



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CUCUMBER LANE, BRUNDALL, NORWICH, NOR 86Z

## Letter of the Month

*May's Letter of the Month wins for Mrs. Pollard a year's free subscription to Suffolk Fair. This prize is offered each month for an interesting letter about any aspect of life in Suffolk.*

SIR, I thought your readers might be interested in the following example of long service. My maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Zebadee Meadows, affectionately known as Mr. and Mrs. Zeb, must have known each other from early childhood, as both their fathers were employed at Brandeston Hall. Great-grandfather Meadows, who died at the age of 96, spent all his working life as a gardener at the Hall. Great-grandfather Coates was a general handyman.

My grandfather started work at the Hall for Mr. Charles Austin Q.C. at the early age of 12 as stable boy, later becoming groom. Grandmother also started work at the Hall as sewing maid at the age of 12. They married in their early 20's and lived in the mews over the stables where my mother was born. There are many accounts of my grandparents activities during their life-long service with both the first Squire Austin and the second.

Most of the farms and the cottages in Brandeston Village belonged to the Hall Estate and there were not many families who were not connected in one way or

other with the Hall, and the Squire and his family were treated with great respect.

Grandmother told me that as well as doing the personal and household sewing, she had to keep ready a complete supply of baby clothes for any of the village women who were in need when their babies were born.

Grandfather had a great love for children and horses, but he was also known to be fond of his ale, and sometimes, when he had to take any of the family out to dinner parties, he and other grooms would spend the waiting time playing cards and drinking. Grandfather would over indulge and instead of him driving the family home, they would have to drive him home.

When the Austin family moved from the Hall to the Broadhurst my grandparents went to live in a cottage in the village and although they continued working for the Austin family, they were also caretakers of the Hall and at times helped the families who were in residence.

When the age of the motor car arrived, Grandfather had no time for such 'noisy smelling contraptions', but he stayed with the family. Even after his retirement he



would go along daily to do odd jobs. This he did until a few weeks before his death in 1940.

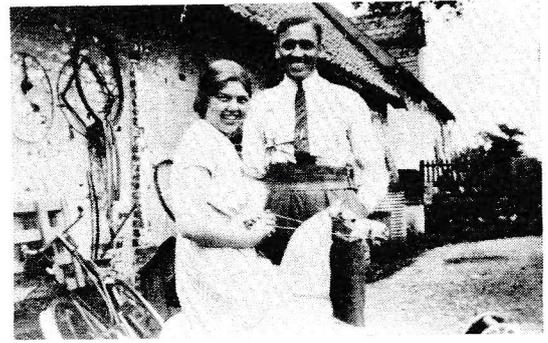
Grandmother also continued her sewing for the Austin family until just before her death, 11 years ago, at the age of 101.

There was a real bond of affection between the families and my grandparents lifetime of loving service must almost be a record.

—Mrs. R. Pollard, 39 Pimpernel Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 0PS.

*The first photograph is of Mr. Henry Meadows, my great-grandfather, taken in the grounds of Brandeston Hall. This rocking horse was a great favourite with the Austin children, and when it was no longer needed by them, it was given to my grandfather, Mr. Zeb Meadows, for his grandchildren. I enclose a small*

*picture of myself on the same rocking horse. It was in my mother's care for several years, but unfortunately there came a time when it could no longer be repaired.*



### The Cottage Pig

SIR, The prodigious output of Allan Jobson to *Suffolk Fair* could well have missed 'The Cottage Pig'.

Necessary as this slaughter is, the 'implementia' and destruction of even a pig, in my opinion, does not make enjoyable reading.

By all means, Allan, keep delighting us with your town and country subjects, but I'm sure many readers will prefer the pig to stay in its poke.

—D. G. Roper, 118 Brunswick Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

SIR, I am sorry if I have offended your reader's sensibility. I could have no more endured such a scene than himself, but the facts remain. Particularly as the pig was such an essential part of cottage economy and country life in general in those hard times. The only perfect solution is to turn vegetarian. However, I have no more such crude details up my sleeve for future articles.

—Allan Jobson, 49 St. George's Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

### Archbishop Sancroft

SIR, In your March issue I was very interested in Alan Jones' article on Archbishop Sancroft. Perhaps readers would be interested in some fascinating historical parallels.

Although Sancroft went up to Cambridge his earlier education was at the King Edward VI Grammar School at Bury. Circumstances dictated that at the trial of the Seven Bishops in 1688 Lord Chief Justice Wright presided. He was the son of Jervaise Wright who went to Cambridge in 1624 and both were Old Boys of Bury School!

Previously Justice Wright had served on the Bloody Assizes and after the 1688 Revolution he was sent to Newgate Gaol and died there.

Finally, a Sancroft Medal was struck in 1850 on the School's Three Hundredth anniversary. On the obverse appears the head and shoulders of the Archbishop, with the wording "Guil Sancroft Archiepisc Cantuar 1688". The reverse side shows miniatures of all seven Bishops included in that famous trial.

—David Blackmore, Old Burians Association, 27 Cowdray Avenue, Colchester, Essex.

### Mutford Revisited

SIR, Following the letter from Mr. Farman in the March issue of 'Suffolk Fair', I have now visited Mutford church again, and on this occasion the fine Galilee Porch was empty apart from a small pile of bricks—which leads me to think that when I was there in August 1972 the trouble lay in stored builders' materials, as restoration work has been carried out extensively.

I completely agree that the church, from without (I could not get in) now seems in excellent condition, the churchyard well kept, and I would like to congratulate all concerned on the dedicated work which has been done, particularly at a time when churches in other parts of East Anglia have become redundant. One lady, tending a grave, told me that she was very anxious for the church to be re-opened, and I feel sure that many others will share her pleasure.

—J. Kenneth White, Woodside, Bracon Ash, Norwich NOR 9JW.



The Editor is always pleased to consider material submitted for publication but contributors are reminded that a stamped addressed envelope must accompany all unsolicited material. The Editor cannot enter into any correspondence over material and at certain times of the year a decision on work received can take up to 4 weeks. Please submit MSS with a seasonal interest at least 4 months before the publication date. Colour transparencies for possible use as the front cover picture MUST be at least 2½" square—35mm. photographs cannot be used for technical reasons. Although every reasonable care is taken, the Editor cannot accept responsibility for loss of or damage to unsolicited material.