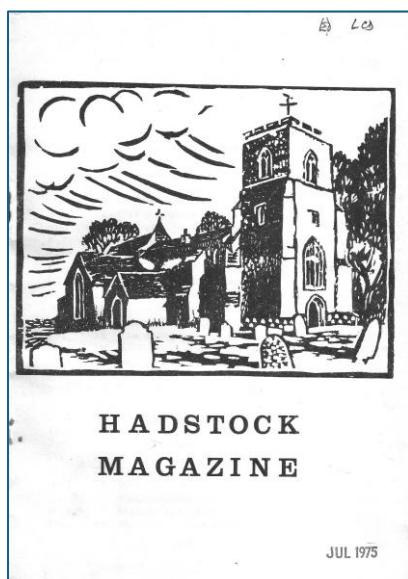


TALES FROM A VILLAGE

EXTRACTS FROM THE HADSTOCK MAGAZINE 1975 – 1985



Whilst most of the magazine covered Church matters, it has always been a 'village magazine'. There were village comings and goings, reports on events, articles of village interest and so on. This is a collection of articles taken from the Magazine published between 1975 and 1985. It's a snap-shot of Hadstock life at the time as well some interesting pieces on the history of the Village

The magazine was typed, duplicated and folded into A5 size. There were two inserts stapled with the other pages, the Essex Churchman, a Diocese newsletter, and The Sign ('The Nationwide Magazine Inset for Church and Parish'). The first pages covered Church matters including the Rector's letter (Michael Yorke and then Claude Riches). The then followed pages on village matters and articles of general interest including welcoming newcomers, births marriages and deaths, notices of upcoming events, outings, requests for the Fete, Church restoration,

reports from Good Companions, Mothers' Union and Hadstock Society.

There are two events which have entered village folklore which were in the magazine but are covered in separate documents – The Pilchards and the Camels. Look them up in the Community Archive.

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Scouting In Hadstock

The following is reproduced from the Hadstock Magazine November 1975 and December 1975

SCOUTING IN HADSTOCK - PART I

George J. Free (1899-1925) brought the idea of Scouting to Hadstock. He was invested as a lone scout while in a London Hospital. He became a Second Class Scout with three Proficiency Badges. Back in Hadstock he earned a 1914-18 War Service Flash and gave good service as Church Organist.

The first "Life" of the 1st Hadstock Scout Group ran from January 1930 to February 1934. Up to the 7th September 1932 they had a lady Scout-master, Miss Pike, and Miss Pauline Barwood as Cubmaster. Both sections got going at the same time Miss Pike left Hadstock on her mother's death and was succeeded as Scoutmaster by Mr. Sid Swann. During this period there was an average strength of six Scouts and six Wolf Cubs. Quite a few weekend camps took place. Fund raising events included Jumble Sales and Socials, each one raising about £3. which sufficed for requirements! Indoor meetings were held in the cellar of the present Glebe House.

On 25th July 1931 a team of 5 Cubs and 5 other Hadstock boys played cricket against a 10 Cub Saffron Walden Team, losing by only 5 runs. (28 - 33). Carol singing in 1930 raised 13/4d. for Addenbrooke's Hospital. Two second class badges were gained on 13th May 1931 (by Messrs. Stanley McKay and George Swann, still in Hadstock).

Following "pressure" from the Rector, the new start was made in 1950 with the Cub Pack (LCD) followed by the Scout Troop a year later under the writer. Most Cubs and Scouts now had bicycles so that representatives from Linton, Ashdon and other Villages more than compensated for the fewer boys living in Hadstock. The numbers of Cubs often reached 40 and were never lower than 25. The proportion going successfully through the full Cub training programme was consistently high, thanks in no small part to "lay" instructors, who included two Rectors, one Vicar, a Baptist Minister, and a Roman Catholic Priest! Thus for example in 1961, a typical year, 4 cubs had their Leaping Wolf badges and another three their Second Star.

Each year a quota of public service was done, including paper collection in aid of charities, clearing litter in Hadstock and Ashdon, delivering water to frozen up homes (in cold spells) and circulars for the Police, Hospitals, - throughout Linton - and Electricity Authority throughout Hadstock, Linton and Ashdon, tidying the Churchyard and helping with the annual Church Fete.

LETTICE DAWSON

SCOUTING IN HADSTOCK – PART II

Fund raising was taken care of entirely by the earning efforts of the boys themselves during Bob-a-job week in April. In fact the Scouts had the use of some Cub-earned money! Cub training was done largely outdoors, with emphasis on tracking, firefighting, cooking and hut building - so much so that in 1965 the Cub Path Finder Annual commissioned an article on these activities of ours; which, illustrated with five photographs, was duly published and paid for.

From 1951 to 1965 the numbers in the Scout Troop were never less than 10 or more than 15; the average age of the Scouts rose steadily from 13½ in 1954 to 14½ in 1965. So over the years the standard of training improved. In 1964, of ten Scouts, 3 were First Class and 6 Second Class. A year later there were 4 First Class Scouts.

During this period Summer Camps lasting 7 – 11 days were held in succession at Ashdon, Southill Park, Biggleswade: Gosfield; Akeley Wood, Buckingham: Widdington: Chesterford: Hexham, Northumberland: Monk Street, Thaxted; Cornish Hall End and the Derbyshire jamboree, Chatsworth Park. Patrol Leader Donald Rowlandson attended the Jubilee World Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield in 1957.

Public service included considerable help in running the Cub Pack, the arduous pony leading task at Church Fêtes, and cleaning up after them, sentry duty and repairs to a marquee at the Essex Show (Audley End 1958), and the performance of Mounted Displays, for instance for the Young Farmer's Club Charity Rag in Walden, 1964, and for the 7th Cambridge Scout Group in 1965.

Similar displays, though not as "service" were given to audiences of 400 at The Royal Show, 1960, and of 1800 Scouters at the Gilwell Reunion 1965. Each display involved 30 practice sessions.

The Troop indeed became notorious as the only mounted Scout Troop in Britain and photographs of our Scouts Mounted were published in various newspapers, including those of Malta, Israel and Hawaii! "The Scouter" Magazine carried a 2 page article on this aspect in March 1961 "Bridles on and hoofs picked clean" Perhaps the best performance was put up by Patrol Leader Roger Simons in 1955, when leading his Patrol on a thoroughbred stallion, they rode back 33 miles from summer camp on their own in just over 7 hours.

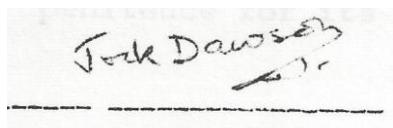
Our riding also featured in the first Senior Scout film made by Scout Headquarters - "Accent on Adventure" - the premiere in London was attended by several hundred V.I.P.'s, who laughed immoderately at John Todd's comedy turn when his horse "died under him" (Sam of course). When the B.B.C. came to put us on TV, we were not too pleased with them, as they kept us standing up on the horses' backs for fifteen minutes!

Venture Scouts (aged 16-20) often help to run Troops of Scouts (aged 11-16). But in 1968 there was a reversal of rolls~ the main objective of summer camp was for our Scouts to get 14 horses collected and quietened down for use by the 64 Venture Scouts attending the Norfolk County Jamboree at Sennowe Park. In the event, though, the Venture Scouts were pleased that the horses proved rather more spirited than they had expected to find them. In that year too, the Troop produced its one and only Queen's Scout, Andrew Dawson, who thus qualified to attend the National Scout Service in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh inspected him and 749 other Queen's Scouts.

In 1969, following some useful help from Miss Janet Todd (now Mrs Wells), LCD as joined by Mrs Beryl Frost and Mr Gerald Clothier as Assistant Cub Scout Leaders. A film was made by Pat Croxton-Smith showing all these three, and Mr Gilbert Rowlandson₁ putting over activities to Cub Scouts, first in the wrong and then in the right way. Scout Headquarters had a number of copies made of this film, and they were later shown all over Britain. That year was also memorable, because in the County Cub Handicraft Competition, open to the whole of Essex, Kevin Mallyon won the second prize for cake making , out of a large entry. In 1970, Mrs Frost took over as Cub Scout Leader-, and kept the Pack going with no abatement of standards until the middle of this present year.

The Troop in 1969 went to Skye, joining with smaller numbers from the 1st and 2nd Saffron Walden Troops. They were away for a record 15 nights, climbed some mountains , and did rafting and rowing on the sea. "The last" full length Summer Camp in 1970 was highly creditable to the Scouts. They travelled on their own to Blair Atholl to take part in the Scottish Jamborette (and also returned safely!) All had won their "White Cockades" for efficiency during the camp. In 1971 we joined the champion Scout Band, 203rd Coventry, in providing the spectacle at the Wisbech, Scout Gala with yet another Mounted Display. The Gala raised £1500.

In mid-1973, after 22 years, I handed over the Troop to Mr George Howe and Mr Gilbert Rowlandson. This year, 1975 the decision was reached to federate with new Group taking in Abington and Linton; our equipment and facilities will be available for this Group, and it is hoped that the Hadstock Scouters serving in the latest phase of the independent 1st Hadstock Group will be able to give some help to the federated Group_ But who knows? perhaps one day Hadstock will again have a Group of its own?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Dawson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is somewhat stylized and cursive.

[Lettice (1920-1993) and Jock Dawson (1918-1989) moved to the White House in 1947. After retiring as Scout Leader Jock spent some time as Assistant District Commissioner for Senior Scouts in Cambridgeshire. He was awarded the Silver Wolf, Scouting's highest honour, in 1978. Lettice was awarded the Silver Acorn for outstanding service of more than 20 years which she received in Windsor in 1983 (Hadstock Magazine April 1983)].

Brigadier the revd. Basil Leech

From the Hadstock Magazine February 1976:

Brigadier the revd. Basil Leech died on Jan 14th after a short illness. Those who remember him will wish to extend their sympathy to his wife Elizabeth and to his children John, Mary, and Alice.

Mrs Dawson writes "When Brigadier Basil Leech left the British Army he became Director-General of Training in the Army of Pakistan. Then he went to Lincoln Theological College. He served his title at Saffron Walden and this is how he came in contact with us. He often came to Hadstock to preach, and on one splendid occasion had to unravel a Car Rally that was getting entangled with the Remembrance Sunday Parade!"

After his first living in the New Forest, Basil came to Sandon, Rushden, and Wallington, near Royston - so we met again. He liked to beat the bounds of his parishes at Rogationtide, and as their circumference was a good many miles, this was done on horseback, led by the Bishop of St. Albans. On several occasions, our Scouts joined in this campaign. They rode over the night before - (when Andrew led them they got lost in the dark on a rifle range), camped the night, took part in the procession, often at a brisk canter, and then after another night's camping, rode home. One time the Bishop's horse, George, decided he would roll during the Blessing and had to have a smart hit from the Bishop's riding crosier, a special cut-down model but with a genuine crook.

We owe Basil a debt of gratitude for coming to take Communion Services for us once or twice when we were in pretty desperate straits, although he had three parishes in his charge.

He retired a few years ago to Wareham in Dorset, but he left us two presents behind, George the horse on which he had done his parish visiting, and also he gave us the "George" that hangs in the Church. After all we are not just a Danish Church!"

Storm!

From the Hadstock Magazine February 1976: The storm of January 2nd 1976.

Notes on the Morning After

Jan 3rd ... the surprising calm of Saturday morning after the raging wind. Everywhere signs of its night's work - broken tiles underfoot, fences flattened, trees leaning, branches scattered, greenhouses battered. Everywhere people clambering on roofs, repairing or battening down against further possible damage. General and generous help and offers of help to those stricken by power cuts (every third household). Luckily for Hadstock, much of the damage was comparatively minimal, although the Crawleys' barn roof was badly damaged, and several trees, including an ancient yew of the Taylors' at Little Linton Farm were uprooted.

There was nothing but praise for the speed and efficiency of the Electricity Board men, who set to work quickly to restore power and to disconnect fallen cables - live cable lay across the Dawsons' drive – while storm lanterns and camping equipment came into unexpected winter use.

The Crawley Family

From the Hadstock Magazine April 1976:

Hadstock, an old village by any standards seems to have-an atmosphere of its own which has grown from the outstanding characters who have lived and worked here and marked it with their personalities

It might interest some of our newer neighbours to read about these people, chosen quite at random, some of whom are still with us.

The name Crawley is known to everyone in Hadstock. Since Samuel William Crawley came to Hadstock Hall in the late nineteenth century there has always been a Crawley in Hadstock. He was a Parish Councillor, a Governor of Saffron Walden Teacher Training College, and on the Board of Guardians at Linton.

(We are told that' he always drove to meetings in a carriage and pair.)

His son, Albert N Crawley, lived at The Yews and worked. the farm. Of his children, J.A. (Jack) Crawley succeeded to the farm and his wife Olive still lives there.

A.H. and his brother A.E. Crawley invented a "Steam Plough which could. be called the forerunner of the modern tractor. They built it themselves in a building on the site of the present Post Office Stores and had considerable success overseas as well as at home. The 1914/18 War put a stop to their plans.

Jack Crawley was always interested in village affairs, was Chairman of the Parish Council, the Football Club, and the Village Hall amongst other things. His wife, Olive, was for many years President and Secretary of the W.I. a member of the P.C.C. and the Village Hall Committee.

Jack and Olive had two sons, Peter and John. Peter sadly was killed in a road accident. John took over the family farm on his father's death. He married Sue Pask and they have a son named Peter, making the fifth generation of the family in Hadstock.

Following the family tradition, John is active in the village and is Chairman of the Parish Council. He is always ready to lend an ear and hand to anyone who wants help. All you need to be is a good Hadstockian.

The Crawley men between them have served on the Parish Council for a total of 80 years.

It's A Knockout!

From the Hadstock Magazine September/October and December 1977:

"IT'S A KNOCKOUT" - Bionic Hadstock Win.

On a sunny afternoon on Sunday; 11th September, a superbly drilled Hadstock team presented itself for the Uttlesford District final of "IT'S A KNOCKOUT", competing against Felsted, Farnham and Chrishall.

In the first event the captain for the day, Tony Cropper, after examining all possibilities of a complicated obstacle course, including wind direction and barometric pressure, elected to play the Joker. Due to what he c6nsiders a combined act of insubordination the team came 4th. Points so far, Hadstock 2, everybody else a lot more.

The second event being Hadstock's own three legged egg and spoon race, the team's training triumphed and Hadstock won easily by 27 golf balls to its nearest competitor who only carried 13.

Yet another triumph was achieved in the third event which involved carrying trays full of empty beer cans on scaffolding 6ft. in the air whilst being bombarded by bean bags. Hadstock achieved 196 cans, the nearest competitor - 131.

In the fourth event of the afternoon the four-legged, pail of water carrying race went well until one of the team's trio, Barry, Ned and Anthea, became over-excited in the last lap resulting in an inextricably mangled pile of bodies. Despite this Hadstock came 3rd.

At this point, with only the marathon to be decided, the marks of the four teams were somewhat amazingly, Farnham, Felsted and Chrishall 13 points each, Hadstock 12. The team's co-ordination however triumphed in the marathon which involved passing water filled balloons, rugby fashion, down the whole line of the team and Hadstock finished up joint winners with Felsted at 16 points.

Hadstock has every right to feel proud of its team comprising Anthea and Ashley Edgar, Lizzy Ryan, Pat Mercer, Pat Rowlandson, David Deakin, Barry Goodman, Ned Nedjinski, Tony and Alan Cropper, they were ably abetted by Barry's wife who dressed up superbly to win the prize for the best Joker (two bottles of wine), Brian Marshall who gave the finest example partisan umpiring seen for years, and Ray Cooper who had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of stimulating refreshments.

Hadstock and Felsted have therefore qualified for the All Essex Final which will probably take place in October. The whole, village's attendance will be mandatory, subject only to the production of a Doctor's note!

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

That was the cry that-echoed and re-echoed from the Tabor School, Braintree on Saturday evening 26th November, and it was Hadstock shouting the fact.

Our team had won and how~ hard it was to win the finals of the North West Essex Jubilee Knockout Competition.

The team comprised Tony Cropper, John & Liz Ryan, Pat Mercer, -Jock Deacon, Ashley and Anthea Edgar, Ned Nedzinski, Jenny Goddard and Barry Goodman.

The coach that took team and supporters to the match had an optimistic but hesitant atmosphere, The one that returned was filled with noisy elation.

We were matched against Felsted, Helions Bumpstead and a team from Bradwell and Pattiswick and each team produced one game.

Game 1. Helion's game with Anthea and Pat catching bean-bags thrown blind over a tall screen. Fast and furious and fiercely fought, Hadstock were just beaten into second place to Helions 98 to 91.

Game 2. Hadstock's three-legged egg and spoon obstacle race. We won easily with a score of 55 to Felsted's 33. Bradwell came third and Hellions last. We were in the lead.

Game 3. Another fierce game this time from Bradwell. Dribbling a rugby ball through a slalom with boots tied together. It was hilarious, boots broke apart, times were disputed and we came only third.

One game to go~ Hadstock 7 points., Helions 7 points.

Game 4. Felsted's "Pawnbroker's Steeplechase". The sight of John and Ashley with Pat and Jenny on their shoulders leaping benches to score netball style goals left us all breathless.

The cheering reached fever pitch, the players were, exhausted. We won convincingly and skilfully.

We won the game and the match. We are the champions! We have two trophies to prove it, lost voices to prove it and sore feet from the disco party that followed.

A great night; those who didn't go missed out, those that did had a tremendous time.

To the team, thanks and well done. From the team, thanks and well done to the supporters - you were marvellous.

All our thanks to Taber School and Youth Centre for laying it on so well and of course to the other teams for such strong and sporting competition.

Quote of the night. Nicholas Edgar to his mother as our referee took charge of the Hadstock game - "I'm glad he's our referee, he is so fair he'll make sure we win."

Church Bells

From the Hadstock Magazine March 1978:

ON THE AIR

In 1951 the BBC broadcast our appeal for the restoration of the Church Tower. This raised £700.00, and the announcer at the time expressed the hope that the bells might also be in service again some day.

Now, 27 years later, last Sunday morning, 19th Feb, they relayed our bells from a tape made by Donald Stewart on Christmas Day 1976. It was mentioned in this programme that St. Botolph's was thought to have the lightest six bells of any Church in the country. This made exciting ringing for those used to heavier bells. They also referred to the two old customs which have been revived here – the ringing of the "Treason Bell", annually, just before the Bonfire is lit on November 5th (for which each ringer is paid 1d. by the churchwardens) and the tradition of ringing the "Lying Fall" on New Year's Eve. 1770 was the first ringing of this in Hadstock. The ringers were thanked and wished Good Luck. Not many of us, alas, heard the programme as the BBC had omitted to let us know when it was being transmitted. Good to know we're on the air again, though.

Jubilee Book

From the Hadstock Magazine March 1978:

ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE VILLAGE CAP!

We have just heard (Feb. 22nd) that the Village has won 2nd prize for its Jubilee Book in the Uttlesford District Competition. All Parish Councils had been asked to submit entries and ours was compiled by Gordon Cummings as Chairman of the Jubilee Committee, helped by Donald Stewart and the photographs which were contributed by a number of people.

The book will be on view shortly, for all to see and it will be good to remind ourselves of all the activities and the great fun we all had.

We win a tree, a plaque and a certificate and a warm feeling of pride!

Congratulations to all involved in the book's production – and to the winners of 1st place, Wendens Ambo and to Lindsell who came 3rd.

The Village Shop

From the Hadstock Magazine June 1978:

KEEPING SHOP

When it was known that Hadstock was to lose its shop and Post Office people were. sad and apprehensive. During the twenty five years we have lived here we had taken the services given by Mrs Free & later by Mrs Harknett for granted. In retrospect we are sorry We did not appreciate what we had until it was gone.

Late in 1973 John Crawley as Chairman of the Parish Council told us that he proposed to renovate his old butcher's shop if we would finance the business. Reg Wood was prepared to leave his job in Cambridge and take a chance as Manager. This we agreed blithely , thinking that half a day's work a week from us would cover it

We made enquiries from various wholesalers- and were told by one that the shop Vias too small and by another that Hadstock was too small a village to support a shop at all. Never the less we opened. on Feb. 4th 1974, with lots of special offers, a glass of sherry and clothes pegs marked 6p for a 2dozen packet instead of 6p a dozen. When a kind customer told us some time later we understood why we had been selling so many!

We slowly learnt our craft. Reg, who had been in business all his life, was a great help and support. We found trying to add a long column of figures. in front of a customer a little off-putting, especially when some could add up-side down faster than us the right way up!

The first two years- were hard but we were helped by John forgoing the first year's rent. Even so we drew nothing from the shop, not even petrol money for Cash and, Carry. Our margins were lower than we had expected but we were able to increase stock a little.

Trade expanded and John kindly extended the shop so that we no longer had to keep goods .in a spare room at home.

During .the hot summer of '76 we 'had to buy' a second-hand cold cabinet with a self defrosting device. All went well but the shop seemed uncommonly hot and we- blamed the weather. Even an electricity bill of over £100 was attributed to the weather. Eventually we found the cold cabinet had been incorrectly installed and we had had' the equivalent of a -one bar electric fire on 24 hours a day.

After audit it was found we had 'made a loss' on the year's trading. No extra goods on the shelf - no money in the bank. After wakeful nights 'of worry we decided to carry on for three months, then stocktake and review the position, and to close if we had to.

All went well and at the end of June '77 we were out of the red and, this year. have actually been able to pay ourselves a small salary and expenses.

So, as we hand over a modestly profitable business to Margaret Cooper we wish her every success in her new venture and the thanks we feel we can express on everyone's behalf for keeping .the shop open. But don't have any illusions it's very hard work!

Eileen & Arthur Simons.

In Appreciation

Hadstock would not like Eileen and Arthur to retire from their shop-keeping without a very heartfelt and grateful acknowledgement of what we all owe to them.

Although we are sure that they have enjoyed most of their venture into the retail trade it's been hard work , often at "unsocial hours" and sometimes rather unrewarding; but they have kept the shop going successfully till someone else could take over. If they had not taken it over in the first place or persevered with it for nearly five years it is difficult to imagine what sort of village Hadstock would be by now. It is probably no exaggeration to say that some of us would have found it very difficult to go on living here. And we like living in Hadstock.

So a very warm vote of thanks to the two people who have made it possible and pleasant for us to do so. And, also, very best wishes for their new life and our hopes that they find just the house they want - in as nice a place as Hadstock.

Jean Amsden

From the Hadstock Magazine October 1980:

Village Shop News

On Friday, 26th September Mr Reg Wood will be retiring from the shop by mutual agreement between Reg and myself. Ray and I wish him all the best for the future.

As from 6th October Mr and Mrs Richards (Bill and Sally) will be taking over the Village Shop and Post Office.

Ray and I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all customers for the support given over the last two and a half years which enabled us to keep the shop open.

I hope that in the future you will continue to support Sally and Bill as I am sure they will do their utmost to please all customers, old and new.

We know how vital the Shop and Post Office are to the Village.

Newspapers and Magazines will also be on sale at the shop.

Normal opening hours but the shop will be closed all day on Sundays.

Margaret Cooper

From the Hadstock Magazine October 1980:

Presentation to Reg. Wood on his Retirement

This was a well kept secret. A crowd of well-wishers from the village lurked, hidden from view outside the shop on Friday, 26th at 5.30, waiting for Reg to emerge. As he came out Reg was presented with gifts by John Crawlry, on behalf of the village in appreciation of his work among us over the years. These were a Russell Hobbs Teas-Made, a Rima Grill/Toaster, plus £10 to spend on the holiday which he and Renee were to start next morning.

He was also given a handsome wrist-watch by the Coopers – an inspired present since his last watch had come to grief in the bath.

The Beginnings of Hadstock

From the Hadstock Magazine March 1979:

THE BEGINNINGS OF HADSTOCK

There has been a settlement here for a very long time. Flint and bronze 'implements have been found and a holy well in a churchyard often denotes a connection with the Druids.

The earliest known dwelling was the Roman villa in Sunken Church Field - churches were the only buildings of brick or stone known to the Britons and early Saxons so this field name usually means a ruined villa. Other early habitations may await discovery for pieces of Roman, and Saxon, pottery have been found in many fields and gardens.

At that time there was an important town and fort at Chesterford from which the Romans kept watch for the Iceni, a troublesome tribe whose territory included Norfolk and part of Cambridgeshire. Early geographers list a place called ICINNOS, ICCEANNOS or ICAENNUM, A Roman town on the edge of Iceni lands; we do not know exactly where this was but some authors equate it with Chesterford. If so, was the adjacent hill (our aerodrome) called Icanho? 'Ho' means a ridge or spur of land.

It was at Icanho that St. Botolph built his monastery in 654 and where, it is believed, he was buried in 680.

Considering his fame for many centuries as Patron Saint of seamen and travellers (which he still is in Denmark), it is surprising that so little is known about him.

From the evidence available, Hadstock is a possible site for Botolph's monastery. Icanho was destroyed by the Great Army of the Danes in 869-870, at the same-time as the great fenland monasteries. The recent archaeology has shown that under the present church was a building that could date back to the 7th Century and which shows signs of fire damage.

Much of the present church was built in about 1020, the tree from which the North Door was made was felled in 1016, the year of the Battle of Assandun when Cnut defeated the Saxons. The site of this battle is not proven but the balance of the evidence favours this area. Again field names are a pointer - the old railway line runs through Red Field - a name often used for a battle site and, not far away, Traitors Stand also ties in with the account of the fight. In 1020 Cnut dedicated a minster church to the memory of all Saxons and Danes slain at Assandun.

By Edward the Confessor's time, Hadstock was an important market town. Royal Charters confirm the weekly market on -Wednesdays and the Annual Fair on St. Botolph's Day, 17th June. Hadstock was then known as Cadenho and revenues from the Fair were granted to the monks of Ely. Some people think Cadenho means 'Cada's hill'; taking Cada as a personal name, but there is no record of any Saxon of that name. It may be a rare British-Saxon hybrid name with the 'Cad-' meaning 'battle'. There is also an archaic Latin word 'cadent' meaning the 'fallen'. The name 'Hadstock' does not appear until the twelfth Century~ The 'Had' is probably derived from the well known personal name 'Hadda'. and 'stock' can mean a secondary outlying settlement, but as it was already an important town the alternative meaning, "a holy place" seems more likely.

By about 1400, Hadstock's importance was declining and the market transferred to Steeple Bumpstead and then to Saffron Walden. But the Fair continued until 1874 when was stopped by the Rector, the Rev: F.E. Smith, who did not approve of the "goings on". It has since been revised as the annual Fete on the Saturday nearest to St. Botolph's Day.

- P. Croxton-Smith

The Hadstock Riot

From the Hadstock Magazine April 1980:

IT WAS A RIOT – IN HADSTOCK

In the Autumn of 1795 wheat prices had fallen from 120 shillings a quarter to 70 shillings. But the Linton baker – Thomas Smith – continued to sell his bread at a high price. On arriving in the ‘town of Hadstock’ he was met by about 40 people who refused to pay his price. He had about 60 quartern loaves on his van and intended leaving 20 loaves at the shop. Alice Swan, Sarah Bye and Jane Brown manged to relieve him of some of these. Eventually a compromise was reached and he brought his price down to 9d a loaf. Later, Sarah Bye, heard about this and offered to pay for the loaf she had taken, but he refused to take the money. He insisted in her being prosecuted along with the other two women.

They were all sent to the House of Correction at Newport and were given sentences of only two weeks detention. (They had already spent two months there awaiting trial!) The consensus of opinion amongst JPs in those times was one of leniency because country folk rioted out of sheer desperation. That is how it came about that the other 37 rioters were not brought to justice.

From the Registers

From the Hadstock Magazine February 1981:

Searches

The incumbents of parishes often get letters from people, mainly those whose families have emigrated, asking them to search the Registers for possible ancestors. Our Registers go back to when they became compulsory in the C16th, but all those not in current use are kept by Chelmsford County Archives Dept.: The Rector generally hands on the Hadstock requests to me as it is a time-consuming job to plough through pages of entries from 1837 onwards. A small fee is authorised, but there is no guarantee of getting it! There was a certain lady called Emma who had 12 children born out of wedlock. The people who wish to trace their ancestors do not always want to find they descend from such as she. I have had, in the past fifteen years eleven requests involving her, but alas, no payment.

Our first registers are very difficult to read but quite fascinating. In those days there were Frees, Pearsons, Byes, Byetts, Fordhams, Bush, Burgess and later, Swan or Swanne. Later still come Daveys, Mallyons and Rowlandsons. The Freemans were going strong before Parish Registers were thought of.

Entries in old registers have ‘asides’, telling how people lived, but mainly how they transgressed. There is a nice bit about a Rector driving a fresh horse which jumped the churchyard gate but alas, the trap just smashed into it causing considerable damage for which the Rector had to pay.

Some searches are fun. Recently a request came from Mr Basil Thomas of Australia for information about the Free family. There were dozens and dozens of Frees. Arthur Free used to live in the front part of our house and had 16 children, two of whom emigrated to Australia. When we first came to Hadstock in 1947 one son, Alan, was farming the Hall Farm, another, Ernest and his wife Connie were at the old Post Office. Their cousin, Charlie lived at 'Glebe Cottage, looked after by his niece Alice, who made wonderful homemade wine. The Frees had been in the past farmers, wheelwrights, publicans (both at The King's and The Queen's Head), shepherds, farm labourers and gamekeepers. After letters backwards and forwards it was established that Mr Thomas' great-grandfather George was cousin to Arthur Free, which means that Mrs Connie Free has, by marriage, a third cousin twice removed that she had not known about. Sam Free farmed Morris Farm (Maddings). He married, in 1898, when he was 81, a lady of about the same age and is supposed to have said, to his wife as they left the church, "I'm not going through that sort of thing again." He does not seem to have been any relation to Arthur, Charlie or George but who knows what I shall yet find?



Matthew Cummings

From Hadstock Magazine March 1981

Aerial Photography

From the Hadstock Magazine July 1981:

Birds-eye View

"There's room for a passenger", said Donald, a day or two before the event. On the instant I was transformed from being a firmly ground-based spectator into airborne camera crew, (albeit in a dogs-body capacity).

The helicopter flew in like a graceful green and white bird (yes really) and landed, just as effortlessly, on the Recreation Ground.

Ron Amsden left his cement-mixer to see us off, met the pilot, Captain Mike Bell, took photographs of our climbing aboard, a wave and we were away. A gentle rocking movement, then straight up – just like that!

The door on Donald's side had been removed, leaving an alarming expanse of nothingness between us, the air, and the ground - a long way below. The seat belts, unlike car belts, fit low on the hips. For the very first time I was grateful for being over-endowed, since slipping out would be a virtual impossibility! Not so for Donald. I had this niggling anxiety in my mind that the weighty cine camera might slip his grasp and in grabbing for it he'd slide overboard.

The first circuit of the village was at low level. It didn't feel particularly low, but I think our perceptive pilot was letting us get our air-legs before rising to higher things.

Hadstock looked lovely. It truly is a patch-work of many colours with a vast border of green. Masses of trees, now in full leaf, many concealing the flower borders one knows are there. Roads and paths show up with an astonishing clarity - not at all the gravelly brown or grey-black macadam they are when close to.

'There's Betty Potterill waving, and Lettice Dawson. Lots of other people too, but now we are much higher and not able to recognise faces.

The Three Hills at Bartlow, looking not unlike three green buns. Ashdon Church, the Rectory with Claude Riches clearly visible, the schoolchildren out in force to have a look, bobbing up and down like a bunch of flowers.

Leaving Ashdon we briefly lost the right road to follow. Was suddenly and acutely aware that up here there are no signposts to guide you nor passers-by to ask for help. and at 500ft those pale strips weaving and winding in all directions bear little resemblance to familiar roads and footpaths. It's also extremely chilly at that height.

We landed for a picnic lunch, then again to re-load the cameras and yet again to check on a piece of equipment. By the third 'take-off' we were definitely feeling old-timers! It was three hours of hard work and concentration but also a lot of fun.

.... Found a note on the kitchen table next morning:

"Wish it was yesterday all over again!" Me too!

Joan Stewart

Note: This aerial film will be incorporated in the Environmental Film the Hadstock Society is making for showing at the Stansted Enquiry. Individual shots of houses as well as general views will be on display and for sale at a forthcoming Coffee morning to raise funds. Details next month.

D.S.

[The film won an award from the Essex Chronicle and was shown to the Stansted Enquiry.]

The Royal Wedding

From the Hadstock Magazine September 1981:

THAT WEDDING

Like spontaneous combustion the activity in Hadstock towards the end of July began slowly and unnoticed by many until it burst forth on the day into the happiest possible celebration party.

It began with a few mothers chatting - then a casual decision that something would be done - and then the inevitable work.

Money was raised in inimitable Hadstock style by the King's Head, a shooting competition, a coffee morning and donations. Plans were laid, gifts procured, catering organised, entertainments devised and decorations erected.

And so to the big day. Fine weather blessed the occasion and the green, already so festive, became by 9.00 a hive of activity. Tractors and trailers, stakes and ropes, how could we manage without them? Tables and chairs, stalls, a piano all moved by the lads. Lots of ladies to organise and make pretty, Rob's Roadshow installed for the music later.

By 10 o'clock the green was deserted again. Who would miss the chance to see such a blessed event?

As the afternoon progressed the crowd collected. Even more deliveries; the barbecue, the food, so many beautiful cakes.

Amid singing, games, laughter and joy, pop music and dancing 300 hamburgers and all the cakes were devoured with gallons of drinks.

While the bells were rung every child was given _ a commemorative crown, mug and pencil box.

We were all ,photographed and the talk was of the wedding, the day was the wedding.

It was the wedding day.

To everyone who helped, and there were so many, thank you.

Brian Marshall

[Charles and Diana were married on the 29th July 1981]

Earnie Freeman

From the Hadstock Magazine January 1985:

Earnest Freeman; An appreciation

Mr. Freeman was born in Hillcrest Cottage in December 1899. He was the youngest son of Edward and Eliza Freeman and the last in a long line of Freemans who had lived in Hadstock for several generations. He was brought up in the Village and lived here all his life.

He took a keen interest in music, sang in the Church choir as a boy and played the euphonium in the Hadstock Silver Band for many years. (The Band made a nice gesture on the occasion of the Freemans' 60th Wedding anniversary last June when they serenaded them outside their home).

Ernie joined the army in the first world war and was a member of the Specials in the last war. He took a great interest in the life of the Village and was a great supporter of the Parish Church and served as a member of the P.C.C. and a sidesman over a considerable period.

He worked on the Bartlow Estate for much of his life and loved to speak of Hadstock as he had known it and of the people who lived here. Until recently Earnie made a daily walk along the Bartlow road, noting keenly the present day farming methods and always had a friendly word for everyone. And what a fascinating story-teller he was! Happily, his voice has been put on tape, recounting some of his stories and knowledge of the past are preserved.

His garden was another of Earnie's enthusiasms and his produce and flowers were often bestowed on friends and neighbours.

A greatly respected member of the Village and warmly remembered, we all miss him and extend our deep sympathy to Daisy in her bereavement.

[Earnest Freeman: 18/12/1899 – 25/11/1984]

Hadstock Fete 1985

ACCLAIM FOR THE FETE

They said St. Botolph would hold the umbrella up over Hadstock, to be sure the Fete had some luck. It was true, the dawn broke, the skies were blue, A beautiful day for the Big Village Do.



June the 15th was the day the village had set. There was no way at all the day would be wet. For weeks they'd worked - painting stalls until dark, In preparation for a day that would soon leave it's mark.

There was Hoop-la, Pick-a-Straw, Plants and Produce. Roll-a-ball, Hot Dog, Teas and sweet orange juice - Wheel of Fortune, White Elephant, a Merry-go-Round, Lucky Dip and the Hadstock Silver Band Sound.

'Hilarious Hilda' you had us all thinking! It was difficult to find the spot that was winkin'! At the Tower of Strength the bell kept a-clanging. As the strong village men the hammer kept banging.

Did you see the delight in the eyes of your child? Did you experience the joy of the day? Shall we see you next year, will you keep it a date? Thanks. Hadstock and Villagers for a mighty Grand Fete!

Anon.