

Life in the countryside : Our improving reporter visits Alvingham



Alvingham W.I. is a flourishing organisation with about 50 members

WOULDN'T WANT TO LEAVE!

VILLAGE WITH A HAPPY FAMILY SPIRIT

W.I. WAITED THREE YEARS FOR THEIR OUTING!

THIS year's fine crop of strawberries has meant hard work for some of the people of Alvingham, the centre of strawberry growing in the Louth district. Alvingham, a small village of 200 inhabitants, is well-known for its strawberry beds but they are not the only items of interest in this community lying three miles to the east of Louth.

Many of the families in the village have lived there for generations and seem happy to continue the family story in Alvingham. They will tell you to go and look at the two churches set in one churchyard, or at the water mill, one of the very few left in the district. There is still a village blacksmith, a joiner, and of course a store.

The land, of course, is the main source of livelihood for the villagers, with the two principal farming families being the Shucksmiths and the Pridgeons.

Coming into Alvingham from Louth in July you would see a group busy in a strawberry field on the right, picking the fruit each day to send to Grimsby. This is the field of the Hand family. The

Methodism in the Louth area. Mrs. Philip Shucksmith is a music teacher and is well-known for the choir she trains to entertain at local concerts and similar functions.

has represented Great Britain at rifle shooting, and this has taken him abroad as well as to Bisley.

In 1954 he went on a five week tour of Canada as a member of the national team, and they brought back the Canada Trophy with them, won from an all-Canadian team.

While we were shivering in the English winter during the early months of this year, Mr. Pridgeon was off again with the national team for a six weeks tour of the West Indies, bringing back with him another batch of cups and medals. He was selected for every match, and came out of the tour with the award for the greatest numbers of bulls.

Two Churches

A unique feature of Alvingham is the churchyard where there are two churches, services being held in each on alternate Sundays.

St. Adelwold's belongs to Alvingham, but the other one, St. Mary's, serves as the parish church of North Cockerington. Both were



Mr. Walter Moore has looked after Alvingham churchyard



Continuing the family line at Alvingham's village store is Mr. G. P. Trafford.

too old to keep the job going and he will soon be retiring.

Not Selling

The old water mill is one of the very few still in use for grinding. Mr. Tom Bett is the fourth of his family to work the mill, and Mr. Bett said that he had had offers for the mill but it was his home and he intended staying.

"The mill can still grind cheaper than any farmer can," he said. "He still works at the mill but not as much as in the past, as he is almost retired now."

Much of the equipment in the four-storey mill has been unchanged for many years and when the water is released the huge wheel turns and drives the machinery efficiently and powerfully.

Mr. Bett does not know how old the building is, but on the outside half-doors there is the date 1824. "I thought of replacing this door,"

Mr. Bett told me, "but it was here before I was so I thought it might as well be here when I go."

Family Business

Milling is not the only ancient craft that survives in the village. Also in Alvingham is a business that still carries on the art of the blacksmith, but Mr. Fred Philipson uses modern methods for his old time craft.

Mr. Philipson's shop was locked up when I called, but I had already been told that he was one of the busiest men in Alvingham.

He was apprenticed with the late Mr. Charlie Dowse and then took over the business. He has served the village for 44 years.

Alvingham's representative on Louth R.D.C. is Coun. L. M. Wright, who is also the joiner and undertaker.

Shop proprietor is Mr. G. P. Trafford. He is the third generation of Traffords to be there and already the fourth is getting "into harness" for his son, Mr. Robert Trafford, works in the business.

Community spirit of this friendly village has been fostered since the war by the erection of a village hall, which is open every night for billiards and table tennis. It serves as a meeting place and a venue for many functions.

One thriving organisation is the Women's Institute, which draws members from North and South Cockerington and Yarburgh. The 50 members achieved an ambition this year when they visited a hemstitch firm at Nottingham. They had been on the waiting list three years!

LOUTH MARKET

Messrs. John Taylor, Stevenson and Co. report the following prices at Louth Poultry Auction on Wednesday: L.S. stags to 13s. 3d.; L.S. hens to 12s. 6d.; cross-bred hens to 11s. 3d.



Alvingham is well-known for its strawberries and earlier this summer a gang were picking in Hand's field. Mr. John Hand is standing at the rear.

Theatre Supt. dismissed

Demands an inquiry

ACCORDING to a national newspaper report on Saturday, Mr. Ronald Hudson, 34-year-old operating theatre superintendent at Boston General Hospital, is demanding an inquiry into allegations concerning his management of operating theatre nurses. Asked to resign by the Matron, he refused to do so.

Mr. Hudson, an Anglo-Indian, was quoted as telling the newspaper: "I can't think why the Matron asked me to resign, except that one of the nurses claimed she was scared of me."

Miss Thelma Coxon, the Matron, was reported to have said: "Mr. Hudson does his job properly except for his management of the nurses."

The staffing committee of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee met on Saturday, and afterwards issued the following statement: "Mr. R. E. Hudson commenced his duty as theatre superintendent at Boston General Hospital on April 14th, 1959, for a probationary period."

"In accordance with the terms on which he was appointed, his employment is being terminated by one month's notice."

LOST HOME IN FIRE

EIGHTY-NINE years old Mr. Arthur Lusby stood helplessly by on Friday and watched as his thatched cottage home at Torinton St., Peter where he lived

THE DAY SHE NEVER REACHED SCHOOL

BOYS TELL HOW SCHOOLGIRL MET HER DEATH

HOLTON DRIVER'S EVIDENCE

TWO small Boston schoolboys sat beside a Coroner on Monday and told how they had seen a happy, ten-year-old girl cycling to school—the school she never reached.

Only a few minutes after she had passed the boys as she cycled along Freiston Road, little Jennifer Smith, of 87, Wellington Road, collided with a lorry. She died from shock due to multiple injuries before reaching hospital.

At the resumed inquest, the schoolboys, Keith Overton (10), of 8, Windsor Crescent, and David Burdett (11), of 38, Windsor Crescent, told how they had seen Jennifer cycle past them in Freiston Road on her way back to Tower Road School after lunch.

"There was a lorry parked at the side of the road," said Keith.

"Jennifer was riding along at the side of the lorry, then she overtook it. I think there was another lorry coming in the opposite direction."

CUSWORTH CUP

Fifteen clubs have entered the Cusworth Cup competition this

year, but I didn't see it. Then I heard a crash . . ."

"She went into the middle of the road, added David, "and tried to overtake a grey lorry which was standing still, and another lorry that was coming along went into her."

The driver of the moving lorry, Mr. Richard Willerton, of No. 2 Council House, Tetney Lane, Holton-le-Clay, said that he was driving a Leyland Comet lorry, loaded with ten tons of fertilizer, from Immingham to Boston.

At one o'clock, he was passing the Corporation Depot in Freiston Road at about 15 m.p.h. "I saw a parked vehicle—a Ford car—on my offside. I saw a furniture van approaching the stationary car. It gave way to me. I was about a foot away from the kerb."

"I got near the rear of this furniture van and just then this cyclist came out from behind. And that was it. There was an acci-

Several people have beds in their gardens and smallholdings and a lot of their produce finds its way to Louth's market and shops.

Trade With Ships

It is 30 years ago that the Hand brothers, Harry and Albert, came to Alvingham to grow strawberries. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hand live at Lock Bridge Farm, which years ago used to be a public house, the Lock Tavern.

Now the village has not got a "pub" but the old tavern used to have a brisk trade with ships that came up the Louth Canal. The front part of the house is reputed to have been built around 1700, but for the past 100 years it has been a farm house.

Past the Hand strawberry beds there is a new house on the left, the home of Mr. Tom Shucksmith, who farms with his sons, Basil and Philip.

Both the Hands and the Shucksmiths are families connected with

Just over 100 years ago there were three Methodist Chapels, but now there is only one, the former Wesleyan one which is next to the water mill.

Chapel For A Home

The former Primitive Methodist Chapel, built in 1846, and the United Methodist Chapel, built in 1854, were closed at the time of the Methodist union.

The latter chapel was re-built in 1934 by the late Rev. C. F. Hill, who came to live in it on his retirement from the Methodist ministry. He found it in a bad state of repair, demolished it and then re-built it almost entirely from the materials he had salvaged.

Before entering the ministry Mr. Hill was a builder.

The Pridgeon family are another with long roots in Alvingham, and one of their number has become known outside the county and even outside the country.

Mr. M. H. ("Ted") Pridgeon

with its two churches for many years.

within the boundaries of the old Priory to St. Gilbert and were used by the nuns and canons of the Priory as chapels.

About 1215 Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, later to become St. Hugh, ordained a vicarage of Alvingham. St. Hugh was the builder of Lincoln Cathedral and his connection with Alvingham is retained in the arms of the Diocese of Lincoln. In the first quarter are the arms of Alvingham Priory.

St. Adelwold's fell into disuse but was re-opened in 1933 after restoration. In 1931 the two churches were united with the living of South Cockerington and the present Vicar is the Rev. G. S. Hoar.

For nearly the past 30 years Mr. Walter Moore has looked after the churchyard, and Mrs. Moore is responsible for the interior of the churches. Mr. Moore says he is



The fourth generation of the Bett family at Alvingham water mill is represented by Mr. Tom Bett.