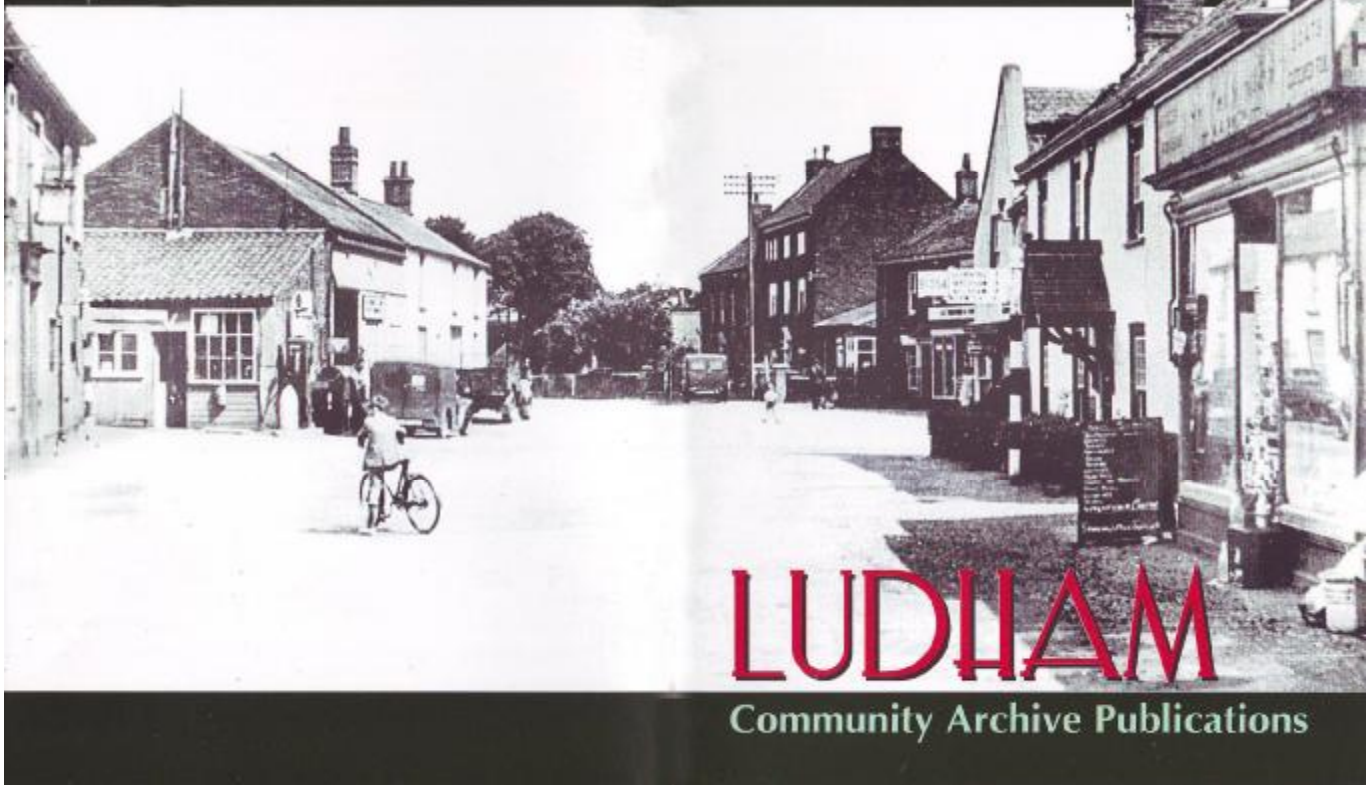


THE STREET, LUDHAM  
BY  
MIKE FULLER



### The Ludham Community Archive Group

The group came together during the Jubilee year of 2002 to celebrate it through a community event in the village. The result was a textile triptych, which was completed with the collaboration of over 100 residents of the village. It is now on show in the Parish Church of St. Catherine's. We were supported in this enterprise by the Arts Officer of North Norfolk District Council, Brenda Seymore, and by our Art Tutor, Nicky Maule.

While the project was in progress we introduced local walks, led by knowledgeable villagers, to learn more about the community in which we live. Winter walks also evolved from this. We were also introduced to a method of recording the information that we were acquiring during this process and it was at this point that the archive aspect of the project really began.

Ludham Archive is held on computer and continues to expand as further information comes to light. Photographic, pictorial and a variety of other images, supplemented by reminiscences form the basis of the archive. In addition, many people have been interviewed and the results recorded. All of this is seen as a beginning of what should become a continuing process to record the evolution of a changing community. Archive materials are open to access by villagers and can be seen at regular evening meetings. Dates of meetings can be found in the monthly parish newsletter.

The archive provides the source of material to make publications available as CD Rom and other visual media, as well as pamphlets and booklets.

# THE STREET, LUDHAM BY MIKE FULLER

The Street or High Street lies at the centre of the Broadland village of Ludham. It has long been the focal point of the local community and has seen many changes over the years and especially in the last 100. This booklet shows how The Street has changed and evolved in words and pictures.

This booklet is by Mike Fuller, long time local resident and Chairman of the Ludham Community Archive Group. Mike grew up in Ludham and here he describes how the village has changed in the last 100 years. You are led on a walk along The Street with Mike's memories as your guide. Enjoy the trip.



The Street in about 1902



Photograph taken from the church tower in about 1939. The Street is in the centre of the picture

A similar view taken in June 2004 during church roof repairs.





Throwers Stores in 1904, two years after opening. This shop is still in business over 100 years later. From the left, Albert Thomas Thrower, Rosie Bowers (blacksmith's daughter) and Mrs Helen Thrower. The shop looked like this until after the War ended in 1945. On the right hand side of this shop was the Bakers Arms Pub, which has now gone completely. On the left hand side was the opening to the back of the shop and to the left of that was England's butchers shop.

During the War, an American Lightning aircraft crashed in the opening and Cyril Thrower and Russell Brooks helped to save the pilot.



Throwers, 100 years later



This photograph shows the Bakers Arms pub which used to be next to Throwers. It closed in 1959 and was then pulled down as part of a road widening scheme. This area is now called Bakers Arms Green and is the present location of the village sign and Millennium Sundial. At the same time, a pavement was put in next to the cottages opposite the green in Yarmouth Road. Previously there was no pavement or drain or gutter, so when it rained, water poured into the houses and flooded the front rooms which had their floors lower than the road.



Bakers Arms Green where the pub used to stand.



The above photograph was taken about 1905.

On the left is Brook's garage on what is now the pub car park. The horse is pulling a rare type of plough with two wheels at the back. The two horses have heard each other. The horse and cart on the right is probably delivering animal feed from Crown House (which was previously the Crown pub) and the notices against the wall are probably advertising feed.

On the right is the corner shop which used to be a solicitor's office and beyond that Throwers shop. Then comes England's butchers shop, then the three storey house and Police House (which had a prison in the cellar). The house with two chimney stacks in the far distance is The Firs and is still there.





This photograph is dated around 1905. It is looking south from The Street into the start of Staithe Road; the area always known as Stocks Hill.

The white house was the Spread Eagle pub, last owned by J.S. Clarke, and later turned into a Temperance Hotel run by Robert Ward who was also a baker and a farmer. During the war, the low building in front was a Fish and Chip shop, a milk depot and a shop for orange juice and cod liver oil for children.

On the left is Grace Lyons shop (now the butchers) and next door to that is a bed and breakfast lodging house. The third cottage was another fish and chip shop run by Harry Grapes who also made wooden toys which were in great demand during the war, as were his chips!

The tall thin chimney was that of the bake house Which stood between the Royal Exchange Pub (from 1842) and the Spread Eagle.

Moving north up The Street, we see West Terrace houses (with their original red brick) and what is now known as Cook's Corner in 1918. The building in the centre was a shop then, but was originally Town Farm which belonged to Aaron Neave. It then became Harriet England's grocery shop and later became Herbert Cook's shop selling groceries, hardware, wallpaper and drapery items. When the Cook family retired, others traded there including the Gibbs, Taylor and Lithgow families. It has the reputation of being the oldest building in the centre of the village.



On the right, the tree is the horse chestnut by the Cat's Whisker's Hairdressers. It has grown much larger and can still be seen there today. The building has been a two-roomed cottage with a hob fireplace, a cobbler, a cordwainer and was a waste paper store during the war. In 1908, H.D. Brooks was using it as a cycle shop and for making and repairing boots and shoes. He prepared the hides himself for over 20 years and sent the shoes all over the country and even to America for people who had emigrated from Ludham.

The broken wall on the right marks the start of the Latchmore footpath.



H.D. Brooks Cycle Shop

This modern view of The Street shows a scene dominated by cars and the horse chestnut tree. West Terrace is rendered and painted white. The former shop is now 3 dwelling houses.



This is the Street in 1926. The notices on the right are about applying for electricity to be connected to your house for the first time. The van is parked next to the scissor and knife sharpener who came to Ludham every week. His bicycle was turned upside-down to make the grindstone turn.

Beyond it is the Old Post Office (another was in Crown House for a short time). It had two doors in the front. John William Dale was the postmaster in 1908 and George and Helen Thrower ran it from 1923. The lean-to building was the sorting office. Here we see the same scene in the 1950s





The corner shop was a solicitor's office in the 1930s. It too has a large window in the side compared with earlier photos and the Kings Arms has different windows.

The previous two photographs clearly show how little The Street had changed between the 1920's and the 1950's although the Post Office has different windows. The next picture is a modern (2006) photograph for comparison.



This is Mrs Grapes on her tricycle in about 1935, showing Crown House and Powells shop.

Crown House has been many things. It was the Rose and Crown Pub and had a Post Office inside. After the pub closed, it became Ebenezer Newton's corn, flour, corn and oil shop with supplies arriving by wherry or by train to Potter Heigham. He was also a shipping agent for emigration.

The building later became Barclays Bank and is now just Crown House.

In 1941 a German plane flew low along The Street spraying the buildings with machine gun fire, including Powells shop. Mrs Powell was killed when a bullet ricocheted off the dining table where she was sitting with her family.







Demolishing the wooden house,  
late 1960's

The Ludham Community Archive Group hopes that you have enjoyed the walk along The Street in the company of Mike Fuller. The pictures you see are just a small number from the collection we hold of Ludham old and new.

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 information from Beulah Gowing  
 Computer work by Nigel and Christina  
 Pope  
 Re-Edited by Jon Simpson, 2014.



Look out for our other booklets on different aspects of Ludham village as well as our interactive CDs and DVDs of Ludham life. If you are visiting Ludham, call in at St Catherine's Church and see the textile map on display there which was our first project.

[www.ludhamarchive.org.uk](http://www.ludhamarchive.org.uk)

We are grateful to everyone who has supported us in this project,  
 particularly our local sponsors who are listed below.

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