

## SPECIAL EVENTS

In every community there will be highlights during the year, either for individual families or for the village as a whole.

Here are three accounts of what, for those who were involved, were very special events.....

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*'...Please it you to wete that I sent your eldest son to my Lady Morley, to have knowledge what sports were used in her house in Christmas next following after the decease of my lord her husband; and she said there were none disguisings, nor harping, nor luting, nor singing, nor non loud disports; but playing at the tables, and chess, and cards. Such disports she gave her folks leave to play and none other.'*

Margery to her husband, John Paston III, concerning how Christmas should be celebrated in view of the recent death of his mother, Margaret Paston. December 1484.

*Source: Everyman's Library, the Paston letters, published by J.M.Dent & Sons Ltd. Revised edition 1956, reprinted 1961.*

## **A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT**



St.Margaret's Church, Paston

### **THE RESTORATION AND REDEDICATION OF ST. MARGARET'S, PASTON**

Since becoming Team Rector of the Trunch Team Ministry in 1994 and more particularly since taking direct responsibility for Paston when Revd. Alan Cunnington left the Trunch Team two years later I have had a particular concern for the church and parish of Paston. The focus of my concern has been threefold:

- \* the revitalisation of the underused and loss making parish hall
- \* the small size of the loyal, dedicated congregation
- \* the poor state of the building and in particular the thatch roof

The first two are vitally important:

The transformation from parish to village hall is probably covered elsewhere in the annals

The growth of the congregation (though it is still smaller than one would wish) has been encouraging.

It was however the third problem that occupied our thinking over 1999/2000. Here are a few facts:

- (1) Time taken from start to finish - one year
- (2) Total cost: £94,000
- (3) Major benefactors: English Heritage  
Landfill  
Historic Churches Restoration Trust  
Norfolk Historic Churches
- (4) Work completed: Nave rethatched  
Ceiling renewed and repainted  
Minor works to South Porch,  
East windows and gable corners.
- (5) Skilled tradesmen involved: Architects  
Thatchers  
Builders  
Glaziers  
Blacksmiths  
Scaffolders



Interior, July 1999.



Thatcher's dog on ladder.  
February 2000.



Thatchers at St.Margaret's Church Paston, February 2000.

It was an eventful year with disruptions caused by a change of builders which affected everybody else. However, when the time came for the rededication all (well, almost all) was put behind us.



Refurbished roof interior, June 2000.



Rethatched Paston Church, June 2000.

A procession led from the Village Hall to the Church Service. Joined by our fellow churches of the Team and with the Right Reverend Anthony Footit, Bishop of Lynn, presiding and preaching, we celebrated this great occasion. The church had been meticulously cleaned and splendidly decorated for the occasion.



Procession to the  
Rededication service  
April 30th 2000.



The Right Reverend  
Anthony Footit,  
Bishop of Lynn  
In the procession.

Following from that service the church congregation returned from its temporary exile in the Village Hall to gather fortnightly for Holy Communion in the church. The first such service was led by the Revd. Jim Gyton who in earlier years as Team Vicar gave so much to the church and parish of Paston.

I began by saying this was a once in a lifetime event. As Mary Purdy, who at 91 and a lifelong resident of our village, cannot remember the church being re-thatched, my title is no exaggeration (even though thatch is only meant to last 60 years).

Maybe you are reading this in 2100. If so, may you find the same sense of fulfilment in the restoration of your church as we did and may “the joy of the Lord be your strength”.

*The Revd. Peter B. Allan*

## PASTON VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS

This popular annual event has now been running for several years, and local residents put a great deal of effort to bring their gardens to the peak of perfection on Open Day in June. Anne Davies organised and coordinated the event in June 2000.

Vera Argent and her team of willing helpers provided refreshments at the village hall, where a marquee was set up in the grounds, and plants were sold both at the hall and at individual gardens.

Visitors numbered around 300 and over £1,000 was raised for the Village Hall Fund.

**GARDEN DETAILS**

- 1 Wendy & Chris Young, 10 Bears Road.  
3yr old garden, was just lawn. Now filling up with plants.  
**Plants for sale.**
- 2 Adrian & Valerie Read, Highview, 7 Chapel Road.  
2nd year garden. The pond is more established, borders, shrubs and greenhouse.
- 3 Tina and Brian Hall, 4 Mundesley Road.  
Pond and mixed borders mainly at back of house. A family garden gradually becoming more established.
- 4 Pat and Michael Dawson, The Oaks, Mundesley Road.  
Six years of blending mainly perennials, shrubs, roses, herbs and vegetables to suit sandy soil and sea winds.  
**Raffle. Plants for sale. Toilet.**
- 5 Paul and Christine Damen, 2 Hall Cottages, Bacton Road.  
Lived here for 15 years and still not got the garden sorted. We love weeds!  
Does Ground Force do large gardens?  
**Raffle.**
- 6 John and Rose Penrose, Footpath Cottage, Vicarage Road.  
Mixed beds, ponds, pots and lots of lovely colour.
- 7 Anne Davies, Pebble Cottage, Vicarage Road.  
I am beginning to own this garden when it doesn't own me by its rapid growth. Has had a short back and sides this winter. Still lots to do, including locating a small pond. Any ideas welcome.  
**Toilet. Art stall.? Plants.**
- 8 Tina McGuire, The Nest, Vicarage Road.  
A garden for relaxing. Beds, shrubs, lots of lawn, all in a very windy spot.  
**Toilet.**

**ALSO OPEN**

**The Forge** - A working forge with many garden items in wrought iron for sale.  
Owner & blacksmith - Brian Reynolds.

**Stow Windmill** - Built in 1827, owners Roger & Andrea Hough.  
Entry fee (Private garden not open).

**NOTE**  
ONLY GARDENS DISPLAYING THE YELLOW FLOWER SYMBOL ARE OPEN

# Paston Village Gardens OPEN DAY

Sunday 18th June 2000 11am - 5pm

## TICKET

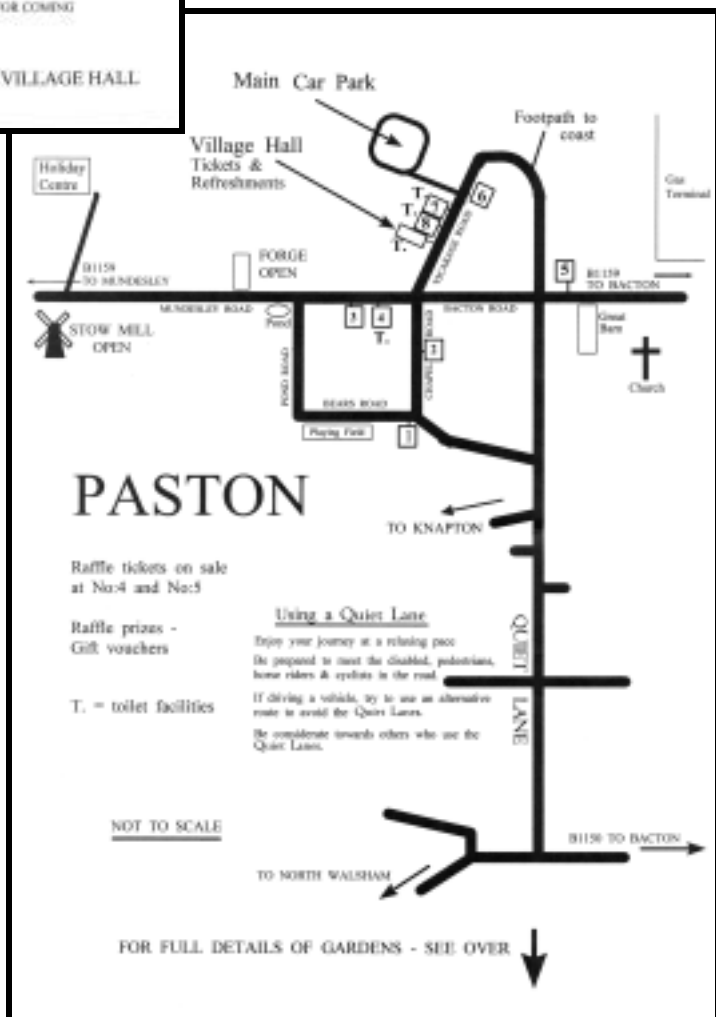
£2.50 Admission - includes all 8 gardens  
Children under 16 free



To find each garden follow map (see inside) and look for the **YELLOW FLOWER SYMBOL** at the entrance to each garden. Enjoy our gardens.

THANK YOU FOR COMING

PROCEEDS TO PASTON VILLAGE HALL





Valerie & Adrian Read  
in their garden at  
7 Chapel Road



The garden of Wendy  
& Chris Young at  
10 Bears Road



Mike Dawson's  
vegetable plot at  
The Oaks,  
Mundesley Road

The garden of Tina &  
Brian Hall at  
4 Mundesley Road



Anne Davies in her  
garden at  
Pebble Cottage

John & Rose Penrose in  
their garden at  
Footpath Cottage



***Maureen Park & Alan Wilkinson  
1 Bears Road, Paston.***

Maureen's family has links back to the 1800's in Paston. She has lived in Paston most of her life and Alan, previously from South Yorkshire, has lived in Mundesley for about ten years.

After a short engagement, they were married on Wednesday 10th May, 2000.

On a bright sunny day, the ceremony was held at North Walsham Register Office with thirty guests. Maureen's brother Richard was her witness and Alan's sister Janet was his witness.

The reception was held at the Ingleside Hotel, Mundesley, with another twenty guests in the afternoon. The food, room and facilities were magical. The evening party with disco finished the day off nicely for sixty five guests and the bride and groom.

A few days later they went on honeymoon to Portugal for seven days. They were again fortunate with the weather.

