# KEITH SKIPPER'S CONFESSIONS OF A NORFOLK SQUIT MERCHANT

Norfolk's most valuable and durable commodity - wholesome squit - has kept Keith Skipper company for over six decades in his native county. "I believe I am a one-off... and I have the scars to prove it" he declares. Now, in this entertaining new book, he pays tribute to those who encouraged him along the way, the young Skipper, a country boy with a keen sense of humour and a proud feeling for a place all too often dismissed as " on the road to nowhere."

Confessions of a Norfolk Squit Merchant describes a colourful journey from village hall, horse-powered harvest and wayside chapel to newspaper adventures, a BBC microphone and countless curtain calls in temples of rustic culture. Keith founded and led the Press Gang, a troupe of local entertainers, to spread the squit gospel for 25 years " at a time when dull uniformity threatened to take over." They became known as the greenest group in the business, ready to recycle any old rubbish ...

Norfolk's leading squit merchant comes clean in a compelling volume where king-sized characters abound.

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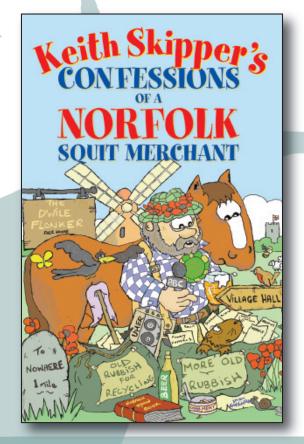
### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Keith Skipper is one of Norfolk's most outspoken defenders, writing and talking about his home county with undiluted humour and passion. He has written two dozen books, many of them celebrating the unique quality of Norfolk dialect and wit and has produced videos and CDs too. He was founder-chairman of Friends of Norfolk Dialect (FOND), set up in 1999 'to help get rid of those abominable Mummerzet tones in so many national television and radio productions.' He has led the Press Gang, a troupe of local entertainers, around village halls for over twenty years, and is continuously in demand as a speaker at all kinds of functions. He was recently appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Norfolk, an honour underlining his commitment to 'a wonderful place still happily on the Road to Nowhere.' Keith lives in Cromer on the North Norfolk coast with wife Diane and sons Danny and Robin - 'not too far from Chelseaon-Sea".

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Spooky fun with local historian Neil Storey.



Ready for the last lap of the Press Gang circuit in 2008.



What a team! Press Gang performers prepare for their final tour at North Walsham Motorcycle Museum.

Example of a double page spread

CONFESSIONS OF A NORFOLK SQUIT MERCHANT



Punetodity is the art of guessing how late the other person will be.

## **Early Signs**

This is my fourth volume dedicated exclusively to the glories of Norfolk equit - but the first to pay full tribute to what it has done for me since it became clear I would duty in my native county to perfect joined-up writing, cast-off thinking and made-to-necoure marding.

There are still those who consider it inconceivable that anyone claiming to be part of a modern media world rattling along the international information super-highway should be stack down a country lane exchanging droll yarns, dialect phrases and degratiti (web.)

But that's the beauty of Norfolk. It allows a parochial renegade not only the right to exist with inquarity but also to flourish without embarrasement in a climate where "dew diffrunt" susshine regularly breaks through the clouds of dull uniformity.

I became the first boy in our village to pass the 11-plus examination and so head for grammar school in 1955. That's where burgeoning joined-up writing and teckin' proper came in handy, although efforts to sabetage end-of-term reports with small additions in perceil like "intelleprien" and "ownessed" dinth readly fool my parents. They looked or pattry marks for most subjects and learnt other new words (opeli correctly) such as "frivoluse", "indoken", "discustors and "service for most subjects."

It wasn't my fault that most of the cloak-and-swagger brigade with "Cantah" and "Dom" ofter their rames didn't fully appreciate the educational value of wholesame Norfolk squit Surely a revelation that "wood comes from trees and many of these are to be found in Cantah" and a suggestion that "Chaucer get hold of the Pardoner's Tale when it hung out of the back of his leather.

Definition of a dentist - a collector of old magizines.

Right: A Norfolk Compo gets to grips with Nora Batty. A touching scene from the Mother Goose pantomime at Norwich Theatre Royal when I made my professional debut.

Far right: Former Cromer lifeboat coxswain Richard Davies shows his skill at traditional step-dancing.



