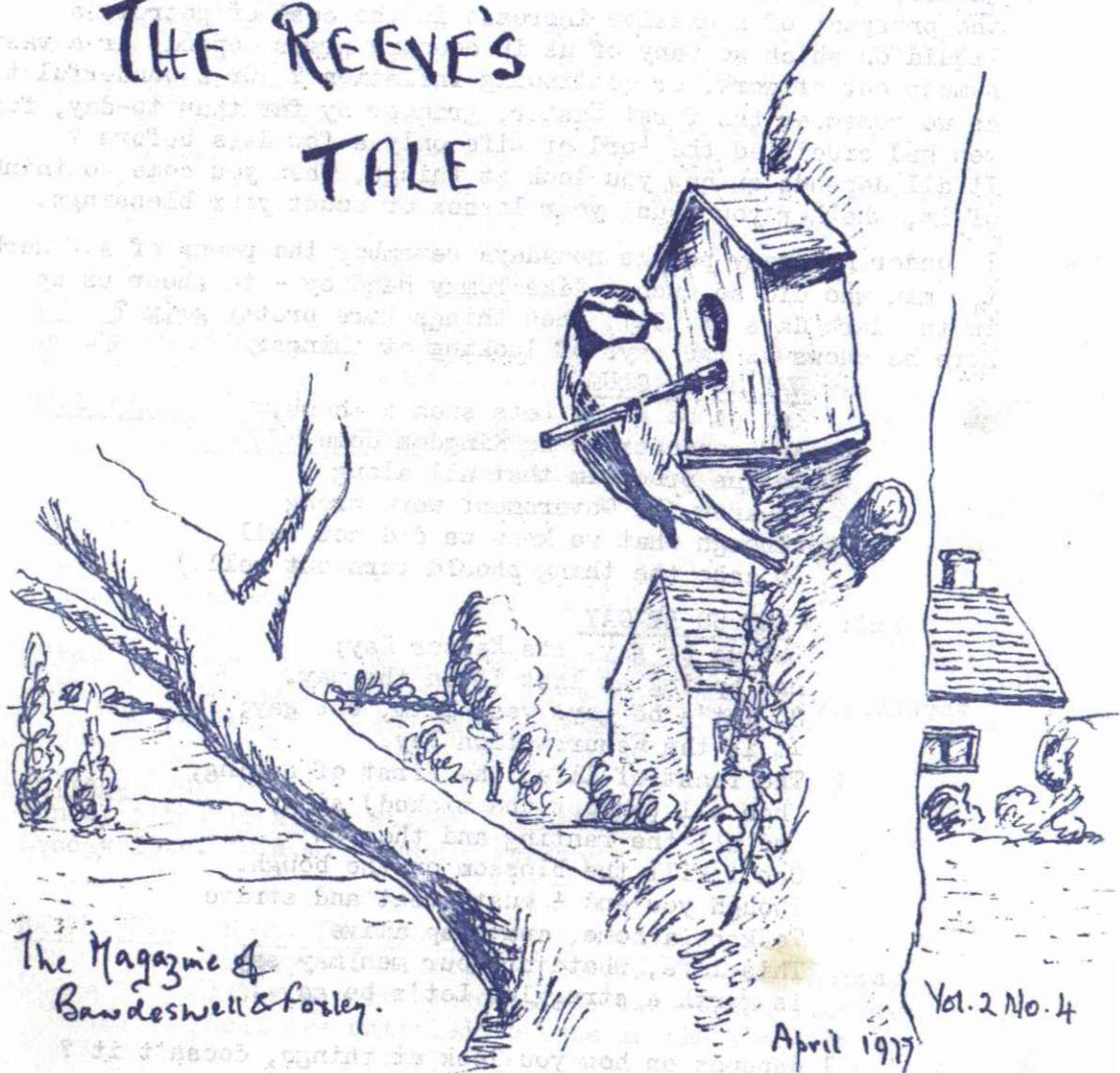


THE REEVES'S TALE



The Magazine of
Bandedwell & Forley.

April 1977

Vol. 2 No. 4

THE RECTOR WRITES

Easter, 1977: how do we see it ? A grim time when we sweat at the prospect of a massive increase in the cost of petrol, a liquid on which so many of us in country areas depend; or a vast number out of work, or continuing inflation ? Or a wonderful time as we remember the first Easter, grimmer by far than to-day, for men had crucified the Lord of Life only a few days before ? It all depends on how you look at things, when you come to think of it, whether you count your losses or count your blessings.

I wonder how many people nowadays remember the poems of A.P. Herbert the man who did so much - like Tommy Handley - to cheer us up in the dark days of 1941, when things were pretty grim ?

Here he shows us two ways of looking at things:

LET US BE GLUM

Let us be glum! Lets suck a thumb,
And concentrate on Kingdom Come.
Let us proclaim that all along
We knew the Government were wrong
(Though what we knew we did not tell
In case the thing should turn out well.)

and: LET US BE GAY

Let us be gay. Its Easter Day;
And Spring at last is on the way.
So let's be gay: yes, grim, but gay;
It is the Resurrection Day,
The feast of life, the first of Spring,
When all (except the wicked) sing;
And all the ranting and the row
Can't kill the blossom on the bough.
Though you and I must sweat and strive
To keep a home, and keep alive,
This life, whatever sour men may say
Is worth a struggle. Let's be gay!

So it all depends on how you look at things, doesn't it ?

T.T.

CHURCH SERVICESAnglican3rd. Palm Sunday

Bawdeswell 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11 am. Mattins

Foxley 9.45 a.m. Family Service

10th. EASTER DAY

Bawdeswell 9.45 a.m. Family Service (Series 3)

Foxley 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11 am. Mattins

17th. Bawdeswell

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11 am. Mattins

Foxley 9.45 a.m. Family Service (Series 3)

24th. Bawdeswell

9.45 a.m. Family Service (Series 3)

Foxley 11 a.m. Mattins

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday 7th. Foxley 10 a.m. Holy Communion

Bawdeswell 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY 8th.DEVOTIONAL HOUR Foxley 12 noon - 1 p.m.

Bawdeswell 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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Methodist

3rd. Foxley 6.30 p.m. G. Butcher

10th. Bawdeswell 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Jones

Foxley 11 a.m. Miss Weeks

17th. Foxley 6.30 p.m. Mr. G. Brown

24th. Bawdeswell 2.30 p.m. Holy Communion. Rev. I. Claydon

Foxley (see Parish Church)

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Folland Court

Monday 11th. 10 a.m. Easter Communion

Monday 25th. 10 a.m. Hymns & Readings

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BAWDESWELL Annual Parochial Church Meeting :

Monday, 18th. April. 7.30 p.m. in the Church.

All are very welcome, and all on the Electoral

Roll are entitled to vote in the elections.

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GEORGE FRANCIS

aged 88 years

We record with sorrow the death on 28th. March at Woodbine House, Bawdeswell of George Francis. Though a native of Suffolk, he had lived in Bawdeswell since about 1943, when he and his wife came to take over the Bell Inn: he was Landlord there for some 10 years, moving eventually to Woodbine House, almost next door, to live with their older daughter and her husband, who gave them both a happy home for the rest of their respective lives. For most of his working life he was a Farm Foreman, and he had a deep love of country things, and a considerable knowledge, which led him into correspondence from time to time with Adrian Bell. One of his particular skills was ploughing, with horses, and he won many ploughing competitions in his day. He leaves behind two daughters and nine grandchildren to all of whom we extend our sympathy, and especially to his elder daughter and son-in-law. But for him we rejoice, that he died as he had lived, peacefully, and indeed in the fulness of years. May he rest in peace.

INVALIDS

Our sympathy to those who are not too well at the present time, particularly Mrs. Codling, who is now in the Yare Clinic in Norwich, Mrs. Frost, in Aylsham, who, we understand, is making some progress, and Kathleen Brown, who for the time being is on Ward 15 in Hellesdon. Also Reggie Beck of Folland Court, who is waiting to go into hospital for an operation, and who at present is far from well.

On a more cheerful note, Jack Morters, who was in the N. & N. is now home again, and we hope that he will continue to make progress: and Wally Elsdon also home from the West Norwich, after pleurisy, thrombosis and a few other complaints: he has had all his teeth out, and tells us that he is looking forward to his first steak in August, when he will be fitted with a new set. But he is cheerful as ever.

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EASTER GIFTS

Easter Day is going to be a day of gifts for Bawdeswell Church, in so far as we will be receiving no less than three different kinds of presents for the Church, all badly needed.

Mrs. Elsdon senior is giving us a new Altar Cloth, which we will be using for the first time, and which was very badly needed indeed.

Mr. John Ames senior, is presenting us with a whole set of robes for our Choir children, a most generous present, which, however, would not have been possible but for the skill of Pearl Kemp, who has made the lot.

And Trevor Steward has made us the most lovely Processional Cross, a real piece of craftsmanship, with an octagonal shaft, tapering, in oak, a brass connection between it and the Cross itself, and the Cross in elm, with the most beautiful grain.

All these will be received and dedicated on Easter Day, and will be used for many years to come in our Church.

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FOXLEY VILLAGE HALL

The two Dances held in March raised between them a further sum of £77.00, that on the 5th, raising £41.87, and the one on the 12th., £35.13.

There will be two Dances in April: the first on Saturday, 9th., when the Group will be The Oregon Pine, and the second on Friday, 22nd., when the Group will be the Abilene.

Congratulations to all who work so hard to raise so much money for the Hall, and thanks to all who continue to give such valuable support to all their efforts.

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APRIL FOOL !

But why ? What is the origin of this phrase, which is very old indeed ? For certainly for many hundreds, perhaps even thousands of years people throughout Europe, and in America, where the custom was taken by English settlers, have been practising practical jokes on each other on this day.

Some suggest that it is in memory of the Trial of Jesus - the fact that he was pushed around from person to person - from Caiaphas to Pilate, from Pilate to Herod, back to Pilate again, and that he was mocked, or 'made a fool of' wherever he went. This seems less likely than another explanation, namely that at the time of the Spring Equinox, nature plays practical jokes on us, suddenly turning from spring to winter, as we have seen these last few days.

Whatever the origin, it certainly is an old, old custom, though with different names in different countries: in France, when some wretched child has caught you out, he will cry out 'poisson d'Avril' - April Fish ! In Scotland the wee bairn will call you 'Gowk', meaning cuckoo, the emblem of the simpleton, and little Hans in Germany will shout out 'Aprilnarr', or 'April clown. But whatever they shout, you have been had good and proper.

The best I ever remember was when, years ago, on one of its evening programmes, the BBC did a solemn documentary on the Italian peasants harvesting the crop from the spaghetti trees; and they did it so well that it was some moments before I for one realised that I'd been made an April Fool.

Incidentally, the cover picture for this Month's issue of the Reeve's Tale was not intended to make all the readers April Fools: it was not until it had been done and printed that I realised that the blue tit could not possibly get into the nesting box that I realised that I had fooled myself!

T.T.

SCHOOL NOTES

WELL DONE !

The School Verse Choir were again successful at the Norwich Festival of Spoken Arts. They gained a first class Certificate for their performance of 'Hard Cheese' by Justin St. John. The School also won seven First Class Certificates for individual verse speaking, and three for Prose Reading which included sight reading. It was altogether a very happy and successful day. We are now directing our efforts towards the Cromer Festival, which takes place in mid May.

MAY DAY

The Celebrations will take place on 25th. May at 2 p.m., when there will be Country Dancing, Maypole Dancing, singing, Verse Speaking, and the Crowning of the May Queen. We invite all parents and friends of the school to come and share this occasion with us, and we will be glad to know of any older person who is unable to get here, so that we can arrange transport.

SPORTS

School Sports will take place on Wednesday, 15th. June, at 2 p.m., and the Reepham Area School Sports (Juniors) on Wednesday, 22nd. June. Both will be held on our field. Again we extend a warm welcome to all interested in the children and their school activities.

A happy visit from Brisley School took place when two good games of mixed netball were played. Both Netball & Football Teams have done well this Season, and we have won a good proportion of our Matches. We have also played teams from outside our catchment area, thus adding to our playing facility.

ROYAL OCCASION

We are proud that 24 of our children have been chosen to dance before Her Majesty the Queen on July 11th. in Norwich. Children from other Norfolk schools will also be taking part. This will be something for the children always to remember.

BAWDESWELL CHURCH

SPRING FAIR

IN THE

VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 23rd APRIL - 2.30 pm.

* TOMBOLA * PRODUCE * GIFTSTALL

* WHITE ELEPHANT * HOOP-LA!

* CAKES * TEAS & SQUASH

Helpers will be very welcome: contributions for the Stalls to Mrs. Ames (senior) or Mrs. Curtis, Cursdon. The Hall will be open on Saturday morning for any who can help prepare.

FOXLEY EASTER FLOWERS. Anyone who cares to come along on Saturday 9th. in the morning will be very welcome indeed to help in the decorating of the Church. Thank you.