

## A Villager's Appreciation of North Tuddenham - Then and Now

Priced just £5 on sale from Farthingwood Cottage Low Road East by appointment (Tel. 850641) is an informal 8000-word account written by Mike Smith in association with many villagers and assistance from Norwich Archive Centre, the internet and other sources.

It travels back to early civilisations in and around what we know as North Tuddenham and surrounding villages today and moves through medieval times including the period of the Black Death. There is a brief history of the manors of Beaufoe, Belhouse and St. Cleres, who owned them, where they were and what happened to them.

Walking around the village and with a keen eye you can see evidence of buildings built in previous centuries which may have a tale to tell. In some cases, the evidence is under ground and has been researched by archaeologists.

The treasures of St Mary's Church -the windows and rood screens are described in detail, as are other items of historical interest and importance. The Rectory and its rectors are also included from 1316 to today.

We have had some interesting ones to say the least!

People in the village have recounted times during air raids in the war years, memories of the Home Guard, a Liberator bomber crashing into pieces on land belonging to Pound Farm, the Corn Mill, the Post Office, the Village Shop, the garage, our schools, our public houses - the Lodge and the Fox and Goose, the Cycle Speedway track. The beauty of the Common is told in pictures and words.

Farming has been important to this village since early the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century and famous local families involved in agriculture in those times are listed.

Returning to the present day, the book includes reference to local farmers and businesses currently operating from the village.

Today in our village we have a lovely church, a cosy village hall, a friendly garage, a welcoming public house and an eclectic population.

It may not be perfect and maybe it is lacking in some features and facilities, but it is home.

Mike