

# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

## LOCAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE PROJECT:

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No  
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Spring  
2003

### WALKING THE FIELDS OF FULBOURN

During November/December 2002 seven residents from Fulbourn have spent their Sunday mornings field walking with Cambridge Archaeology Field Group. We intended to gain some practical experience before organising our own field walking exercise in Spring 2003.

It proved a very rewarding and useful time. Many of our initial concerns were unfounded which perhaps may be best summed up as follows:

- It is NOT considered productive to field walk when the weather is wet! (The combination of mud and water do not help recognition of objects - and are not good for morale. Best conditions are harder ground after frost, whilst wearing warm clothing).
- You are NOT constantly bending down to collect items of interest. The favoured technique is to walk upright, slowly, keeping your attention ahead on no more than a metre either side of your path (or traverse).
- You do NOT have to cover every centimetre of ground in sight. You are restricted to only collecting from your particular section of the traverse (see above) and as far as possible to keeping a straight path. (Wandering off at an angle can skew data collection).
- You are NOT let onto the field without proper direction. The points of departure and points to aim towards are clearly marked out before the walking begins.
- You are NOT expected to identify artefacts on site, and very soon learn to distinguish the difference between ordinary stones and pottery shards, etc. (Examples of what to look for are available beforehand and consultation with experts is encouraged).
- You are NOT ridiculed if you collect finds that turn out to be modern rubbish, etc. Too much is better than too little (or nothing) since there is less likelihood of missing important evidence.
- It is NOT a real problem if artefacts are missed, since the scale used when plotting finds is very

generous, and precise accuracy is impossible. Moreover, in the future later disturbance of the topsoil by ploughing etc. may reveal further evidence.

- It is NOT a failure on your part if you see nothing of interest. Very often there is nothing of interest to find - which conversely is of considerable significance when determining settlement patterns.



**Field-walking volunteers about to develop that sense of well being and satisfaction!**

- You are NOT expected to provide expensive equipment. Warm waterproof clothing and footwear are advisable for your comfort. However, cheap triangular plasterer's trowels are adequate for prising pottery etc from the ground. (So far I have managed with a dandelion weeding tool, though I might buy a more robust and costly - ie about £12.00 - trowel which will, of course, last longer.
- You are NOT expected to return home without a feeling of great satisfaction in performing a task that contributes to an understanding of our local heritage.
- You are NOT expected to return home without a sense of well-being resulting from time spent in the fresh air and the pleasure of shared experiences whilst involved with an enthusiastic team of like-minded people.

For further information regarding Field Walking in Fulbourn please contact me, Glynis Arber, on 01223 570887



# AUTUMN LECTURE REVIEWS - by Glynis Arber

## A "MAGIC" EVENING

The 90 members and guests who attended a "History of Magic" in December were intrigued and amused by John Whitmore's fascinating slide show tracing the story of magical entertainment. Billboard posters from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards provided evidence of families and individuals who made their living persuading the public they had extra-sensory perceptions, control over electricity and the ability to make people and objects disappear. The account was enlivened by John's anecdotes and humour and complemented by his spell-binding performance of magic tricks based on the "boxed sets" that were marketed for the public under the names of the popular illusionists of the day.

Yet even before the evening began, another kind of magic had been achieved in the premises of Townley Hall! An energetic band of volunteers from the History Society had spent the day preparing the room for our pre-Christmas social event. The first test of ingenuity was a hunt to find the vanishing power supply. Eventually discovered cunningly hidden in the kitchen, we managed our own feat of illumination - and turned on the lights! Our intrepid workers next displayed their amazing talent by manoeuvring 100+ chairs out of an incredibly cramped storage area. This task was followed by deft balancing acts involving the erections of trestle tables that seemed, eerily, to be possessed with a mind of their own.

A somewhat prosaic setting of rather battered benches and plastic chairs became, with a few words of supernatural incantation, the classic transformation scene displaying warmth and seasonal hospitality, which greeted our members on their arrival. In essence this was simple - make the tables look attractive - but had actually involved considerable sleight of hand. For the uninitiated I will explain that a paper banqueting roll requires considerable expertise to cover a table smoothly and needs a special kind of origami at each corner. Also, if you don't want to end up looking like the lead character in "The Mummy", working in pairs is recommended and always keep a close eye on the scissors - they keep disappearing. (John Whitmore might like to take notes on this phenomena!) Finally, the addition of Christmas crackers and lovely

## A LANDSCAPE FEATURE!

In January members of the History Society were lucky enough to enjoy the expertise of a very accomplished speaker, Tony Kirby. Many may remember with fondness his last visit, three years ago, when he lectured on local trains - which like the current commuter experience, was a standing-room only situation. This time Tony's subject was the "Landscape of mid-Anglia, 1830-1914". Using a combination of maps, diagrams and slides he enthusiastically portrayed the incredible population explosion of the first 50 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which ultimately changed the face of our local landscape. It was fascinating to discover how the enclosure of open fields led to expanded urban development, allowing arable land to be sold to speculators who, on many occasions it appears, squeezed in as many houses as possible (sound familiar?).

candle-enhanced foliage arrangements (produced by Ivy and Janet, not exactly from out of a hat but from the boot of a car) completed the transformation process triumphantly.

Meanwhile dozens of oranges and lemons had been fed into her aptly named "Magimix" by Linda, emerging neatly sliced and ready for the ultimate conjuring trick: turning rather ordinary bottles of Cabernet Sauvignon into delicious, spicy mulled wine. The final act in this magical production was a variation of the never-ending supply of handkerchiefs/flags/balls routine. In our case, it consisted of mulled wine and warm mince pies (kindly made by members of the Society) which circulated amongst the audience, with no apparent end in sight. It certainly contributed to the conviviality of those present and, combined with John Whitmore's riveting performance, the last meeting of the year became, indeed, a truly magical evening.



PS Such events do not, in fact, appear as if by magic - they are produced by the dedicated efforts of an unfortunately rather small (ie about 10 out of a membership of 166) band of volunteers from the Society. You will, we know, appreciate that the more people who offer to help then the easier and quicker it becomes to arrange. This was the first time I had co-ordinated such an evening - and I was initially somewhat nervous. My concerns proved invalid. The procedures are by now well established and every one knew, or was able to find out, precisely what was required from them (and could make alternative suggestions if these were more suitable). I might add that we had a lot of fun in the process! If you feel you could give a few hours of your time in the future towards similar activities, please contact your Secretary, Glynis (01223 570887) or Ivy Smith (01223 880203).

Other interesting connections between the economic and social history of the period were disclosed, including improved transport facilities which encouraged the migration from countryside to town. Similarly, as steam power began to be used in agriculture, farm buildings became more factory inspired. Subsequently, the traditional concentration of farm houses within the village centre began to disperse when farmers relocated their homes and, instead, resided within the boundaries of their own land.

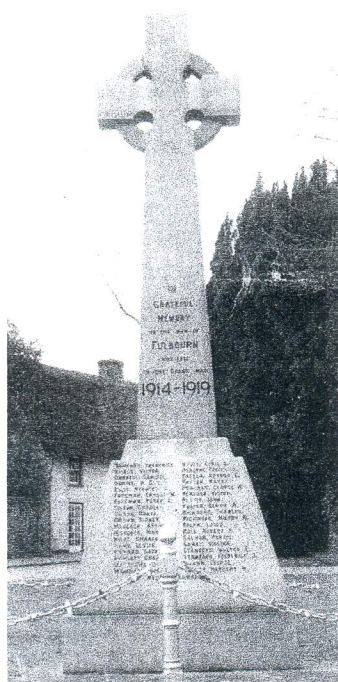
These changes and their effect upon society, occurred comparatively quickly. Indeed, it is the aim of **Fulbourn Village Research Project** that an exploration into the evolution of our own village be undertaken and recorded before evidence of the past, together with the opportunity to appreciate our local heritage, disappears altogether.



## HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

This project, an integral part of the Local Heritage Initiative is aimed to discover more about the medieval origins of Fulbourn. Buildings which have survived from much earlier periods have mainly been enlarged and adapted over the years to adapt to latest trends and requirements. Changes in building techniques, materials and style give reliable indications as to when modification occurred.

We are fortunate in having Adam Menuge, an expert in this field from English Heritage in our midst. Adam has recently been training a dozen volunteers in the techniques of observation, interpretation and recording essential details. There are 55 listed buildings in the village with an further 30 or so which would merit investigation. Our first 'hands on' surveying starts in March for completion within 18 months. Many householders have already declared an interest in being surveyed and we will be approaching other likely candidates shortly. If you are interested in taking part in this fascinating project please contact Tony Goodall on 880401 as soon as possible.



### THE VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

To coincide with Armistice Day (11 November) the Society invited Maggie Goodall, Conservation Officer of Friends of War Memorials, to speak to members about the valuable work undertaken by the Friends. She gave a fascinating slide presentation illustrating the valuable and complex work of the charity. Members were informed about conservation issues and those aspects which contribute towards an awareness of the spiritual, archaeological, artistic, aesthetic and historical significance of war memorials as part of our national heritage.

**Fulbourn's own familiar War Memorial - given brief but favourable mention by Maggie Goodall during her talk.**

### FULBOURN COMMUNITY QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 22 March 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

We've been invited to take part in this popular event which brings together representatives of the many groups and societies that contribute to the village's social life. The Society would very much like to enter a team (or two) so if you're not already committed to another team and fancy a go, then telephone Glynis on 570887. Supper can be pre-ordered through her - the choice is Fish 'n' Chips at £3.75 per person or Chicken 'n' Chips at £3.39 per person.; cheques should be payable to Fulbourn Village History Society. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening. So, go on, volunteer for a fun evening and telephone Glynis (570887) **NO LATER THAN 10 MARCH.**

## SURVEYING THE ANCIENT EARTHWORKS IN FULBOURN MANOR ESTATE



The Fulbourn Manor Estate contains many undisturbed areas where the ground features have not yet been systematically recorded and interpreted. English Heritage have recently provided the initial training of member and community volunteers in simple straightforward survey techniques, and helped establish the survey framework. They are also assisting with the interpretation of ground features so we can better understand what activities may have taken place in the distant past on the various sites. Survey work will continue throughout February and March 2003 and resume again in winter 2003/4.

Does this work interest you? Would you like to help? If you would, then please contact either Peter Halton (01223 880465) or Glynis Arber (01223 570887) who will be happy to tell you all about the surveying project.

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE

**Cambridgeshire, A Land of Plenty**

Saturday 8 March 2003, 10.00 am -5.00 pm.

Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge

It has taken over two millennia to reveal Cambridgeshire's potential for making a significant contribution to the rural economy of Britain. In prehistory, the fen edge and uplands provided good farmland. This potential was exploited by the Romans, and expanded with drainage of the Fens through to modern times. The conference will address the development of arable farming in the county and the associated transport of land products to destinations beyond its boundaries.

The programme includes The ingredients of prehistoric Cambridgeshire (*Mark Knight & Chris Evans*), Designs on the Fens 1000-2000 AD (*Nick James*), Changing patterns of arable farming from the Middle Ages to the 19th century (*Tom Williamson*), Transport & the rural economy of Cambridgeshire 1750-2003 (*Tony Kirby*), Smallholdings for the unemployed in inter-war Cambridgeshire 1935-1982 (*Peter Clarke*) & Chivers & Sons, Farmers & Preserves 1817-1959 (*Eleanor Whitehead*)

Fulbourn Village History Society is affiliated to the Antiquarian Society so members wishing to attend the conference will pay only £6 per person. A sandwich lunch may be booked at the same time at £4.00 per head. If you are interested in attending the conference, please give Glynis a ring **NO LATER THAN 26 FEBRUARY.**



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

*The following is an extract from the written recollections of R G Hart*

## **FULBOURN VILLAGE - Part II**

Also you could register births and deaths at Mr Bayford on the High Street. Then the Garage where Mr William Ward sold bicycles and sold petrol and charged accumulators for 4d. Across the road the Six Bells, very old, kept by Mr Walter Ward. The Paper Shop owned by Mrs M Webb and Fish Shop Mr E Webb. The papers were only 1d in those days. There used to be stables in the Six Bells Yard where my late father-in-law kept his horses. They held the Annual Feast in there for years. Mannings Roundabouts and Cakewalk. My late husband used to supply the coal for the engines. Across the road was the family Doctor L Nicholls who used to ride on horseback. I can remember his horse. Then he had an open-top Morris car, he believed in plenty of fresh air. He could be seen walking in a very long coat with fur collar taking the Airedale dog for a walk. He was abrupt but kind to his patients. They had local women to work for them, Miss D Cooper and Elizabeth Matthews and others. The surgery was very small and medicine used to be put on a windowsill. Miss D Nicholls was a very stately lady wearing tailor-made suits and brogue shoes. She was a Magistrate always ready to help anyone who went to her in trouble. Also she had a sister Miss Margery who lived at the Harrow, with nieces and nephews she did a lot for the village.

Empire Day with all the decorated wagons and floats and then tea on the Manor lawn. Miss Selina Townley sang Britannia with Irene Farthing and Miss Golding as attendants. Then I came to live on Chaffey Row where my daughter Joan was born. When she was eighteen months old I went to the Rising Sun as landlady. Fulbourn had no piped water, only taps dotted about the village. Gas and electricity came in the late twenties. Street lighting by gas and later by electricity. There were lots of wells in the gardens, two in the Rising Sun. The pub was very old and

## **CARAWAY'S CHARITY & THE BOLEYN FAMILY**

Did you know that Anne Boleyn has an indirect connection with Fulbourn through the above charity? John Caraway or Careway was Rector of St Vigor's from 1433-1441. His giant or "cadaver tomb" may be seen on the north side of the sanctuary. He left his estate as a charity for the poor of the parish.

Queen Anne Boleyn's great-grandfather, Geoffrey Boleyn (or Bullen, the original version of the name) and her great-grand-uncle Thomas Boleyn are both mentioned in documents concerning this charity. Geoffrey and Thomas Boleyn were sons of a plain Norfolk squire, Geoffrey Bullen and his wife Alice, who lived at the family's old home Sall Moor Hall and are buried in Sall Church. Young Geoffrey, like many young men before and after him, went to London to seek his fortune.

Although the Fulbourn Parish Records refer to him throughout merely as "citizen and mercer" of London, Geoffrey, as well as becoming a prosperous London merchant, was knighted and became Lord Mayor in 1457. In contrast, his brother Thomas received a university education and as well as holding various ecclesiastical preferments, became the seventh Master of Gonville Hall in 1454.

we took it after Mr F Stearn. The brewers were J J E Phillips, Royston Fine Ales. I spent nearly eighteen years there seeing the Silver Jubilee the 1937 Coronation and VE Day. Some were happy, some were sad. The War came in 1939, I had evacuees and saw lots of soldiers for whom I made soup, washed and mended socks. One night we had a raid and a stick of ten bombs fell round that area. I had the bomb they took up and collected money for the troops. I can remember searchlights at the back of the Hospital and troops being billeted in the village. One day a soldier brought his wife to me and asked if I would put her up for the night. It was a cold November day, I took her in and we remained friends ever since. After the War I received many letters from mothers and wives of soldiers I had helped.

Next to the Rising Sun is a little bungalow which was known as The Nook; it was just like a dolls house. Mr M Sargent built it for a Mr E Richmond. Beside the gate is another small cottage which was lived in many years ago. In the same road was Mr L D Knights the Undertaker for whom my late husband fetched people in his lorry in coffins from different places where they died. Then there are some more lovely old thatched cottages, St Martins as it is now named and further on, two more. Then there was a very dear old gentleman by the name of Jonathan Sallows who grew mustard and cress in a broken down greenhouse for 2d a large bunch. Also he had lovely sweet grapes which he would send to sick people. There were more cottages at the top of Highfield Gate which a lot have gone. Then there came a Mr J White who delivered the milk by horsed float and put in jugs at the door.

*To be continued in the Summer Issue.*

## **AN EXTRACT FROM CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY'S BULLETIN FOR 1968:**

In the 1967 BULLETIN an essay by Mr Tom Newton of Fulbourn mentioned "gault engines". This reference intrigued one of our members who wrote to ask him what these were. Here is his reply:

"About the 'gault engines' which we used to make to keep our hands warm in winter. Strangely enough I have not heard of these from any other source and being away in Scotland all these many years I have not had much opportunity to meet my old school pals of the early years of this century. These so-called engines were made of clay which we shaped with our hands from soft, putty-like clay into something the shape of a steam engine - hollowed out with an opening in the front for the 'fuel' and a chimney for the smoke to escape. We filled it with what we called 'touchwood' which was soft decayed wood from old trees.

## **DON'T FORGET ...**

The History Hut at the back of the former Infant School site in Haggis Gap is open most Monday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. You are invited to call in and make use of the extensive archive material or take a dip into the Victorian County History of Cambridgeshire; call by an see what we can show you - you'll be pleasantly surprised!