

NOTES FROM THORNHAM

On 1st and 2nd June 1983 Princess Margaret came to Suffolk, staying in Sternfield near Saxmundham with her old friend Lady Penn. On the first day she attended the Suffolk Show presenting long service certificates to 25 farm workers. Among them were Ernie Mayes and 'Riddler' Hawes who had worked for Michael Sturgeon at Chandos Farm in Thornham Parva for an extraordinary



In the garden of the Red House: Nora King, Ron Lucraft (behind HRH), HRH, Billy Howlett, Lord Henniker.

54 and 48 years respectively.

The next day HRH visited Leiston before coming to Thornham. She had known Lord Henniker since 1964 when he was Ambassador to Denmark and had hosted her and Lord Snowdon during a British Week. Now she wanted to see the pioneering changes John and Julia Henniker had

made since taking over the Thornham Estate, particularly projects employing and training young people.

After lunch at the Red House HRH met dignitaries and villagers, including Joyce Mayes who chatted with her about the long service award her husband had received the previous day.

HRH toured the previously ruinous Estate buildings that had been repaired and made in to workshops for small businesses over the last few years. At Red House Yards she met Tim Webster and Len Mills (furniture makers), Steve and Geoffrey Dickinson (concertina makers), Gordon Cant and Peta Truscott (weavers) and Alan Turner (harpsichord maker). The party then moved on to Thornham Hall where at the Stables HRH met Emily Mayer (taxidermist) and Ted Shewry (jeweller) and at the Walled Garden, Jill Davies and Nicholas Driver (herbalists).

Although the afternoon was generally fine, the planned later visits to the Islington-Suffolk campsite, and to Street Forge Workshops, where trainees on a Manpower Services Scheme learnt mechanics and repaired equipment for local playgroups, were cancelled because of bad weather.

The schedule ended an hour later than planned with tea at the Red House.