

## Meadow Cottage

Location: Wickhambrook Road

Post Code: IP29 5HY

Year Built: 16<sup>th</sup> Century

Status: Grade II Listed

Notes:



### Grade II Listing

Entry Name: **Meadow Cottage**

Listing Date: 25 August 1983

Grade: II

Source: Historic England

Source ID: 1186980

English Heritage Legacy ID: 363125

Location: Hargrave, West Suffolk, Suffolk, IP29

County: Suffolk

District: St. Edmundsbury

Civil Parish: Hargrave

Traditional County: Suffolk

Lieutenancy Area (Ceremonial County): Suffolk

Church of England Parish: Hargrave St Edmund

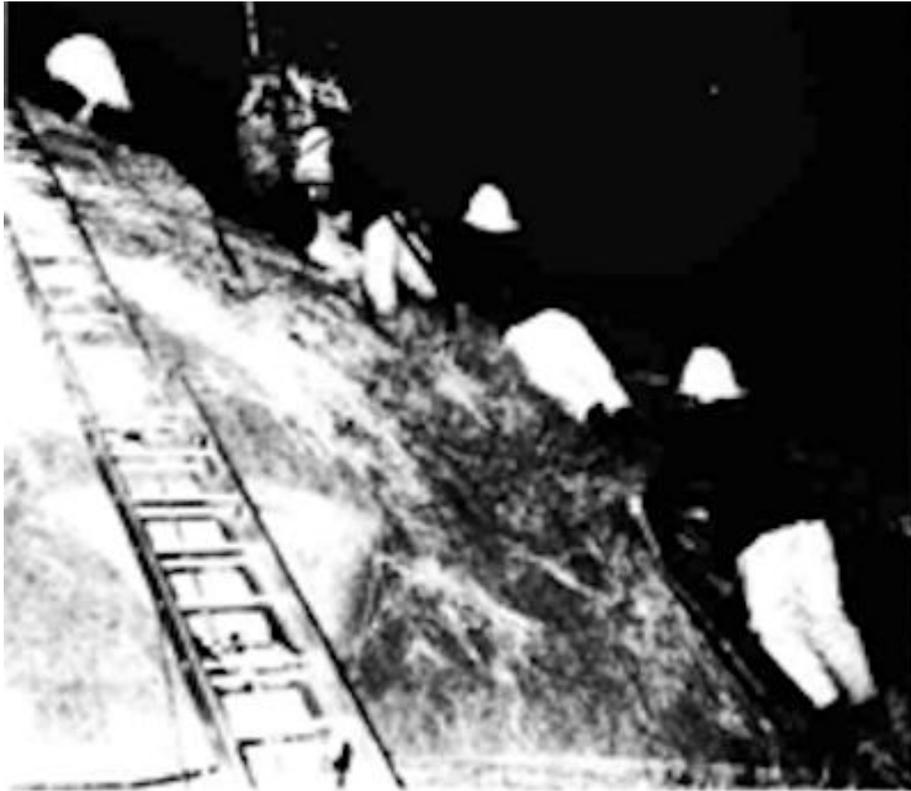
Church of England Diocese: St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich



House, late C16 or early C17. 3-cell cross passage entry plan; 1½ storeys, attics; 3 windows. Timber-framed, rough-cast rendered. Thatched roof, hipped at right-hand end, with axial chimney and eyebrow casement dormer. C19 and C20 casements and C20 boarded entrance door. A complete timber chimney serving the hall, c.1600, with short brick flue at head; a very rare surviving feature for Suffolk. C20 thatched 1½ storey extension to rear.

## Meadow Cottage Fire – 1984

The following report was printed in the Bury Free Press on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1984



*Firemen tackle the chimney blaze on the thatched roof of the 400 year old Meadow Cottage in Hargrave.*

*Alert neighbour averts disaster.*

*Swift action by a neighbour helped save a family's home after fire broke out in a thatched cottage on Monday night. A chimney caught fire at Mr and Mrs Tim Fogden's home, Meadow Cottage, Wickhambrook Road, Hargrave, while the family were watching television.*

*Alert neighbour Mr David Pettitt spotted the flames while in the workshop of his lawn mower servicing business opposite.*

*Helped by his assistant former fireman Mr Paul Cooke, he was at the scene while the Fogdens were calling the fire brigade. Mr Pettitt scaled the roof and began damping down the thatch to prevent fire spreading.*

### **EXPLOSION**

*Afterwards Mrs Sally Fogden said: "he was absolutely wonderful. We are quite certain it would have been much more serious had it not been for him."*

*No-one was hurt in the incident and structural damage was restricted to the chimney and about 15 per cent of the thatch on the 400-year-old cottage.*

*Mrs Fogden who has a son Christopher (18) and a daughter Mary (16) said: "The fire was burning in the grate and suddenly there was just an explosion in the chimney."*

*Belongings were removed from the house, and the family's three ponies, three goats, a dog, a cat, and some chickens ushered to safety.*

*Mr Pettitt said he was alerted by the sound of a dog barking and saw flames leaping out of the roof of the Fogden's cottage.*

*Nearly 30 firemen in six engines from Wickhambrook, Long Melford, two from Bury St Edmunds, and two from the town brewery fought the blaze.*

*Station Officer Mr Graham Phillips from Bury said the fire had been caused by tar deposits from pine logs catching fire in the chimney flue.*

***The following report was published in the Newmarket Journal on the 12th January 1984.***

*'Firemen saved our cottage'*

*A Hargrave family this week praised firemen and villagers whose efforts saved their thatched cottage home.*

*Neighbours raised the alarm when they saw the roof of Meadow cottage alight late Monday night. They used garden hoses to contain the blaze until the fire service arrived.*

*First on the scene were Wickhambrook's firemen but at the height of the blaze, five engines were at the scene. They were still there in the early hours of Tuesday morning but miraculously only a small portion of the roof was destroyed.*

*Now, the family – Mr Tim Fogden, his wife Sally, and teenage children Christopher and Mary – are left with the task of clearing up the debris.*

*They are convinced prompt action saved their home from serious damage.*

*Their praises were echoed by Assistant Divisional Fire Officer Mr Maurice Reed who described the way the blaze was tackled as "a tremendous display of true public spirit."*

*He said: "Our men worked very hard and with a lot of skill. Thatch fires are extremely difficult to deal with and it is a very good start to the new year for us."*

*He described the neighbours' actions as superb and said their efforts to damp down the fire helped the firemen isolate the blaze.*

*The villagers helped remove furniture from the house which enabled the firefighters to devote their time to tackling the blaze.*

*None of the Fogden's possessions was lost and even the wooden framed chimney – one of only a handful in the country – has been saved.*

**Nicholas Newman**

**January 2022**