

## NOTES FROM THORNHAM

**M**y press photo of 22nd February 1934 shows the scene at Manor Farm in Wortham as three of the 50 bailiffs sent from Durham (no one local would do the job) remove one of the pigs seized for non-payment of the Church's tithes. Watching are two men of the East Suffolk Police and a mystery figure, perhaps an RSPCA inspector. The caption reads:

“The pigs and bullocks impounded for tithe arrears on the farm of Mr R. H. Rash at Wortham, Suffolk, were claimed and removed today. Large crowds of villagers and farmhands tried to break through the police cordon as the pigs and bullocks were removed in vans.”

Next day a protest meeting was held. By now interest was country-wide, the *Belfast News-Letter* of the 24th reported:

“Lady Evelyn Balfour last night headed a procession of farmers, smallholders, and farmworkers through the market town of Diss, and later addressed an anti-tithe demonstration there. Sandwich boards containing anti-tithe propaganda were carried by the farm workers.

The meeting was held in protest against the seizure on Thursday of 15 bullocks and 124 pigs on the farm of Mr R. H. Rash, at Wortham. Mr and Mrs Rash took part in the demonstration.

A resolution appealing to the Government to take immediate action with a view to an impartial investigation of the tithe question was carried unanimously. The meeting ended with Lady Evelyn leading cheers and the singing of “He’s a jolly good fellow” for Mr and Mrs Rash.”

Tithes were abolished in 1936. Perhaps the resolution had worked.



**APRIL EVENTS IN THE THORNHAMS** ● **Fri 13th:** Village Hall film special, 7.30, *Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars* ● **Fri 20th:** Village Hall film, 7.30, *Film Stars don't Die in Liverpool* ● **Sat 28th:** Solo violin concert, Parva church, 12 noon, £12, please book 01379 788130 or <http://musicatthornham.org.uk>