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The Merry Mawkin

Newsletter of Friends of Norfolk Dialect
website: www.norfolkdialect.com



Norfolk children rediscover language of their forebears

By FOND chairman
TONY CLARKE

Norfolk schoolchildren are rediscovering the language of their forebears after FOND education project, *Lost in Translation: An Exploration of the Norfolk Dialect*, was launched at a training day for teachers in March.

They are recording the voices of dialect speakers, using equipment lent by FOND, and with the help of the Spin-Off Theatre Company, learning new ways to interpret

their cultural heritage through drama, art and dance.

The recordings will eventually be lodged in the sound archive at the Norfolk Records Office, and the drama pieces should feature in exhibitions to be given at the Royal Norfolk Show, and later at The Forum, Norwich. FOND committee members are acting as links with their designated local schools, providing moral and practical support. The project, a partnership between FOND and the county council's Children's Services Department, attracted wide media interest when we "went public."

Coverage included interviews on national and regional TV, BBC Radio 4, and stories in several na-

tional newspapers, including the Sun and The Times (see Page 4), the latter giving us a page lead. FOND chairman Tony Clarke even did a brief interview with BBC Radio Wales!

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**FOND schools
project given
full coverage
in THE TIMES
— Page 4**

Schools enthuse at our Norfolk dialect initiative

FROM PAGE 1

The £26,400 project, funded through the Local Heritage Initiative, took a major step forward when the training day was held at the Norfolk Professional Development Centre on March 2. The programme included two lectures by FOND president, Professor Peter Trudgill, dealing with accent, dialect, grammar and pronunciation. Spin-Off Theatre Company dealt with drama and music, and other speakers included Anna McCarthy, of the Children's Services Department - whose professional expertise is crucial to co-ordinating the project - Stewart Orr (on the use of recording equipment), FOND's Peter Brooks and education officer Norman Hart, literacy advisers Emma Adcock and John Woodhouse.

Gifted, talented

The 10 schools which originally signed up for the project became 11 when Diss High School joined in. Subsequently the Hewett, School, Norwich, dropped out.

At FOND's executive committee meeting in May it was reported that the schools were getting to grips with the project with great enthusiasm. Activities being prepared for the exhibition evidently include a playlet featuring the Pedlar of Swaffham.

The enthusiasm was well summed up by a high school teacher who, in an e-mail to FOND's chairman, wrote: "(The children) are a gifted and talented set and are extremely bright; I am hoping we will be able to produce a couple of pieces for the exhibition."

Dew yew listen in tergether August Bank Hol'day....

**By Stewart Orr
FOND Technical
Officer**

After all the excellent publicity that we've achieved for the *Lost in Translation* project we are now waiting for the schools to send in lots of good recorded dialect material on their minidisks.

However, it's still a little early, so there should be lots to report in the next issue of *The Mawkin*.

There is one date for your diary, though, when BBC Radio Norfolk will be transmitting a programme largely based on the project. This will be broadcast on August Bank Holiday Monday, and will be produced by your technical officer, Stewart Orr.

The programme will take a wide view of the Norfolk dialect, taking it from earliest times (some written dialect from 1796 has just

turned up) to the present day, and our FOND project, *Lost in Translation*. Much previously unbroadcast material has come to hand, including Jonathan Mardle (Eric Fowler) reading one of The Boy John Letters, so it should be a fascinating hour's programme. Watch this space for more....

Members may also be interested in the recent republication of the Gothic romance, *Bungay Castle*, a best-seller first published in 1796.

This has been recorded as a 10-CD talking book by actor Patience Tomlinson, whose lively characterisation of the text is superb. Of particular interest will be Patience's reading of the maid, Audrey, whose wonderful Norfolk accent is beautifully contrasted with the high society of medieval Bungay!

The CD set is available from Stewart Orr (01379 854458).

'Tales of Crime, Mystery, Murder and Datty Deeds from Norfolk's Past'

Norfolk historian NEIL STOREY, speaker at our FOND-dew at Tacolneston Village Hall in April, reports for the Mawkin

Have you ever wondered about the darker history of Norfolk? The audience at the Tacolneston FOND-dew were treated to a glimpse "behind the curtains" of Norfolk society from the last 500 years or so, a time of crime, punishment, death, debauchery and quack medicine. Few realised that every town and village of medieval England had to maintain a stocks and whipping post by law, although some did have their own

ideas of what could be thrown at the criminals standing in the pillories of our market towns and in the city.

The people of the past certainly had robust and symbolic measures to deal with miscreants, such as a heavy barrel worn as a punishment by drunkards, and the iron "Scold's Bridle" clamped over the head of malicious gossips to "hold their tongue." Other tales told of quack medicine indulged by our ancestors, with blood-letting and scarification popular topics discussed after lunch, as were the tales of the evolution of dentures, especially "Waterloo teeth" pulled out from the mouths of the fallen on the battlefield and brought home for dentists to reset them to make dentures.



Ted Peachment (above) was brave enough

to allow Dr Macaura's patent blood circulator, a typical bit of Victorian quackery, to be demonstrated upon him.

We hardly had enough time to give an overview of some of the most notorious, dark and horrible deeds and murders from the county's past, although the "pinning" of suicides (above) at crossroads was explained and demonstrated. Notorious murderers, such as James Blomfield Rush, the Stanfield Hall murderer, William Sheward, the Norwich dismemberer, and Herbert Bennett, the Yarmouth bootlace murderer, had a chance to rear their heads before the audience were introduced to the hangmen and their methods. The audience was intrigued, the time flew by and I hope it will not be long before I return and share more tales and relics from a very different Norfolk past at another FOND-dew.

MY NORFOLK – PAGE 8

How THE TIMES covered FOND's Norfolk schools project, as lead story on Page 5 Thursday March 23 2006:

'He'yer fa' got a dickey, bor?' isn't rude.... in Norfolk

It's a precious Fen dialect to be preserved in schools, writes
Jonathan Richards

When Norfolk schoolchildren are tussling in the playground the shout will no longer be: "That girl's teasing me!"

Instead a victim might say: "I'm having a little bit of squit alonga the mawther." To add extra spite, the bully would be called "slummican great mawther" - a fat young girl.

Tired of the misconceptions about the way people in Norfolk speak and concerned that their dialect - now spoken by only older members of the community - is slipping into oblivion, an action group called Friends of Norfolk Dialect (FOND) has successfully lobbied for schools to teach an appreciation of the local tongue.

The project, called *Lost in Translation*, which is supported by Norfolk County Council, has received

£24,600 from the Local Heritage Initiative - an offshoot of National Heritage - and will be introduced in 11 schools from April.

Over the summer term, primary pupils aged 9-10 will interview and record local residents who speak the dialect and work with local theatre groups to develop performances to be staged at an exhibition in June. They will not have to learn to speak the dialect, but will be encouraged to develop an understanding of its heritage.

"We've been waiting for this special day for a very long time," Norman Hart, the vice-chairman of FOND, said. "I spent 30-plus years teaching in Norfolk schools and every dialect - West Indian, Scottish, Welsh - was to be welcomed, except one: Norfolk. That's just not good enough as far as we're concerned."

Keith Skipper, the Norfolk writer and broadcaster who co-founded FOND in 1999, said: "It's critically important that youngsters are aware that there's a wonderful, rich dialect that they need to use or lose. I wish there wasn't the need for this project, and that there was

still a strong rhythm of proper language coming from the heart of the community. It's not something to be ashamed of."

Tim Groves, a teacher at Sheringham Primary, said that most children would have had contact with the dialect only through their grandparents, but that with exposure, it was easy to understand.

GET BY IN NORFOLK

Do we go play on the titty totty tittermatorter?

Let's go and play on the very small see-saw.

That angle is slantendicular/ on the huh.

That angle is not quite perpendicular/not straight.

I've got suffin goin about.

I've got the uppards and downards.

I don't feel well. I've got diarrhoea.

I have a tizzick.

I have a troublesome cough.

He'yer fa' got a dickey, bor?

A Norfolk greeting, literally: "Has your father got a donkey, boy?" The correct reply is... **Yis, an' he want a fule to roid him, will yew cum?**

Meaning: "Yes, and he wants a fool to ride him, will you come?"

©The Times, London, 23rd March 2006

Fun in 'Da Bungalow' - Boy Colin and missus live on TV

A telephone call from Brenda Bizzell, our membership secretary, suggested that I might be interested in an appearance on national television.

Ever keen to take up a challenge, I telephoned the London number of the producer of the crazy kids show, Dick and Dom in da Bungalow to ask how I could help. A section of the show invited people from various parts of the country to speak in their local accent/dialect for the children to attempt to understand what was being said. To this end I gave three or four typical phrases that any FOND member

would readily know. "That's the sort of thing we want," said the producer, "but what the heck does it mean?" Despite the fact that his parents were Norfolk-born, a "ding o' the lug" was about the only thing he knew of. We discussed travel and accommodation arrangements, together with a possible date, before negotiating a fee for the broadcast and I was promised a return call.

An interval of about 10 days elapsed and I was convinced that the matter had been forgotten, when I received another call confirming that the BBC wanted me on March 4 to go "live" on television. I was asked to bring a

"translator" with me and I proposed June, my wife, might be the ideal person, which they accepted. (This without her say-so, I might add!) I broke the matter to her gently by asking if she would like a night out in London with me. After agreeing, she was somewhat taken aback to learn of my devious plan, but after some persuasion agreed to go along with it. BBC Radio Norfolk got wind of it and I was asked to give a telephone interview explaining what was going to happen and on Fri-

sleep before the appearance on screen the next morning.

Breakfast over, a taxi took us to BBC Television Centre in Wood Lane. We were ushered into a room to meet other folk appearing on the show, before being taken to "make-up." We were complimented on our complexion by the make-up girls who decreed that we didn't require their services – it says something for our fresh air in Norfolk. We were then "miked-up" and waited to be shown to the studio.

On inquiring if a rehearsal would take place we were told it would prove funnier without! Dick and

Dom, together with Sarah Cox, a BBC Radio 1 DJ, and the children awaited us in the studio and we sailed straight into the routine.

Everyone was amused and mystified by the phrases I trotted out, and June played her part excellently as translator. It was over all too quickly and we left the studio for yet another taxi to take us back to Liverpool Street. Before we left, I had the chance for a short chat with football pundit Graeme Le Saux.

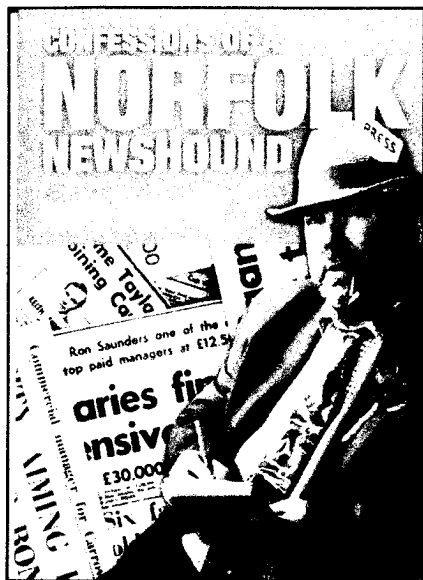
We caught our train back to Norwich at the end of what had been a hilarious but nevertheless worthwhile experience.

Before leaving, I reminded them of my telephone number, should they need us again!

The Boy Colin recalls his recent trip to London to demonstrate the Norfolk dialect to a television audience of millions. His wife June acted as translator!

day, March 3 a taxi arrived to take us to Thorpe station. On our arrival at Liverpool Street a mobile phone message guided us to a swish red Rover with my name on a placard in the window and June and I were whisked like royalty across to North Acton where hotel accommodation had been arranged.

We had sufficient time to head to the West End, do some sight-seeing, get tickets to see The Lion King at the Lyceum and enjoy a delightful Italian meal at a Leicester Square restaurant before the show. For anyone interested in musical shows, The Lion King is a "must see." We headed back to the Encore Hotel for a night's



A Norfolk legend

This dates me: I remember, in 1962, handling at the Norwich head office of the Eastern Daily Press some of the first stories written by a new cub reporter at Thetford.

Young Keith Skipper, nearly as punny and witty then as he is today, would obviously go far — and sure enough, six months later he moved to Dereham.

Keith went on to distinguish himself further at Yarmouth before moving to Norwich where, of course, his journalistic career soared to new heights reporting on the Canaries, his no-holds-barred columns not always appreciated by one manager.

Later, presenting his hugely successful Dinnertime Show on BBC Radio Norfolk, he became a legend in his own lunchtime, the wireless ideally suited to his natural communication skills. Sadly, it was not to last for ever, but, undaunted, Skip ploughed his lone furrow, emerging as a prolific author, after-dinner speaker, Press Gang entrepreneur, et al. And his “unashamed passion” for Norfolk was recognised in 2003 in his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant of the county. I am privileged to have known Keith from his early EDP days to the FOND friendship of today. Long may he keep a’trosh’n.

Robin Limmer

Sly humour – rich dialogue. “Time may have spiced up one or two paragraphs,” says Keith, “but they are for the most part honest pages from a souvenir edition printed with affection and gratitude.”

Life from a splendid vantage point

Confessions of a Norfolk Newshound. By Keith Skipper. Published by Thorogood, £9.99.

Evocative memories of life in Norfolk in another age—yet little more than 40 years ago—are encapsulated entertainingly in Skip’s latest contribution to Norfolk anal. Obviously, those of us in journalism and associated media have a particular interest in this book, but the fas-

cinating insight into what was happening behind the headlines in Keith’s “fortress Norfolk” will spark a wealth of golden memories to all who have lived in the county during the past five decades. Norwich City FC devotees will be intrigued by revelations of the difficult relationship Keith had with manager Ron Saunders which eventually boiled

over, he says, into open warfare.

There are, of course, a lot of laughs along the way, from the Beeston homestead to Thetford, Dereham, Yarmouth and Gorleston to Norwich, and some warm, witty tributes from former colleagues.

“I enjoyed,” reflects Keith, “a splendid vantage point at the heart of local life.”

RHL

More book reviews - Pages 16,17

Keith Skipper's Norfolk Bedside Book has been reprinted in hardback by Halsgrove, £12.99

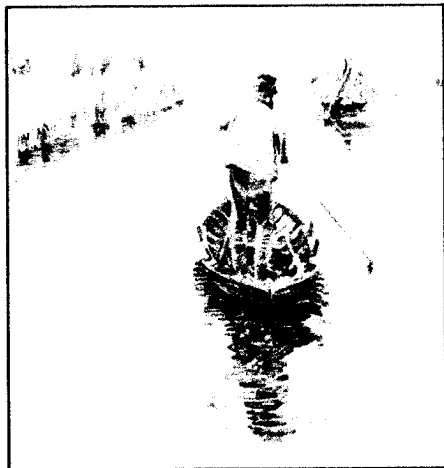
Journey at twilight

Surlingham, May 28th. 1948

Punting homeward from Rockland Staithe late this evening I drew into the shade of a willow tree and enjoyed for a few moments the utter peace of Broadland. The waters seemed to have a frozen stillness and with the discs and upturned edges of lily leaves, the spiky blackness of the reeds at dusk, the silhouettes of herons and great noctule bats against the sky and the pure silver of the great expanse of Broad, I was reminded of the prettiest artistry of Japan – the flashing metalwork of storks and dragons, willow trees and laughing water and the black lacquer of their embedding.

Presently I stole forward again, with the reflection of a rose-cream cloud gliding ahead as the moon sails in the sky, thence into the narrower channel, passing yellow flags staring like fixed stars out of the twilight and galaxies of blossoms clustered about the guelder rose branches low over the water, until I came to the Home Staithe and heard the babble of the little waterfall that gushes from the sluice as the tide runs out.

E.A.E.



Broadland Punt — One of the 78 drawings by David Poole in *Ted Ellis's Countryside Reflections*, first published in 1982, and from which the article (left) is taken. In 2001 Ted's widow, Phyllis, gave permission to *The Merry Mawkin* to reproduce any of the essays from the book, a classic collection of the Norfolk naturalist's articles written primarily for the *Eastern Daily Press* between 1947 and 1981.

Edge of summer

by Keith Skipper*

An evening stroll into the Norfolk hinterland. A small wood flooded with bluebells.

The sun fingering through the branches above. Scent, colour and gentle noises in a natural bouquet. How we need such little acres of Eden as refuges from traffic's scream and concrete

glower!

But how many people dare you tell before it becomes not Bluebell Land but Blunderland? We have to embrace Clement Scott's dilemma now and again when we find something precious. Remember, he wished he had kept Poppyland to himself. A hundred years later, the

leisure industry moguls scan the countryside for fresh material, and there are still a few corners of Norfolk fighting to avoid exploitation. If you find a little bit of paradise, a flood of bluebells, it would be advisable to keep it under your hat.

*From *Naturally Norfolk*, by Keith Skipper and artist Ken Walton, published by Jim Baldwin Publishing, Fakenham, 1988.

My Norfolk* — *In which well-known Norfolk people express their thoughts on what makes their home county special to them.*

NEIL STOREY, historian, author, academic lecturer, one of the most popular speakers in the county, and life-member of FOND — he intrigued the audience at our FOND-dew at Tacolneston, reported on Page 3 — explains why Norfolk is an integral part of his identity.

Identity formed from a unique history, language and culture

I was born a historian; I had to be, growing up in a house shared with grandparents who related tales and memories in everyday conversation. I had to pick up some of the stories of people, places and notable events from their past or I would have had no idea what my grandparents or their friends were talking about.

I was inspired and encouraged by retired history teacher Mary McManus to put together my first talks on the history of my home town, when I was about 14. Having seen "the boy done good" with my talks, a few folks joked, "You ought to write a book." One of them, the late Terry Davy, of Dereham, even said, "I'll publish it." So with honest guidance from Terry I set about writing my first tome on a rickety old manual typewriter.

I consider it an honour to say I have been in continuous publication ever since and have over 25 books to my name (although no longer written on the typewriter). Each book has explored a different aspect of the history of our county and city, the



Neil Storey — More than 25 books to his name.

people and Norfolk way of life. I hope with God and readership willing, I shall always write books on my beloved county.

Over the years it has truly been a privilege and pleasure to meet many of the people who have been part of the fabric of our county; the stories they have shared have enriched my books, made us laugh and moved

us to tears. The fortitude, bravery and reticence of many county folk who have done extraordinary deeds or acts of compassion in times of peace, war and disaster mark the character of true Norfolk people.

I love my home county and take pride in finding my family name dotted over the pages of Norfolk history for hundreds of years. I feel a deep sense of belonging here; it is an integral part of my identity — an ethnic identity formed from our unique history, language and culture that should be respected as much as any other. I concur with Nelson and will always declare: "I am a Norfolk man, and glory in being so."

**This series was previously titled What Norfolk Means to Me.*

Rare Norfolk words — by Sid Kipper

No 7: METROPOLITAN

The reason you don't hear this word much in Norfolk is due to no one being certain what it mean.

For instants, I asked Cyril Cockle about it and he said he reckoned it might be a sort of ice-cream. Which is typical, if you ask me — although, to be fair, I actually asked Cyril.

I also asked our vicar, the Rev "Call-me-Derek" Bream. He's generally known as "Call-me" in the village and what he don't know is definitely worth knowing.

He reckon metropolitan is all to do with Bishops, but that can't be right. If it was all about trips to Blakeney Point then it wouldn't be rarely heard, would it?

So what do metropolitan mean? Well, when I was at Trunch Bored School they said if you want to understand a word you have to break it down into little bits, work them out, then put them back together, and Bob's your auntie. So

here go.

"Met" mean met;

"ropo" is a sort of ferry (it's short for "roll on, p*** off");

"lit" mean drunk;

An "an," in Norfolk, mean also, like in fish an chips.

So, if you go by that, metropolitan mean "Also met a



Sid: Metropolitan?
"That mean 'Also met a drunk off the ferry.'"

drunk off the ferry." So that's why you don't hear it much in Norfolk, due to the shortage of ferries (but not necessarily drunks).

Of course, if you go to Reedham you'll hear the word all the time, due to the ferry there. Plus the Ferry Inn — and its customers.

So that's exactly what I'm

going to do, in September, 'cos I'm appearing at the Reedham Ferry Folk festival. I don't mean I'm just going to turn up. I've been invited And promised money.

And if I should also meet a drunk off the ferry, well, at least I'll know the word for it.

Dates with Sid

Sid will be appearing at the following prestigious events:

July 24, **King's Lynn Arts Centre** — recording *Should the Team Think?* for BBC Radio Norfolk, with Keith Skipper and others (01553 764864).

September 8, **Reedham Ferry Folk Festival** (01493 308534).

October 6, **Norwich Mad-dermarket Theatre** (01603 620917) — *In Season*.

October 7, **King's Lynn Arts Centre** (01553 764864) — *In Season*.

October 8, **Cromer Pavilion Theatre** — with Keith Skipper and others, *Squit on the Pier* (for **BREAK**) (01263 512495).

EDP 1892 article sparked o preserving Norfolk dialect

**Norfolk antiquary
and book-collector
RON FISKE
continues his
series
The Norfolk
Dialect: Guides to
Reading
and Research.
No 12,
Broad Norfolk.
Reprinted from the
Eastern Daily Press,
Norwich, 1893**

On the last day of 1892, one "C-H" wrote an article on *Broad Norfolk* in the *Eastern Daily Press*, which sparked off a valuable exercise in preserving the Norfolk dialect as it was used and recalled at the time. The one article brought forth others and an animated correspondence followed which, when reprinted, resulted in the

little 103-page booklet now under review. The first edition, dated 1893, was metal-stapled into a blue paper cover lettered in black. A second undated edition was also issued, this time enlivened by paper cover featuring a buff-clad village yokel set against an orange background. It is this edition which expanded the initials of the editor, "C-H" to H.T. Cozens-Hardy – presumably Henry Theobald Cozens-Hardy, brother of Archibald Cozens-Hardy, who later became editor of the EDP.

At the time of issue, Henry was only 21 years of age. A scion of the Leatheringsett family, he was

born on April 4, 1871, the son of Theobald Cozens-Hardy, of Oak Lodge, Sprowston. He later married, on February 16, 1918, Doris May Bartlett, of South Molton, Devon,



and, by 1937, had moved to 4, Madrid Road, London. He is said to have died in 1955.

In his first article, Cozens-

ff valuable exercise in

Hardy stated that "Provincial English is often treated with the most unmerited contempt, and no one seems disposed to go to its rescue." Yet he adds, "Our own county of Norfolk can boast of a prolific vocabulary of provincialisms; types for the most part, as philologists tell, not of bad but merely of antiquated English." He

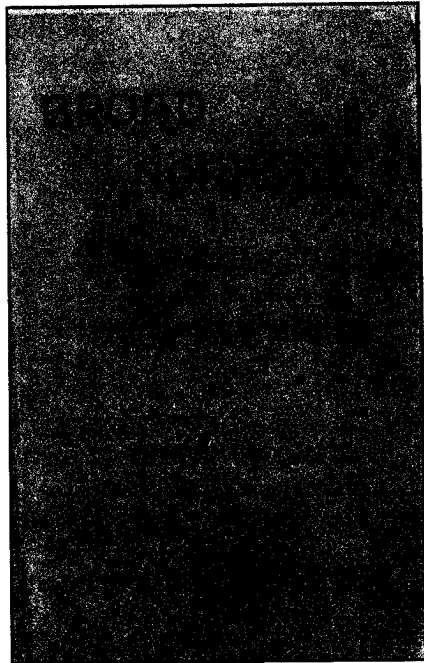
served, many bore the birthmarks of port and cigars rather than beer and cheese. The second article was provided by James Spilling whose works were reviewed in No 11 of this series. Spilling, who spent half of his life in Suffolk and half in Norfolk, began with a short note explaining the similarities

and differences between the two neighbouring county tongues. He then added greatly to Cozens-Hardy's list of words and concludes with an inquiry into the oft-repeated meaning of the old adage *lar-over-meddlers*. Soon the articles were added to by numerous correspondents, many of them using initials and pen-names.

Among the most prominent were

Leading them was M.C.H. Bird, rector of Brumstead, near Stalham, who not only gave lectures on the subject but was a fount of knowledge on all matters to do with the county. He was joined by "W.H.C." or W.H. Cooke of Stalham, who studied the folk lore of the district and filled in his time by writing out by hand and delivering the 12 copies of the *Stalham Scorchers* newspaper.

Other Broadland writers included "A.P" (Arthur Patterson), Christopher Davies and E.R. Suffling. Some contributors, like "Het Varke" (James Hooper), were adopted sons of the county, Hooper going on to become the county's most prolific guidebook writer. The greatest value of *Broad Norfolk* is its index of nearly 700 dialect words. Some are not unique to Norfolk and many have been incorporated into later local glossaries. Even so, it is a delight to turn to the original work and discover the charming manner in which the words were actually used.



then sets out a list of examples which, in the main, draws on words originally thought to be used by agricultural workers and countrymen although, as Anthony Hamond later ob-

men from the Broads district, confirming that the remote people of East Norfolk were the most prolific in using their native tongue.

FOND at www.norfolkdialect.com

Instant reaction to our schools project!

Already we've had a response on the website from one of the Norfolk children taking part in FOND's schools project, described in detail on Pages 1 and 2 of this Merry Mawkin. "Eloise" made the following entry in our guestbook on May 18:

'We're doing a Norfolk dialect project at our school where we interview old Norfolk people. This site helped me with my homework. I can't wait till next Thursday when the Norfolk dialect people are coming in for the day.'

FOND chairman refutes visitor's 'oral dialect' jibe

A claim by a visitor to our website that "dialects such as yours are an oral tradition and not a written one" has been refuted by FOND chairman Tony Clarke. Richard James wrote in our guestbook: "I recently read an article in The Times (*see Page 4 in this issue - ed.*) on your group and I thought I would take the liberty to point out that dialects, such as yours, are an oral tradition and not a written one. "To express dialect on paper, as I see you have done on one of your letters, is removing it from its traditional habitat. Dialects never develop into a written form because they are a casual and social development and not a literary one."

Tony Clarke writes:

"Mr James is not telling us something we don't already understand.

"On the other hand, how does he suggest that a newspaper (ie The Times) or books can try to portray a dialect in any other way than by interpreting sounds by means of the printed word?

32,000 visits

FOND's website co-ordinator **PAULINE DODD** reports:



"We have had 32,044 visits to the website. We had 57.14 per cent first-time visitors and 42.86 per cent returning visitors. The busiest day for visits is Thursday and the busiest time is 7am! Must be them fur-riners!"

"Dialects have indeed been handed down from mouth to mouth, but they do have vocabularies and grammatical structures built up over centuries of input from invaders or settlers.

"That is why they are so fascinating - and why our president, Professor Peter Trudgill, author of a book on the Norfolk dialect, is such a universally respected expert in linguistics."

Norfolk language (!)

Earlier this year, FOND member Gerry Moore, from Weeting, wrote to The Merry Mawkin: "I was watching the opening of the Commonwealth Games and was pleased to see that Norfolk Island had sent a team. I wondered what language they speak, so looked them up on the internet and was delighted to find that they speak Norfolk! I enclose the Wikipedia entry for the language. I cannot find out why it was named Norfolk Island – but in its flag there is a pine tree! I suggest FOND is twinned with the island!"

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

Norfolk (increasingly spelled Norfolk) is the language spoken on Norfolk Island by the local residents. It is a blend of English of the 1700s and Tahitian originally introduced by settlers from the Pitcairn Islands who spoke Pitkern.

The language itself does not have words to express some concepts; some therefore describe it as a Cant, similar to a Pidgin, or as a Creole language.

New words

Some islanders believe that the only solution is to create a committee charged with creating new words in Norfolk rather than simply adopting English words for new technological advances.

For example, Norfolk recently adopted the word *kompjuuta*, a Norfolk-ised version of *computer*. Processes similar to this exist in relation to other regional or minority languages around the world, such as the Maori language in New Zealand and the Icelandic language. Some minority languages already have official bodies (such as New Zealand's Maori Language Commission) creating new words.

As travel to and from Norfolk Island becomes more common, Norfolk is falling into

disuse. Efforts are being made, however, to restore the language to more common usage – with education of children, the publication of English-Norfolk dictionaries, use of the language in signage, and the renaming of some tourist attractions (notably the rainforest walk "A Trip Ina Stik") to their Norfolk equivalents. Alice Buffett, a Norfolk Island parliamentarian and Australian-trained linguist, developed a codified grammar and orthography for the language in the 1980s, assisted by Dr Donald Laycock, an Australian National University academic. Their book, *Speak Norfolk Today*, was published in 1988.

The Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly has also periodically debated the option of making Norfolk a co-official language along with English. A report sourced from the Daily Telegraph in the Dominion Post of April 21, 2005, stated that such a declaration had just been made.

Greater contact

As mentioned earlier, Norfolk is descended predominantly from the Pitkern (Pitcairnese or Pi'kern) spoken by settlers from the Pitcairn Islands. The relative ease of travel from English-speaking countries such as Australia and New Zealand to Norfolk Island, particularly when compared with travel to the Pitcairn Islands, has meant that Norfolk has been exposed to much greater contact with English than Pitcairnese. The difficulties in accessing the Pitcairn population have meant that a serious comparison of the two languages for mutual intelligibility has been largely impossible.

Try gittin' yar hid round these, say The Boy Colin

NORFOLK QUIZ

- 1 Who recently opened Cromer Lifeboat Museum?
- 2 What are stannicles?
- 3 Who opened Norwich Maddermarket Theatre in 1921?
- 4 On which day is King's Lynn Mart usually opened?
- 5 In which year was Hamond's Grammar School, Swaffham, founded?
- 6 By what name was Norwich's Wig and Pen pub previously known?
- 7 Where is Fendick's Mill?
- 8 What is babbing?
- 9 Which club was formed in Norwich in 1927 to welcome newcomers to the city?
- 10 Who scored the BBC's Goal of the Season in 1980 for Norwich City against Liverpool?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 19

Memories of *The Rabbit Skin Cap*

Memories of *The Rabbit Skin Cap*, the autobiography of Norfolk countryman George Baldry, as told to author Lilius Rider Haggard, were evoked by an entry in FOND's website guest-book when Catherine Spode wrote:

"I grew up in Bungay and went to the Sir John Leman School, Beccles. I am writing a novel with part of it set in Bungay and Beccles. It includes visiting Old Man Baldry, author of *The Rabbit Skin Cap*, which, as I recall,

is a very good, if basic, account of his life. We used to hire a rowing boat from him on Sunday afternoons at Sandy, Ditchingham, on the river as it goes through Bungay Common.

"He would arrange the cushions carefully, and my mother always took him something in a tin, such as oatcakes.

"My uncles and aunts used a form of the dialect and my mother could speak easily to Old Man Baldry, asking him how he lived, as there was no running water in the

cottage, no sewerage, just the river running by, and wood was gathered for fuel.

" 'Candles?' she asked. 'Noo,' he say. 'Hurricane lamps?' 'Yis,' he say, 'na' the summer, i'the wi'er toim.'

"I think *The Rabbit Skin Cap* was done partly in dialect and is a valuable record for researchers. The dialect and accent is a rich part of our culture, with its dour humour and ability to deal backhanded insults or compliments."

The Rabbit Skin Cap was first published in 1939 and was illustrated by Norfolk artist Edward Seago. — ed.

FOND WEBSITE STORIES — Page 12

Norfolk MPs and ex-MPs

Hidden below are the names of
past or present Norfolk MPs

Wordsearch compiled by Brenda Bizzell
Answers on Page 19

S	T	U	T	T	A	F	O	R	D	S	N	O	E	D
S	H	R	I	N	B	E	W	B	R	N	O	K	E	S
L	C	E	V	J	K	Y	D	W	A	F	R	G	B	J
A	N	S	P	I	O	P	D	S	L	A	D	S	E	C
N	N	A	E	H	A	B	A	C	L	A	M	W	I	W
N	O	R	W	O	A	D	G	C	U	H	S	F	M	A
E	R	F	G	W	C	R	W	A	B	O	E	J	A	L
J	W	R	B	E	L	M	D	N	N	V	L	A	H	L
C	O	H	B	L	O	G	T	T	O	E	L	B	G	A
A	O	D	A	L	A	M	B	D	S	R	I	S	N	C
R	D	M	B	R	A	O	A	C	P	Q	V	H	I	E
T	R	O	G	E	R	G	C	A	M	U	L	H	L	S
I	W	L	P	S	D	C	O	E	I	O	O	R	L	T
S	B	G	I	B	S	O	N	M	S	T	C	P	E	B
S	I	M	B	D	C	E	D	L	O	N	G	I	B	N

Bacon
Bellingham
Bignold
Bullard
Cartiss
Clarke
Coiville

Ennah
Fraser
Gibson
Howell
Jewson
Lamb

MacGregor
Norwood
Shephard
Simpson
Stuttaford
Wallace

East Anglian Bookshelf – Reviews by Peter Brooks

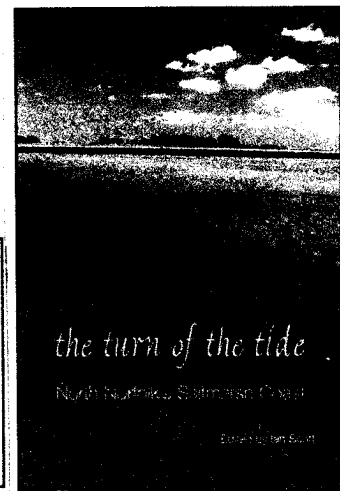
Coastal social changes

The Turn of the Tide:
North Norfolk's
Saltmarsh Coast.
JYG Publishing. Edited
by Ian Scott. 231 pp.
20 b/w photographs; 77
line drawings. £16.95.

This is an unusually forthright and candid book that provides its 20 contributors the opportunity to record their love of, concerns for and daily life in an area of the North Norfolk coast between Wells-next-the-Sea and Cley-next-the-Sea.

Harassment

Within its pages you will find highly personal views on every aspect of life along this coastal strip and its hinterland. From "thick-skinned and thoughtless incomers," some of whom, apparently, are not averse to harassing local property



owners to sell at whatever the price, to plead for more affordable housing for local people and unanimous views of the need to preserve this special corner of Norfolk for generations to come.

History

This is a book for everyone interested in our historic coastline and the social changes it is facing.

It is, therefore, interesting that the majority of the contributors are incomers!

The book is edited by Ian Scott, the EDP columnist, who commutes regularly between Norfolk and the United States.

Get out and walk!

Walks into History - Norfolk and Suffolk. By John Wilks. Country-side Books. 28 b/w. 17 maps. £7.99

History teacher John Wilks doubles as a professional historical guide, is a member of the Historical Association and of the Ramblers' Association. He believes the best way to learn and enjoy it is to get out into the countryside and walk. His pocket-size book details 16 circular walks, from 3.5 to 7 miles, highlighting points of historical interest, including a Saxon burial mound, a world war II airfield, site of a Roman city, medieval castle, the Broads, Neolithic flint mines and a 16th century wool town.

Secret Norfolk

In Search of Secret Norfolk – a Souvenir and Guide to Norfolk. By Robert Leader. Published by Thorogood. 111 b/w. £9.99.

This well-researched book brings to life the histories of churches, castles and abbeys and recounts stories of the county's medieval wool trade, and the almost cathedral-sized churches built by their wealthy sponsors as their individual passports to heaven. You discover historic pubs, coastal, riverside and inland walks together with trips on the rivers and Broads. You also find such activities as Morris dancing, snail racing, village and town fairs, carnivals and festivals. It's a book which should find favour with incomers and locals alike. The latter could well discover aspects of their county of which they had been hitherto unaware. A county map and more detailed list of Tourist Information Centres would have been helpful. Perhaps next time?

Life in Norfolk through eyes of the USAAF

Sentimental Journey – Reminiscences of War. By Martin W. Bowman. Erskine Press. 120 b/w. £16.95.

The 16 wartime reminiscences recorded in this book show life in Norfolk as seen through the eyes of American USAAF personnel.

Not only are details of raids on enemy targets graphically recalled, this is also a book that records for posterity their feelings, their relationships, their bases throughout Norfolk and their coming to terms with the loss of comrades.

Memories of air raids on Norwich and King's Lynn, a rodeo at Carrow Road football ground, bombed-out Curls department store moving in with Jarrolds,

VE Day celebrations at Aylsham, swimming in Blickling lake, James Stewart's service days and Glenn Miller's visit and tragic disappearance are all here.

The book is a must for everyone interested in world war II activities in Norfolk and many hitherto unseen and unpublished photographs.

READER OFFER: *The publishers are offering readers of The Merry Mawkin the chance to obtain a copy of the book for £15, including postage and packing. Send cheque payable to The Erskine Press, The Old Bakery, Banham, Norwich, NR16 2HW. Please mention The Merry Mawkin when ordering.*

Sentimental Journey



MARTIN W. BOWMAN

Unique record of life

CROMER, SHERINGHAM AND HOLT – Photographic Memories. Barry Pardue. 106 b/w. Softback, £10.99.

NORFOLK BROADS – Photographic Memories. Elizabeth Purdy. Paperback, £10.99.

NORFOLK COAST – Photographic Memories. Neil Storey (FOND life member). 163 b/w, 3 maps. Hardback, £14.99.

Published by Frith Book Co. Ltd.

The Francis Frith Collection houses images from over 7000 cities, town and villages throughout the UK, plus thousands more from overseas. It is recognised internationally as the world's greatest collection of photographs, charting

social and commercial changes over more than 100 years.

Francis Frith was an international traveller and one of his expeditions brought him to Norfolk. He died in 1898 with sons Eustace and Cyril carrying on the family business, so that today we have a unique record of how both we and our ancestors have lived, worked and played.

Most of us never think of today as being history, but what will our great-great-grandchildren think of our present-day lifestyles?

The purchase price quoted for each book includes a voucher enabling the buyer to a free mounted print of any of the photographs in the book.

Bruther Will brings harvest home



After the crow scarin' (*and the mouth organ episode*) thuh next big job wus hay makin'. This wus a job most boys liked. Ridin' thuh toppler hoss wus a whull lot betta than leadin' a hoss-hoe hoss up an' down rows a' sugar beet.

We now cum tew thuh peak a'thuh year — harvest toime. Now we cud hav sum fun. Boys were given thuh job of movin' thuh sheaves orf thuh corners ov thuh fild so thuh hosses an' binder din't run over 'em.

While that wus goin' round we wus allowed tew chase thuh rabbits, providin' we got back afore that cum round agin. Thuh sheaves were then stood on shock ready to be carted an' put into stacks. Now thuh best toime ov orl: Hollerin' hollje, hoss rakin' an' loadin' sheaves were orl jobs for boys.

Then on tew a diffrent job: sugar beetin'. Nut tew bad wen yew started, but as the year grew older and the weather wassened it wus no picnic. Mud, water and rime frost instead of thuh summer sunshine. Walkin' alongside a hoss an' tumbrel, splashed up tew yar neck wi' muddy water was far frum pleasunt. Nevva mind, there wus allust Christmas tew look forrard tew.

BRUTHER WILL

Muckbarrer Farst, The Hovell,
Littul Swearin', Nr Cussen, Oathes.

The Norfolk farrier behind Sunsolve's success

In the Spring Mawkin, VERA YOUNGMAN told the story behind the international success of show jumper Sunsolve and the part her father, Yaxham farrier Charlie Andrews, played in that success. In the first of a two-part series, Vera tells her father's life story.



Robert Charles Andrews was born on May 28, 1884, at Swanton Morley. He had seven brothers and one sister.

His father was a humble builder and was employed building the wall at nearby Bylaugh Hall. Charlie, as he was known to all his friends, went to school at Swanton Morley but, aged 12, was asked to leave after a confrontation with the vicar.

He was then apprenticed to a Mr Fox, of Swanton Morley. In 1904, he was admitted to the Amalgamated Association of Farriers - his magnificent framed certificate is now hanging proudly on his eldest grandson Trevor Andrews's office wall.

In the Boar War he served in the South Yorkshire Yeomanry as a sergeant farrier but was invalided out with a broken shoulder. This did not deter him from following his trade and he moved to Bishop Auckland, County Durham, where he shod pit ponies and horses of a funeral director. He met his future wife, my mother, Irene Victoria

Hunter, and were married at Stranton Church in 1910. They returned to Norfolk and lived at Clifton Villa, Paper Street, Yax-

ham, hiring a workshop from Morgan's Brewery, attached to The Bush public house, near Yaxham railway station, for his business as a blacksmith. They had four children: Charles Henry, born 1914; Thomas, who died as an infant; Doris Irene, 1920; and me, Eliza-

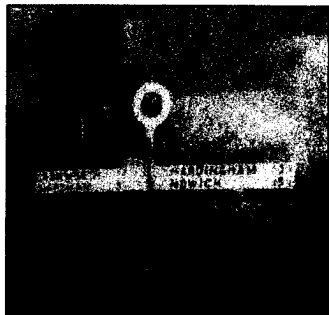
beth Vera, 1922. I still live at Yaxham in the house that was The Bush but named Forge House in memory of my dad. The blacksmith's shop is still there, but no longer in use.

(To be continued).



EDP

Charlie Andrews, at 80, shoes Sunsolve.



Jean Eaglen

Shoon't that be Norridge?

FOND-dews 2006

Don't miss the next two FOND-dew specials!

***** Sunday, June 25 — Pott Row**

(near King's Lynn) Village Hall, 2pm. "Sandringham 1850-1950: The Changing Scene," by David Grimes, whose father was footman to King George V. Illustrated with artefacts. Entrance fee £3.

***** Sunday, September 17, Hemsby**

Village Hall, 2pm. Folk violinist Chris Holderness, of Rig-a-Jig-Jig, a Norfolk Music History Project, with film of local folk singers, including the legendary Sam Lerner of Winterton.

The editor thanks all who have contributed to the Summer edition of The Merry Mawkin, especially Charles and Joy Boldero for their print production and admin work.

Answers to The Boy Colin's Quiz

From Page 14

- 1 Ronnie Corbett
- 2 Sticklebacks
- 3 Nugent Monck
- 4 St Valentine's Day
- 5 1736
- 6 The White Lion
- 7 Cherry Lane, Dereham
- 8 Fishing for eels
- 9 The Strangers Club
- 10 Justin Fashanu

PRESS GANG 2006

Second farewell tour! Keith Skipper and friends with homespun entertainment.

ALL CONCERTS — SATURDAYS (except Cromer) 7.30pm.

September 2, Wendling Village Hall, for hall funds.

September 9, Upton Village Hall, for hall funds.

September 16, Walsingham Parish Hall, for Royal British Legion Women's Section funds, £6 (including refreshments) from Alva Grove on 01328 820681.

October 7, East Harling Old School Hall, for hall funds.

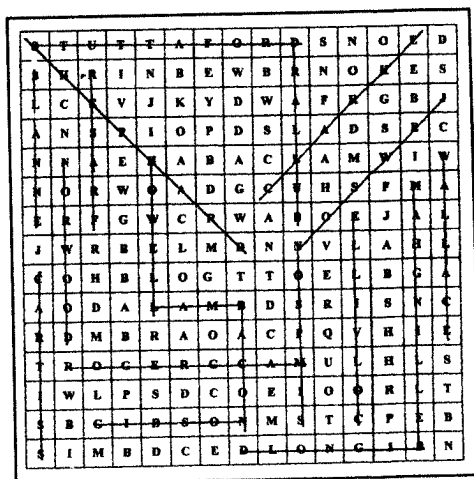
Sunday, October 8, Cromer Pier Pavilion Theatre, for BREAK. Featuring Sid Kipper and other special guests. Tickets £12 from Pavilion box office, on 01263 512495.

October 14, Brancaster Staithe Village Hall, for hall funds.

October 21, Stibbard Village Hall, for hall funds.

Wordsearch solution

From Page 15



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Membership application

I/we wish to join Friends of Norfolk Dialect (FOND) and enclose the membership fee of (*delete as necessary*):

£6 (single member) **£10 (family membership)**
£20 (educational establishment) **£50 (commercial company)**

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms..... Surname and initials.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Telephone.....

PLEASE SEND TO: Brenda Bizzell
Walnut Tree House, Forncett St Peter,
Norwich, NR16 1HR.
Cheques made out to FOND, please.