old workshop it was farmed by William Martin during the 1840's. George Rayner farmed about ten acres at Ivy House (where Ronnie Thurlow lives) from the 1850's for some forty years, his son Charles followed him and into the last century. Charles Bullock was farming here from 1912 to the late 1920's. The land was added to Mill House Farm after that time. The entrance to another farmyard in a driveway between three Church Terrace and Dave Wenhams house, Church Gardens, about ten acres owned by James Barnes and farmed by Elizabeth Leggatt in 1837. Levi Crane is mentioned in Billy's book, as being a farmer in 1844 he was still farming eighteen acres in 1871 and from the census the location was 'near Church Green', it has been difficult to pinpoint exactly where he operated. Alfred Rout had a poultry farm just east of The Grange on Old Turnpike road in 1911. Mrs Laura Hall and her son Robert (Bob), kept poultry on the same site from some time in the 1920's through to the mid 1950's. They generated their own electricity, as mains supply did not arrive in this part of the village until the early 1960's. Mrs Nurse at what is now Garnet House, also kept over a hundred chickens. Tom Ford and others in the village were into poultry in a small way. Alfie Wright at Church Terrace, Fred Rose and Pat Lock in Crossing Road all kept a few pigs.

INDUSTRY and OCCUPATIONS

BLACKSMITHS

Over centuries past, the village forge has been of supreme importance to the life and prosperity of any village as, before the age of mass production and easy transport, rural communities were required to be largely self-sufficient and each village would contain tradespeople to service all the basic needs of the population.

The forge and smithy would have kept the farmer's horses shod, the farm implements and tools repaired or have created new ones and fixed steel rims on wooden wheels, as well as attending to all the little day-to-day tasks that kept the community going. The Master Blacksmith was, therefore, a vital cog in the system upon which everyone depended.

There is evidence that, some 200 years ago, there were two forges in the village and possibly a third, although all three may not have been going at the same time. The original Howell family forge building was situated where the "Ty Gof" bungalow is now, adjacent to Forge Cottage, on the edge of the village green.

My family, who can be found in the Palgrave Church Records going back to 1554, were not always associated with the forge, however. Over 300 years ago, William Howell was Parish Clerk, Sexton and Master Weaver in Palgrave. When weaving declined, the Howells became Carriers with horse-drawn wagons. An unbroken line can be traced back to one Pelham Howell (1758 – 1832)- his occupation is unknown but he had, as part of his large family, one John Howell (born 1791}, who was noted as being a shoemaker and also blind and it is from him that the line of blacksmiths descends.
John's son, George, was born in 1826 and from the 1841 census is recorded as being an apprentice blacksmith although it is not known to whom, it could have been John Knott who is recorded in the same census as a blacksmith, living on the green in Palgrave. The 1861 census records him as owning his business and employing others, giving him the status of Master Blacksmith.

The mid 1800's was a time of flight from rural communities to the cities where the industrial revolution was offering much higher wages and the Howell family was no different, as all the descendants of Pelham left for London or Ipswich at this time apart from George and his family- a sure sign that he was doing better than others. One of the reasons for George's prosperity was that the railway line from London to Norwich was being constructed at his time and family legend has it that George got the contract for sharpening picks, repairing shovels and other tools as the works passed through and also kept it as they passed on to Norwich. The business expanded to deal with this work as well as the regular trade from the farming community. George died in 1886 and I have a copy of his will, which shows him, if one up-rates the numbers to today's values, to be a relatively wealthy man. His gravestone, in Palgrave churchyard, has the following inscription:

My sledge and hammer lie declined
My bellows too have lost their wind
My fire's extinct, my forge decayed
And in the dust my vice is laid
My coal is spent, my irons gone
My nails are drove, my work is done

He was succeeded by his son, Dennis John (1851 – 1931) and he by my grandfather, George Marshall Howell (1883 – 1953), continuing in the same premises.

The depression of the 1930's wrought havoc in the local farming community and bad times and bad debts meant that the enterprise was struggling in the run up to the Second World War. My father, Arthur Herbert Howell, was forced to leave Eye Grammar School at the age of 14 because of the cost and he became apprenticed to my grand father, taking over on his own on his death in 1953.
At that time, a government organisation called the Rural Industries Board was offering interest- free loans to small businesses in villages and my father took advantage of this to construct a new workshop on land that he now owned (the site of the current industrial estate), because it was

becoming increasingly difficult to modernise within the old buildings. The original building was 100ft x 35ft in area and he moved in in1956. The site of the old building was converted into a bungalow for my grandmother a few years later.

Armed with a degree in Structural Engineering, I arrived on the scene in 1968 and commenced to change the emphasis of the company. For over 100 years it had existed on the agricultural trade by providing farriery services, and making and repairing farm machinery and equipment. However, by this time, it was clear, that with farms amalgamating into ever larger units and developing their own repair shops, this business was heading only one way. The company then embarked on an expansion into design, fabrication and construction of steel-framed buildings and at its peak, employed some 40 people and the sound of the workshops could be heard all over the village.

Following my father's death in 1982, the company diversified into property development with the purchase of land at Elmswell, on which was constructed a small industrial estate with factory units to let, and odd domestic housing for sale elsewhere.

As the years led up to the millennium, the actions of successive governments made employing people more costly and less attractive, with more regulation, and farming profits declined, meaning that farm buildings were less in demand. It became clear that, again, it was time to get out of simple "metal bashing" and that side of the business was gently reduced until closing in 2000. The forge site has since been developed as the mixed industrial estate we see today.

Thus, in 150 years or so, the family fortunes have gone from being hung on the tail of the horse and metal fabrication to being a service industry. However, the company continues to facilitate employment within the village, something that may become ever more important as transport costs increase and people seek jobs closer to home. The family members have always, over the centuries, shown a willingness to diversify and try something new when conditions dictated.

The association of the Howells with the village of Palgrave will come to an end in due course as my son, Mark, who joined the Home Office after graduation some 20 years ago and is now a senior civil servant responsible for privatised prisons in England and Wales, has no regular contact with the area and my granddaughter does not really know the village at all, so bringing to an end some 500 years of residence. Then all that will remain will be the village sign, popularly assumed as being a reference to my father, to remind people of those times gone by. ---- Rodney Howell

BRUSH MANUFACTURE

Much credit must go to the Capon family, led by Edwin, who despite there being a large, successful brush factory in Diss, set up his business in 1879 in his home- one end of the last semi-detached house down The Lows on the right. It may well have had some buildings at the rear of the house. It is not certain how many staff he employed besides his own family, but the census for 1891 records a lodger living next door working as a brush maker. The entry in the 1896 Directory is as follows:- Edwin B Capon. Brush manufacturer. Established 1879, manufacturer of all kinds of brushes, including shoe, scrub and stove brushes etc. Special terms for merchants and shippers. Factory – Palgrave Brushworks. The business must have been successful as Edwin was still in business in 1912. The factory is thought to have closed in the early 1920's.

BUILDERS

Building work appears to have been done by locals in ones and twos. Robert Huggins and Thomas Ruffles were bricklayers in 1858, Thomas continued into 1870's. George Charles Ford was builder, contractor and undertaker, established in 1879, operating up to and past the turn of the century. By

1911 the wheelwright business had amalgamated with the builders business and Tom Ford junior was undertaker, wheelwright and builder. The building work fell away towards mid century. Jimmy Baldwin (Lardy's brother), was apprenticed to Tom as a carpenter in the late 1930's. Richard Ruffles a plasterer, living on the green near Tom was operating from the early 1900's for more than 30 years. Tom was still doing a few building jobs up to about 1960.

GARAGES, CYCLES, CARS

Sam Nichols is described in the 1925/6 Directory as a motor engineer. This was somewhat misleading as he only stocked motor oils and a limited supply of spares like spark plugs etc. He was at the time a postman repairing cycles in his spare time. He had a large shed in the Priory grounds near the entrance to what is now Clarke Close. About the same time Bogie (William) Weavers, who before the war worked as a roadman, but after serving King and Country in the Royal Engineers, sold, hired and repaired cycles from his home near the corner of Priory Road, opposite to Draycott Rise. As radios became available, he used his generator (no mains electricity) to charge accumulators for all the local radio users. He bought a car and started a taxi service, gradually building up until he had four or five cars. The house that he was living in was in poor shape and was condemned by the council. It was demolished and he was rehoused in one of the new council houses in Rose Lane in about 1937. He bought some land and had a garage erected nearby, where Pat Lewis was. He carried on with his business, and started to service and repair cars, having only serviced his own taxis before he moved to Rose Lane. Spencer Nunn, Stan Carlton, Walter Beales, George Hawes and John Jolly all worked for him at some time. Some only drove taxis while others did repair work as well. The war interfered with his progress as four out of five of his workforce were called up.

When fifteen year old Jesse Atkinson started working for him in 1941 only John Jolly was there with Bogie. John and Bogie had an understanding that when he retired, John would have the option of taking over the garage, But John was called up in 1942. Bogie Died in 1943 and his wife was at a loss at what to do, she was advised to lease the garage. Cecil Coleman and his wife Gwen took it on, cycling daily from Garboldisham where they were living at the time. Cecil started to make changes, installing mains electricity, (workshops up till then had been lit by paraffin lamps). Almost any job involving engines was taken on. When Mrs Weavers died, Cecil and Gwen bought the business, having already moved to the village from Garboldisham. When the war was over, John Jolly came back and had to settle down to work for a new boss, his hopes of running the business himself had been shattered by the war and death of Bogie Weavers. The business expanded, the taxi service being helped by a contract to transport children from outlying areas to and from school. A few years later buses took over from the taxis and the business declined. A moped agency was tried, but did not last. In the late 1950's, Bob Strudwick, Gwen's brother, was invited to join the staff from the Vauxhall Garage in Diss, with vague promises of a partnership. Bob brought a lot of customers with him and helped to revitalise a stagnant business.

An agency to sell Simca cars was taken on in 1963 encouraged by Bob, and became quite successful. Each time Bob brought up the issue of a partnership he was fobbed off, and left the in the late 1960's to come back briefly before moving back to the Vauxhall Garage, where he had started his working life. The business started to decline again so in 1971 Cecil and Gwen retired, selling the business to Jimmy Scoggins, who was already deeply involved with the Vauxhall dealership in Diss. About this time Simca was taken over by Chrysler, and names such as Talbot and Sunbeam appeared on the garage forecourt.

From 1971 to 1979 Jerry Scoggins, Jimmy's nephew, worked with him, reappearing in 1982 to buy him out. Chrysler was replaced by Peugeot and the garage became a main dealer, as part of an appraisal of all main dealers, Peugeot wanted Jerry to invest a large amount to update the premises

in order to retain the dealership. He and his wife Heather, did their calculations and decided it wasn't viable. Peugeot insisted that the premises be updated and found someone with backers prepared to invest the capital. So Jerry leased the garage to Hollands. The garage was updated but, as Jerry had suspected, they went bust eighteen months later. Pat Lewis arrived on the scene, bought the garage from the receivers, and over the next twenty five years or so the business flourished, winning awards from Peugeot for high standards of customer service. Cecil Coleman would have been amazed how much things had moved on since he first took on the Simca agency in 1963. Sadly, Peugeot were thought to have again pushed for more investment, causing an apparently flourishing business to cease trading.

LACE MAKERS

Up to the end of the 19th century, a few ladies in the village earned a living lace making. Pillow or bobbin lace goes back to the 16th century and is formed by twisting threads around pins stuck in a pillow or bobbin. School children used a similar method with pin stuck in a wooden cotton reel, obviously very crude by comparison with the original. Queen Mary is reported to have visited the villagers to bring attention to this dying craft.

LINEN WEAVERS

The linen industry was dependant on water for the treatment of hemp and flax. Hemp was grown in small fields or enclosures in the Waveney and Little Ouse valleys by a series of small-holders and cottagers and was flourishing in the 17th and 18th centuries. From an historical atlas of Suffolk by David Dymond and Edward Martin the industry was heavily concentrated along the two valleys. At the peak of production, Palgrave had more linen weavers than any other village south of the Waveney. This may have been due to our close proximity to Diss. Which at the time was one of the most important linen markets in the area. As with most industries as mechanisation arrived, the small cottage industry side of it dwindled and died out. There is mention of linen weavers in the 19th century, the 1871 census records: Ellen Leather, flax worker and Henry Scales, flax dresser.

MALTSTERS

There were maltsters in the village in the late 17th century. It was on a small scale, mainly a one man business with occasional extra labour. Later on, Henry Rice was a farmer/maltster at Valley farm in the 1840's and James Brooks with Robert Howe at Church Farm in the 1850's. The 1858 Directory records there being two breweries and sixteen public houses in Eye, and one brewery with nineteen public houses in Diss plus numerous off-licenses. William George Moore at Bridge Farm appears to be the last maltster in the village, also brewing there in 1873, but had ceased by the 1890's. Maltings were then becoming much larger and far more mechanised.

MILLERS

Windmills first appeared in the corn growing regions of the country in the 12th century. From the Suffolk Parish History (East Suffolk) there was a miller here in the village in the latter part of the 16th century. We know much more by the time the Tythe map was produced in 1837. There were two mills in Palgrave, one situated at what is still called Mill House Farm. It was sited to the rear of Mill House, very close to where Greg Thurlow and his family live. It was completely rebuilt in1803. A few years later Abraham Thurlow, who was born at Akenham in 1779 and married Elizabeth Cutting from East Bergholt arrived in Palgrave. It is not certain when they became involved with the mill, but by 1837 the mill was being run by their son, Samuel Cutting Thurlow. A succession of members of the Thurlow family took responsibility for the running of the mill for the rest of its working life. It relied on wind power until about 1920 when a steam engine was used as back-up on windless days, or when repairs were carried out. Later, a diesel engine replaced the steam one. By 1929 only the fan

tail and two sails remained, the sails were eventually demolished in 1937. The mill continued to operate on diesel power for a few more years, but other mills, much larger were beginning to take over.

Savilles at Mellis had easy access to the railway line and Burroughs of Bressingham business had grown considerably. The smaller mills were no longer viable and most had died a natural death by the 1940's. The other village windmill was off Priory Road on land at the rear of Jenny Goater's property, half-way between Priory Road and the beck. The miller in 1837 was Edmund Chaplyn, who also farmed at Millway Farm. An old Sale document discovered by Jenny suggests that Edmund Died in 1852 and the mill and surrounding land was being auctioned off. A series of different millers appeared in the Directories, Edward Sayer – 1855, Mary Horner – 1858 and James Brooks – 1875. The mill was dismantled in 1885 and moved to Botesdale where it operated until 1918 when it was demolished. The Brooks family seem to have other connections with the milling industry. Three members of the family were millwrights:- William 1865 to mid 1870's, Robert followed him into the 1880's and Henry through to the mid 1990's.

NURSERIES

Robert Ship kept the Red Lion public house in 1844. he was also a florist. His daughter, Sophia, was a seed dealer with over half an acre of land in Lion Road, where she traded for over ten years. Henry Howes, also at the Red Lion, was a nurseryman in the mid 1870's. Joseph Lane who kept The Swan was also a nurseryman in the Late 1880's. Rose Lane nurseries were being cultivated in 1891 By Albert Kerridge until 1895 when William Eady took over. In documents about the premises, the recently erected house is mentioned. It is thought the house was built in 1893. Joseph Lane previously of The Swan, was renting the nurseries when he died in 1902. Details of a document from Rev Savoury (the mortgagee) to William Eady, list the assets of the premises:- Dwelling house, greenhouses, forcing houses, sheds, outhouses heating apparatus and water pump. The orchard then contained sixty trees:- 20 apple, 1 cherry, 15 pear and 24 plum. It is thought that William Eady carried on here until his demise in 1921. Thomas Caleb Lee, an eccentric, was briefly here. Officially his occupation of the premises ceased 21st December 1921, but he had health problems and was allowed to stay on in the house for a while. In his short stay he had accumulated a surprising number of interesting artefacts (rubbish to most people).

The new landowner, Harry Edmund Strudwick, took over in 1922, and it took him some time to persuade Thomas Lee to remove the remains of an old Zeppelin, from ground he wanted to cultivate. The site is almost four acres and Harry worked hard. They grew all the flowers for the numerous weddings and funerals they serviced, and with eventually five greenhouses, fruit and vegetables were available for the local shops all year round. His sons George and Dick, joined the business in 1937 and soon opened a shop on the market place in Diss (now the museum). It was divided in two – flowers at one end and fruit and vegetables at the other. In the early days deliveries were made by bicycle and Dick once had to cycle to Great Yarmouth to deliver a wreath. Those were the days!! They carried on through the war as best they could. On one occasion Harry and Dick were planting roses in a garden in Frenze Road, Diss. They heard a plane overhead. It crashed in a field at the top of Frenze Road. They rushed to give assistance, helping the injured airmen to safety, then transporting them to the local hospital. Ann Garnham (Harry's granddaughter) has a fragment of that aircraft, an Avro Ansen, framed and dated:- 19th November 1940.

As the nurseries overlook the railway line and the entrance of the village, an anti-tank spigot mortar post was built here (still there now). It was manned by the home guard. In 1946 Harry died, but his wife, Naomi, carried on, ably assisted by George and Dick. An old newspaper cutting dated 17th July 1947 reported a devastating hail storm sweeping over the region. The nurseries suffered untold

damage to all the greenhouses. Most businesses have their setbacks so they picked themselves up and moved on. In 1959 Naomi died. George and Dick carried on with the family business. There were five or six staff working full time to keep up with the requirements of both shops, and the regular shipments of flowers to the London markets. In 1976 George died in a road accident. Shortly after this, the fruit and vegetable shop closed. This meant that less land was required for cultivation. In 1989 Dick and his wife retired, leaving their daughter, Ann, to run the business. The florist shop was sold in 1993 and everything was run from Palgrave. At the beginning of 2012 Ann, having suffered health problems the previous year, decided to call it a day ninety years after her grandfather first started the business.

PLUMBERS

John Payne, from Billy's book, was the plumber and glazier of the village in 1844. In the 1858 Directory, William Humphrey, had taken over as plumber/glazier. He also dabbled in farming, the census 1871 and 1881 find him at Holly Farm, farming and glazing, his son is recorded as the plumber. He later reverted to plumbing and in the 1896 Directory he was described as:- Sanitary plumber, glazier, house decorator, painter and paperhanger, in a business established nearly half a century. George Rice born about the turn of the century, started his plumbing business in the 1930's working from his home in Mission Road, Diss. In 1948 he had The Barn (Rose Lane) converted for residential use (it used to house Charlie Saunder's stallion – looked after by George Trudgill) He ran a successful business here until 1963, when he retired and moved back to Diss.

POTTERS

John Collier and his wife came from Wattisfield in 1951 and started a small pottery business in Priory Cottage, making mainly mugs, ashtrays and trinkets, sold to local shops. Each piece had the Palgrave Potteries stamp on its base, p/p. They ceased production in 1959 and moved on.

THATCHERS

Most farmers in the old days had one man capable of thatching stacks well enough for short time necessity, but house roof thatching was a different story and required a much higher standard of workmanship. A roof would be expected to last at least twenty years. Samuel Alger was such a one, and with his son Herbert, thatched virtually all the local roofs from the early 1880's right through to the late 1920's. He was related to Cleer Alger the well known Surveyor, Lithographer and Photographer. The only other Palgrave thatcher known since was Ernie Hubbard, who lived down Crossing Road next to Pat Lock. My memory of him was of a slim, wiry man whose trouser bottoms always had some binder twine tied tightly round them, which is the best way to ensure no mice run up your trouser legs, so I am reliably informed.

THRESHING MACHINES

Edgar Stevens was born at Hepworth in 1864. When he was seventeen, he moved to Walsham Le Willows to be apprenticed blacksmith with his uncle. He set up his threshing machine business in the early 1890's. At the start the machines were kept on Fair Green. The business moved to The Bridge (where Rackham's builders yard is now) in about 1910. There were four sets of threshing drums and five traction engines, a spare in case of breakdowns. He employed one man who lived at Gislingham and worked that area, two from Fersfield who looked after work in that area and Frank, his son (b 1895) who did the remainder. They carried out all their own maintenance and repairs, Edgar, and Frank who had been trained by his father. The threshing season was a long one, starting as soon as the corn was cut, David Laurie, from Stuston used to have his corn cut and threshed at the same time one of the few to do so. The others waited their turn, some not threshing until May of June the following year. It was then that the threshing drums were washed down and serviced for the year, being repainted when necessary. Rackham's painters would spend up to two weeks there, the main

wood spars in red. The other parts in salmon and the wheels in black, lined in white. This was done in the tall building still standing to the right of the yard, were all the machines were housed and repaired.

During the war Edgar and Frank had an air raid shelter built deep in their orchard by Rackhams. Unfortunately it has been lost, buried somewhere in the orchard. Geoff, Franks son, vividly remembers standing in the doorway of the shelter watching in horror as Norwich was bombed, the sky being lit up as the Luftwaffe inflicted devastating havoc. The transition from traction engine to tractor was made in 1947. Edgar died in 1948. Frank and his sister, Evaline, took over the business for a few years. Frank retired in the late 1950's, nearly all the old equipment was sold to Kings of Norwich (scrap metal dealers). They kept just one traction engine "Brittania", built to their specification in 1925 by Burrells at Thetford. It was later sold to a collector, ending up somewhere in the West Country. Many years later (2008) Geoff had a treat, his daughter managed to locate its whereabouts on the web and took her parents to see it at a steam rally in Sussex.

TRANSPORTERS

F W Hume started his business in 1912 in Mission Road at Sawmills Farm, Diss The first vehicles were horse drawn. When they moved to the site left vacant by the Stevens business in 1960 they were running just three lorries. At this time they were transporting all types of livestock, and weekends were spent moving ponies and horses to and from various gymkhanas. They acquired more lorries and at one time were running thirteen all over the country, Wales and Scotland, they also did trips to Southern Ireland to pick up donkeys to deliver to the sanctuary at Snetterton. As milk production in the area diminished fewer cattle were moved and after the foot and mouth outbreak pigs were the main stock being moved. In 2008 Ron and John decided to call it a day- they sold the ten vehicles they had been running, also the depot and retired.

WHEELWRIGHTS

In the mid 17th century there were three wheelwrights in the village. The numbers fluctuated over the years. Robert Rayner was the village wheelwright in the 1850's. The Ford family took over the role after this time. Thomas Ford in the 1880's was a cart/ van manufacturer and wheelwright. Each cart had an oval cast iron plate, with the makers name and the village where it was built. Thomas Cameron, his son carried on in the 1920's. The next generation Cameron Thomas Ford was the last wheelwright in the village. Tractors started to take over from horses in the 1940's, trailers were being made of different materials and of different design. Work fell away, being mainly repairs to old carts. I was fortunate to be in a group of school children who were taken across the green to watch what was probably the last metal rim to be fitted to a cartwheel in the village. The process needed the joint skills of the wheelwright (Tom Ford) and the blacksmith (Arthur Howell). The two tradesmen informed the schoolmaster and he saw an opportunity to show his school children a little piece of history. This was in about 1954. By this time repair work had dried up, the business concentrated on carpentry and undertaking and eventually ceased to operate in the early 1980's.

FIREWOOD YARD

Rose Lane:- Dick and Ali Wright cut up firewood and made local deliveries from the late 1940's through to the early 1860's. The site, opposite the nurseries was originally owned by David Laurie of Stuston, but it was bought by the Brett family, who ran a smallholding at the bottom of Rose Lane. Between the wars there was a sandpit on site where the Council dumped surplus soil etc. This was long before any road alterations. In the late 1960's Chappie Garnham, the tree feller was using the site, and it remained in his family for a number of years.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

William Hammond in 1844 and John Moore between 1837 and 1858, were shoe makers. Henry Thurlow, living at The Limes, Crossing Road, in 1937 to the late 1850's, was a cabinet maker. Robert Shimming, a basket maker, was renting land around Priory Farm, down towards the beck. He may well have had osier beds to service his basket making needs. He continued until the late 1850's. Henry King was also a basket maker at this time, recorded in the census from 1841 right through to 1881. James Thurlow was a coal merchant in the late 1850's, after he died his widow ran the business up to the mid 1880's. Moving forward to the 1920's and 30's. Dorothy Hilling, Spirella corsetiere, and Miss Summons a dressmaker living in Lion Road, deserve a mention.

THE POST OFFICES

The early Directories mention only a collection box for post, on a wall near the Swan Public House. The first Sub-Post office in the village was in 1879 when George Charles Ford operated in premises on the west side of the green next door (north) of Garnet House. He must have been a busy man, as he was also a building contractor and undertaker. The Post Office remained at Mr Ford's until 1911 when it transferred across the green to what is now called the Old Post Office. Mrs Lydia Green, also described as a grocer and draper ran the Post Office a few years (her son Alec was a postman later on). Clem More took over at the same premises in 1916, running it through the war until the late 1940's, when it moved location to the top of The Lows, Rose Cottage, run by Mr and Mrs Hill, from a wooden building in their garden. It was transferred again in 1953 to Dick Erith's newly refurbished stores, next to Forge Close. It was run by the different owners of the Stores until it closed in 1994. It made its last move to a part of Pat Lewis's Garage, but only stayed open two or three years before the village lost its Post Office for good as many other parishes have done.

SHOPS IN PALGRAVE

The Stores next to Forge Close:- The Bumstead family were running the stores well before 1800. The Directory for 1896 reported: The Stores have been run by the same family upward of a hundred years. George Bumstead born c1786 was running the stores at the time of the Tithe map being drawn up in1837. The land, which at the time would have included all of what is now Forge Close and possibly more besides, was owned by Charlotte Isaacson. George died in1853 and his son Robert took over. It must have been a very successful business, by the time Robert passed on in 1885, all the surrounding land and the Stores had been acquired, plus nine cottages and several small plots of land that were auctioned off in June 1885 (from the pages of the Ipswich Journal of that date). Robert had remained unmarried, his two younger brothers had moved south many years earlier and presumably had no interest in the shop, so the business was taken over by his cousin, Ann Farrow, nee Thurlow (daughter of Samuel Cutting Thurlow, the miller) and her husband, Charles Henry Farrow, a chemist. They had three children, and Herbert, born in 1876, helped his mother run the business after his father died suddenly from pneumonia in 1895. Ann passed on in 1905. He married in 1911, but tended to run the shop by himself. He was latterly known as "Ratty". He employed Billy Hilling (Dorothy's father) as baker until he retired in the 1930's. Herbert had a pony and cart and Charles Goddard carried out his deliveries. Much later on Billy, his son, delivered the orders for him. He carried on running the shop right up to his death in November 1952, at the age of 76.

Dick Erith took over the shop and completely refurbished it, removing all the fitments that must have been installed by Charles Farrow in the 1880's. Older residents of the village will remember the Stores looking like an old fashioned chemists shop before the alterations. Dick and his wife also took on the sub-post office, which they ran until 1966, when they moved down to the West Country. Merle Channell and Marjory Ince (to become Atkinson) ran the shop for ten years. Mr D Arnott took on the shop, but only stayed three years. Mr and Mrs Cartwright were here from 1979 to 1986, when

Roger Coomber and his wife took over. Sadly, ill health forced them to close the shop at Christmas 1994.

Shop west side of the green:- It is not known when George Charles Ford took over or if he sold other goods from what was then a sub-post office, but it reverted to being a grocers shop. The Directory for 1925/6 reports James Henry Rollingson as grocer, his son, Jasper, took over on the early 1930's. Two ladies by the name of Foreman (plus their Alsation dog) were here for a few years, followed by Ellis Seaman from the late 1930's and into the war period. Douglas Websdell living at the top of The Lows, was renting the property and delivering groceries with his motorbike and sidecar. Shortly after the war he bought the shop moved in and ran it until he passed away in 1961. Ronnie Elliston took over and ran it for over twenty years. It closed in the mid 1980's.

The Crown Stores:- was located at what is now North View, between The Swan and Coleman Close. It was quite a small shop, consequently the shopkeeper in 1841 George Bond, was also a carpenter. His wife Jane worked in the shop, they were here over twenty years. Philip Buckle appears on the 1871 census as a general shopkeeper. In 1881 Sarah Middleton was here and had branched out into drapery, and by1891 it had become an off-license run by wheelwright John Precious. In 1901 Walter Bullock was a cooper/grocer, and in the 1911 Directory, William Kemp Tipple was a beer retailer, lovely name for his occupation! By the early 1920's, Robert Killingworth was also selling beer. Later on his wife, Sarah, was listed as a butcher. Anyone who used the shop latterly may remember a butcher's block in the middle of the shop floor. The shop passed to Nellie Ireland, who during the 1950's paid well for picked blackberries, which were used as a dye in the clothing industry. The shop closed in the early 1960's.

Crossing Road Shop:- The thatched cottages on the right down Crossing Road were in use as a butchers shop run by George Chapman, who was also a slaughterer, from the 1871 and 1881 census, his son, Robert, followed on from him (1891 census).

Gent's Outfitters shop:- Mr A J Nurse, the tailor at what is now Garnet House also owning a shop in Diss, had a well constructed and insulated building in his garden, where he made clothes to measure and did alterations, he sold clothes from the room at the front of the house.

Looking through the Directories other shopkeepers can be found but where they were located is uncertain. Henry Brown a butcher in 1844, Simon Crisp a pork butcher 1855 and Fanny Stevenson, a tobacconist in 1865. Graham Norman was selling fruit and vegetables from an old railway carriage at the bottom of Palgrave Hill. Half-way up the hill, Fred Haystead sold paraffin, washing powder and soap etc. which he delivered around the village by horse and cart.

EDUCATION IN PALGRAVE

If there is one field in which Palgrave might puff out its chest and claim an international reputation, it is Education. This claim is based on the fact that between July 1774 and June 1785 a young Dissenting minister and his wife ran a School in the village. But what a School! And what a wife!

Anna Laetitia Aikin was the daughter of John Aikin, a teacher at Warrington Academy, Warrington was effectively a University for dissenters who could afford an education, but who were forbidden, because of religious belief, from entering Oxford or Cambridge. Under Warrington's influence Anna Laetitia's natural brilliance flourished. She became a nationally acclaimed poet, and a genuine intellectual. During her life she mixed on equal terms with the most incandescent minds of the age.

Wordsworth was jealous of her poetry; Coleridge called her 'that great and excellent woman', and walked forty miles just to see her. Among her acquaintance were Charles and Mary Lamb, John Howard, the penal reformer, Horace Walpole, Joseph Priestley, Josiah Wedgwood, who portrayed her in cameo, and Richard Cosway, who painted her in miniature. She was famously insulted by Samuel Johnson (well, who wasn't) and in Richard Samuel's painting "The Nine Living Muses of Great Britain" (1775) Anna Laetitia appears alongside Angelica Kaufman. And in July 1774 she came to live in Palgrave.

In May 1774 Anna Laetitia married Rochemont Barbauld, a former Warrington pupil, who the previous year had accepted the post of Minister to the dissenting congregation of Diss, on condition that he could open a School to augment his income. Barbauld's first inclination was to open a girls' school, but Anna Laetitia opposed the idea – Probably on the grounds that she would have to do all the work! Accordingly, in May 1774 the Norwich Mercury carried an advertisement for "Palgrave Seminary, near Diss… where Youth intended for any of the professions, or trade, may be educated accordingly, with the greatest Care and Skill, in the Classics, French, Mathematics &c."

The school opened in a house which had belonged to another Palgrave luminary, "Honest" Tom Martin, the antiquary. The exact location of the house is disputed, but in his essay "Honest Tom Martin's House", S W Rix describes the house as "looking towards the village church, upon a tongue of greensward, and its northern end adjoining the road to Botesdale and Bury St Edmunds". A map of 1812 shows 'Palgrave School' on the southwest edge of the village, close to Bury Road. The building probably stood near the entrance of our Clarke Close.

On opening, the School had 8 pupils, their families paying £25 each per year. The enterprise flourished, and in January, 1779, Anna Laetitia wrote to her brother that the School was "full from top to bottom" Income for the first year was£217; in its last year the School took £1,147. Fees were not uniform,"parlour" boarders paid forty guineas per year, for which they enjoyed better boarding conditions. In its last year the School had 41 pupils.

At first, it appears, Anna Laetitia's duties were principally those of a housekeeper. In 1776 she wrote to her brother "I will tell you what I have been about. First, then, making up beds; secondly, scolding my maids, preparing for company; and lastly, drawing up and delivering lectures on Geography." Of course, the school's main catchment area was East Anglia (the boys divided themselves into Norwichions and Yarmouthions) but it also attracted pupils from across the country and from overseas – the West Indies and New York. Rochemont Barbauld had connections with the aristocracy, and these connections, and Anna Laetitia's reputation brought a number of noble sons to the School – those of the Earl of Selkirk, Lord More, Lord Aghrim, the Hon. Augustus Phipps, and Lord Templetown – all "parlour" boarders. Mainly, though, the School took the sons of solid middle-class families, not all dissenting.

In effect, the Palgrave School was a dissenting equivalent of the great Establishment Schools: Eton, Harrow, Westminster, and Christ's Hospital School. Indeed, McCarthy suggests that parents may have sent their sons to Palgrave as an alternative to the violence and depravity (drinking and gambling) of the great Schools. That this is likely is due to the fact that Anna Laetitia's was the guiding hand on Palgrave School's tiller. The School curriculum was almost certainly of her devising, and its methodology was hers entirely, and in both curriculum and methodology the Barbauld School was very different from its grander Establishment rivals.

The Norwich Mercury advertisement declared that no more than thirty boys would attend the School at any one time. William McCarthy has suggested that over its time the School educated one hundred

and thirty one boys. The School has a Head Boy, called the Captain, who enjoyed a range of privileges: he could sit where he liked at meals and he could use "the sitting room above stairs". He also had duties, however: to preserve order; to "arbitrate in all disputes"; and to set a good example. The Captain was elected, so Palgrave boys received an early introduction to democracy.

Anna Laetitia had enlightened ideas about pupil management. She defended pupils' rights to privacy and their own agendas. She encouraged pupils by offering prizes for success, and when things went wrong "fines and Jobations" (lengthy rebukes) were employed instead of corporal punishment. She was neither idealistic nor sentimental but Anna Laetitia believed in the innate potential of her boys. McCarthy writes, "Anna Laetitia buys into neither the myth of natural depravity, nor the myth of natural innocence". Her teaching was practical; she embraced the idea that children should learn by doing – especially at play. At the same time, Anna Laetitia had high expectations of her pupils – the boys learned and performed Shakespeare, and recited long poems from memory at an early age. Her time at Palgrave brought forth two of Anna Laetitia's greatest and most enduring works: "Lessons for Children" and "Hymns in Prose" - stories and devotional pieces designed to delight children and teach them in equal measure.

The School's curriculum appears quite formal: "Latin, French, English and Accompts, and if any desired it, Greek, Algebra, Geometry, and Geography". All boys received religious instruction, science was taught, and the boys took exercise – trap-ball and swimming. Teaching, though, had an anti-establishment, liberal political flavour. Fables in "Lessons for Children" rebuked class pride and encouraged respect for others usually deemed inferior. The play "Caractacus", performed by the boys in May 1782, invited a critical response to ideas like the power of monarchy; the effectiveness of violence; and political corruption. During her life, Anna Laetitia embraced causes such as American Independence, the abolition of slavery, and political reform. And she was opposed to the war against France, on pacifist grounds. It Is clear that she tried to pass on her liberal principles to the boys of Palgrave. Not everyone approved of Anna Laetitia's methods. Charles Lamb wrote to Coleridge:

> "Mrs Barbauld's stuff has banished all the old classics of the nursery… Science has succeeded to poetry no less in the little walks of children than with men. Is there no possibility of averting this sore evil? Think what you would have been now, if instead of being fed with tales and old wives' fables in childhood, you had been crammed with geography and natural history! Damn them! I mean the cursed Barbauld crew..."

Doctor Johnson saw Anna Laetitia's work as a betrayal of early promise:

> "Miss Aikin was an instance of early cultivation, but in what did it terminate? In marrying a little Presbyterian parson, who keeps an infant boarding school, so that all her employment now is to suckle fools and chronicle small beer. If I had bestowed such an education on a daughter and had discovered that she thought of marrying such a fellow, I would have sent her to the congress".

Charles James Fox also thought her efforts a waste of time, but "Lessons for Children" and "Hymns in Prose" were extremely popular. "Hymns " went through several editions; was translated into five languages; and was a stock children's book until the end of the nineteenth century. Moreover, many of Palgrave's pupils rose to positions of great eminence, and many recorded in glowing terms their memories of the School and Anna Laetitia Barbauld.

Ten Palgrave boys (20% of the alumni) achieved entries in the "Dictionary of National Biography", gaining fame in academia, the church, law, and government. One of these held up the Palgrave torch in spectacular fashion. Thomas Denman joined the School in June 1782, aged 3 ½, as a "parlour" boarder. Later he was educated at Eton and St John's College, Cambridge. In 1830 he became Attorney General, in which capacity he drafted the Great Reform Bill of 1832. How proud we should be that the seeds of British democracy, respected across the world, longed for and fought for in many countries today, were sown here in Palgrave.

The School did not close when the Barbaulds left. Four more dissenting ministers ran the School in parallel with their clerical duties. In June, 1800, the Rev John Tremlett advertised in "The Ipswich Journal" that "his School will be open after the midsummer recess". The advertisement tells readers, "Young gentlemen are instructed in the English, French. Latin and Greek languages, Geography and the use of globes. Particular attention is paid to Writing, Acompts, and Book-keeping."
The Barbauld principle of the practical curriculum was to be preserved.

After 1818 the Dissenting Academy declined and the building housed a fee-paying "Establishment for Young Ladies", which transferred to Mount Street in Diss in 1859 when the house was demolished. Clearly, the Barbauld era was a very significant episode in Palgrave's history, but education in Palgrave did not begin with the Barbaulds. The Barbauld School house was a fee-paying School as early as the sixteenth century, and was considered to have good academic standards. The records of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, show, that in September, 1586, one "John Jewell of Carleton Rode, at Palgrave School under Mr Mure" – entered the college as a scholar at the age of eighteen. When this early School closed, the building became a private residence and between 1723 and 1771 it was the home of "Honest" Tom Martin. The Barbaulds, as we have seen, moved in in 1774.

The Charity School movement reached Palgrave in 1617 when William Holmes, who died childless, bequeathed £2 per annum for forty years to pay for the teaching of four of the poorest children in the parish to read at school. In 1711 the Rector of Palgrave, Mr Oldfield, opened Diss Charity School which at first operated in Palgrave, and later moved to Diss Guildhall, with younger boys on the ground floor and the Grammar School upstairs. The parish of Palgrave made a subscription of £10 per annum for the School's maintenance, and local clergy and gentlemen subscribed between £20 and £30. Ten boys were taught and clothed, and six more were taught but not clothed. The boys were taught reading, writing and the Christian religion. The village also supported a Dame School for younger boys, who paid 10 shillings each per annum. The little ones were taught the alphabet, spelling, and the catechism.

The National School movement came to Palgrave in1818. The first National School, also supported by subscriptions, ran one day a week and on Sundays, and taught thirty eight children. By 1833 there were three such schools in the village. In 1841 came the formation of a second Palgrave National School which is believed to have been held in the Rectory. A parish account book shows that regular subscriptions were made by local people, including the Misses Harrison, who lived at St John's, and the Rev Wilson. Money was also received from the parish farm and eventually from the pupils themselves or as a result of work they had undertaken. The income was used to pay for the teacher and to provide books.

By 1849 the records show the involvement of Rev Charles Martyn who became instrumental in the construction of the present school building. In 1853 Sir Edward Clarence Kerrison of Oakley Park, who was lord of the Manor of Palgrave, conveyed land on the Green for the erection of a school "for children and adults or children of the labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes… for religious and educational training of children of yeomen or tradesmen or other persons of the same

parish and as a residence for teacher or teachers." Martyn was totally committed and fully involved in the life of the school, teaching and visiting with his wife on a regular basis until his death. He also created a charity, funded by investments, to be used for the school, coals and clothing and this charity exists today. The original building was quite small with one main room and a little room for infants, but at one time it was expected to hold one hundred and seventy children!

Of course the building developed. The infant's room was added in 1874, and enlarged in 1894. The east end was enlarged in 1887. The house was built in 1896 and another classroom added in 1910. Iron railings were erected around the school in 1924 for the safety of the children. A school garden was taken on in 1928 through a tenancy agreement with Miss Ling which terminated in 1952, and a cycle shelter was built in 1935. It wasn't until the 1990's that further building work added cloakrooms, an office and better toilet facilities. Electricity was connected in 1936. Prior to that open fires were the order of the day to warm the premises.

In the early days there were no national standards at the school. The curriculum was designed, in collaboration with, by the Rev Martyn and the school managers. Teachers were expected to reach a certain level of professional competence, and if they failed to do so, or their class results were not up to a certain standard, they would be asked to resign.

The school year was linked to the agricultural year and pupil absenteeism was rife at harvest-time, and during haymaking and gleaning. Attendance would suffer, too, if there was a cheap day-trip running to Great Yarmouth or Lowestoft, of if the fair had come to Diss or Thrandeston, or if Diss races were on! Absence was often so high that the headteacher would give up and close the school for the day! There were also school closures during local epidemics of whooping-cough, scarlet fever, measles, and mumps – to control spreading. The Christmas holiday of 1896/7 lasted until the 18th January because of mumps! The poor state of some children's footwear kept them at home as well, during bad winter weather. In the School's early days the timing of the day would also reflect local conditions. In summer the School ran from 2pm until 5pm. Winter hours were restricted: 1.30pm until 4pm. The School log also refers to an evening school.

Monetary prizes were offered to encourage attendance – 400 sessions per year were needed to qualify, and the School would be penalised by the withholding of grant monies if attendance fell to an unacceptable level. A fine of this sort would be serious – there were few tables available for the children, and materials were in short supply. In 1903, in fact, the School almost closed for want of equipment. At the same time, a number of day- or half-day-holidays were awarded. Empire Day, Clothing Club Day, the Wedding of the Prince of Wales in 1863, the winning of a scholarship were all marked by a holiday! And in 1902 the School closed for an afternoon when a tablet was unveiled in the Church in memory of Harry Derisley, a former scholar who had been killed the year before in the Boer War.

In the 1930's the School assumed some responsibility for children's health. The nurse visited to check for head lice and general well-being. The dentist checked oral health and performed tooth extractions – without anaesthetic! Frail children were spared this trauma – they were sent to a proper surgery to be given gas!

The Second World War made a great impact on the Village School. From 1938 children had to bring gas masks which were checked by teachers, and ARP arrangements were made for the School to position benches to protect the children in case of air-raids. When war was declared the headmaster and staff were recalled to school during the summer holidays, and the school was re-opened for half day sessions. Evacuees were sent to Palgrave from East Ham and Dagenham. Due to the lack of space

the Reading Room across from the School was used by Palgrave and Dagenham seniors during the mornings while East Ham infants used the main room in the school; this was reversed in the afternoons. Knitting for the troops (the Army comforts depot and the RAF depot) was undertaken and was of good quality. The Overseas Tobacco fund appealed for the children to collect pennies. An illuminated certificate was given to each subscriber, and 307 pennies were collected. There were two nights of air raids over the country which had children coming into school looking tired.

Of course, a number of Palgrave residents have memories of their days at the village school. One lady recalls outside pail toilets, and play on the west side of the Green. Her headteacher, Mr Wood, lived in the School house (now a private residence) and took pupils to work in the school gardens at the top of the Lows, where there were fruit trees and bushes, and flowers. Pauline Whistlecraft remembers a young war time evacuee being killed in a tree. She was one of the few Palgrave pupils to progress to the Grammar School at Eye. Most went into jobs in Diss: some were lucky enough to secure apprenticeships bought by their parents.

In 1990 a new nursery school was established in the village. It was held in a newly renovated coach house situated behind the former Swan Inn. It had places at each session for twenty-four children between the ages of three to five, and served the village school as a nursery class for their new entrants. It remained in the village until 2006 when it transferred to Roydon. The nursery has not quite gone away, though – it is still called The Swan Nursery.

Palgrave Primary School still sits on its restricted site but it has received many modifications and improvements. The total number of pupils allowed on roll is now restricted to sixty three and the children are organised in three classes with mixed year groups. In these days of changing numbers in the population, the village is lucky to have retained its school though the school house has been sold as a private dwelling and the head teacher is shared with Gislingham School. However, more than one hundred and fifty years after its establishment by the philanthropist Rev. Charles Martyn, it still remains at the heart of the village, serving both Palgrave and the local community. ---- Margaret Roberts

PALGRAVE, RELIGION and THE CHURCH BC to REFORMATION

If the assumption that Palgrave did have a prior significance as a religious centre is correct then it is almost certain it would have been integrated in the Roman pantheon. This process, which in its simplest form takes a site and or deity and then re-dedicates with a Roman equivalent, normally with localised differences happened throughout the Romanised world. As a practice it preserved localised beliefs with the re-affirmation of the status quo of the ruling ideal. It is quite possible that Palgrave had a small temple or shrine, although as this is likely to have been a wooden structure it is unlikely that any remains can be found.

Between 383 and 410 the Roman interests in Britain ended, the refusal of Emperor Honorius to send military aid to assist with Saxon incursions into the country being the official end to the historical period. What happened between the end of Roman Britain and the emergence of the kingdom of East Anglia is unknown. It is possible that life changed very little within a village community such as Palgrave, day to day survival being of more paramount importance than who was in charge or semantics of belief. Although Christianity was de-criminalised in 313 by the edict of Milan, allowing Christian worship within the Roman empire it was unlikely that Palgrave, or for that matter any of eastern Britain was Christian during the Roman period. Whether by force or invitation, following 410 Saxons and other peoples from north Europe and the low countries started to migrate to Britain. Most documentary sources state that these immigrants were pagan, so it is quite possible that from

the local context a similar process of integration would have happened. Over the next two centuries the areas of Suffolk, Norfolk and parts of the fens became amalgamated in to the kingdom of the East Angles and it is at this time Christianity was introduced to the area.

It is unknown as to the exact date of Christianity becoming the prime belief in our area. Through the excavation of mound 1of the Sutton Hoo burial site in the late 1930's contained within the grave goods items of both Christian and pagan symbolism. Academic argument still being undecided as to whether the Christian items had been placed in the context of the grave occupants spiritual belief or as a statement of wealth. It is generally accepted, the grave is of Readwald (599-624) high king of East Anglia then documentary sources state that although he converted around 605 he still maintained a pagan temple. It is his son Sigeberht who is credited with officially starting the process to Christianize East Anglia.

Sigeberht shared the throne of East Anglia with Ecgric, a pagan. Prior to his return to East Anglia in around 627 Sigeberht had lived in exile in Gaul and was baptised a Christian. It is his association with a monk Felix, from Burgundy, later to become St Felix that led to the creation of the first bishopric at Dummoc, believed to be lost city of Dunwich. Along with Felix another key figure at this time was an Irish monk Fursey to whom Sigeberht had granted lands at Cnobheresburg, generally accepted as being Burgh Castle near Great Yarmouth. It is Felix and Fursey who travelled through the kingdom converting the population and given the pagan associations with Palgrave it is quite probable that they would have visited the village and set up a Christian church or settlement. Sigebehrt himself gave up the throne to Ecgric to become a monk and is credited with forming the first monastery at what is now Bury St Edmunds.

A comment often made about Suffolk and Norfolk is that it has an exceptional number of churches. No doubt due to the missionary work of Felix and Fursey, Palgrave having two listed within Domesday. Unfortunately our Knowledge of these early churches are almost non-existent, if records were made they were probably lost during Viking raids, during which many East Anglian monasteries were sacked. Records exist referring to a church dedicated to St. John and according to Palgrave's 18th century antiquary, Tom Martin, a stone outline of the building was still visible in his lifetime.

The records that do exist place its establishment in the 11th century, this figure is I feel questionable and possibly a confusion with the Domesday reference, an earlier date being more likely. St. Johns church was stated to be 'one half mile' from the second (present) parish church, this being interesting as locally it is often thought to be sited on the grounds of the present St. Johns hospital. An Archaeological survey carried out during 2006 on the hospital grounds gave valuable evidence of the site having been in use during the pre-historic Roman times but little evidence of the early medieval period. This is not surprising as it would have been of wooden construction.

My own thesis is that Palgrave may have had three religious establishments, our present church, St. Peters, a possible priory church and another church related to a hospital on the village periphery, St. Johns. The existing priory references in both field and property names within the village are good evidence for a monastic settlement, it is also probable that the actual church structure would have been wooden, especially from the 7th century. Most available evidence relating to St. Johns hints to a possible hospital order, its location also fits as often these were sited away from the main village and usually had their own chapel.

Hospital foundations in medieval times formed an early type of 'poor law' and hence as well as caring for the sick provided some measure of aid to the elderly, disabled and unemployed. They also provided board and lodgings for travelling priests and monks. If what is now the A143 existed as a

road or path at this time it is quite possible that being roughly halfway from the coast and Bury St Edmunds, i.e. Between the religious foundations of Fursey and Sigeberht, it may have been of some importance.

If the true location of Tom Martin's stone outline could be established it would be possible to construct a more accurate interpretation of Palgrave in the Saxon era. As being of stone construction it would have been quite an important building and whether religious or secular in use it would be quite significant in the village's development.

The surviving and present church, that of St. Peter does give some clues as to the ecclesiastical past of Palgrave. Its existence today confirming that it became the dominant religious centre either in its location or significance. A possible reference to the latter is the Marion monograms, pilgrims marks that can still be seen in the church. If during the medieval period St. Peters had housed or indeed been originally constructed to house relics it would have become a focal point to the village. Not least being key to the village economy by attracting pilgrims. This could also explain other high status items within the church, the font being the most impressive and along with the tower foundations the oldest surviving feature.

Although generally accepted as being late 13th century from the design and quality of carving of the font I feel it may be earlier and if visualised in its original painted form, stunning. By comparison with other churches within the area it is unusual in both its date and grandeur, especially if it is assumed the original building in which it was housed was smaller than the building we see today. If we look at the rest of the building for medieval features all seem of similar high quality. The corbels, which we shall conclude with the superb 13th century roof construction. This again is high status ornate construction, its survival to the present day a credit to the craftsmen who constructed it. Whether the church ever did contain relics related St Peter or another of the Christian hierarchy will probably never be known, any traces being removed either in Tudor times, or by Oliver Cromwell. Certainly the palimpsest we see today does point to a church of significant importance. It is interesting though that one thing the church builders did leave us is their portraits and in all probability those of some of Palgrave's medieval residents. The sculpted corbels each bearing individual faces. It is a pity they cannot talk as they would answer many of the questions my research in to the church has asked.

THE CHURCH

The oldest parts of St. Peter's are the Tower and Chancel Arch, which are early 14th century. The church is built of knapped flint, probably stones collected locally. The tower is unbuttressed with ashlar quoining. The windows are varied but mostly late 14th century style. The main south door has various carved decorations including St George and the Dragon and a Green Man. The porch originally had a Parvis chamber, used as a school room or storeroom. There are two figures guarding the inner door: perhaps King Edmund and his Queen.

During the mid-nineteenth century the north aisle was constructed to extend the church and various repairs were carried out. Extensive renovations were also carried out in the 1960's by Robert Rolfe, who painted the blue wooden triptych on the north wall bearing the Ten Commandments.
Above the south door is a suit of armour, which allegedly belonged to the Parish Constable, although it is probably mock plate associated with a memorial. The pews are Victorian, with little latch doors. Some of the pews have been removed at the front of the church to create more space for worship. The lectern hosts a Bible presented by friends of George Clarke, a former churchwarden who sang in the church choir for fifty years! The font is somewhat unusual, it has a limestone bowl and seems to be older than the church, probably 11th or 12th century. It has either the Gospel writers or the 'four

doctors' at each corner, three of whom have intact noses despite Cromwellian damage evident else where in the church.

The 'Sunday Club corner' in the north-east chapel is lit by a memorial to the Harrison family. It regularly hosts a thriving band of 'Sunday Club' children aged from 3 to 13! The Millennium Banner, created by parishioners in the North Hartismere Benefice during 2000, may be in church, although it moves around the benefice.

The choir stalls are carved with local plants, including holly, ivy, oak and corn ears, and the ivy motif is continued round the alter rail. The Holy Table is late Stuart. The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were gifts from the reverend Charles Martyn and his wife Sarah in 1851. They contain a multitude of symbols including English roses, a dove descending, bread and wine and Alpha and Omega. One window in the south depicts the only biblical scene but the outstanding feature in the south aisle is the window created by Surinder Hayer Warboys in 1995. On sunny days the congregation are illuminated with great splashes of colour in a perpetually shifting testament to the glory of God.

St Peter's has a magnificent single hammerbeam roof which is possibly the work of master carpenter John Hore of Diss. It is embellished with painted or stencilled tracery designs and symbols which are the original medieval work – these have not faded like most others of this type. The beam ends were probably removed during the reformation. There are many corbels nestling at the base of the wall posts, including one behind the organ who was revealed for the first time in 96 years during work on the tower arch, but is now back in hiding!

The tower contains 8 bells. In 1553 there were 3 bells, replaced by 6 in 1737 and augmented to 8 in 1908. They were fully refurbished in 1997 and ring very easily. The organ was built in 1908 by J W Walker and Sons and is a superb example of a small yet beautifully crafted instrument which can provide the sound and effects of an organ twice its size. It underwent a major renovation in 2004, funded mostly by donations from villagers. Donors who 'sponsored a pipe' are recorded nearby. The churchyard is closed and maintained by the Parish Council but part is given over to a wildlife sanctuary because of the plants and birds found there. There are some interesting graves including those of a waggoner and a printer. The church is open during daylight hours, which is much appreciated by visitors, who frequently comment on the peace to be found within. ---- Author unknown

PALGRAVE AT WAR

In the beginning of the nineteenth century in the face of the threat posed by the Napoleonic French, the issue of national security in Great Britain was addressed partly by the formation of local militia. These militia were groups of men not unlike the Home Guard of "Dads Army" fame – members might remain at home, but would spend periods in military training. Recruitment to the militia was by ballot. Local officials provided lists of men eligible for service, and some kind of draw would take place.

On the 30th April, 1814, John Dye became one of the men of the 2nd East Suffolk Regiment of local Militia under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas S Gooch. This militia's headquarters were at Woodbridge, and John's name was recorded on its membership list on the 15th February 1815. as well as his name and enlistment date the list tells us that John was 22 years old, he stood just 5'5" tall, he had light hair, blue eyes, and a ruddy complexion. It is recorded that John was a labourer and

he was balloted to serve for the parish of Carleton Colville in Suffolk. It is also recorded that he was born in Palgrave.

I have found no records of John Dye's service, but his name on that militia list begins an impressive story of how Palgrave answered out country's call in times of war, making a contribution, at home and in foreign fields, out of all proportion to its size and resources. Many men – some little more than boys – have given their lives for their country's cause, and those left at home have supported them spiritually and financially. War has brought unimaginable grief to many Palgrave families, but a reading of Parish records and newspaper reports has revealed the joy which the parish has derived from the tremendous efforts of its members to keep Britain Great and free.

Readers might be relieved to learn that John Dye seems to have survived Napoleon's threat unscathed. He is recorded in the 1851 census, living in Carlton Colville, with his wife, Julia, and three children. His efforts and those of his military colleagues were supported by a national collection of money, "The Waterloo Subscription". "The Times" on the 2nd September, 1815, records that the sum of £31 5s 6d was collected for the fund by the Rev William Rose in the parish of Palgrave, Suffolk.

The census of 1851 contains one record which launches an intriguing and exciting story about another military son of Palgrave. The census tells us that in the Barracks of her Majesty's Foot Guards in Croydon, a nineteen year old man called Robert Minter was serving as a private soldier. Robert was born in Palgrave, in Thrandeston Lane,(now Priory Road) near "Malt Hall". On the 2nd December, 1850, he enlisted in the Army and became Private 3796 Robert Minter of the Coldstream Guards. At the time of enlistment Robert was a journeyman blacksmith. He is described in his service record as being 6' 1/4" tall. He had a fresh complexion, grey eyes, and dark brown hair. Robert's military career was chequered, to say the least. He seems to have started well and was promoted Corporal in February 1853. However, his service record tells us that Robert deserted a year later, in February 1854, but returned to his regiment after a fortnight's absence. He was tried by a District Court Martial and convicted of desertion. Robert was reduced to the rank of Private and imprisoned between1st March and 18th June, 1854.

During these years, of course, war raged in the Crimea and Robert fought at the battles of Alma, Inkerman, and Balaclava. Robert was wounded - "slight contusion of right groin"- at Alma. He appears to have fallen ill early in 1855 and died of dysentery on 22nd February, at Scutari, the location of Florence Nightingale's military hospital. Robert was awarded the Crimea Medal, with clasps for Alma and Inkerman.

Perusal of Robert Minter's service records offers a fascinating insight into the organisation of Queen Victoria's army, and the life of her soldiers. The records contain references to Ordinary Pay; Stationary Quarters Allowance; "Days not entitled to Beer Money being on Pass or Furlough of on board ship";"Allowance while on a March"; Marching money, and the forfeiture of pension entitlement "in consequence of sentence of Court Martial." Robert's mother, Mary, will feature elsewhere in this history. She died in the Hartismere Union workhouse in Eye in 1873.

Throughout the nineteenth century men from Palgrave volunteered for the Army and Navy, though their details are thin. We know more, however, about Charles Harry Derisley, a farmers son who was born in Gaywood, North Norfolk in 1883. Charles moved to Grange Farm in Palgrave with his family near the very end of the nineteenth century, and at the outbreak of the Second Boer War he joined the newly formed Imperial Yeomanry, a volunteer cavalry regiment. Private 22445 Charles Harry Derisley served with the 53rd Company protecting workers engaged in the construction of a line of blockhouses from Harrismith to Bethlehem in the Orange Free State. By Christmas Eve 1901 this line

had reached a place called Tweefontein, and Charles company made camp two miles ahead of the working party. At about two o'clock on Christmas morning Charles' company was attacked in their camp by overwhelming numbers of Boers and Charles was killed along with fifty men six officers. Arthur Conan Doyle quotes a description of the battle in his book "The Great Boer War"

> " 'The noise and the clamour', says one spectator, 'were awful. The yells of the Dutch, the screams and shrieks of dying men and horses, the cries of the natives, howls of the dogs, the firing, the galloping of horses, the whistling of bullets, and the whirr volleys make in the air, made up such a compound of awful and diabolical sounds as I never heard before nor hope to hear again.' "

Charles was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps for action in Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transval.

Clearly, the defeat at Tweefontein was a considerable setback for the British Army. It was widely reported in the press, and as late as Christmas Day, 2001, a commemorative post mark was issued by the Post Office. At home, Palgrave took the tragedy to heart. A plaque, commissioned by Charles' family and friends, was installed in the South Wall of our beautiful Parish Church. It was unveiled on 25th February, 1902, in a ceremony which must have been the biggest event ever to take place in the Village. The village school closed for the afternoon, and the unveiling was carried out by General Sir William Forbes Gatacre, KCB, DSO, General commanding the Eastern Division. The church was overwhelmed by the numbers wishing to attend, the local newspaper reported, in fact, that "hundreds failed to gain admission". The plaque is still polished regularly and remains a shining tribute to the sacrifice made by a brave young man so far from home.

Charles' father, farmer Harry Derisley, was clearly a man of stature in Palgrave. He was photographed in 1910, be-suited and bowler-hatted, with the Palgrave Stars football team – winners of the league that year. Shortly afterwards Harry took his family away from Palgrave and re-settled in Old Buckenham. No one knows if he moved to escape memories of his tragedy, but if so his efforts were doomed. The war memorial in Old Buckenham records that three more of Harry's sons were killed in the Great War of 1914-18.

In January, 1915, Herbert Derisley, born 1884, joined the Middlesex Regiment. He had been educated at the Palgrave School, Diss Grammar School and Eye Grammar School. He was posted to the front in France in October 1915, and was killed in action on the 1st June, 1916. William, who was born in 1887, joined the Army, served in India with the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery, and was killed in Turkey on New Years Eve in 1916. Frank, born in 1886, and educated at Palgrave's National School, Emigrated to Canada in 1911. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in October, 1914, and died on the 6th November, 1915, of head wounds received the previous day. His Company Officer described Frank as "an excellent soldier… held in the highest esteem by all his comrades".

How could that family bear their grief?

The Boer War in which Charles Derisley died made one further later claim on Palgrave. Sergeant Major Frank Cobb had married the daughter of Mr W G Mare of Long's Farm, Palgrave. Like Charles he served in South Africa in the Imperial Yeomanry. He won the South Africa war medal and the long service and good conduct medal. After the war he fell ill, and the press reported that his funeral took place on the 17th January, 1914.

Back in Palgrave 1914 began, I suppose, like most other years. The tensions building in Europe seem to have made no impact on our village. A dispute was brewing between the Parish Council and Hartismere District Council about water supply, in the schoolroom the curate, the Rev F A Roughton, delivered a series of three "lantern lectures" on "The Tabernacle in the Wilderness"; and on the 16th January in the Reading Room, sixty members and friends sat down to "an excellent repast… of roast and boiled beef, roast mutton, vegetables and plum pudding" and were entertained with readings, conjuring, and ventriloquism.

The British and Foreign Bible Society met, in the schoolroom, and Palgrave lost to Occold at whist, but beat them at dominoes. In April a variety concert was staged also in the schoolroom in aid of the choir fund; members of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Bellringers rang the bells of St Peter's Church. Children from the Sunday School were entertained in their home by the much loved Rector, the Rev E L Savory and his wife and the choir went on their annual outing to Great Yarmouth.

On Whit Thursday the annual drawing (ploughing) match was held in a field loaned by Mr G Symonds. According to the local newspaper "some capital furrows were drawn". In the competition Robert Killingworth of Grange Farm took 10th place. Three years later Mr Killingworth learned that his son, Private 41189, C J Killingworth, of the 11th battalion the Suffolk Regiment had been killed fighting in France. John Killingworth was one of nearly ninety men from Palgrave who went to war for their country, and he became one of fifteen who never returned. The peaceful early days of 1914 were soon to be blown away, and for many Palgrave residents life would never be the same again.

The jingoistic fervour which swept the whole country at the outbreak of war in 1914 seems to have found voice in Palgrave. An advertisement in the Diss Express on the 18th September announced that the local Territorials – the 4th Battalion Norfolk Regiment – had "volunteered for service abroad". As a consequence a new reserve battalion would have to be raised and "Diss and neighbourhood must find 100 men". "Recruits and men of previous service" were urged to "come and join". The last words in the advertisement were "God save the King".

It is perhaps this spirit of belligerence and sacrifice which presided over that year's Harvest Festival Services in Palgrave church. The local newspaper reported that "Owing to the war there were no floral decorations, but offerings of fruit and vegetables were placed before the Communion Table and … given to the poor and sick of the parish". At the morning service the Rev F A Roughton told worshippers that they should be grateful to the Navy for keeping "the seas open for commerce" and compassionate to "those whose friends or relatives had fallen on the field of battle". They should think of the people of Belgium – of "their ruined homes and the hardships they endured", and they should be "thankful that the Empire had been united together in one common bond". The national anthem was sung at the end of both morning and evening services.

The Harvest Festival services provide, perhaps, the first example of the extraordinary generosity of the people of Palgrave in time of war. The collections, augmented by "subsequent gift" raised £25, £19 went to the Belgian Relief Fund, and £6 to the Palgrave Nursing Fund. We will see that again and again during the war the heart of Palgrave was touched or stirred, and quite amazing sums of money were donated by this tiny parish to all kinds of causes associated with the war. The generosity of the members of the Reading Room was tempered, however, with a little pragmatism. A squadron of the Welsh Horse - 'C' Squadron – was stationed in Palgrave at the start of the war. A meeting decided that soldiers should be allowed to use the room during then day to write letters, and in the evenings they should be given "the same privileges as members". Everything, it was decided, would be free, but the Welshmen would have to pay to use the billiard table.

We already know that the suffering of the Belgians, invaded in August, 1914, was the first cause to be embraced by the folk of Palgrave, and that they had opened the village to the Welsh Horse. In November 1914 these two causes came together when the soldiers gave a concert, in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund. There were songs, recitations, and instrumental solos, the Welsh and British national anthems were sung and the meeting ended with cheers for the King, the Rector, and Major Goldthorpe of the Welsh Horse. The amount raised is not recorded, but the schoolroom was "filled to overflowing". The plight of the Belgians was brought home to the people of Palgrave when a letter was published, written by Braithwaite Savory, son of the Rector, Rev E L Savory, to his mother. The letter is dated 17th October, 1914. Mr Savory was working in Folkestone, where huge numbers of Belgian refugees, civilian and military, had landed. The letter paints a grim picture of the privations suffered by the Belgians, and contains this summary of their situation:

> "You cannot really have any conception of the horrors of war until you have seen something of what we have here. The misery and suffering of the poor people are indescribable… both men and women crying and all absolutely starving, hardly with any luggage at all…old men and women of 80 or 90, babies 3 days old and all looking the picture of misery, and absolutely scared out of their lives..."

Mr Savory was responsible for getting food to the refugees, and his experiences gave him his insight: "… it makes you realise a little bit what the Germans are responsible for."

It would seem that Braithwaite Savory's father, the Rector, was an enthusiastic sponsor and supporter of the village's war effort. Perhaps his zeal was fuelled by reports from his son. Late, however, as we shall see, the Rector's vicarious involvement in the Great War took a very tragic turn. Sacrifice in Palgrave was often accompanied and softened by pleasure. Later in November, 1914, the Welsh Horse again entertained the Parish in the interval of a lecture on the causes and conduct of the war – the Suffolk Regiment was involved in the retreat from Mons – and money was raised for the East Suffolk War Relief Committee.

The soldiers clearly made a great impact on the village. The annual general meeting of the Reading Room, held in March1915, recorded that funds were in deficit "due to the extra expenditure for coal and oil which had been incurred for the accommodation of military", though "the kindness of generous friends" had turned the deficit into a surplus. On the other hand, as Christmas approached in 1914 the soldiers gave another concert, this time raising money for Dr Barnardo's Homes, which will feature again, less happily, later in this account.

On Christmas Day, 1914, Palgrave showed its generous appreciation of the soldiers. They were "bountifully entertained" to a dinner of "turkeys, roast pork, plum pudding" in the schoolroom and were given cigarettes. The men of 2 troop were especially fortunate: billeted at Mrs Day's farm (Burlington Lodge) they were given a Boxing Day dinner by Mrs Day in the barn "gaily decorated for the occasion". Earlier in the month the Squadron Commander, Major Goldthorpe, had presented a silver vase to the Rector on behalf of his officers and men in appreciation of Rev Savory's kindness. The Rector told the soldiers that it was "a privilege and duty to be able to do anything for those who are engaged in defending out homes".

As the war pursued its course there were, no doubt, many occasions when celebration and wartime sobriety mixed. The evening Harvest Thanksgiving service in 1915 had to be brought forward to 6pm "in consequence of the lighting order" but again a considerable sum was raised for the Belgian Relief

Fund and the Palgrave Nursing Fund. There were teas on the rectory lawn; the choir were given a party (hot supper, games and songs); and there were more meetings of the Bible Society, and lantern lectures. But the pinnacle of pleasure and generosity was reached on the 9th July, 1918 when Mrs Barkley allowed a garden fete to be held in The Priory, to raise money for the Suffolk Red Cross Society, and the Prisoners of War Fund.

The party was reported at length in the local press, and it was clearly a lavish affair. It was arranged by a committee of about twenty men and women and they provided attractions and amusements to suit all tastes: a stall of "plain work"; a mineral water department; an aerial trapeze; cake guessing; advertisement guessing; bead guessing; and there was a stall where guests could throw darts at the Kaiser! There were sports for all ages "some of which, especially those in which wounded soldiers took part, were very amusing"! A concert was staged in the pavilion: teas were served on the lawn; and there was dancing in the evening, to music played by the band of the Kerrison Reformatory.

It is no surprise that the entry fees of the Palgrave School were paid for by the Rev Savory. One sour note in the whole day was struck in the evening when a soldier fell from the trapeze. The man was not badly hurt, however, and the day was pronounced a great success. £100 was raised on that one day for the two funds.

As I have already suggested, a spirit of giving was the chief characteristic of Palgrave's response to the war. In February, 1917, a War Savings Association was established so that villagers could acquire War Savings Certificates. The purchase of War Savings Certificates was, of course, a method of lending to the Government to finance the war. The certificates cost 15s 6d each, but the Association would allow villagers to club together, individually investing less than the full price of a certificate, but contributing nevertheless. The certificates were advertised vigorously by the Government, and Palgrave took the message to heart: at the first meeting of the Association, in March 1917, thirty one villagers joined, and bought 35 certificates between them.

After twelve weeks 444 certificates had been bought, and by April, 1918, the number had risen to 1133. Payments could be made to the headteacher Mr Corbett at the school on Mondays between 12.00 and 1pm, and to Mr A Nurse at The Limes, (Crossing Road)between 6pm and 7pm. The Rev Savory increased by 6d the contributions of all the children attending Palgrave School. In fact, the certificates were excellent value. A 15/6d certificate could be redeemed after 5 years for £1.00 – an interest rate of 5 ¼%, but no doubt the initial investment – small – was hard to find for many families in Palgrave. Incidentally, the War Savings Certificates are still valid today. I believe that a 15/6d certificate is now worth about £150.

Other causes associated with the war also benefited from the generosity of Palgrave. In June, 1916, ladies of the village organised a house to house collection in aid of the Red Cross, raising £18/19/2d and church collections were often given to the same cause - £5/9/3d on one Sunday in December, 1915. In July, 1917 another house to house collection raised £3/16/6d for the Red Cross, and in the month £4/18/0d was divided between the British Farmer's Red Cross Fund and the Suffolk Red Cross Society. Next month a whist drive netted the charity another £5.

Teachers and children at the School certainly made a contribution to the war effort, in December, 1915, the School sent £1/2/6d to the Overseas Club for "Christmas Comforts for soldiers and sailors" - they had already sent £1/0/0d earlier that year. Bizarrely, in November, 1917, the children collected 1 ½ tons of horse chestnuts which were sent to the Director of Propellant Supplies at King's Lynn. The chestnuts were used to produce acetone which was used, in turn, to make cordite, the smokeless powder used as propellant in ammunition for small arms and artillery.

In March, 1917, the school children contributed 10 shillings to the sum of £24/18/1 ½d raised to send a parcel "to each Palgrave man serving in H M Forces". Eighty-seven Palgrave men received parcels. Men serving overseas were given socks, a khaki handkerchief, a tin of cigarettes, chocolate, peppermints, soap, candles, and bootlaces. Men serving at home received the handkerchief, a tin of toffee, chocolate, cigarettes, and soap. Every man was sent a letter of good wishes written by the Rev Savory on behalf of the village, and signed by him. About fifty letters of thanks were received later. Palgrave's giving spirit also took practical forms.

In May, 1915, a meeting was held at the school to discuss the formation of a Volunteer Training Corps. Mr F W French addressed the meeting, explaining that the Volunteer Corps would act as a stepping stone for men into the regular army and would encourage those who could not join the regulars to drill and shoot. The Corps would also allow more soldiers to be sent to the front, by taking over the guarding of bridges and railways. Captain Harvey, described in the press as "the gallant Captain", declared that "each individual German was thinking by night and day "how can I help to crush England?" The meeting decided unanimously that a Corps should be established for Palgrave in partnership with Stuston and Thrandeston.

The first meeting of the new Volunteer Corps took place almost at once. Captain Harvey and a Lance Corporal of the Staffordshire Yeomanry took charge of the training. In September the next year the Palgrave and district Platoon of the 6th Battalion Suffolk Volunteer Regiment held a church parade, assembling in the grounds of The Priory. The Platoon was commanded by 2nd Lieutenant Walter Clarke. At the service suitably martial hymns were sung: "O God, our Help in ages past"; "Soldiers of Christ Arise"; Fight the good Fight"; and "Onward Christian Soldiers".

Not to be outdone, the ladies of Palgrave met in March, 1916, to discuss the issue of "war work on the land for women". The Rev Savory commented on the loyalty of the men of Palgrave, and declared his certainty that "the women of Palgrave would be no whit behind in doing their bit for England". He was right: at the end of the meeting fifteen ladies gave their names as willing to help on the farms.

July, 1918, saw one final and huge call on the pockets of the people of Palgrave. On Monday, 15th July, an open-air meeting was held to launch War Weapons Week. The meeting was chaired by the Rev F A Roughton who told the assembly that Palgrave had been asked to raise £1772, which represented £2/10s per head of population. The Rev Roughton gave a stirring, indeed bellicose, speech urging villagers to do even more than had been asked.

He appealed to their patriotism, their sense of debt to soldiers and sailors, and their pride. He held no truck with the Germans: "What the enemy had done (in France) was only an indication of what he was prepared to do in England if he only had a chance, for the German hated an English man as he hated no one else". "Villagers must remember", he told them "that a negotiated peace with Germany was impossible… Germany must be defeated first and terms of peace dictated afterwards". His sentiments may not appeal today, but the local paper reported that he was applauded and cheered. The aim of the week, Rev Roughton said, was to buy an aeroplane which would have "Palgrave" printed on it. A later speaker told the meeting that he was sure the aeroplane could be paid for, and, he hoped, a "Palgrave "gun as well..
Asked to raise £1772 for War Weapons Week, this tiny parish actually raised £3252/6s.

The patriotic spirit stirred also in men who no longer lived in the village. In December, 1911 two brothers, Frank and Herbert Anness, set sail to start new lives in Australia. Early in 1917 the brothers joined the Australian army and sailed to France to serve in the 7th Light Trench Mortar Battery. Both

fell sick, and were hospitalised in England, where Frank married – in Ipswich Parish Church. Both brothers were discharged as invalids and returned to Australia.

The Great War touched every man, woman and child in Palgrave. For many families that touch must have felt more like an icy grip: the families of eighty-seven men must have scanned the post and papers every day for news of a son, a brother, or a father who had left the village to bear arms for the King.

Through this chapter of the story of Palgrave at War, through our brightly coloured tapestry of concerts, parades and fetes there runs a dark thread of a very different reality: news from the front. Some of the news was good news. In September, 1917, a Palgrave man Q M Sergeant W Bale, serving with the 4th Norfolks in Egypt, was mentioned in despatches. Corporal Reginald More of the Royal Horse Guards was promoted Corporal-of-Horse: and a month earlier Second Lieutenant Charles Harry Corbett of the 5th Border Regiment, eldest son of the Palgrave school Headmaster, was returning to the Front after marrying in St Peter's Church. Lieutenant Corbett had already served in France and had been wounded. In the same year Private G B Clarke of the Norfolk Regiment was awarded the Military Medal for "special bravery during service". Before the war Private Clarke had worked for the Diss Express, and the newspaper was "proud of the fact that one associated for some time in the production of this newspaper has gained so distinguished an honour". In June, 1918, the son-in-law of the Rector, Rev Savory, was awarded the Military Cross for "distinguished bravery in the field of France"; and Rev Savory's second son, Douglas Lloyd Savory, Lieutenant RNVR announced his engagement.

As you might expect, however, not all war news was happy. Palgrave was not immune to the tragic plague which devastated families right across the world in those four years. In March, 1915, news reached home that Private Ben Clarke of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards had been wounded at Neuve Chapelle, and was in hospital in Boulogne. A few weeks later Harry Goddard, the blacksmith's son, serving with the 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment, was killed in action. Who can imagine how that news was received in Mr Goddard's family? He had three more sons serving at the same time.

Mrs F Bullock also had sons – two of them – fighting "somewhere in France", and in August, 1916, she learned that one of them had been severely wounded in the right arm and was in hospital in Dundee; and Florence Cobb received news that her husband, Private H R Cobb, 6th Suffolks, had also been wounded and was recovering in Cardiff hospital. In the same month, though, Will Ford, son of Mr and Mrs George Ford, was killed in France. Just before his death Pte 22515 Will Ford of the 12th Suffolks, had written home to reassure his parents that he was well, and to thank them for sending him a parcel. The Regimental Chaplain wrote to his parents:

> "I took the funeral service tonight, and his grave was surrounded by other graves of men who had laid down their lives for their country. He … died without suffering, instantaneously – Struck by a shell".

At about the same time Will's brother who had been gassed some time before was about to go back to the front.

We have seen how the Rev Savory supported the village's war effort with immense enthusiasm but the tragedy of war touched his family as well in that August of 1917. Rev Savory's grandson, Captain John London Strain was also killed instantaneously by a shell. Captain Strain was a distinguished

young man studying Medicine at Cambridge when he enlisted in the RGA. He won rapid promotion, as young officers do in wartime and was doing the work of Forward Observing Officer when he was killed. His Colonel wrote;

> "He was the very essence of a soldier… fearless, brave, hard working and cheery under all circumstances. We can ill afford to lose him, we cannot replace him".

In November, 1917, the mother of Sergeant Dick Ruffles received a similar letter, informing her of his death. He had been fatally wounded on the 30th October. A Major wrote:

> "What adds more pain to your bereavement is that he did not die until the 31st, but I sincerely believe did not suffer greatly. Your son… was a most reliable, painstaking and cheery help".

Was Mrs Ruffles comforted by those words? Dick was her youngest son.

Jesse Thomas Collins was living near Grange farm with his parents and enlisted at Bury St Edmunds 13th October 1915 at the age of just seventeen. He was posted to Colchester to begin his training. He embarked 1st February, 1918 and joined the Infantry Base Depot in France and was transferred to the 2nd /6th North Staffordshire Battalion three days later. The War Diary records are quite feint, but it records that they passed through Ypres on 11th April. On 15th April they were at Bailleul the following has been copied from from the War Diary:-

"BAILLEUL 14.00 Enemy put down a heavy barrage on our position and attacked in force, but first attack was driven off when two platoons of D'coy under Capt. A C Paxton made a local counter attack. Enemy barrage increased and enemy attacked all along the line and forced the battalion to withdraw from its position in Mont des Lille. A counter attack was immediately organised and led by the Commanding Officer Lieut. Colonel J H Porter DSO and Major W N Clay MC and the position was retaken despite heavy shell and machine gun fire, but the battalion was forced to withdraw owing to the enemy breaking through on the left flank and coming behind them. A line was taken up on the railway embankment, but this was enfiladed by heavy machine gun fire from the flanks causing heavy casualty and the rest of the battalion withdrew to La Boure farm at S8 049 (map sheet 28) where we again suffered from enemy machine gun fire. Casualties – Officers killed, Lieut. G Mason, 2nd Lieut. A E Harley. Wounded – Major W W Clay MC, Capt. A C Paxton, Lieut. W P Short, 2nd Lieut. C F Furniss, 2nd Lieut. B Bentley, other ranks 40. Missing - 2nd Lieut. J Murphy, 2nd Lieut. P C Neverson, other ranks 256 ". Jesse Thomas Collins was presumably one of them! (his elder sister, Bessie, named her youngest son after him, Jesse Colin Atkinson)

This account of just one Battalion, on one afternoon, gives a horrifying insight into what was happening across France!

The headmaster, Mr Corbett, whose son's marriage I recorded earlier, received grim news in April, 1918, that Lieutenant Corbett had been taken prisoner in France. Lieutenant-Colonel Little wrote to Lieutenant Corbett's young wife:

> "It is some consolation to know that the enemy are treating prisoners better now than ever they have done before… Your husband was one of my best officers, so gallant and brave, and loved by his men."

Mrs Corbett had an anxious period of waiting to endure, but our hearts must go out to Mrs Eames, mother of signaller 51383 G A Eames, Bedford Regiment. George Eames went to France on Easter Monday, 1918, and on the 24th April he wrote a letter home. On the same day he was wounded in action and went missing. He was never found and was presumed dead. He was the youngest of the Palgrave casualties – just eighteen years old.

As the Summer passed into Autumn in 1918 many became aware of a lessening of German resistance, and began to look forward to the end of the fighting. However, just a month before the Armistice on the 14th October Corporal 64227 Edward James Thurlow, 15th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, died of gas shell poisoning. His chaplain's letter to Mrs Thurlow (always to the mothers) tells a horrific story of Edward's suffering:

> "He was with me six days and had a hard fight all the time: he could not talk owing to great difficulty in breathing. We did all we could for him but he couldn't stand the strain."

Two more Palgrave soldiers died in 1918. The death of Private 32070 Albert Robinson, 3rd Battalion Suffolk Regiment must have affected the whole village. Albert, the son of George and Emma Robinson of Sunnyside, (now Malt House) Palgrave, was wounded in France in 1917. He underwent eleven months of treatment in Gloucestershire, but died of pneumonia on 17th October, 1918. His funeral was held in St Peter's Church, and he is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in the north west corner of our churchyard. His parents had their son home at last, and they received letters from H M the King and the Rector.

The last death I shall record is, to my mind, the most poignant. Private 41918 Thomas Hodson, the East Yorkshire Regiment, was born in Birmingham in about 1900 and was given into the care of Dr Barnardo's. As a little boy he was boarded with the Misses Cracknell in Palgrave. When he was old enough to work he was employed in Barnardo's printing office, but he came back to Palgrave and lived with Mr and Mrs J H Jolly. He enlisted and was sent to France on the 2nd April. He was posted "missing" ten days Later.

In all, fifteen men from Palgrave died in the Great War. Their names are engraved on the War Memorial in our churchyard. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission tends with loving care the graves of ten men – eight abroad, two in Palgrave – and the names of six men, whose bodies could not be recovered, are recorded on the magnificent memorials in France and Belgium. I am especially pleased that Thomas Hodson is commemorated on our village memorial. He is not, strictly, a Palgrave boy but, an orphan, he lived in our village. The village took him to its heart and included him, at last, in this very special band of brothers.

One peculiar omission from our War Memorial is the name of Private 66579 William John Webb, 2nd /6th Cycling Company, the Suffolk Regiment. William was born in Palgrave in1896, and the 1901 census has him living here with his family. By 1911, the Webbs had moved to Thelnetham, where William's father, Thomas, had taken the White Horse public house. William joined the Suffolks and died on the 23rd November, 1918 in Alford VAD hospital in Lincolnshire of pneumonia following an attack of influenza. He is buried in St Peter's churchyard, Palgrave, south of the west end of the church, in our second Commonwealth Commission war grave, but his name is engraved on the War Memorial in the churchyard of St Nicholas', Thelnetham. William is buried with his younger brother who died in infancy, and beside his father and mother.

On the 11th November, 1918, a Thanksgiving Service was held in St Peter's Church where "a good number of people assembled to render thanks to God for the good news just received". The next evening there was another service attended by the Volunteer Corps, under the command of Lieutenant W Clarke. The service was simple: The Roll of Honour was read, and prayers were offered "for those in sorrow and the prisoners". Palgrave was at peace.

Surprisingly, perhaps, information about Palgrave's direct involvement in the Second World War is not easy to come by. No doubt security was important, and official sources were cagey about what was revealed. News from the home front was less well reported too; in fact, in 1945, the editor of the Diss Express appealed for correspondents from the villages like Palgrave, because so many had been taken away to war duties. We do know, however, that Palgrave supported this cause as loyally as it did in the Great War. I do not know how many answered the call, but seven names are engraved on the village war memorial, and at least five of these men are buried in Commonwealth Commission War graves. We do know that some men from Palgrave were imprisoned by the Japanese, and between June 1940 and November 1943 thirty men joined colleagues from surrounding villages in F Company of the 7th Suffolk Battalion, the Home Guard. Palgrave did its bit.

What we do have, however, and in abundance, is the collective memory of villagers still alive, interviews with our elderly neighbours have produced a fascinating tapestry showing life in Palgrave during the Second World War. The school, the, farms, the evacuees, the Americans, the air-raids and the POW's are all preserved in Palgrave's memory. If the experience was unforgettable it is because it contained tragedy, but also excitement and a great deal of fun!

When war was declared on 3rd September 1939, Palgrave had already had a taste of things to come. On the 13th July a blackout exercise was carried out across Suffolk and Norfolk, and on the 13th August an even bigger exercise saw the whole of Eastern England plunged into darkness. In our area more than two thousand wardens and special constables were out, warning residents and motorcyclists of dummy "incidents". On the 14th July the local press announced that Suffolk had brought all its Territorial Army units up to strength – over 2,000 men were recruited in two months. The Diss Express reported that "… the traditionally slow-minded men and women of Suffolk have set an example which it will be difficult for any other county to beat". "Slow-minded"? It is not recorded how that went down in Palgrave!

During the early days of the so-called "phoney war" life seems to have ticked over in Palgrave at normal pace. There were the usual missionary meetings, and a fund was started to renovate the interior of the Church. The Bible Study group which met on Saturday evenings at the Paddocks was down in numbers, and a new landlord arrived at the Swan public house, and provided a hot supper for about fifty gentlemen - "customers and friends". The villagers' generosity continued: the Harvest Festival for 1939 raised money for the Norfolk and Norwich hospital.

Echoes were heard, too, of the earlier war. The Misses Goodrich, generous supporters of the village's efforts in 1914-18, provided electric light in the Church and Braithwaite Savory, whose work for the Belgian refugees was recorded earlier, presented new churchyard gates.

Gradually, though, the War began to impinge on life in Palgrave. Evacuees arrived in the village and there was discussion at the Reading Room AGM in September 1939 of a proposal to use the room as their recreation centre. The village's generosity turned again in the direction of the war. The Poppy Day collection in 1939 raised considerably more than the previous year and the collection at the Remembrance Service went to Earl Haig's Fund. In 1940 a collection in the village raised £4/17/6d for the Red Cross, and a bridge drive raised £4/12s which was handed over to the Ladies Working Party

so that wool could be bought to make “comforts for the Home Guard”. Shortly after, a whist drive raised money for the Defence Force Funds.

In June that year Mrs Apthorpe organised a tennis tournament at Sunnyside (now Malt House) in aid of the comforts fund, and in August there was a garden party at the Hollies which raised £3/!s for the same cause. Throughout the war, in fact, records show a number of efforts to raise money for a range of wartime charities: the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk’s War Fund; parcels for Palgrave men serving in the forces; the Homecoming Fund; aid to China; and the Russian Flag Day all benefited from the loyalty and kindness of the people of Palgrave.

The village’s tour de force, however, occurred in June 1943 when Palgrave took part in the Eye and Hartismere Wings for Victory Week. The area target for the week was to raise £90,000 to buy a squadron of fighters, and Palgrave’s task was to contribute £1,500 to pay for the wireless sets for the aircraft. A week of activities was arranged. The week began on Saturday, 29th May with an RAF concert and made its way through a church parade, a film show (entrance 6d), a tennis tournament, a craft exhibition, a whist drive, a bridge drive and a darts competition to a Grand Social on Saturday, 5th June. The Mixed Pickles, an RAF-US concert band, performed and “… a large company enjoyed games and competitions till a late hour”. By the end of the week Palgrave had excelled itself, and with the contributions from a bowls drive, £4,057/5s had been raised. If the villagers could not give money they gave in kind. On the 24th March, 1945, an auction was held in the Schoolroom. The parish gave items to be sold by the auctioneer, Mr Apthorpe. The newspaper reported “ Everyone in the parish had given most generously and an excellent assortment of furniture, household goods and even livestock were sold.” £164/18/9d was raised for the Homecoming Fund.

If anyone had any doubts about the cause for which the village was working this headline in the Diss Express would have helped to dispel them: NEW NAZI TRICK: Warning to public over an article describing booby-trap bombs dropped by the Germans, which would explode if they were handled. At the same time, some members of the community tried to preserve the niceties of peacetime Palgrave. In August, 1940, the Waveney Borders Lawn Tennis Club played its second grand tournament in the grounds of the Priory. According to the local newspaper: “A large company of the elite (sic) of the neighbourhood for many miles around was present. The day was all that could be desired for the players, calm, cool and without the glare of the hot sun… five courts were kept at work the whole of the afternoon, and some splendid play exhibited.”

Of course, War placed constraints on village life, and at least on villager fell foul of them. On the 4th December, 1942, the newspaper reported that Roy Arthur Savill of Spring Farm, Palgrave, had been prosecuted for using petrol illegally. Mr Savill’s petrol coupon only allowed him to use petrol for agricultural work and ATC instruction. On the 10th October, however, Mr Savill used his car to attend a social at Palgrave Schoolroom. He parked his car outside the school where it was spotted by a constable. Appearing before Lord Henniker, magistrate, Mr Savill pleaded that he had used his car to transport farm produce to the social, for prizes. Moreover, he had been asked to be MC at the function, which was for a good cause, and only half a pint of petrol had been consumed. Lord Henniker was moved to temper justice with mercy, and fined Mr Savill 10s. He did warn, though, that future offenders would be dealt with more severely!

The war was not very old when its realities first grabbed Palgrave’s attention. In June, 1940, Lance Bombardier W A Noble, RA, was evacuated from Dunkirk. He was interviewed by the Diss Express and described his part in the fighting around Arras (“a graphic account”). He saw German dive bombers machine-gunning troops and refugees, and spoke highly of the work done by all branches of the British forces. News of the fighting and of men from Palgrave trickled into the village throughout the

war. Some news was good. Sergeant Baldwin from the Old Lion was mentioned in despatches for distinguished service; and Albert Manning from Fairways, Priory Road survived a torpedo attack on his merchant ship. Albert went from the frying-pan into the fire – literally. The hostel to which survivors were taken caught fire, and it was reported that Albert played an important part in the rescue efforts.

Other news, however, must have thrown the village into turmoil. In 1943 Arthur Noble, the Dunkirk evacuee, was reported missing in Malaya. His wife and parents later learned that Arthur was a prisoner of the Japanese, and his wife received a postcard from Arthur, reassuring her about his health and treatment. The same fate befell Private Thomas Smith of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. He lived in Rose Lane and had been employed at the Co-op in Diss. Late in the war the parents of Private Basil Kellock, 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, received even worse news. Basil, aged 19, had been killed in Germany on the 27th March. His Commanding Officer wrote:

> "He was killed in the attack on the Autobahn at Vehrlingen… it was a bitterly fought action in which we were opposed by German SS and paratroopers. Your son was hit by a machine-gun bullet and died instantly. I know that his death must be a grievous blow to you at this juncture of the war, but I hope that you may be supported in your loss by the knowledge that your son was a very brave man, who died fighting".

Basil had worked at the International Stores in Mere Street, Diss.

Over twenty years later, someone remarked that Mrs Kellock always seemed remote and distant. He was told that she had never got over losing her only child in the war.

A very visible, everyday reminder that there was a war on was the presence in the village of a number of evacuees – families, mothers and children mostly, who moved into the country to escape the danger of wartime life in cities. One such mother was Jeannette Seymour from Clapham.
In the summer of 1940 Jeannette (known as Jean) and her two sons were caught in an air raid close to their home in Clapham. Mr Chiappino, a neighbour, rescued them and said they should leave London as it was too dangerous. He immediately sent a telegram to his wife, who was staying with her mother Mrs Ford in Palgrave. The reply came "come at once". Jean started packing and she and her two sons left the next morning.

Jean with Keith (5) and Michael (2) took the train to Diss leaving her husband Harold behind in Clapham. On the way they were delayed for a considerable time because of bombing on the track but eventually they arrived at the station. They explained they wanted to go to Palgrave, to Mrs Ford. They were told there were a dozen Ford families in Palgrave, which one did they want? Jean said the one where their daughter had married an Italian. "Oh," they were told "you want Mrs Larky Ford," so called because Mr Ford was the postman and up with the lark. They took a taxi to Palgrave and firstly stayed at the same house as the Chiappino family. Jean's husband, Harold, remained working in London, but he visited his family in Palgrave as often as he could.

Later Jean and her boys moved in with Bessie Wilby at 2, Crossing Road, and on February 21st 1941 Jean wrote to her husband:

> "The guns have been going all morning, people say its a convoy being attacked out to sea. I've heard that Norwich and Newmarket have been

> bombed terribly and they are the towns that are mentioned in the papers in East Anglia, a lot of people have been killed while they were shopping as the main streets were hit."

Palgrave, it seems, was not so far from the war after all.

Jean described her life in Palgrave as very primitive. It must have been a culture shock to a city girl. She was sleeping on a straw mattress; the house had no electricity or gas; they cooked on the coal fire; there was no running water, no bathroom, no sink. The toilet was in an old hut in the garden, just a board with two holes in it over two buckets which were smelly and awful to empty. They washed in rainwater from the outside water butt having to ignore the flies floating in it. There was no dustman, mostly rubbish was burned but things like tin cans were saved up. About once a month they would carry the rubbish using an old wooden box on wheels to a pit about a mile from the village. There the children would enjoy themselves running up and down the sides of the pit. Things improved, however, in March, 1941 when the Seymours moved to stay with Hetty Pearson in Church View, part of the old Guildhall, opposite the Church. In her letter to Harrold of the 8th March Jean presented a better picture:

> "We cook by the fire here and I cooked my Sunday dinner today. We had a round of beef, baked and boiled potatoes and sprouts, some that Mrs Pearson gave me, and a nice pudding. It is ever-so clean here… The boys had a bath in a big bungalow bath, one at each end, and they enjoyed it. I have just crept up and turned the electric light out and the little dears are fast asleep, its wonderful the way they settled down."

Unfortunately, on the same day the Seymour's London home was destroyed by a bomb. Jean's next letter, responded to the news, attests to a very different mood:

> "Oh darling, what an awful shock losing our home. I did cry when I read it. I couldn't believed it was true. You know dear, I was always thinking of our home and now there's nothing. Oh darling, whatever are you doing and where are you sleeping? I can't get it out of my mind… You know, dear, I feel to upset to write much. I feel I want to cry all the time."

Despite this Jean was happy in Palgrave. She said they ate well, the only shortages were of things like tea, sugar and margarine. Milk was collected in jugs from the farm, still warm from the cow. The farmer's wife would make butter and sell eggs. Most women had plentiful stocks of jam from before the war. Plenty of foods like apples, blackberries and hazel nuts were available for picking. Sometimes, strictly illegally, a farmer would kill a sheep or pig so meat was also available. Jean thought however, that village people were insulated from the realities of war. She wrote that "the village people were very, very lucky. They did not understand. One day a bomb came down into a potato field about a mile from the village and if scattered the potatoes everywhere. People came from miles around to look down this hole at the potatoes. I was thinking, you are looking at the potatoes but in London there are hundreds or thousands of people being killed,"

Well, by the end of the war the Kellocks understood, and so did the families of Ernest Farrow, Cyril Ford, Jack Hartles, Wallace Mole, Thomas Smith and Dennis Wills. Their names are inscribed on our War Memorial.

As I wrote earlier, the memories of villagers still living paint a very vivid picture of life in wartime Palgrave.

Jesse Atkinson was a teenager when war broke out. Born in 1926, he has lived in Palgrave all his life, and is one of our oldest residents. He took a teenager's interest in the Second World War and still has some of the souvenirs collected by boys at that time, including a vicious-looking piece of shrapnel from a bomb jettisoned by a German bomber near Jesse's house. Jesse's memory certainly places Palgrave in the front line of the war: he remembers bombs being dropped on the village. Palgrave itself was not a target but the searchlight on Old Bury Road certainly was – both for bomb-aimers and for machine-gunners who tried to to fire down the beam to extinguish the light. The railway may also have been of interest to the bomber and Jesse recalls how a bomb dropped near the railway bridge at Rose Lane scattering potatoes stored in a clamp.

Jesse recalls how one farmer had a narrow escape. In the early hours of the 22nd May, 1941, a number of incendiary bombs were dropped on a field where corn was stored in stacks. Fortunately, the village had experienced heavy rain the day before and the ground was saturated. The corn stacks were thatched in those days and the bombs bounced off the thatch and spluttered harmlessly on the wet ground between the stacks.

Not so harmless, of course, were the bombs which devastated parts of Norwich, twenty miles or so to the north of Palgrave, and Jesse has clear memories of the terrifying noise and vibrations which woke Jesse's family and neighbours when Blitzkrieg was visited on the city.

One life-changing feature of World War Two is particularly well remembered by Jesse – the arrival of the Americans! Jesse expresses profound gratitude to the American servicemen (he refuses to call them Yanks) who came to Britain's aid. He regrets that many local tradespeople cheated the Americans "left right and centre". They were vulnerable, of course, because they found our old currency difficult to deal with, and their affluence provoked jealousy. However, at lest one Palgrave tradesman refused to take advantage: Jesse's employer, Mr Weavers, owner of the cycle shop and garage (now Pat Lewis) was scrupulously fair. Jesse recalls how the Americans would pay anything for a bicycle, but Mr Weavers would not inflate his prices. Americans got the same fair deal as Palgrave residents. Good old Palgrave!

The airfields which lay all around Palgrave were supplied by convoys of lorries and Jesse tells of the huge volume of traffic that passed through the village. Supplies to places like Eye and Thorndon came up Denmark Hill and turned into Rose Lane by the Church. Apparently, the American tankers were so big that they could not negotiate the railway bridge bend without reversing. I believe the road has been straightened since then. Night brought no relief and Jesse remembers the night convoys crawling through Palgrave, stopping to ask directions. Vehicle lights were blackout-dim, and each driver followed the white painted rear axle and a faint red light on the vehicle in front.

Not all the soldiers who visited Palgrave were friendly. Jesse remembers a German POW camp at Redgrave Park, and a camp for Italians in Diss. In particular he recalls an incident involving German prisoners who were set to work in a sugarbeet field behind Weavers Garage. The Germans were guarded by one British soldier who had five rounds of ammunition. One day the prisoners stole some tractor parts from the garage where Jesse was working! The Italians, however, were regarded as harmless, according to Jesse, and he remembers them wandering around Diss. He recalls they were excellent singers!

Other features of wartime life in the village are also clear in Jesse's memory. He was a schoolboy at the start of the war and he remembers trenches being dug on the Green, and sandbags being stacked around the cycle shed, both to protect the children in air raids. The School windows were taped to prevent shattering, and Jesse remembers air-raid drills. He became good at aircraft recognition, and was the School's "spotter". Generally life in the village was hard, according to Jesse: rationing made its impact, but there was no shortage of food – everyone "dug for victory".

Many of Jesse's memories are shared by other Palgrave residents, and several have their own recollections. Roy Watkinson worked at Diss Post Office, and it was his job to deliver the telegrams which brought the news which everyone dreaded from various theatres of war. Ted Ling remembers his parents putting out fire bombs. He remembers Land Girls on the family farm and German POW's who fed cows and helped with the sugar beet and threshing. Pauline Whistlecraft recalls the death of a young evacuee and Margaret Harding remembers her mother baking cakes for the service men. Margaret recalls watching the V1 rockets going overhead at night, and sheltering under the stairs. Jen Read remembers gas masks and sleeping under the (reinforced) kitchen table. She also recalls the terrifying noise of pneumatic drills – used in the erection of defences – and bundles of silver foil, dropped by bombers to confuse radar, and collected by villagers to decorate their houses!

Finally, though, this war drew to a close. In Victory Week,!945, a special service was held in St Peter's Church to mark the coming of peace, and war again slackened its grip on Palgrave. Not entirely, though: money was still to be raised for the Homecoming Fund, so a whist drive and a bridge drive were organised; and onthe25th may, 1945, instructions were printed in the Diss Express: "How to get your new ration book"! ---- Alan Spoors

NOTABLE PEOPLE

THOMAS (Honest Tom) MARTIN

Thomas Martin was born at Thetford on the 8th March 1696 in School House, St Mary's Parish, which is the only parish of Thetford actually in Suffolk. His father was William Martin rector of Great Livermere and St Mary's, Thetford. His mother was Elizabeth only daughter of Thomas Burrough of Bury St Edmunds and aunt to Sir James Burrough, master of Caius College, Cambridge. He was largely self taught. For many years being the only pupil of Thetford Free School. He took an early interest in antiquities. In 1710, Peter Le Neve, Norroy King of Arms and original president of the revived Society of Antiquarians visited Thetford and looking for a guide to show him the many antiquities of the town was directed to thirteen year old Thomas as being the most knowledgable at the time. This started a close relationship between the unlikely two. Thomas of tender years and the learned, aged gentleman. To be broken only with the passing of the elderly gent in 1729.

He became clerk to his brother, a practising attorney in the town. He disliked his employment and regretted that lack of resources prevented him from going to Cambridge University, but became a practising attorney also.

He was a student of topography and antiquities and became a member of the Spalding Gentleman's Society and was also received as a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in1720. He married Sarah, daughter of John Tyrell of Thetford and widow of Thomas Cropley, they moved to Palgrave in 1723 into the imposing house on the south side of Lion Road, with thirteen windows in the front. In the central window above the entrance door Tom inserted the arms of Archbishop Sancroft where they remained until the house was demolished in 1859. (The building became known as Barbauld House, home of "Palgrave Academy" later on). Thomas and Sarah had eight children, two died at a very

young age, and Sarah died in 1731 a few days after giving birth to twins. Thomas who was apparently, domestically inept found himself surrounded by his family of six young children! He lost no time in remarrying. A "Suffolk Garland" recorded the unusual circumstances of the courtship.

Thomas was executor to the late Peter Le Neve, and one morning after going through some papers of his late friend, at Great Witchingham in Norfolk where he had lived, he was asked to join widow Frances for dinner. After the repast, " He raised himself suddenly, threw himself back in his chair, stretched out his arms, and as it were yawned out 'O yes, O yes, who'll have me and my six children?' " "That will I, Mr Martin," said the widow, "if I like those which I nave not seen, as well as those which I have seen". They were married soon after. The church register at Palgrave records their five children: Frances born 1733, Robert 1734, James 1736, William 1737 and Matthew 1740, sadly all died young.

He became involved in the running of St Peter's church in the village and his signature is on many of the old documents and papers. A friend who stayed at Palgrave and also met Thomas at Caius college (where Thomas's cousin Sir Edward Burrough was master) described him as "a blunt rough honest downright man of no behaviour or guile often drunk in the morning with strong beer, his thirst after antiquities was as great as his thirst for strong liquors".

By his marriage to Le Neve's widow he illegally came into possession of the collection of English antiquities and pictures which Le Neve had intended to present to an antiquarian society, library or museum, in order to make them available to a wider public. This collection consisted of books and manuscripts related to Norfolk and were described as "The greatest fund of antiquities of a county ever collected by any one person", by Richard Gough, a prominent and influential antiquarian of the day.

Martin was a good lawyer, but his practice dwindled as he devoted more and more of his time and energies to acquiring historical works and documents. As time went by he was obliged to sell parts of his collection for financial reasons. His great desire was not only to be esteemed, but to be distinguished by the name "Honest Tom Martin of Palgrave". He was for many years the "Senior Fellow" of the Society of Antiquaries. He died on 7th March in 1771, at his Palgrave home. He was buried in the south porch of St Peter's Church. There is a white marble memorial in the porch, on the west wall next to the inner door, which was erected by a friend and fellow antiquary, Sir John Fenn (best known for publishing the Paston Letters). Martin's "History of Thetford" was a lasting memorial to his work, he also provided his great friend Francis Blomefield with much material for his "History of Norfolk". Blomefield had described him as "as good a drawer as any in England", and always spoke about him as "Honest Tom".

Virtually all of Martin's historical collection of books, manuscripts, papers, artefacts and all his written works were purchased by John Worth, a chemist from Diss for £600. He set about recouping his outlay by selling all the printed books to a firm in Norwich who sent them for auction. The pictures and some curios were auctioned at Diss, other manuscripts, rare books, drawings and other miscellaneous items were sold in London. In 1774, Worth suggested to Mr Davis, a local dissenting minister that he assembled a section of Martin's manuscripts into a History of Thetford, the work faltered after the sudden demise of Worth. The Thetford manuscripts eventually found their way into the hands of Richard Gough, who published "The History of the Town of Thetford", in London in 1779.

What was left after the death of Worth was chiefly large volumes of manuscripts and notes about Thetford, Bury St Edmunds and other parts of Suffolk. The British Museum hold a copy of Gough's

"Anecdotes of British Topography", to which Martin had written a vast number of notes to accompany the work. Part of his work ended up in the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology. A lot of his other work, a volume describing 235 Suffolk churches, plus some Norfolk churches and abundant notes on Bury St Edmunds have remained in Suffolk, but in most cases in private collections.
It is questionable that he should be described as "Honest Tom", considering his illegal procurement of Le Neves collection of antiquities! There is no doubting Martin's ability to flush out and collect information on all things old and interesting His vast collection of hand written manuscripts and notes were astounding.

Somewhere I recall reading Martin's account of the "three" churches of Palgrave. According to Martin there was St John's chapel, St Peter's church and a third church, which was said to be on a line between St Peter's and Diss church, which points to the Dissenters Chapel which was built in 1697, apparently of wood construction. On The Lows where the Unitarian Burial Ground now is, which is in a direct line between the two churches. It was said to be little more than a barn, but it was a place of worship and was not demolished until the early 1800's, so Martin would have known of it's existence.

ANNA LAETITIA BARBAULD nee AIKIN

The early years

Anna Laetitia was born 20th June 1743 near the village of Kibworth Harcourt in Leicestershire. Her mother was Jane Jennings, daughter of the dissenting minister Rev. John Jennings and her father was John Aikin, son of a Scottish Presbyterian businessman. He was headmaster of Kibworth Harcourt dissenting academy and minister of the local Presbyterian church.

Most of what is known about Anna's life comes from her niece, Lucy Aikin and her great niece, Anna Laetitia Breton, who both wrote profiles of her in their memoirs. Lucy in 1825 and Anna in 1874. Some of the letters she wrote to her contemporaries do exist, but much of the Barbauld family documents were lost in the London blitz in 1940.

As a child she had a conventional (18th century) domestic education from her mother, but very soon displayed a rare and voracious appetite for acquiring knowledge. Her mother described her as "a little girl who was as eager to learn as her instructors could be to teach her, and who, at two years old could read sentences and little stories from her wise book, roundly, without spelling, and in half a year more could read as well as most women".

The early years of her life were spent in the village of Kibworth Harcourt, at the dissenters school. It was a very secluded existence, arising partly from the stern correctness of manners which prevailed amongst 18th century dissenters. Her education continued to be home based, during this time she did not mix with girls of her own age and had no female friends, due to the school being one for boys. Anna commented to her future husband in 1773 "For the early part of my life I conversed little with my own sex. In the village where I was there was none to converse with".

After a lot of pressure she persuaded her father to teach her "The Classics". So she learnt Latin, Greek, French, Italian and several other subjects thought unnecessary for women at that time. Being surrounded by boys, she became as high spirited as they were, her mother tried to subdue this trend, which would be thought of as unseemly in a woman. According to Lucy Aikin's memoirs, what resulted was "a double dose of bashfulness and maidenly reserve" in Anna's character. Her mother was also worried about her insatiable passion for study and expected her to end up a spinster because of her intellectualism. She was never as close to Anna as John, her father and teacher was. Anna's brother John, described their father as "the best parent, wisest counsellor, the most

affectionate friend, and everything that could command love and veneration". Lucy Aikin described him as excessively modest and reserved.

In 1758, when she was 15, the family moved to Lancashire. Her father was offered the position of classical tutor at the Warrington Academy, which at the time was one of the best known and highly respected dissenters educational establishments. (an excellent account of her time at Warrington also at Palgrave, running the Academy in the village can be found in the Education section)

Anna and Rochemont decided not to have children, because of the hereditary mental problems in Rochemont's family. She wanted a child and after a lot of persuasion in 1777 her brother let them adopt one of his, so Charles, his third son born in 1775 was duly adopted and brought up by them. Leaving Palgrave in September 1785 they spent a year travelling in France. Returning to England they settled in Hampstead. There had been a downturn in Rochemont's mental health and he was was no longer in a position to teach, he was invited to preside over the congregation of a local Presbyterian church. They did not desert their keen interest in education and from time to time had one or two students living with them, that had been put forward to them by close friends. Anna began to take on work editing and as a literary critic.

At this time during the French revolution Anna published some of her more profound political essays. A Bill to grant dissenters full citizenship rights was defeated in the House of Commons, she wrote one of her most heartfelt pieces. She also robustly supported the abolition of slavery. Reformers and dissenters were unpopular with the public at large, but even more so with the government. Both Anna and Rochemont were criticized and received intimidating letters, regarding Rochemont's rejection as a dissenter, to sign loyalty oaths to the government. In May 1792, a "Royal proclamation against seditious writing and publication" was issued. Despite the political atmosphere Anna published the book "Sins of the government, sins of the nation" in 1793, in a reaction to England's declaration of war against the French republic. Her essays showed that a woman could publicly participate in politics in the 18th century.

During the following years at Hampstead she worked together with her brother John, on "Evenings at Home", writing fables and children's stories also subscribing to his "Monthly Magazine". She edited a number of books by other writers.

Anna grew increasingly concerned for her safety due to her husband's mental instability. In 1802 they moved to Stoke Newington to be nearer to her brother John. Rochemont became the minister of Newington Green Unitarian chapel. Anna continued her editing work, with several essays from "The Tatler, Guardian, Spectator and Freeholder" plus 6 volumes of letters of Samuel Richardson. She published "The British Novelist" consisting 50 volumes, which included critical reviews and biographical essays. Rochemont grew abusive towards Anna and early in 1808 he confronted her with a knife, she managed to escape by jumping out a ground floor window. They separated and a few weeks later, in March he was put in care in London and seemed to be making progress. He somehow persuaded his attendant that he would be alright walking alone. He was found drowned in the New River in November 1808. Anna was very upset by his passing and stopped writing for some time.

The last work that Anna published was the poem "Eighteen Hundred And Eleven" It was critical of our country's involvement in the Napoleonic Wars. It had not only adverse and damaging reviews, but some vitriolic criticisms which caused her to stop publishing her works. The poem depicted England in ruin, no longer a great power in the world. It was thought that she intentionally provoked public unease over the government's continued involvement in France. Especially over trade blockades. In 1812 the blockades were removed allowing trade in England to return to normal!

Anna was reluctant to publish again but did not stop writing completely. Her works were passed among her close friends and associates. She died 9th March 1825. A memorial to her was erected in Newington Green Unitarian Chapel.

In Memory Of
Anna Letitia Barbauld
Daughter Of John Aikin, D.D.
And Wife Of
The Rev Rochemont Barbauld
Formerly The Respected Minister Of This Congregation.

She Was Born At Kibworth In Leicestershire, 20th June 1743.
And Died At Stoke Newington, 9th March 1825.
Endowed By The Giver Of All Good
With Wit, Genius, Poetic Talent, And A Vigorous Understanding
She Employed These High Gifts
In Promoting The Cause Of Humanity, Peace And Justice
Of Civil And Religious Liberty,
Of Pure, Ardent, And Affectionate Devotion.
Let The Young, Nurtured By Her Writings In The Pure Spirit
Of Christian Morality;
Let Those Of Mature Years, Capable of Appreciating
The Acuteness, The Brilliant Fancy, And Sound Reasoning
Of Her Literary Compositions;
Let The Surviving Few Who Shared Her Delightful
And Instructive Conversation.
Bear Witness
That This Monument Records
No Exaggerated Praise

GEORGE BARKLEY RAIKES 14/3/1873 – 18/12/1966

Delving back in time, in the 1881 census, eight year old George Barkley Raikes is living in Palgrave with his mother Martha, at The Priory. The head of the household is Robert A Barkley his uncle. Martha had recently been bereaved, and moved from Wymondham to live with her younger brother and his family for a while. It is unlikely that young George spent much time in the village as he was educated at Shrewsbury School, before going on to Magdalen College Oxford.

He was a good all-round sportsman, playing both football and cricket for his school and university. He played football for Wymondham and Corinthians early on. He was capped and played four internationals as goalkeeper for England in 1895/6. He was ordained in 1897 and started his ministry in Portsmouth. He played first class cricket for Hampshire in 1901 and 1902.

He later moved to Norfolk and captained the county team to two Minor Counties Championships, in 1905 and 1910. In 1912 he played for an England XI against Australia at a ground in Newmarket Road, Norwich. I am unsure as to which he found most difficult, fitting in his sport around his clerical duties or trying to fit in his clerical duties around his sporting activities!

He was rector of Bergh Apton, near Loddon, Norfolk from 1920 to 1936. He seems to have retired to the west country. He died at the grand old age of 93 near Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Memories and reflections of Robert Arthur Baldwin (Lardy)
Lifelong Resident of Palgrave
From notes made from Elaine Bootman's chats with Lardy towards the end of 2016

ROBERT ARTHUR BALDWIN 1924 – 2019

Lardy was born 24th September 1924 at the top of The Lows on the left hand side. The house standing there now was originally three small cottages, one of which was the Baldwin's home. His father's family were from Great Plumstead near Norwich, his father also Robert, was born in1880 at Scole. His mother's family had lived in the village at least a hundred years, his mother Matilda was born in 1892 most probably in Priory Road where her parents were living in 1891 (from the census). Lardy's parents had three other children, Sybil, born 1914, Frederick George (Jimmy), born 1923 and Olive Joan, born in 1926. They had lost two other children both less than a year old, that Lardy and his siblings were probably unaware of. Their house had one large room at the front and a kitchen/scullery at the back. They had no electricity or running water in the house and all drinking water had to be carried by pail from the standpipe across the green which is still there today. Lardy remembers having to fill the kitchen copper from the well in the back yard and light the fire to heat the water for his mother before he went to school in the morning. When he came home the water had to be scooped out and emptied on the garden.

He started school when he was five in 1929. Discipline was strict. There were one hundred pupils at Palgrave school some from Thrandeston and Stuston. The school day was from 9am until 3.30pm with an hours break for lunch at 12 noon. Lardy used to go home for lunch, but those children from Thrandeston and Stuston, if parents had not packed lunches for them had nothing to eat until they got back home after school. Some of the children went to the Bakers in the village, Farrows, at the entrance of what is now Forge Close. In the bakery was a slogan which read:- "Hungry children are fed on H C Farrow's bread". Billy Hilling baked the bread and delivered it around the village on a horse and cart. There were signs of poverty at school with pupils wearing patched clothes and repaired shoes. He remembers his mother darning socks and his father cutting up old boots to repair shoes.

The headmaster at the school was Mr H T Ford and there were also four lady teachers. Mr Edwin Wood took over from Mr Ford later on. The headmaster took the top class. Each Friday from 9 – !0 there was an assembly taken by The Rector of Palgrave. The school had a garden, it was down Lows Lane on the right hand side just passed the last two semi detached houses, there is a bungalow on the site now. The garden was tended by the boy pupils and the vegetables were grown for the headmasters use. The garden adjoined a property that had apple trees and many older pupils (Lardy being one of them) used to go scrumping whilst gardening. Friday was sports day and the pupils used to walk to Wortham Village Hall to play football and cricket. There was a Sunday school run by Mrs Amy Ford, Tom Ford the Wheelwright's wife and Irene Ford (who later on married George Bland). Irene had a fine voice and sang in the church choir. Children had to attend Sunday School regularly to qualify them to go on the annual Sunday School outing, to Great Yarmouth.

The Misses Goodrich, who lived at St Johns gave all the children a new penny and an orange. The Misses Goodrich were very generous to the village of Palgrave, they gave all the pensioners 5cwt of coal a year and there still exists today, the Palgrave Welfare Trust, which was started by the Goodrich sisters for the poor and needy of the parish. The journey to Great Yarmouth was in a charabanc and it had to cross Haddiscoe Bridge. In those days the bridge was constructed of wood and all the children had to get out and walk over the bridge whilst the charabanc was driven over and then climb aboard on the other side. Lunch in Great Yarmouth, Lardy remembers the children were given a plate of shrimps, a piece of cake and bread and butter, for which the parents had to pay. (Lardy hated shrimps) During the harvest holiday (1 month), the youngsters from school used to go to watch the corn being cut by a binder pulled by three horses. Lots of rabbits ran out as the standing corn got

smaller and smaller, they used to chase them sometimes catching one to take home for tea. When he was a little older about thirteen he and other children of his age could help with the harvesting.

Lardy left school in 1938 when he was fourteen, his family also moved house into one of the new (then) council houses in Rose Lane. The rent in those days was 14/- a month.(70p today) He started working at Place Farm Stuston for the Laurie family, looking after the cows. He got up at 4.30am and walked to Stuston. His seven day week started at 5am, finishing at 5pm He had an hour for breakfast and two hours for lunch working a sixty three hour week. He was paid 18/- (90p in today's money), he gave his mother 12/- and kept 6/- for himself. Out of this he paid 2/6 a week to Bogy Weavers for a bicycle which cost £4, 10/-.

Bogy Weavers built the village garage in 1938 from which he ran his taxi service and sold, rented and repaired bicycles. It has since disappeared and been replaced by a number of houses. He worked at Place Farm for 18 months. He then went to work for Charles Coleman at Lime Tree Farm, now Coleman Close. Lardy earned the same wage working 7am until 4pm and 7am-- 12 noon on Saturday. Before the war he played football for Roydon with a number of other village lads he also liked watching the horse racing at Newmarket and Huntingdon. The Reading Room was available to the youngsters offering table tennis, snooker, cards and crib. The village also had darts, cricket and bowls teams. He and his sister Olive Joan occasionally visited their other sister Sybil in Clacton, but otherwise Lardy had not left Palgrave until he joined the army.

He was called up in May 1943. He did his six weeks basic training at Norwich, was then moved on to Salisbury Plain, Blackpool, then abroad to Nijmegen in Holland. This was in 1944 during the coldest winter on record. He was assigned to the infantry as a gunner surveyor to the 74th Field Regiment Royal Artillery. At the end of hostilities, he was first sent to Onsabruck, then on to Deolali in India, where he was for over a year.

Deolali was a British Army camp 100 miles north-east of Mumbai (was Bombay). It was the original location of the Army Staff College (now the Defence Services Staff College of India and the Command and Staff College of Pakistan). It Is also the source of the British slang noun doolally tap, loosely meaning "camp fever", and referring to the apparent madness of men waiting for ships back to Britain after finishing their tour of duty. By the 1940's this had been widely shortened to just "doolally", an adjective meaning "mad (insane)" or "eccentric". The town was the setting for the first four series of the British sitcom" It Ain't Half Hot Mum", set in 1945.

Lardy was demobbed on 18th December 1946, when he had a decent Christmas dinner the first time for a few years. In 1943 he had been in Cromer, in 1944 he had corned beef in Holland, he can't remember what he had in 1945 in India, but thankfully was back home in 1946.
Returning from war duties he did not notice any particular changes in the village. Lardy went back to work for Charles Coleman in January 1947 earning 43/- a week. He used to meet several of his friends on a Sunday evening and go round a few pubs, they started at The Swan at Stuston, then The Tuns, Stuston Road, Diss, (more recently The White Elephant) on to The Red Lion, Victoria Road, (in front of the Motor Cycle Centre) The Denmark Arms, (now a florists) and The Cock on Denmark Green. Half a pint of mild beer cost 1/-. They had half a pint in each of the pubs.

Dances, meetings, jumble sales and the annual flower and vegetable show were held in the school. In 1973 The Swan closed, it had been the hub of the village, there was no other central meeting place for the villagers and it was Lardy's opinion, that was when Palgrave 'community spirit', as he knew it, started to change and villagers did not socialise so much.

Lardy continued to work at Lime Tree Farm until Charles retired in the mid 80's. He went to work for Omar Mobile Homes in Diss (where Morrisons store is now) until he retired in 1989. In 1997 he lost his brother Jimmy, who died quite suddenly, they had lived together all their lives neither of them marrying. Jimmy had a car and with his passing Lardy lost his transport as well as his lifelong companion and mentor. Sybil, his eldest sister followed Jimmy a couple of years later. He spent most of his time lovingly tending his garden until he was into his nineties, when ill health prevented him from doing so. He had very good neighbours in Lee and Jane Lockwood who tended his garden and did lots of chores for him. He remained as independent as he could, preparing his food each day eating plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit – no microwave meals for him!

Jesse, Lardy's lifelong friend and neighbour used to visit him every day making sure he was OK. Olive Joan, his younger sister (by about 18 months), did his shopping, laundry and cake baking every week. Heavy things like potatoes he had delivered and the Ringtons tea van called regularly, as Lardy still made his tea the old fashioned way. Another near neighbour, Elaine Collins visited him helping with housework and putting the bins out. Colin Atkinson and others transported him to the bank, for him to collect his pension and pay bills. There still was a caring community spirit in the village, although not as Lardy knew it from his younger days. Sadly, Lardy's sister died when she was 92. Through his inability to look after himself he was taken to a care home in Eye for the last few months of his life. He died in 2019 a few weeks short of his 95th birthday.

Lardy mentioned that there were several bachelor brothers living in the village in the 1960's :- Alfred and Eric Barlow, Jimmy and Lardy Baldwin, George and Tommy Clarke, Harry and Bob Ford, Bob and Millice Hall and Sam Ramsey and his brother, there were also a pair of spinsters ;- Daphne and Shudy Walker.

PUBLIC HOUSES

THE LION or RED LION

It is not certain how far back in time "The Old Red Lion" public house goes. The oldest document found is dated 1698 and is written in Latin on velum and records the sale of land from Baron Cornwallis of Eye to Richard Eaton. Charles 4th Baron Cornwallis, 1675-1721 was a substantial landowner and a Whig M.P. He was not selling the land in order to pay death duties, as they did not exist until 1796!

The first mention of "The Red Lyon" was in 1725, John Murton surrendered ownership to the Lord of the Manor. He may have been unable to keep up mortgage payments. Between 1728 and 1847 there were a numerous changes of land ownership. From the 1841 census, Robert Ship was the licensee. The Directory for 1844 records him as victualler and florist. In 1847 it seems that The Lion was completely rebuilt by John Reed, to be known as "The Red Lion". It seems that Robert Ship tried to expand his other business as a florist. An auction notice in the Ipswich Journal, September 1849 details various household effects plus 1000 greenhouse plants and two large greenhouses (by the Direction of the Mortgagees) to be sold 13th September at The Lion, Palgrave. The next Publican was James Brooks, from the 1851 census the Directory for 1855 lists him as maltster and victualler.

In 1852 The Lion public house and 2 lots of land towards the church were put up for auction. The auction notice said, "The exceedingly pretty village of Palgrave is within a pleasant walk from the market town of Diss, to whose inhabitants it is a constant and attractive place of resort and recreation". Palgrave Lion sold for £675. There was a plan attached to the auction document illustrating the extent of the estate.

From the old thatched cottage to the east, up to where the house "Lark Rise" now stands to the west. On the land to the west of The Red Lion was a bowls green with its club house. To the rear of pub was a stable block and other outbuildings. The 1861 census records Benjamin Crawford as Inn Keeper. Henry Howes was not only licensee, but also a nurseryman and florist as reported in the directories of 1869 and 1874. In 1879 The license was transferred to Robert Brook who lived there with his sister and two brothers, the 1881 census information states that he is also running a millwright business employing 4 workers. By 1888 his sister Elizabeth, was running things at The Red Lion, her brother John was still living there, no doubt assisting Elizabeth.

There was a change in ownership in 1897 from Francis Taylor to his brother Alfred. (Francis was buried alongside his eldest brother John Meadows Taylor at the Unitarian Burial ground across The Lows) The Taylor's were partners in a Brewery (Taylor and Dowsons) in Diss, off Shelfanger Road in buildings that are now part of John Taylor's (no relation) premises. A year later Alfred sold the Red Lion to Douglas Alfred Tollemache, the Ipswich brewer. George Baldwin put in a brief appearance as licensee in 1900. The 1901 census has Arthur Abbott as landlord at the time he was also a ropemaker. Clem More became the next Inn Keeper by the time the 1911 census was taken, he left in 1916 to take over the village Post Office and James slipper became the next victualler. The directory of 1922 reported Owen Baldwin as being landlord. The ownership changed in 1934 from Douglas Alfred Tollemache to Ernest De Montesquiou Lacon, the Great Yarmouth brewer.

When the pub closed 4th March 1937, Lacon and Co. brewers sold the Lion Inn and land, 1 acre-35 perches to Owen Baldwin's wife Grace, she bequeathed the premises to him in 1947, he sold "Lion House" for £1500 to his son Eric In 1953. Eric kept pigs there a few years. The old bowls green clubhouse had been converted and used for farrowing. The land to the east had pigs rooting about on it as well as where the bowls green used to be. He also trained gun dogs on the premises.
In 1956 he sold "Lyon House" to Mr E G Smith. Both he and his wife were keen gardeners and the land had been well fertilised by the pigs so their efforts were quite successful! Two of the bedrooms had windows blocked up due to the window tax (the tax was repealed in 1852) Mr and Mrs Smith had one window opened up in their master bedroom, but I believe that the other window is still blocked up (facing east). As time passed properties were built on land next to Lyon House and in 1996 Mrs P Smith sold the property and there have been three other owners since then.

My thanks to Pat Smith for the information and Latin translations

SPORT IN PALGRAVE

FOOTBALL

In the early1900's Palgrave Stars played football on a pitch at the rear of The Priory, on what is now Draycott Rise and Clarke Close. They played in the South Norfolk League and were "League Champions" in the 1909/10 season. Mr Corbett the headmaster at the village school was very enthusiastic and encouraged his young students to play the game and was known to buy kit for those keen youngsters unable to afford it. The school ran a football team and played on a meadow in Lion Road, on the right just beyond the old Police House. The first World War seems to have taken its toll of the Palgrave Stars as the team never reconvened. In the late 1920's and early 30's Palgrave lads were joining teams outside the village, Jimmy Baldwin played for Diss, Arthur Leggett for Wortham and Lardy Baldwin plus six others from the village played for Roydon.

CRICKET

In the 1920's cricket was played beyond the old Police House on the same meadow as the school children. Alec Green the postman, used to open the batting with Nelson Atkinson senior, George Clarke senior was wicket keeper. George told the tale of when Palgrave dismissed Kerrison School for only four runs, he as wicket keeper was criticized by his captain for conceding two byes! The village team were winners of the Diss and District Cricket League in 1934 and again in 1935, I have two winners medals that were my father's. In 1935 the club had to look for a new meadow to play their matches on. Billy Ling had bought the land and was looking to cultivate it. The Bland family were cricket enthusiasts and made one of their meadows available to the club, it was on a slope next to the railway line. They laid a concrete pitch, provided a length of matting on which to play and built a large summerhouse in the corner of the meadow for serving teas in. The concrete and matting wicket was very fast and took some teams by surprise. So did the outfield if not all the cowpats had been removed before the game! During the 1950's there were enough players to run two teams throughout the season.

In about 1960 the club moved up to the new playing field behind the garage. The summerhouse was past its best and not very secure, so the kit was stored at The Swan. In the early 1960's there was a fire at The Swan and all the kit was lost in the fire, fortunately all the teams we played against gave a piece or two of their own kit to help us through the season. In my memory we only played friendlies although some of the matches against near neighbours became quite tense. One of the highlights of the season was the game at Denes Oval at Lowestoft, in the 1950's and 60's a coach was used and family and friends made a day of it. The ground and playing surface were far superior to the other grounds we visited. The games were a bit one sided we were usually outplayed, but I have one outstanding memory of a match played in the 60's. When Lowestoft A batted they completely underestimated the incredible fielding of Bob Lawrence, he was only about sixteen, but had an exceptionally strong throw. He ran out three of their batsmen, his throw was low and very swift. We thought after one had been run out those following would have taken note of the cover fielder, unfortunately Bob's fielding did not affect the result of the match, but it left a happy memory for me.

We played at Chelsworth once, Harry Howlett took one look at the wicket and offered to umpire, generously offering his place to one of the keen youngsters. It was a low scoring game, our bowlers took advantage of a very lively pitch and Chelsworth were out fairly cheaply, all our main batsmen seemed to be in a hurry to get back in the pavilion, so the keen youngsters, who usually practised on a similar surface down on the Lows got the runs. Richard Ford was in great form there were at least two 6's in his innings of over forty. The more experienced players made sure that we never went there again! We played against Halesworth who had a bowler by the name of John Bedser, he just happened to be a cousin of the Bedser brothers who played for Surrey, one of them Alec, played for England. The pitch and facilities were so much better at the new playing field, but there were many more things to do at the weekends and interest waned, so it came as no surprise when the club wound up in the 1970's.

BOWLS

A sales document of 1952, for The Red Lion shows a plan of the estate. On the west side of the main building is a bowling green, with a clubhouse to the rear. The old clubhouse was used in the1950's by Eric Baldwin as a pig sty! By 1930 the bowls green was the other side of the road surrounded by trees, part of The Priory grounds. This was by kind permission of the various landowners. The Barkley family owned The Priory from the late 1870's right through to the 1920's. The Roberts family followed on until 1957 when Capt. and Mrs Wicket took over. Federation Bowls was played, the club was affiliated to the Suffolk Association and played in the county league. They also played a lot of

friendlies throughout the season and held open bowls drives on Sunday afternoons. When the club moved up to the new playing field in the early 1960's. The Green had been laid to EBA standards. The upkeep of the green was down to the keen few. When the new indoor bowls club at Diss opened in 1966, with ideas of also having an outdoor green, the writing was on the wall and shortly after the Diss outdoor green opened in 1970 the Palgrave club packed up. Ironically the community centre was built on the site of the bowls green and carpet bowls is played in the centre regularly.

TENNIS

There were tennis courts in the grounds of The Priory in the 1850's (from a map attached to a sale document dated 1850) they were behind Barbauld House not far from where the bowls green was situated. There were also courts at the Old Rectory, played on by youngsters during Rev Bill Hocking's time at Palgrave. The Apthorpes at Sunnyside (now Malt House) had a tennis court as did the Rushtons at Ashby House on the corner of Millway Lane, and apparently both their daughters were very good players. There was also a court at Oak Farm for many years, several generations of the Anness family made good use of it.

TABLE TENNIS

The Reading room was built by Rev Savory in the early 1900's for the young men of the parish there was a table tennis table, snooker table and dart board. It was well used in the early days. In 1948 the Diss and District Table Tennis league was formed and the village has had teams playing competitively from that time. After the Reading Room was sold (it needed urgent and extensive repairs in the 1960's) table tennis was played in the Community Centre and still is today.

ATHLETICS

Spencer Cross born in 1902 was an exceptional runner. His favourite distance was the mile, he used to train on the quarter mile field next to St Johns. He ran in all the local races, and also in events at Christchurch Park in Ipswich. He won some very nice prizes, mostly glassware. Shirley his youngest daughter has a very nice cut glass bowl that he won in 1928, and Spencer's children have other prizes shared between them. He ran in London on a few occasions and in more than one race got very close to breaking the four minute mile! When not running he was one of our local postmen.

DARTS AND SKITTLES

Playing darts in the village certainly goes back to the early days of The Reading Room which was built in 1906. Darts was most likely played in both pubs in the village. David Andrews informed me that it was being played at The Swan during his time there, his parents ran the pub from November 1946 to some time in 1955. Apparently the infill of the dart board was plasticine and had to be rolled out flat after each game! He said this seemed to work well. He also spoke about skittles, the skittle alley was out the back or the pub and there were matches there most Friday nights.

QUOITS

In the 1920's and 30's most villages in the area had a quoits team playing at the public houses. Billy Ling mentioned this in his book. When Pat and Eddy Smith moved to The Lion in the 1950's, they found a number of quoits in the outbuildings. It is not certain if it was played at The Swan.

ROADS AND LANE NAMES FROM THE PAST

An old enclosure document dated 15th January 1814 has some interesting information about the village and surrounding area.

Denmark Bridge was known as" Cock Street Bridge" and the Diss to Wortham road (The Ling Road) crossed the common called "Rooks Fen" before entering the parish of Wortham at the gate called "Wortham Gate".

The Diss to Palgrave Road from Cock Street Bridge towards Elm Vale Farm, crossed the green called "Gibbs Green" until it enters the lane called "Market Lane".

The Palgrave to Scole road, (Rose Lane or Rose's Lane named after Rev. Robert Rose who owned land both sides of the road from and including The Rectory all the way to the river Waveney) beginning at an ancient lane till it enters the bounds of the Parish of Diss at "Palford Bridge" (if you look at the incline of the road both sides of the bridge, it looks very likely that there was a ford there originally). A driftway leading out of The Diss to Palgrave road at "Gibbs Green" extends to the Meeting House for the use and convenience of all persons resorting to the said Meeting House.(which points to the meeting house still standing in 1814)

A driftway leading out of an ancient lane called Hall-yard-way (Lows Lane or Goulds Lane.
The census also had a number of different names for various roads.

Old Bury Road has been known as :- The East Road, East Street, Bury and Norwich Turnpike and Turnpike Road.
Priory Road :- Little Mill Lane, Mill Street, Gassicks, or Gassocks Road and Thrandeston Road.
Millway Lane :- Long's Lane and Rolph's Lane.
The Ling Road :- Low Road and the Wortham/ Redgrave Road.
Palgrave Hill :- Denmark Hill and Diss Road.
Crossing Road :- Eye Road and Thrandeston Road.
Dam Lane from Grange Farm through to Mellis was always known as Mellis Lane to us locals.
Lane names have changed and disappeared in some cases :- Peddars or Petters Lane was between the Railway line and the beck, going north east towards Place Farm, Stuston.

SERVICES

The sewage works (for Diss), but situated near The Lows in Palgrave are first mentioned in a Directory for 1894. There was an old system for just a few of the larger houses of the village, Sunnyside (Malt House), The Paddocks and one or two others nearby that could afford it, had piped access to Diss Sewage Works. Other larger houses not so close to The Lows usually had a large septic tank. The one at The Hollies in Lion Road was emptied once a year by the gardener, who dug a very big hole in the garden and carted the solids from the septic tank by wheelbarrow and buried them under two or three feet of soil. This onerous and long job was done whilst the owner, Miss Beaumont was on vacation! The main drainage system was not installed to the main part of the village until the late 1950's and early 60's.

Mains electricity did not arrive in Palgrave until 1937/8. The outlying areas like Old Bury Road did not have the mains until later on in the 60's.

Water was usually drawn from wells, in a lot of cases it had to be boiled for drinking purposes. The water pumping station down Millway Lane was not in operation until mains electricity arrived, then if there was mains failure it meant that we lost water supply as well. There were a number of standpipes in the village for those unable to afford to have running water in their homes. They had to fetch drinking water from the nearest standpipe by the bucketful. The telephone kiosk arrived in the late 1930's. Only a few in the village had the phone in those days. The Palgrave Police Station on Lion Road telephone number was 8 and Diss Railway Station number was 6. (my sister worked at the telephone exchange)

RAILWAY BRIDGES

The railways arrived in the 1840's and the bridges over the line on Old Bury Road, Rose Lane and Clay Lane, were found to be very useful for the sharpening of knives and other instruments. The top layer of cement on the bridges was made with very fine sand and all three bridges had a large groove gouge out on the top edge, about a foot long and up to three inches deep in the centre by the 1960's. In the "good old days" everyone had a pen knife, and walking over a bridge would pause, and put a fine edge on their knife, bill hook or what ever they were using at the time. The walls on top of Old Bury Road bridge were replaced, Rose Lane bridge was replaced and Clay Lane bridge was demolished when electrification of the railway line took place in the mid 1980's.