

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY NEWS

BROADLANDS CARE HOME AND OULTON BROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL EDITION

Maconochie in a pickle!

Nicholas Everitt Park
Opens 20th June 1929

School gone missing

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Special Delivery in Lowestoft

Exploring the art of communication with poet Dean Parkin and community artist, Caitlin Howells.

Inspired by collections of letters held by Suffolk Archives and in county museums, Special Delivery brings together primary school pupils and residents in care homes to consider different ways of communicating—and invent a few of their own.

Westgate on Fridays

For the Oulton Broad Primary and Broadlands Care Home programme, Caitlin and Dean chose letters sent to the journalist Trevor Westgate.

Full of stories of local events and characters, these letters were used by Trevor to create a regular column in the Lowestoft Journal.

Cover headlines: Taken from pupils' reports following their visit to the Suffolk Archive offices in Lowestoft.

10 Lowestoft Journal, Friday, April 4, 1997

Westgate on Friday



By Trevor Westgate

MEMORIES

MY FIRST MEMORY STARTS FROM THE TIME I WAS A YOUNG SCHOOL GIRL (A LONG WHILE AGO). MY GRANDAD FIGURED A LOT IN MY LIFE THOSE DAYS HAD I LISTENED TO HIS TALKS OF HIS SAILING DAYS IN HIS BOAT, A SMACK, NAMED THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT. HOW HARD THEY WORKED, NO RAIN - WEATHER FORECAST - HIS

Dear Sir I was very surprised on reading my journal this week to see AGA FAMILY, a photo of myself. I am the one in the ON THIS middle of the bottom row of "Maids at School". I had forgotten all about it. I never had one of the snaps mys would love to have one, to rem of those hand working but I When I started there at old my wages were £12 a wk at £1 on the first of every My time off work, was 7 during the week, from 2- One Sunday morning from 1 next Sunday from 2



Maids at school: It was 1925 when a young Lowestoft girl went to work as a maid at St Felix School, Southwold. Now aged 86, Edith Rie, of Amy Court, has this photograph to remind her of those times so long past. She appears in the back row with her colleagues Anne, Lily and Alice. And in the front are Doris, Gerie and Jessie. How much time did they have off each week? And what was their annual wage?

Image: Mrs Billie Moore wrote to Trevor with 'Memories' of growing up in Lowestoft, whilst Jessie's letter was full of details of life as a 'tweenie' - an 'in between floors' maid in a girls' boarding school in Southwold.

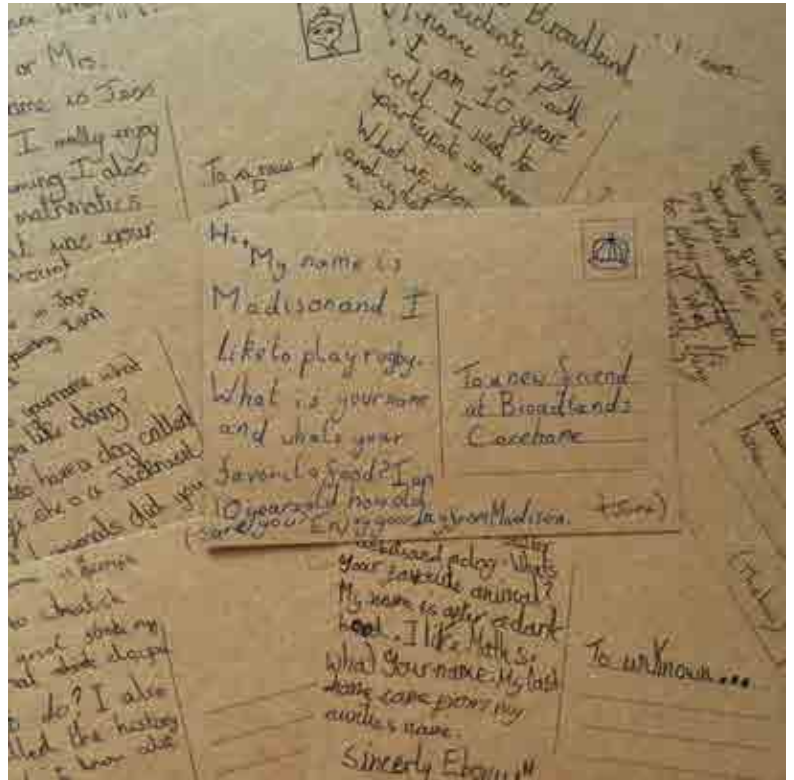
18 JANUARY 2022

Our first session together—and the children were asked to tell us two things people might not know about them and something they enjoyed doing.

From there, it was an easy step to jot that down on a postcard—but then came the strange part.

How do you address a card when you don't know the name of the person you're sending it to?

Simple—you address it to ...



A NEW FRIEND ...



Image top right: To a new friend: the children's postcards telling residents about some of their favourite things.

It's well known that a picture tells a thousand stories—and so we asked the children to draw a self-portrait, as well as write a postcard.

To help them, each was given a small mirror.

To make it more fun, they had to do the drawing in one continuous line, looking only in the mirror and not at the paper.

Then they got to add colour and details, with glorious results, as you can see in the example on the left.

18 JANUARY 2022

INK POTS AND TORTOISE STOVES

Billie Moore's letter prompted a group of Broadlands residents to discuss their experiences of childhood and school days.

There were stories about teachers who threw ink pots, and writing on slates with chalk and how they had to walk to school and if they were late they had to stay behind after school and write lines.

They talked of the 'smell' of schools—disinfectant, carbolic soap, chalk, and coal stoves—and their favourite subjects: geography, maths, cooking and rounders.

Many of these past experiences—and several current ones—were written down and shared back with the children, who were delighted to receive the postcards and amazed that anyone might be 102 years old.

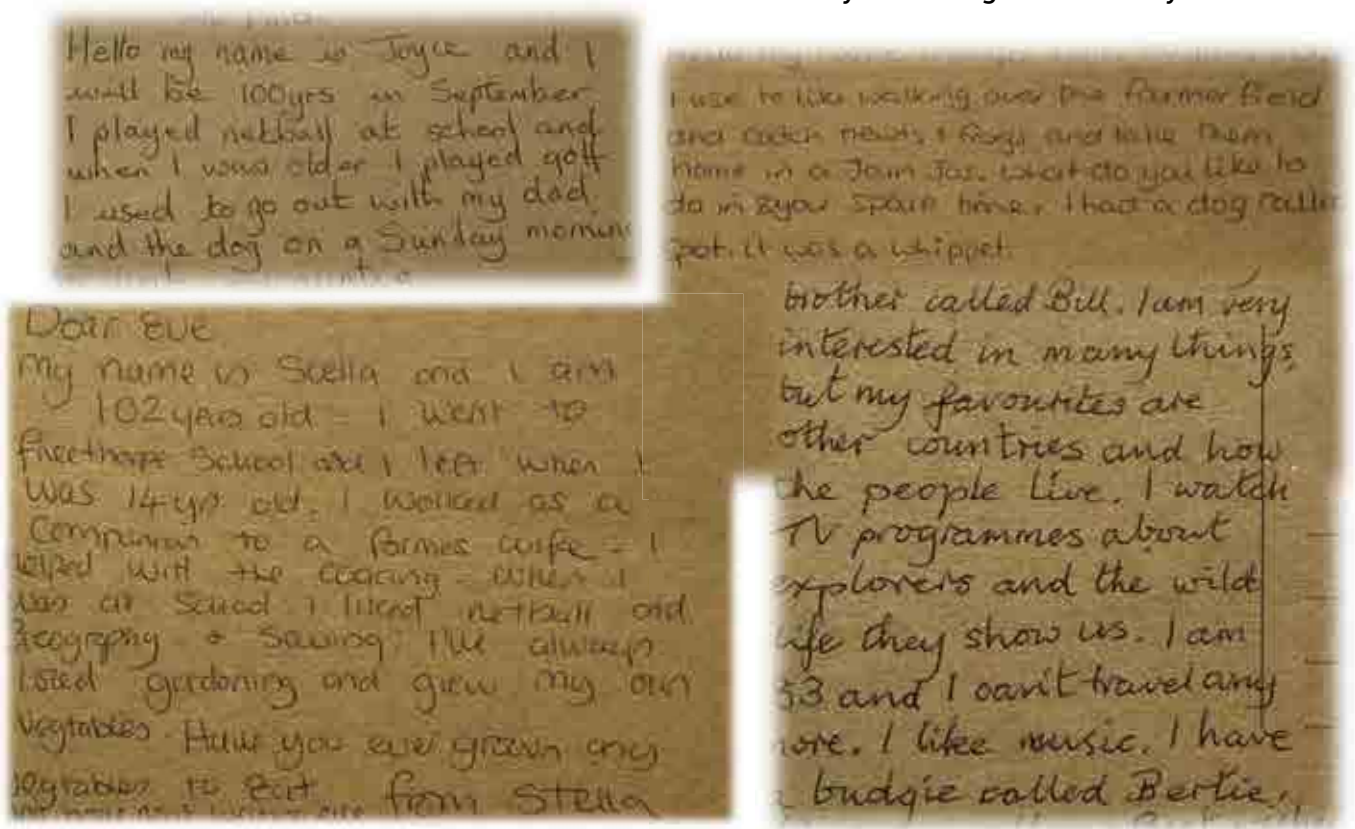


Image: Just a few of the many postcards sent by the residents, these being from Joyce, Gladys, Jane and Stella, recounting stories of Sunday morning walks, catching newts and frogs, keeping a budgie called Bertie and growing vegetables.

25 JANUARY 2022

"I was three and I went to a class called ducklings.

When I got there I was just too scared to talk to someone.

So I hid in the corner every day for a whole month, until I met a friend call Faith and we are besties now."

"I was running to my Mum on my first day, saying 'I don't want to be here' but Mum just ignored me."

First days at school



Image:

Each child wrote a series of memories, from what they wore to how they felt, about their first days at school.

Using Billie Moore's letter about 'First Memories' as a starting point, the children wrote tiny booklets, recalling their first days at school.

I never wanted to come back

From thinking the play-ground was 'massive', to having someone be sick in their lap ... for several the first few days sounded quite daunting and yet, as one pupil wrote: -

'I never wanted to go back. But here I am.'

25 JANUARY 2022

"It was interesting reading about how many of you worried about finding your way around when you started school. The residents all agreed it was a worry they shared with you on their first few days living here at Broadlands."

Lee—the activities co-ordinator at Broadlands, reporting back on the First Memories booklets

The second Westgate letter was from Jessie, who worked as a 'tweenie' maid.

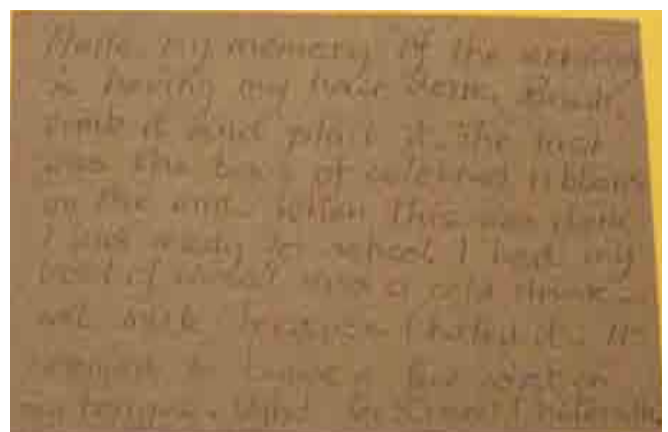
Her day started at 5:30a.m. and was full of tasks such as polishing brass taps, washing muddy shoes and cleaning out the fire grates.

The residents chatted about their early morning routines, both as youngsters and currently, and wrote about them for the children.

Ruth wrote about rising at 6:30 to feed the chickens before walking a mile to school, and Stella pointed out that, at 102, it took her a little while now 'to get up and go!'

Jane wrote about having her hair done each morning—and her continued hatred of milk.

Image: Jane's self portrait of having her hair plaited as a child and her postcard, explaining the process.



Have you grown vegetables?

A poetic response to Stella's question about growing vegetables

I would like to grow carrots, because I am a massive fan of them
I would like to grow carrots, because I am a bit of a rabbit and love carrots
I want to grow raspberries as they are very juicy
I'd like to grow raspberries since I love juicy fruit
I have grown tomatoes even though I hate tomatoes
I remember when my Dad grew chillies
I'd grow potatoes because then I could make my own crisps
Potatoes for me then I could make homemade chips
I would like to grow broccoli because they look like mini trees
I won't like to grow any vegetables because
I don't like any vegetables but I do like potato
So I would like to grow that, that is it.



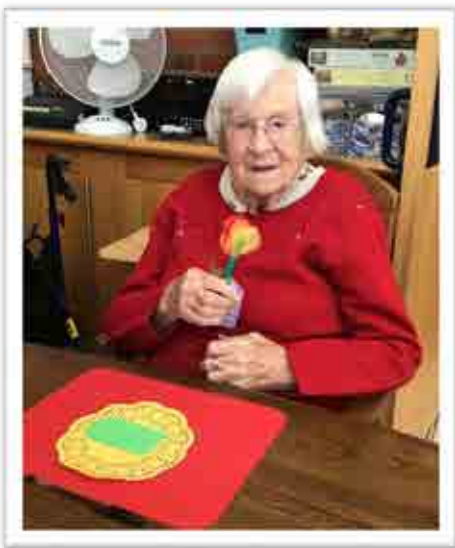
Image: Dean sowing the seeds of a vegetable poem.

1 FEBRUARY 2022

Say it with flowers



This week, Caitlin and the children made paper flowers, complete with floral spray, to send messages to the residents ... and the adults were thrilled to receive them.



“Then ... the flowers!!!
Big smiles and everyone enjoyed reading the cards.” Lee

3 FEBRUARY 2022



Images: left, Caitlin's Craft Kit.
Below, residents making the doily envelopes
and the finished cards and envelopes.



Crafting an answer

Each week, we sent an Activity Pack, along with the children's work, to the group at Broadlands.

This week, we also sent in Caitlin's Craft Kit, a step-by-step guide on making beautiful little envelopes out of doilies.

**"Oh, the excitement ...
was fabulous to see."** Lee

Posing the questions

The adults had lots of questions for the children to research when they visited the Suffolk Archives.

They were written on tiny pieces of card, wrapped in the pretty doily envelopes, and sent back for the children to open next week.



8 FEBRUARY 2022

“It’s just so beautiful—I don’t want to open it, I might spoil it.” A pupil, on receiving a doily envelope

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my total astonishment at the vast difference between formal letter writing and the composition of a simple text message.

I could write at length about it but, TBH, it might produce a TL;DR response and it certainly would not have you ROFL.

ICYMI, capital letters seem to imply one is shouting and accurate punctuation suggests the writer is in a state of some considerable agitation but NVM, just LMK if yer doin OK.

**Yours sincerely,
GTG!!!**



Why would you send a letter?
When would a postcard be more appropriate?
What do you say in a text?
How do you post magic?

All these questions, and more, were explored in Dean’s ‘I sent you this ...’ writing activity.

Images clockwise from top left: Introductions and signing off; The ‘I Sent You This ...’ poems’; pupils wondering what Dean will come up with next.

14 FEBRUARY 2022



Who was James Maconochie ?

What was front page news on 19th May 1931?

Where was the Fishing Village and what happened to it?

How many documents are in the Archives and why do they matter?

Has Nicholas Everitt Park changed over the years?

Where is Lovewell Road School now?

Who was Mr Hollingsworth?

We're off to Suffolk Archives, with our press packs and a parcel of questions from Broadlands.

There was so much for the children to look at and find out during their visit, from original hand-coloured maps that pre-dated the building of Broadlands, to newspaper headlines on microfiche and photographs of local parks.

Luckily, the children were able to bring many of the images away with them, so they will be able to continue working on them over the coming weeks.

14 & 17 FEBRUARY 2022



Greetings from The Hold



Images: Top left & right, images of parks, the Fishing Village and Lowestoft Hospital nurses. Above; Vintage postcard from Lowestoft.

Whilst the children visited Suffolk Archives, the residents took a brief Victorian Seaside Holiday.

Among the many virtual tours available via the Hold's website (www.suffolkarchives.co.uk) is this one, all about Lowestoft in its hey-day as a popular seaside resort.

From the comfort of their armchairs, rather than deckchairs, residents were given a guided tour by Dean who, as a Carlton Colville boy himself, was able to add more than just a little local colour.

1 MARCH 2022

HALF TERM HEADLINES

With the children back after the half term break, Dean gets them writing headlines, not only about the things they discovered at the Archives, but things they experienced during the holiday—including Storm Eunice.



Headlines from the Past

Everitts Park Opens (20th June 1929)

Cloud Looks Unusual

Fishing Village Flooded

Maconochie in a Pickle!

Howard Hollingsworth – The Millionaire with a Big Heart

Lord Russell Sent to Gaol (13th September 1961)

Lovewell Road School Missing Somewhere in Suffolk!

Headlines from the Present

Told Off Again – Why Is This Child So Naughty?

Mouse Found – Caught Eating Pancake!

Five Fence Panels Blown Away in Storm Eunice!

Girl Almost Flew Off Bridge – That's How Bad The Storm Was!

Handsome Face Found in Clouds – You Would Want To Date Him!

Girl Remembers Human Contact Exists!

8 MARCH 2022

Using images collected during the visit to Suffolk Archives, Caitlin introduced the two groups to the joys of wax resist techniques to add colour and depth to the pictures.

Many had never used this method of colouring pictures before and were delighted with the results.

Images from top right, clockwise:
A selection of 'water colours' by residents; the
Beach Village; Wherry by Carlton Marshes;
Another view of the Beach Village:
Gentleman considering the pond in Fen Park.



15 MARCH 2022

Personal Archives

We sent in tiny packs of coloured cards and asked the residents to tell us what they would choose to put into a personal archive.

There were four items; a thing, a sound, a smell and something that made them smile.

From a husband's medals to the smell of a favourite aftershave, the sound of church bells and the sight of family arriving to visit—all these things and more were shared.

To celebrate, Dean wrote the poem, *The Marvellous Collection*: he even made an audio recording of it, which we sent to the residents so that they could listen to Dean reading it.



Images: Top, individual archive packs, wrapped in vellum and tied with archive tape. Below: Some of the chosen items, with heart labels created by Lee.

"We had a great session today with our Special Delivery! We enjoyed the cards and thinking of things to archive ...

22 MARCH 2022

The Marvellous Collections

If we had the strangest magical archive
so our most precious things would always exist
a marvellous collection of sounds, smells and smiles
what would you want to add to the list?

The adults suggested:

The sound of a choir and Sunday church bells
or the buzz of children as they laughed and played
or a relaxing dream of a running stream
or Glenn Miller's Moonlight Serenade.

Or the warming smell of cakes baked in an oven
the odd whiff of tar, sniff of creosote or paint
or the window open and the aroma of spring flowers
or the pong of Old Spice that once made you go faint.

Or let's add that smile when your daughter arrives
or when you won at golf (it was more of a grin)
your happy face as you watch grandchildren painting their nails
or your biggest smile ever at your lottery win.

Somewhere secure for your necklace (a row of pearls)
or the piece of china from Spain or your angel ceramic
the safest space for that photo – father in his highlander kilt
a place near our heart for that one special gold locket.

“... it created a lovely conversation and the mood
was happy, cheerful and everyone enjoyed the morning.” Lee

22 MARCH 2022

The Marvellous Collections

The children suggested:

The patter of the rain when you're in a tent
the sound of lamb teddy pressed next to your ear
or the silence under water when you hold your breath
and all the sounds in the world disappear.

The smell of new books that makes you relax
or bacon frying for breakfast each Christmas day
the scent of nan's perfume, all lavender and roses
and freshly baked brownies made your own special way.

Your sister's smile when you make her laugh again
or when you see Bluebell the dog, running fast
and those super smiley faces in the playground
and big grins when you think of the past.

A place for your giant teddy with a red tie round its neck
and your toy cow or duck teddy you'll keep forever
and the hoverboard you got for your birthday
and mum & dad's wedding photo—all of us together.



The Art of Communication

From a luggage label wrapped up in a doily envelope, to an Easter Card decorated with images and text about Nicholas Everitt Park.

The art of communication made real by the pupils at Oulton Broad Primary School and residents at Broadlands Care Home.

29 MARCH 2022



Images: A series of Easter cards, created by the children at Oulton Broad, incorporating wax resist embellished archive images, headlines and other materials, to send to residents at Broadlands Care Home.

ABOUT SPECIAL DELIVERY

Special Delivery brings together primary school children and residents in care homes and independent living units to explore and share the art of communication, inspired by documents held by Suffolk Archives and county museums.

A programme of creative sessions led by professional artists encourages participants to consider different generational and cultural approaches to communication, from formal letter writing to the artful use of emojis.

Unable to meet face-to-face, participants exchange snippets of information and news about themselves, gradually getting to know one another and creating stories informed as much by what is left out as by what is shared.

Our thanks to the school and care staff, artists and designers, Suffolk Archives staff and volunteers for their support, enthusiasm—and splendid ideas.

And, of course, an enormous 'thank you' to the children and residents who took part; you all made **Special Delivery** very special indeed.

Suffolk Artlink

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Suffolk Artlink, Units 13 & 14, Malt Store Annex,
The Cut, 8 New Cut, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BY

01986 873955
enquiries@suffolkartlink.org.uk
www.suffolkartlink.org.uk

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