

# Pamber Heath Village News

An occasional newsletter written by Raymond West ©

November, 2004 to June, 2005

**November, 2004**

## **Bailey's land to be developed**

The plot of land occupied for many years by Evelyn and Harry Bailey is to be developed. A planning application for four houses on the site of Shirley Cottage in Pamber Heath Road is in force and if it goes ahead will mean the loss of another piece of Pamber Heath's heritage. This follows the departure of Evelyn to a nursing home some time ago.

**March, 2005**

## **General update**

Two new houses are nearing completion on the plot of land previously occupied by Phyllis and Reginald Culver at 7 Church road, the former bungalow 'Hawthorn' having been demolished. Tadley Common has now been fenced off and cattle are now grazing there to help in its management. Pamber Heath Post Office continues in business in Pamber Heath Road as does the Pamber Heath Stores in Silchester Road. Life continues much the same in Pamber Heath, with social events still being held at the Memorial Hall in Pamber Heath Road. However, older villagers feel that the sense of community that existed in the village years ago has all but vanished, probably due to changing social attitudes and the growth of the village. The phantom cat sniper of Jubilee Close is still at large and there was another shooting a while ago. The bungalow built at the rear of the Old Police House in Burney Bit is completed or nearly completed. No development work has started yet at Bailey's cottage in Pamber Heath Road. The Pamber Heath book was printed for the fourth time late last year and over half the stock has been sold already.

**March, 2005**

## **Farewell to milkman Brian Black after over 30 years of service**

Brian Black announced in a letter to customers that he would be terminating his franchise for the delivery of milk etc. on Saturday the 26th of March. He had been delivering milk and other goods in Pamber Heath for over 30 years and felt that it was time for a change. His friendly and jovial personality will long be remembered by locals. Brian was very fond of his pet dogs and I remember that in recent times they would accompany him on his milk float each day. He would stop for a while with some customers and many lonely older villagers found him to be of great support to them and will surely miss him.

*The news items on this page were published on my web site but now grouped together in this PDF document*

**June, 2005**

## **Two house fires in the Burney Bit**

This month saw two house fires in the Burney Bit. The first was caused by a television set catching fire while the owners were not in the room. The lounge was gutted and extensive smoke damage was

caused to the rest of the house making the house uninhabitable until repairs and cleaning were carried out. No one was hurt and fortunately the fire was spotted quickly. In the second fire, a piece of toast was left on the grill causing smoke damage while the owner was out. No one was hurt and the smoke was spotted quickly again.

**June, 2005**

## **Death of former Pamber Heath man Robert Rolfe**

It is with sadness that I report the death of Robert Rolfe who lived in Pamber Heath for many years. He died suddenly on the 13th of June and will be sadly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his older brother Alfred.

Robert lived in Tadley in recent years but was previously from Pamber Heath, living in the Burney Bit. Robert was a popular figure in the village and the son of Alfred and Ivy Rolfe. He was also a descendant of Charles Monger - one of the early settlers of Pamber Heath.

Robert was a friendly character and contributed greatly to the historical record of the village by supplying valuable information and documents for my Pamber Heath History book.

He worked as a civil servant until retirement a few years ago and has been helping with the work of the Tadley branch of the Royal British Legion.

The funeral service was held at St. Paul's Church, Tadley on Thursday the 23rd of June, 2005.