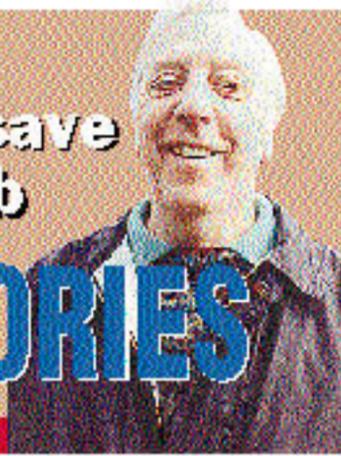


Ronnie's fight to save Lads Club

MEMORIES

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PIZZA

Three course meal for 3p

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Have-a-go shop man sends PO raiders packing

RELUCTANT HERO!

A BRAVE village shop owner today spoke of the moment when he chased off three armed raiders as they tried to rob a post office near Norwich.

David Cooper, who runs the village store at Easton, was attacked after the masked men burst into the store wielding baseball bats and an iron bar in front of children and shoppers.

But he managed to defend the post office and his shop and sent the men packing empty-handed.

Police today paid tribute to the man who refused to be robbed.

Mr Cooper told the Evening News: "I was in the shop and they burst in, and one of them was shouting hysterically and started hitting the glass front of the post office counter.

"I shouted at them and picked up a club which I

"I shouted at them and picked up a club which I keep and had a go. I think one of them was injured and I have a bit of a cut head today. But apart from that I'm all right.

by RICHARD GOODFELLOW

keep and had a go. I think one of them was injured and I have a bit of a cut head today, but apart from that I'm all right.

"The woman who helps in the post office part of the shop was behind the screen which was smashed in the attack. She is very shaken by the attack but was not injured."

But Mr Cooper, who has run the business with his wife Susan for eight years, played down suggestions that he was any kind of hero and said it was just something he had to do.

He added that he did not think the attempted robbery yesterday was as organised as an armed raid on the post office four years ago in which more than £8000 was stolen.

Young children and their parents were in the shop, which serves Marlingford and Easton, at the time of the lunchtime raid, but none of them was hurt.

Today the village shop was due to open as normal, although the post office will remain closed until Monday while glass panelling is repaired.

The three men fled from the store into a stolen blue Ford Escort, registration D82 SPP. It left the post office, in Marlingford Road, at about 12.35pm.

▶ turn to page 3



Photos: KEITH WHITMORE

RAID DRAMA: Easton village shop owner David Cooper (above, centre) talks to a police officer at the door of the post office after the attempted robbery.

Right: the blue Ford Escort used in the incident is recovered from nearby Ringland Lane, where it was abandoned by the raiders.



Fans give Mike warm welcome

MIKE Walker (pictured) was hailed as the returning hero by Norwich City Football Club fans who flocked to hear the new boss speak.

Walker pleased the supporters by saying that he did not want any of his players to leave the club.

But the new manager refused to be drawn on who would be wearing the captain's armband when the new season begins next month.

At last night's meeting, attended by hundreds of supporters and held at St Andrew's Hall, Norwich, supporters' leader Roy Blower (pictured right) called on Norwich City fans to stump up some cash to help the Carrow Road club out of its present financial nightmare.

■ Full story — turn to page 3



Ex-coxswain calls it a day

THE former coxswain of the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston lifeboat has announced his retirement as the boat's mechanic on health grounds.

Richard Hawkins (pictured) was asked to stand down as coxswain six weeks ago because he had not reached the technical standards needed for the new boat.

■ Full story — page 4



■ Lads Club boss tells of sleepless nights — page 14

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