



Items of Interest from the Years 1976-77

(taken from The Official Guide of 1974/75).

Gathered from the Local Newspapers, etc. during the past year.
Every care is taken to make the following list correct
but no item or date is guaranteed by the publisher.

Compiled by the Misses E R Gill and M Davy

1974

3rd January

Mrs. R. Gill of Quay Hill, Littleport, reported seeing the comet, Kohoutek, from her garden on the evening of Thursday, 27th December, between 9.30 and 10.00 p.m.

Messrs. R. W. Taylor and Son Ltd. of Padnal Road are to investigate the possibilities and potential for the manufacturing of prefabricated home units.

Mrs. Mary Bowers retired from the Littleport County Primary School after 25 years service there. Counting the years she had taught in Norfolk, Mrs. Bowers was the longest serving teacher in Cambridgeshire.

The Black Horse Inn sent £370 to the Cancer Research Institute in 1973. Proceeds were from book loans, angling matches and sales.

8th January

!!! Severe gales—roofs blown from buildings. Trees blown down.

10th January

Many people on three-day week owing to Miner's overtime ban and A.S.L.E.F. go slow. Shirt factory (Hope Bros.) is one factory affected.

15th January

The Rev. W. T. Hodgson was instituted by the Bishop of Ely into the living of St. George's Church. The Induction was performed by the Archdeacon of Wisbech, the Ven. G. Fox.

24th January

Canon Ritson, "one of the best known and best loved clergymen in the district", died at Mildenhall Nursing Home.

The Littleport Parish Council and the Great Ouse River Board came to an agreement over the stretch of river between the Dock and Littleport Bridge. 350ft. are to be used by Mr. Holmes as private moorings and the rest used as a village amenity area.

27th January

Representatives of a wide area of the farming community attended the annual Plough Service at St. George's Church, Littleport.

28th January

Dick Bagnall-Oakeley visited the village College to give an illustrated talk entitled "East Anglia through the Seasons".

2nd February

The Littleport Youth Club organised a tea and a Party evening for the "Over 70's" of the village. The money for the event was raised by a sponsored walk early last autumn.

Tower Hospital, Ely, which accommodates many Littleport people, became the first hospital in the country to purchase the new Anglia Patient Evacuation Sheet for all its 140 beds.

7th February

The Wild Fowl Trust Reserve on the Ouse Washes now presents a wonderful sight, with its magnificent collection of swans, wigeon, pintail, teal, pollard, ruff, reeve and many other varieties of water birds.

21st February

Election fever all over Isle. Candidates are, Conservative—John Stevens, Labour—Mike Ferris, Liberal—Clement Freud.

Tania Gilbey, pupil of Littleport Village College, won a Talent Contest at Ely.

28th February

Election Day.

7th March

Clement Freud re-elected as MP for the Isle of Ely.

Rates rise by 13p in £1. Littleport 43.53p plus 7.2p district rate, plus 2.2p parish rate

plus 8.2p sewerage rate plus 5.5p water rate, less 17p domestic rate equals 49.63p.

21st March

News of attempted kidnapping of Princess Anne in Mall.

Plans submitted for growth, both industrial and in house building in Littleport. Plans to increase population by 2,500 (5,293 to nearly 8,000).

Tania Gilbey, who won Talent Contest at Ely in February, selected for audition on "Opportunity Knocks" on ITV.

Plough and Harrow Inn re-opened after £12,000 refit.

25th March

Miss Polly Elwes, TV and Radio personality, was guest at the Village College Festival Dinner.

1st April

Cambridgeshire County Council take over roughly the same functions as the present Cambs. & Isle of Ely County Council, but will swallow up Huntingdon and Peterborough as well to make a new super-county. East Cambs. District Council will replace the three existing district councils:—Newmarket Rural, Ely Rural and Ely Urban, and will take over their offices,

4th April

Details of Local Government Organisation given with guides to various departments, telephone numbers etc.

Three resignations mentioned:—a) Miss Edith Sparrow who has worked for 52 years at Hope Bros. Factory, b) The Rev. S. Cade after 8 1/2 years as Vicar of St. Matthew's Church, Littleport, c) Mr. George Lemmor, the last of Littleport's bus conductors, after 22 years on Eastern Counties Omnibus services.

11th April

!!! Work begun on Littleport Bridge. This is to take 2 years and nine months, and bridge and new road will cost £550,000.

Mr, Tom Wilson of Camel Road dug up a commemorative Medal issued by the Vatican in the sixteenth century, whilst he was digging his garden.

20th April

Littleport Pony Club carry off over half the trophies at Hunter Trials in Beck Row.

25th April

Miss Anglia visited the area.

Littleport decided to adopt the new Planning proposals for enlargement,

30th April

Dr. T. B. Gordon retired after 34 years service to the village and district,

22nd May

Mrs. Jill Freud was the guest speaker at a Coffee Evening organised by the W.I. and held in the Village College.

23rd May

Sister Benton, Community Nurse in Littleport, was one of six nurses selected for the Eastern Region Nurse of the Year Award.

The river bank stretching from the Dock to Littleport Bridge is to be developed into an amenity area.

Women's British Legion Fete, held in Vicarage Grounds, raised £80.

30th May

!!! Three major road schemes for Ely and Littleport Bypass discussed.

5th June

Littleport Girl Guides camped in Caernarvonshire for one week.

Timothy Slater of Little Ouse entered a Collage Competition and his picture was chosen for a two week exhibition, of pictures at Euston Station, London.

Richard Simpson and Alan Newton received player-of-the-year awards from the Littleport Football Club.

27th June

Littleport Garage, Wisbech Road, have produced a new Onion Grading machine for use by small growers.

Littleport Methodist Chapel holds Flower Festival entitled "A Festival of Flowers with Crafts". £220 was raised for Trust funds.

13th July

Mr. J. Willsden, formerly teacher in Littleport County Primary School and now lecturer in Cardiff College of Education, has gained a First Class Honours Degree in the Bachelor of Education examination of the University of Wales.

Patrick Padgett, a former pupil of Littleport County Primary School, has gained a First Class Honours B.A. Degree at the Chelsea School of Art.

Littleport Parish Church Summer Fete gained £233.

18th July

Local right of way between Docks and Sandhill Bridge to be re-opened.

A new amenity area is to be laid along the river bank.

!!! Littleport came fourth in their section of the Best Kept Village competition—most villagers did not know they had gone in for it.

25th July

The Oddfellows' Hall has to close down after being used by the village since 1940 for parties, weddings, etc. This is because of soaring rates and fuel costs.

26th July

Mr. C. R. Browning retired from the Wardenship of the Littleport Village College, formerly The Martin School. His place is to be taken by Mr. C. R. Bryden,

27th and 28th July

Littleport Horticultural Show Society held another successful show in the Constitutional Hall on Saturday and Sunday. The local W.I. helped to make the show one of the best yet held.

1st August

The R.S.P.B. paid £3,500 for about 11 acres of Wash grazing land on the Hundred Foot Washes. A bird sanctuary on the Washes—it is the haunt of many rare birds, including the black tailed godwit.

8th August

The P.T.A. & Headmaster of Little Ouse fear that the village may "die" unless the Littleport Parish Council inject some form of life into it.

22nd August

Littleport Cricket team have been on tour in Kent where they have enjoyed great success, winning three games and drawing a fourth.

The Rev. Claude A. Nurse and his family left Littleport after six years as Methodist Minister at St. John's Church. He is to become Superintendent Minister of Rushden, Northants.

Jean Nurse of the 1st Littleport Girl Guides Company received her Queen' Guide Award. She is the second guide in the village to become a Queen's Guide. The first was Margaret Atkinson, also of the 1st, Littleport Company, who received the award in 1951.

31st August

The newly appointed Methodist Minister was welcomed to St. John's. He is the Rev. Walton, and has ministered for four years at Oldbury in the Midlands.

19th September

Mr. J. H. Martin resigned from Littleport Parish Council after 43 years service. He was Chairman for 30 years.

Little Ouse raised over £300 from a Fete organised by the P.T.A. The cash is to help bring "life" back to the village. Littleport Parish Council promised to back requests for street lights and a pavement in the hamlet.

26th September

A child of 8, Vernon Wolf, died after a road accident at the junction of Crown Lane and Wisbech Road. Witnesses have been called for.

Mr. & Mrs. Reg Gipp, who emigrated to Australia in 1957, returned to their native village, Littleport, for a holiday.

10th October

General Election Day. Mr. Clement Freud was returned as Liberal M.P. for the Isle of Ely.

Dr. Gordon, who retired from medical practice in the village earlier this year was presented with a wrist watch and a leather wallet by colleagues and friends and patients in appreciation of his services over 34 years. The presentation took place at the Annual Harvest Supper held after the Harvest Festival of St. George's Church.

Gaye Kerridge, a Littleport girl, now a student at Manchester University is studying the "fen-blows" for her geography degree.

The Ely Sugar Beet Factory has had to close because the exceedingly wet conditions have made it impossible to get the beet out of the land. October, so far, has been the wettest and coldest for many years.

21st November

Littleport Parish Council elected Mr. Peter Wolfe of 14 Victoria Street to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mr. J. H. Martin.

A seat is to be placed on an open space in Ely Road to commemorate Mr. Martin's 43 years of service as a Parish Councillor.

5th December

!!! Bread shortage due to strike of bakery workers—long queues at private bakers' shops and bakehouses.

Littleport Care Committee launch £5,000 appeal for mobile building to act as Day Centre for elderly people, until proposed Old People's Home is built in the village. This Home will incorporate a Day Centre.

16th December

Death of Mr. J. H. Martin. Funeral on Friday, 20th December at 12 noon at St. George's Church.

1975 23rd January

Electrical fire at Upton Place sparked off street evacuation. Power blackout lasted several hours. The area was sealed off by Police.

Dr. Wyllie retired after 46 years as Doctor in Littleport. His place is taken by Dr. Boucher-Latto, who was trained at St. Mary's, London, and has spent several years in various foreign countries practising medicine.

Mr. Norman Kerridge of Windy Ridge, Hale Fen, died after contracting leptospirosis, a disease caused by bacteria from rats.

Efforts in the village continue in the object of raising the £5,000 for the Old Folks Day Centre.

30th January

New housing complex to be built on Wisbech Road.

27th February

Mrs. Margaret Law and Mrs. Jeanette Moore begin business in children's clothes, which they make in their own homes. Patterns are created by the two ladies who call their business Polly Togs.

Littleport Cricket Club receives an anonymous gift of £100.

17th March

The beginning of Festival Week at the Village College. At the Festival Dinner the Guest of Honour was Mr. Percy Edwards.

19th March

Miss Patricia Evans gave a piano recital. All the Festival events were well attended.

20th March

Miss Janet Fendick of 44 Hempfield Place was awarded the Lancet Trophy by the Medical Group of the Royal Photographic Society for the most meritorious reproduction of a member's work during a year. She was responsible for most of the photographs in a book on Forensic Pathology by Dr. G. A. Gresham, Professor of Morbid Anatomy at the University of Cambridge.

26th March

!!! Two more electrical explosions in Upton Place caused by gas leak allowing gas to seep into electricity examination chamber—thus causing explosions. Pipes were renewed and electricity damage repaired.

24th April

Mr. C. R. Browning, former Warden of Littleport Village College, launched the fibreglass racing yacht, Wayfarer, at Mepal Pits.

1st May

!!! British Rail plan to downgrade Littleport Station into an unmanned halt. A protest campaign against the scheme is under way.

15th May

!!! The Government decide on the western route for the Ely, Littleport Bypass.

Littleport Station has been downgraded and is now an unmanned halt.

3rd July

Today's paper is the seventh to be published since industrial troubles over the installation of new printing equipment began.

Law Brothers are hoping to develop two new housing sites at Hythe Lane and at Victoria Street.

8th July

Many homes were without electricity after a very severe thunderstorm.

9th July

Burberry's (Hope Bros.) Factory, Littleport, received their third Queen's Award to Industry. Eighty per cent of their Burberry's sales go for export and this is the only clothing firm to receive an award.

10th July

The seven-week long dispute between Sharman and Co. and the N.G.A. ended this week with agreement being reached on the introduction of the company's new typesetting machinery

The history of Littleport told in flowers and old photographs created much interest in the village. Thirty-six organisations took part.

15th July

The Bishop of Ely visited schools, the Health Clinic and Burberry's. He conducted Evensong in St. George's Church at 6 p.m.

16th July

A presentation ceremony was held in the Primary School for Miss M. E. Bishop who is retiring on Friday, 18th July, and who for 39 years was a teacher in Littleport.

17th July

Severe thunderstorms caused wide spread flooding and many buildings were struck by lightning.

26th and 27th July

Littleport's Annual Horticultural Show was the sixth presented by the Society since its revival of this part of the Feast Week traditions. It proved very popular and, in spite of the inclement weather, entries were good and attendance on the two days created a record.

7th August

The Littleport Day Centre Appeal launched last December with a target of £5,000 has received enthusiastic support in the village, and has now passed its first £1,000 mark.

Great need for people to exercise the utmost economy in the use of water. Hosepipes and sprinklers must not be used whilst the hot spell lasts. The temperatures have soared into the 80's during the past fortnight and the Anglian Water Authority sent

out the message for care in the use of water.

11th September

Mr. L. Belsham, Youth Tutor at Littleport Village College, has turned down a pay rise because of the country's grave economic situation. The £12.50 a month he has given up is placed into the Education Committee Account.

Efforts still go on in the village to raise the £5,000 necessary to provide a Day Centre for the elderly. Coffee mornings and evenings have been held in various homes. This week at the Community Centre in Anchor Court, an Arts and Crafts Display is being held. An Auction will be held on Saturday morning when Mr. Stephen Legge, the Ely Auctioneer, is giving his services free of charge

Fields and gardens are still suffering because of the shortage of water. The outlook for winter vegetables is bleak.

Two large housing plans have been given the go-ahead in the village. Lewin Smith is building 26 maisonettes and 29 garages at Parsons Lane. Law Bros, can build 12 semi-detached and two detached houses on plots off Victoria Street, Plans for 69 more houses have been dropped.

A booklet "Bygone Littleport" has been published by the Parish Magazine Committee. Its author is Mr. Alva Harlock of Ely Road, Littleport.

18th September

!!! The Vicar, Rev. Hodgson, has applied for an Order in Council to close the Churchyard and arrangements have been made for the Parish Council to tidy the land, before handing it over to the District Council for maintenance.

Councillor Henry Crabb is still campaigning for the reopening of the right of way around Moor Drove in Littleport.

The A10 Littleport Bypass and modernisation of the A10 between Littleport and Brandon Creek are among six schemes in Eastern England which will be started in the early 1980's.
