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Topic:	Bury Free Press article illustrating village life in 1972
Date of Record:	November 2020
Author:	Bury Free Press
Notes:	An interesting perspective of Hargrave village life in 1972.

## MEETING THE PEOPLE - HARGRAVE

### A LITTLE ISOLATED COMMUNITY

Bury Free Press article c.1972

Story by Julie Fairhead

Pictures by Janice Carby

*Hargrave could claim to be one of the least known villages in the Bury St Edmunds area – but it is also one of the friendliest.*

*Mr. David Slade, clerk of the parish council, says much of the village mail reaches its destination – after going to Hengrave. And people have to be told where Hargrave is he says. “They know Barrow and Chevington, but Hargrave is rather more isolated,” added Mr. Slade a lecturer in social services at West Suffolk College of Further Education.*

*But even if the villagers may occasionally be cut off and forgotten, they are certainly a friendly bunch. Everyone knows everyone else and Hargrave enjoys a close-knit community life. At present however, there is not a lot to do in the village, but there are hopes this will change when the parish council takes over running the village hall.*

*Mr. Fred Pettitt of Moat House is one of the two trustees of the village hall and he also helped to raise money to build the hall in 1919. “It was one of the first to be built in the district – the others were all army huts” recalled Mr. Pettitt. “There are no immediate plans for extensions, but we hope when the parish council takes over, this might eventually be done,” said Mr. Pettitt.*

*Few people know more about the village than Mr. and Mrs. Frank Morley who run the Post Office and the village’s only shop. It’s a real family business, which they took over from Mrs. Morley’s father in 1949. They were married in the village Methodist Church – nearly opposite their house. Mrs. Morley belongs to the local W.I. which has about 15 members and meets regularly in the village hall. This year’s president is Mrs J English.*

### BUGLE BAND

*Mr. Morley helped to form the village Boys’ Brigade in 1941 and is now vice-president. Present captain is Mr. Dennis Plummer. The Brigade also has a bugle and drum band, which plays at fetes and parades and has been a regular attraction at Wickhambrook Carnival in recent years.*

*Farmer Mr. Frank Fearnley has been chairman of the parish council since 1965. He farms in the village and at Wickhambrook and has a brother Duncan, who farms at Little Saxham. Mr. Fearnley was born in Salt Lake City, U.S.A., but came to England when he was seven. He has lived in Hargrave since*

1959. He says there has only been a limited amount of development in the village in past years, but in time more houses will be built.

*"The population used to be about 800 at the turn of the century. It's now dropped to 500, but it will gradually build up again,"* said Mr. Fearnley. He added that very few people work in Hargrave as there is no industry there apart from agriculture. Most villagers have jobs in Bury.

### **AMBITION**

*Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Studd are licensees of the village's only pub – The Bull. They moved to Hargrave four years ago from Bury where Mr. Studd was a builder. The Studds have two boys – David (9) and Michael (11), who is football mad. Michael's biggest ambition is to go and see his favourite team – Manchester City – play, especially his idol Francis Lee.*



***Football fan Michael Studd (left) with his younger brother David  
And some of his soccer mementos.***

*One of the regulars at the Bull is Dick Crick (63) who lives with his step-brother James (52) and their housekeeper, widow Mrs. Ann Radley (75), at 6 School Cottages. Dick, who works as a refuse collector for Bury Council was born and bred in Hargrave and says he wouldn't live anywhere else. From the age of 13 until only seven years ago, Dick worked on the land, and for 14 years was a horseman at Glebe Farm, Ousden.*

*Mr. Harold Smart (82), of Hargrave Green, has also worked with horses for most of his life and was Horsekeeper at Park Farm, Hargrave, for 48 years. Mr. Smart, who was born at the former village pub, The Cock's Head, lives with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hunt. He still walks to the Bull to enjoy a pint with his friends and often visits his two sons who live at Warrington, near Manchester.*

*The Upton family of Stone Hall Farm are all accomplished riders and sailors. Leo Upton – who describes himself as a peasant farmer – has lived in Hargrave for 20 years and is vice-president, boson and one of three chief instructors at West Suffolk Sailing Association. He has sailed since the age of nine, and several boats belonging to the association are stored at the farm and prepared for the sailing season.*

*Mrs. Hazel Upton teaches at Barrow primary school. There is no school in the village and children go to Chevington.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Upton race dinghies at Waldringfield and other places along the East Coast. Last year, their eldest son Paul (16) was voted Waldringfield Sailing Club's best improved helmsman. Their youngest Andrew (12) has also won sailing awards.*

*David Upton (14) and Andrew are both keen riders and belong to the Suffolk Hunt and the Pony Club. They show, jump – and win – all over the county, and David is a member of the West Suffolk Prince Philip team, which competes with other teams for the Prince Philip Cup at Wembley.*



***Sailing and horses play a big part in the life of the members of the Upton family. They are from left to right: David with Black Magic, Mrs. Hazel Upton, Andrew and Mr. Leo Upton. Son Paul has gone back to boarding school in Ipswich.***

*Hargrave's former miller is Mr. Jack Murkin (81) who lives at Birds End. Mr. Murkin worked at the mill – which has now been pulled down – for 13 years, before joining the army in 1914. When he returned he set up his own clock and watch repair business, which he carried on for 43 years until retiring.*



**Clock Repairer Mr Jack Murkin**

### **SCAMBLER**

*Comparative newcomers to Hargrave are the Keyton family of Mill House, who moved from Cavendish. Vic Keyton (22), a fitter for Colmans Agriculture Ltd., of Sudbury, spends most weekends motor-cycle scrambling. He has two machines – a Bultaco 250 c.c. and a Greeves 380 c.c., - and goes to scrambles all over East Anglia. Vic recently did very well at Braintree, coming fourth overall out of 40 competitors.*



**Vic Keyton (22) who spends most weekends motor-cycle scrambling.**

## **BEEKEEPER**

Mr. Norman Knights of Birds End is one of the very few people in Suffolk who keep bees for a living. He has 230 colonies and in summer the number of bees in each colony can rise to well over 100,000. He has lived in Hargrave since 1933 and kept bees since the age of eight when his father gave him a few colonies. Mr. Knight hires out his bees to orchard keepers for pollinating blossom and also sells their honey. A member of the West Suffolk Bee Keeping Association and the national Bee Farmers' Association. Mr. Knight often lectures to W.I.s and other local clubs.



**Bee-keeper Mr. Norman Knights.**

**He has kept bees since he was eight and now has 230 colonies.**

Mrs. Faye Hakes of Willow Farm represents Hargrave, Chevington and Great Saxham on Thingoe Rural Council. Her husband Mr. W. B. Hakes, is chairman of W. Vinten Ltd., Western Way, Bury.

## **BLACKSMITH**

One of the oldest residents is Mrs. Mary Woolard (91) of Wash Cottage. Her late husband, Esau became the blacksmith at Chedburgh when they married in 1904. In 1920, he took over his father's farm – Hill Farm, Chedburgh, and they moved to Hargrave on his retirement in 1949.

There is no resident rector in the village and the church of St Edmund is looked after by the Rev Mark Shirley of Chevington. An electric heating and lighting system has just been installed, but there are no plans to replace the porch which was destroyed by a bomb during the Second World War.