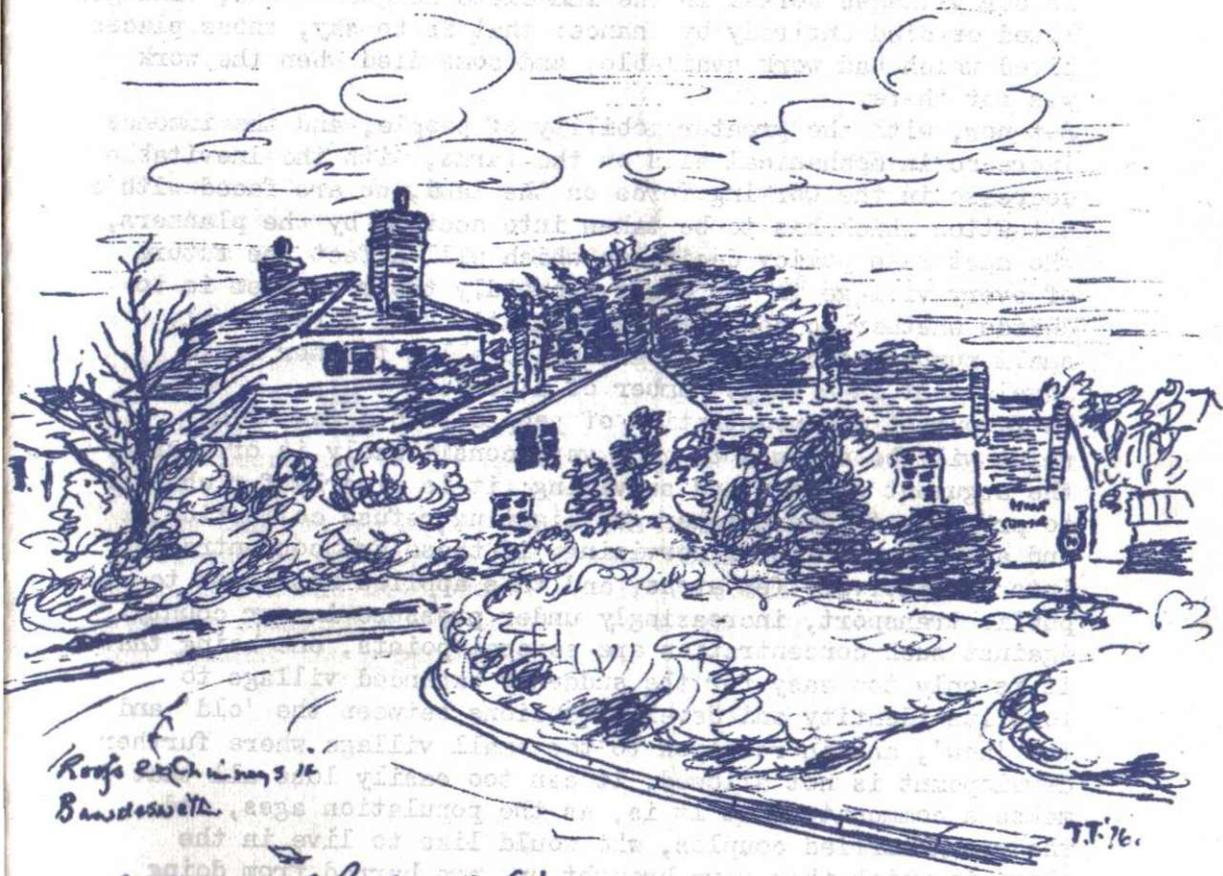


REEVE'S TALE



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SHALL THE SMALL VILLAGE DIE ?

This is a question which exercises the minds of many people nowadays, particularly in a country area like ours - question which inevitably comes into prominence with the publication of the Draft Plan recently put out by the County Council, which deals with the structure and planning of the County over the next 15 years or so.

In days of old, of course, long before there were such people as planners, and when the great majority of those who lived in our villages worked in the immediate neighbourhood, villages lived or died entirely by chance; that is to say, those places lived which had work available, and some died when the work was not there.

But now, with the greater mobility of people, and the immense increase in mechanical aids on the farms, with the inevitable decrease in the working force on the land, we are faced with a situation which has to be taken into account by the planners, who must make policy decisions which will affect the future of every village in the County: broadly their problem is to decide whether to concentrate populations in a relatively small number of country areas, or to allow further small development in a large number of places.

In favour of a concentration of people into a few areas which will be allowed to grow very considerably is of course the argument of cost and servicing: it is clearly far cheaper to provide efficient sewerage, lighting, refuse collection, and all other forms of servicing, if these are concentrated into a relatively few areas, and this applies not least to public transport, increasingly under pressure in our county. Against such concentration are several points, one being that it is only too easy for the suddenly expanded village to lose its identity and develop tensions between the 'old' and the 'new', and in relation to the small village where further developemnt is not allowed, it can too easily lose all that makes a community what it is, as the population ages, and the young married couples, who would like to live in the place in which they were brought up, are barred from doing

so because they are not allowed to build or convert old houses. Also, in the village without growth, many of the facilities and meeting places are in fact withdrawn, because it is uneconomic to maintain them. This is especially noticeable in regard to the local pub, and in some cases the village hall, and in some cases the local Church is following in their footsteps.

So far as the rural areas of Norfolk are concerned, it now seems that the County Planners are coming down in favour of a concentration of new building in a relatively few areas. Out of an approximate total of 350 villages in the County it seems probable that only some 13 will be allowed to have substantial estate development, with a further 5 selected for limited residential development. This means that for the vast majority no further growth will be allowed, except for a small amount of 'in-filling', and some possibly to meet agricultural needs, once the new plans for the ending of the 'tied house' system comes into effect.

This proposed Plan affects every one of us in one way or another, and the County Council is anxious to hear the views of as many people as possible before it submits the scheme to the Secretary of State for the Environment, which it hopes to do around the end of the year.

Anyone can get a copy of the 'Draft Structure Plan Written Statement' by writing to the County Planning Officer, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich. It is certainly worth careful study, and a balancing up of the arguments for and against the proposed changes.

Tim Townshend.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE

Anglican

6th. WHITSUN DAY

Bawdeswell: 9.45 a.m. Family Service:
Foxley: 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion*see Methodist Notes.

13th. Bawdeswell: 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion:11 a.m. Mattins
Foxley: 9.45 a.m. Family Service

20th. Bawdeswell: 9.45 a.m. Family Service
Foxley: 11 a.m. Service of Meditation

27th. Bawdeswell: 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 11 a.m. Mattins
Foxley: 9.45 a.m. Family Service

Saints' Days: June 24th.Nativity of S.John Baptist 10 a.m.
/ H.C.Bawdeswell.

June 29th.S.Peter. 10 a.m. H.C.Bawdeswell.

Methodist Church

June 6th. Foxley: 11 a.m. CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
Bawdeswell: 2.20 p.m.

13th. Foxley 6.30 p.m.

20th. Bawdeswell: 2.30 p.m. Holy Communion

Foxley: 2.30 p.m. Sunday School Anniversary

27th. Foxley: 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion

Folland Court

Monday, 14th.June: Holy Communion , 10 a.m.

Monday,28th.June: Hymns & Readings 10 a.m.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to the people who keep Bawdeswell Churchyard tidy and cut, and to the work party which assembled on May 7th. for a blitz on Foxley Churchyard: the results are very creditable to all concerned, and we are grateful to all who worked so hard.

BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, which was held on 26th. May, was very well attended, over 40 people being present.

Many important matters concernig the community were debated, including:

STREET LIGHTING

After much discussion, this was put to the vote, and it was decided by a very large majority not to proceed with this: it was announced that the cost would be in the region of 15p. in the £1., and that in any event it would be of doubtful advantage.

BUS SHELTER

It was generally agreed that a bus shelter or several would be a great advantage to the village, but it was agreed that before a final decision was taken in this matter, the costs should be ascertained, and the matter decided at a public meeting.

LITTER BINS

It was generally felt that in order to keep the Village tidy, it would be good to have several litter bins around the place; and the Council agreed to look into the matter: it was understood that the cost would be around £15 per bin, but that once in position, they would be emptied by the District Council free of charge.

PLAY AREA

Mr. Gurney offered to provide the triangle of land between the old main road and the new estate area at a nominal rent, provided that insurances could be obtained to cover against accidents. This was gratefully accepted.

WATER LANE SCHEME

Unfortunately this proposal to improve the road towards Reepham had to be abandoned, as it was not possible to obtain the owner's permission. The Council will look into alternatives.

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FOXLEY VILLAGE HALL

And still the money rolls in, thanks to those who expend so much time and energy in planning constant activities. During May nearly £88 was added to the total of £1158 raised since last August, the Country & Western Dance on 21st. May bringing in £55.17, and the Darts Competition on 26th. a further £32.54. Congratulations to all concerned.

The June programme includes the following:

June 4th. COUNTRY & WESTERN DANCE, 8 p.m. Tickets £1.
The Mississippi Delta with Ron Ryan.

June 7th. (Monday) A Meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. to discuss the GARDEN PARTY & FETE to be held on 4th. September. All will be welcome, and ideas for the Fete will be very welcome indeed.

June 18th. COUNTRY & WESTERN DANCE 8 p.m. Tickets £1.
New Silver Aces with Tony Goodacre.

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WE ARE SORRY TO HEAR that Mr. Marsham of Bawdeswell is still very ill: we very much hope that he will soon begin to make some progress.

..*.*.*

MRS CODLING is now back from Hospital, and we hope that her health will continue to improve.

..*.*.*

OUR THANKS to those who have given donations to the Reeves' Tale. These may be given to Mr. Brian Winterbone at the School House, Bawdeswell or to Mr. or Mrs. Webster at Foxley P.O.

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THE SCHOOL PAGE

Church - by Susan Ames

The morning Church bells start to ring,
and lovely voices loudly sing,
Their gladness everyone beholds,

Then up steps the Preacher old
but firm and bold:

He starts off with a prayer, not
just for here - or there - but
everywhere.

MUSIC & DRAMA

The Senior Class visited Cromer on 17th. May to take part in the Annual Festival of Music & Drama. There were many good individual performances in spoken verse, and the School Verse Choir gained an Honours Certificate for their performances of "The Yak" and "Fastitocalon". They received warm praise from the Adjudicator, who pronounced this some of the best choral work he had heard for some time.

MAY DAY

The Annual May Day Celebrations took place in the School Hall on 26th. May. The children gave a display of Country Dancing and Maypole Dancing, and there was also singing and verse speaking. Kerry Amiss was this year's May Queen, and she was crowned by Mrs. R. Parfitt, the mother of last year's Queen.

It was a very enjoyable occasion, with a good attendance of parents and friends.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Leach and to the members of her family on the recent sad loss of her husband.

SCHOOL SPORTS: Wednesday, 16th. June.

AREA SPORTS: Wednesday, 23rd. June.

BAWDESWELL TODDLERS' CLUB

The Toddlers' Club which has now been going for some 18 months meets once a fortnight, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and goes round from house to house.

All mothers with children under 3 years of age, or with small babies are very welcome: and new arrivals wishing to know about the Club please contact Pauline Bantoft, Flint Cottage, Bawdeswell- (opposite the Garage).

The June Meetings will be on Wed. 9th., at the home of Teresa Walters, 1, Hall Road (first house on left into the new Estate) and on Wednesday, 23rd. June.

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BABY SITTING PROBLEMS ???

It is hoped to start up a Baby Sitting Token Scheme shortly, whereby Mums who need baby sitters from time to time will be able to baby-sit themselves, and earn tokens which they can then use as required. The more who join, the better it becomes. If interested, please contact either Pauline Bantoft, at the address above, or Sarah Fitzjohn, at Church Farmhouse, in Main Street, Bawdeswell.

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COME TO A

COFFEE MORNING

ON THURSDAY

JUNE 10th

IN FOLLAND COURT - 10-11-30

IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL

ORGANISED BY THE TODDLERS' CLUB