

GILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CENTENARY OF PARISH COUNCILS - 1894-1994

- 1894 First Parish Council meeting at Old School Room.
- 1895 Four acres of land given by J.G. Kenyon for allotments to be called the Gregorian Allotments. Three Parish Councillors to serve as Parish Constables.
- 1896 Kelly's Directory of Norfolk - Area 2,033 acres, rateable value £2,227. Oil lamps to light The Street in winter months. £8.17.0d collected from allotment rents, allowing 66 householders two shillings worth of coal each.
- 1897 Footbridge linking village with Aldeby at Waterloo at a cost of twelve shillings and sixpence.
- 1898 Catholic Church built - finished in 1903.
- 1900 Application from National Telephone Company to erect poles across allotments with payment of three shillings a year in rent.
- 1901 Proposal of light railway from Beccles to Norwich through the village.
- 1903 The Clerk's salary was £9.10.0d per annum.
- 1911 Population was 440. Very bad flooding at harvest time. Corn floating in fields at Manor Farm. Some cattle swam down the river as far as Beccles and landed near the Pickerel Inn, Puddingmoor, where they were revived with brandy.
- 1912 Average school attendance was 51.
- 1914 Three danger signs supplied by Automobile Association to be erected near to the School corner.
- 1916 Erection of monument where King George V reviewed troops, commemorating his visit to the village.
- 1917 All males aged 18-61 canvassed to join National Service.
- 1918 Board of Agriculture and Fisheries urge all parishioners to grow potatoes to help food shortage.
- 1920 Drains and gulleys to be inspected and repaired.
- 1921 Population was 486.
- 1924 There were 3 shops, 2 blacksmiths, 10 farmers, 2 builders, 4 market gardeners, 2 coal merchants, 1 harness maker, 1 wheelwright, 1 thatcher and molecatcher, 1 shoemaker, 1 timber merchant, 1 petrol depot, 1 chimney sweep, 2 fish curers, 1 post office, 1 pub and one cycle repairer in the village.

- 1925 Application for village postman to have a half day with no collections on Wednesday afternoons. Village Hall built.
- 1926 Allotment rents paid out in cash at five shillings per householder.
- 1927 New Rating Committee formed. Flooding of Dam and marshes:
- 1931 Population was 479.
- 1932 Earthquake shock about midnight. No damage done, but cattle on the marshes were very frightened.
- 1933 Responsibility of War Memorial given to Parish Council.
- 1935 The old White Swan Inn was pulled down so that the road could be made wider. It was 200 years old. A new Inn was built behind the site of the old one.
- 1936 30 m.p.h. signs erected.
- 1937 Street party for the Coronation. There were approximately 135 houses in the village.
- 1938 Eight air raid wardens appointed. Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) plainly seen, also in February, 1939.
- 1939 January 26th River Waveney overflowed. Transport to Beccles by boat or horse-wagon. Floods lasted a week.
- 1940/45 Meetings held in the Swan Hotel.
- 1942 Invasion committee formed.
- 1945 Welcome home fund opened for Parish members in H.M. Forces.
- 1946/47 Heavy snow lasted almost three months. When it melted it caused disastrous floods - Gillingham cut off from Beccles.
- 1947 Serious flooding. Townlands Charity - Two cottages called the Leet Houses were sold in 1947. The proceeds were invested in War Bonds.
- 1948 Bus shelter built.
- 1950 New housing estate to be called the Boundary Estate.
- 1951/52 Gillingham Football Team won the Lowestoft and District League Division 1 championship.
- 1952/53 Coldest winter on record.
- 1953 Refuse and sewage collection started.

- 1955 Forge Grove estate plans submitted.
- 1958 Sewage scheme for Gillingham.
- 1960 Townlands Charity - 13 acres sold.
- 1967 Bus shelter for The Boundaries.
- 1971 Decimal currency - speaker at Village Hall. New bungalow estate plans.
- 1973 Telephone kiosk for The Boundaries. Allotments used to form playing field.
- 1975 Village Farm estate planning permission.
- 1976 Bypass proposed. Village sign proposed.
- 1980 Proposed caravan site at Swan Hotel field. Extension to Village Hall.
- 1981 Visit of three cyclists in sponsored cycle ride round the Gillingham Triangle in Norfolk, Kent and Dorset. Barbecue at The Swan 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. to celebrate the wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer. All school children presented with a commemorative mug.
- 1983 Threat of closure of St. Mary's Church. £23,000 needed for repairs. Bypass opened. Sponsored cycle ride by 26 people in aid of Village Hall funds.
- 1985 Demolition of Blacksmith's shop. Best kept garden competition started.
- 1988 Closing of village shop.
- 1989 Car boot sales start at Swan Motel. Proposal for houses and flats at Darby's Woodyard.
- 1991 Plans for filling station and restaurant at roundabout.
- 1992 Closing of Post Office.
- 1993 Home Watch scheme for bungalow estate. New Parish Council notice board.
- 1994 Unveiling of village sign. Opening of hairdresser's shop. Repairs to St. Mary's Church. Street lights outside bungalows in The Street.

WHERE WILL GILLINGHAM BE IN 2094?