

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

N
E
W
S
L
E
T
T
E
R

No
14

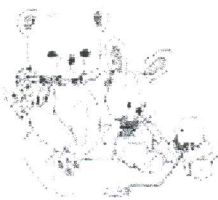
Winter
2003

YOUR HOME'S HISTORY

The Society is attempting to compile an up-to-date and accurate record of ALL buildings in the Parish. It would be most helpful if every FVHS member could check the deeds of their home and let Tony Goodall (tel. 880401) have the following information:

- Date built
- Builder's name
- Alterations together with dates & builder, if known
- Your name and those of any previous occupants together with dates, if known
- Any other interesting information relating to the property
- Name (or number) and postal address of property
- If you are unable to discover exact details, please give best estimate and state "estimate"
- Please let Tony Goodall (880401) have this information
- Once we have your information we can spread the net wider.

**Don't miss
our November
meeting -
TOYS & GAMES
from Cambridge
Folk Museum at
Six Bells 7.45 pm**



**TIME TO RE-LIVE
YOUR CHILDHOOD ??**



ITS AILEEN IN A HOLE AGAIN !

For those who missed out on Aileen Connor's explanations of siting and finds from recent local training 'digs' a brief summary is on page 4 but look out for fuller information in our next newsletter with more space.
Not to be missed!

A CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

The ongoing Local Heritage Initiative needs your help. There are various opportunities open to members ranging from pot washing to helping survey homes to assisting with the surveying of part of the Nature Reserve. For information about these and other opportunities to use your time and skills to the advantage of the village and society please telephone Glynis Arber on 01223 570887.

FULBOURN WW1 & WW2 MEMORIALS AND THE V.A.D. HOSPITAL DETAILS ON WEB.

Details of the above have now been put on the internet by the Society's Vice-Chairman Norman Osborne. Those members with home internet access can view the site by inputting www.roll-of-honour.com on the address bar, then click on No.2 Roll of Honour Cambridgeshire, roll the screen to Memorials, click on Fulbourn and Fulbourn's Roll of Honour which in St Vigor's Church will show together with a piece on the history of Fulbourn's VAD Hospital.



**COMING SOON
THE CHRISTMAS
EVENT
See Insert !**

STUCK FOR IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

Did you know the Fulbourn Chronicles are still available and that for an extra £10.50 you can buy a condensed edition bound in a blue hard-back cover, total cost £46. Individual volumes are prices as follows:

Volume I	1750-1850 @	£7.00
Volume II	1851-1900 @	£10.00
Volume III	1901-1930 @	£10.00
Volume IV	1931-1955 @	£8.00

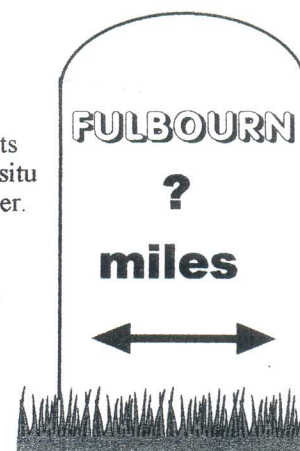
Please telephone Norman Osborne (0123 880303) if you are interested in buying these books which made ideal birthday or Christmas gifts.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Aerial photographs are an invaluable way of monitoring the progress of the development of our Parish as they record the situation at the exact time the photograph was taken. Many companies such as 'Air Marketing International' or 'Get Mapping plc' and others, including private individuals overflying the Parish, have taken photographs during the past fifty years or so. If you have any such copies or know the whereabouts of any, please let us know so we can make a copy and use these to produce a more accurate and definitive record of the History of Fulbourn. Contact Tony Goodall (880401) in the first instance if you can help.

DISAPPEARING MILESTONES & MILEPOSTS

At the outbreak of World War II practically all milestones and mileposts in the UK were removed or buried in situ to try and confuse any potential invader. If anyone knows the whereabouts or original positions of any pre-war milestones or mileposts in this Parish, please let us know. Tony Goodall (880401) is the man to speak to.



SUMMER VISIT TO WANDLEBURY

Twenty-five members enjoyed the summer visit - a guided tour around Wandlebury Country Park. The visit was both informative and entertaining, with Ranger John Gibbs providing an amusing and factually detailed commentary. We learnt about the history of the Cambridge Preservation Society who gave financial help for the purchase of the land and buildings encompassing Wandlebury Ring.

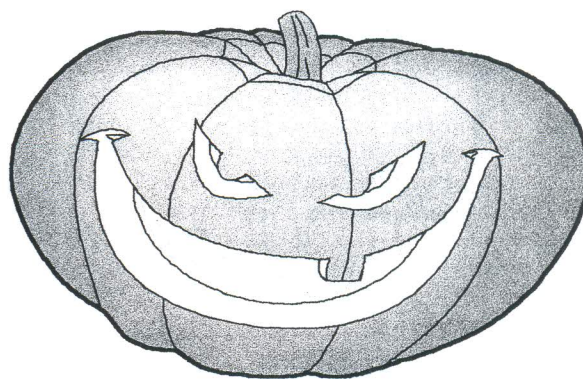
The Cambridge Preservation Society was also responsible for saving a derelict 15thc grain store and re-erecting it at the Country Park. Many of the original timbers and peg tiles have been preserved, and it was a very instructive experience to see the latter in situ, especially for those members who have had a practical acquaintance with peg tiles whilst washing the many hundreds excavated from Fulbourn's own moated area at Hall Orchard! The grain store at Wandlebury is used for exhibition purposes and is also home to a colony of pipistrelle bats. It further appears that bats have now been encouraged to live in a nearby underground tunnel! This tunnel had apparently been built so that a former Lady of the Manor (who presumably had an over-developed sense of privacy) would not see the servants as they left the grounds. Oh for the good old days! Although the main house has long since been demolished, the stables and servants' wing still remains, reminding the visitor that for 200 years Wandlebury was renowned as a training stable for race-horses. In fact, an important figure in racing history, Lord Godolphin, built the mansion and a stone marks the reputed grave of his prize stallion, Godolphin Arabian who, although never raced, is the ancestor of today's thoroughbred race-horses.

Finally, we walked along the outer ring of Wandlebury and found the Ranger refreshingly honest in expressing the view that the reason and meaning for the rings construction, though certainly they may have been for defensive or religious purposes, is as yet unclear. We left feeling satisfied that we had all learnt a great deal more about this local beauty spot. However, one question remained a puzzle: how can you tell the time from the one-handed clocks which are built on each of the four sides of the stable tower at Wandlebury?

NIMBLE FINGERS & TIME TO SPARE?

We still need help to enter data on to the computer database. John Patten and Joyce Shingler have been typing away now for several months but the number of accessions is growing all the time and they are battling against a backlog. Many of our "Young Pensioners" have now spent almost a year learning how to drive a computer and are no doubt yearning to put their new-found skills to the test. An hour or so a week from a few willing helpers would soon shift the backlog of accessions and bring the Society's records up-to-date. It's an easy - and sociable - task requiring hardly any training so why not give it a go? Contact John Patten (880852) to find out more.

PUMPKINS & FUNDRAISING



A very successful coffee morning was held on 23 August at the home of our Chairman, Peter Halton.

Although only 43 people came along, the magnificent sum of £154 was raised for funds. The pumpkin growing on Linda's compost heap attracted many comments and it made its next appearance at the October meeting when, instead of the usual raffle, members were invited to guess the pumpkins' weight. The winner was Mr Sprague who correctly guessed the pumpkin weighed 60lbs; he went home with a bottle of good wine and Linda took the pumpkin home to turn into pumpkin soup.

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

CHARACTERS OF FULBOURN

'Rooksie' the Poacher was evidently a merry fellow, never short of a quip. He went about dressed in rags and slept where he could, ending up in the ruins of an old house near Teversham Road railway crossing. When in hospital after being knocked over by a train he asked the nurses to cut open his coat lining where they found £150 which he asked to be shared between the hospital and the rest towards the restoration of the old gate to the church.

Mrs Chappell was a female carrier who used to walk from Wilbraham to Fulbourn and back, carrying medicines, newspapers and parcels - always heavily loaded in all weathers.

Dr F Nicholls, OBE was the village doctor from 1888. He often visited his patients on horseback accompanied by his wife who held the horse whilst he attended to his patients. Often he would just ride up to the door, knock with his whip whilst still in the saddle, often prescribing by the wayside. It was his efforts that brought the first nurse to the village in 1903, Nurse Upchurch, and the first trained midwife, Nurse Boreham. He did much for servicemen and their families whom he treated free. After a busy life serving the village in many ways he died in 1942.

John Frederick Herring, the renowned painter of race horses, farm animals and country scenes, lived at The Poplars on Wilbraham Road. It is said that because he used to work on Sundays, the Devil appeared to him and scared him so much that he never finished the studio he was building at the back of the house.

Fulbourn Customs

On Valentine's Day, when school day was finished, the children would go to The Manor where they danced around the statue of William III singing

"Good morning, Valentine
Curl your locks as I do mine
2 before and 2 behind
So, good morning Valentine"

whilst the Lord of the Manor threw pennies and halfpennies for them to catch.

On May Day, hoops were decorated with flowers and dolls tied to them. The children then danced around the village singing whilst the villagers threw them pennies.

The Fen Fire

Hearsay has it that in 1921 the Fen caught fire through someone lighting a grass fire. It is said that it burned slowly for a considerable time, maybe as long as six years. It burnt off the peat so that the land sank and was subsequently flooded. It is even rumoured that fish appeared and were caught and even that in the winter months there was skating!

CONTINUING WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE WRITTEN RECOLLECTIONS OF FULBOURN VILLAGE LIFE BY R. G. HART

Then there was the Co-Operative round the corner which came in the early twenties. The Harrow was used during the War for an Ambulance Station and Home Guard. St Osyth was used for the WI and Conservative Meetings and the little shoe shop at Mr Dare's was a Doctor's Surgery used by Dr Cafferey which he later moved to Yew Cottage, the home of Mr C Page. Barretts Yard had some very old cottages as well. We also had a village hall built by Mr Townley's father in 1925. Mr H Whitmore was caretaker. We had dances every week with Coe's Band, admission 1/6d and refreshments; also pictures on a Wednesday night. There was a very old barn owned by Mr A B G Chaplin, Forage and Corn Merchant, which has now disappeared. I can remember the lych gates being put up, also a very important wedding: Miss Selina Townley to the Dean of Gloucester, very pretty with a covered canopy from the gates to the church and a large party on the lawn. There was the Rector the Rev. Hennessey - a very fine gentleman going round visiting the sick.

We had two bus services - Ortona and Longs; the return fare was 6d. There were two nurses in the village, Nurse Whitmore and Nurse Barham, with handkerchief caps more like nuns. Also you could go on a train on a 10/- weekly ticket. In School Lane was Hall Farm owned by Mr Wright which had a very bad fire which burnt several stacks. Also there was the Working Mens Institute which was used in the Great War as a hospital for soldiers. Then the school with the Misses Beaumont, Hughes and Golding as teachers and Mr & Mrs Hollman as school master and mistress. At the end of School Lane was an elm tree and pond where ducks used to swim on the water. I can also remember when there was an awful outbreak of foot & mouth disease at Rectory Farm; all cattle had to be burnt. In Dogget Lane there used to be a lovely field of walnut trees which is now a housing estate. Then there was another one of the stands where they used to fill up the water carts.

There were eleven public houses and the British Legion Hall where they held whist drives. Barclays Bank used to come once a week there and Lloyd Bank was on the corner. Mr Keep and Mr French both served in this village, also Mr Farthing as policeman. Mr F Chaplin farmed at Northfield Farm and Mr Moore and then Mr G Lacey at Queen's Farm. Then there is the almshouses which were built for the poor of the village by Mr Chaplin. Also there was Mr J Drury and Miss D Drury who used to be the newspaper reporters. Then there is The Bucklands where a Mr Layten used to live and keep horses. Then there was the little boat house in the park where lovely spring flowers grew up the banks and beautiful grass meadows where cattle grazed.

Mr F Gates had a wheel-wright and carpenter's workshop in Station Road; Station Road was formerly known as Hay Street. Mr Every had a fish and chip shop in a little cottage. There were three main water taps in the street, no piped water. There are some old houses in Station Road. I believe Lilac Cottage is the oldest, where a Miss Wilson lived. Mr Fabb and his sons were market gardeners. Then the old Railway Tavern which a person known as Miss Kate Hurst kept. Then came the Mill which Mr J Nutter came to after his was burnt out in Grantchester. My late husband was born in the cottage which is inside the Mill. Also my brother-in-law G Hart worked there and my daughter Joan was a clerk there too.

To be continued in the Spring 2004 Issue



SUMMER 2003

Once more, members of Fulbourn Village History Society were kindly invited to tour the Archaeological Field Unit's recent training dig in Park Field. The excavation of the site aimed to test the possibility that the rectangular building identified from cropmarks, could be a chapel. It was thought it may relate to Colvilles Manor, which by AD 1200, has a documentary reference to it standing within a moat, together with a manorial chapel (referred to as the 'free chapel of St Edmund').

It became evident from Aileen Connor's enthusiastic explanation, that the site was quite complex and indicated several building stages at different periods. Finds were rather limited and seem to confirm the area was not in use as a domestic dwelling. However, one in particular, a 15th century book clasp, may be evidence for an ecclesiastical use, since few books, other than Bibles, were in general circulation at the time.

Meanwhile, further research is continuing, and a more detailed report from Aileen regarding this excavation, will be available in the next History Society Newsletter. Meanwhile, if you would like the chance to become actively involved in finding out more about Fulbourn's medieval past, why not join the volunteers who are working on the Fulbourn Village Research Project. (Contact Glynis, for more information, on 01223 570887).

COURSES, NEWS & OTHER MEETINGS

University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education
Discovering Your Local Landscape is the Institute's newest course, aimed at people who have never undertaken learning any landscape history before. It offers the opportunity to learn how to do landscape history in practice, using landscapes that participants are interested in, under the guidance of a tutor who will help put the results of this into the wider context of how the English landscape has evolved over the past 4/5 thousand years.

Other courses offered locally in Landscape History, 2003-2004, University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education

- 12 January 2004 Garden History from the Romans to the Restoration
- 14 January 2004 Discovering Saxon & Mediaeval Landscapes
- 14 January 2004 Gardens in Literature and Art
- 21 April 2004 Plants and Planting in Garden History
- 22 April 2004 History Gardens of Eastern England

Local Historians will be interested in the following weekend courses:

- 12-14 March 2004 The Black Death
- 30 Apr-2 May 2004 Church & Parish in Anglo Saxon & Norman England
- 4 - 6 June 2004 A New Economic and Social History of Suffolk from 1100 to 1500
- 25-27 June 2004 Exploiting IT in the Study of History

Full details of these and other course may be obtained from the Courses Registrar tel.01954 280399

Museum of London Guided Tours

- 2 December 11.00 a.m. & 12.00 p.m. Roman Fort Gate (lasts 30 minutes)
- 29 November 2.00 p.m. & 3.15 p.m. Billingsgate House & Baths (60 mins) cost £3 both dates
- 9 December 2.30 p.m. (60 mins)
- 29 November 10.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m. Roman Amphitheatre (60 mins) £5 both dates
- 16 December 2.30 p.m. (60 mins)

British Museum - 21 November 2003 to 14 March 2004:
Treasure - finding our past

Museum of London - new prehistoric exhibition now open

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELDWORK NEWS

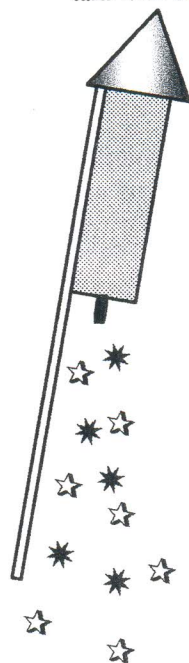
On 2 July outline planning permission was granted for a new Heritage Resource and Cultural Centre at Arbury Camps, Cambridge. The Centre is due to open in late 2005 and will bring together archaeology, arts, archives and museums experts and will be able to display the county's historical collections for visitors besides containing storage facilities for documentary and archaeological material for at least 25 years

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ?

If you have something to contribute to the Newsletter please send it to Linda Halton at 6 Cambridge Road, Fulbourn CB1 5HQ

REMEMBER, REMEMBER.....

Introduce a new member! Don't be selfish, bring along a friend, neighbour or relative who may also enjoy our lectures. Why not start with the next meeting "TOYS & GAMES" an illustrated talk with examples from the Cambridge Folk Museum on 20th November at the Six Bells P.H. function room as usual, 7.45 for 8.00 pm.



DON'T FORGET ALSO -

Be sure to book early for the special Christmas event. A delightful evening with entertaining readings for Christmas given by Geoff Hales of the Travelling Theatre. See the enclosed insert and be sure to return it as soon as possible to Glynis Arber. Remember bookings are accepted on an 'as received' basis and guests are again very welcome.