

# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

## NEWSLETTER No. 2 - November 1999

### HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND AWARD

On 15 September, the Society featured in a headline article in the Cambridge Evening News following the award of a grant of £4,715 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The grant has been used to buy equipment which will enable the Society to preserve the village's history, past and present, using modern technology; it is our aim to encourage the local community to use this facility to enhance and broaden their knowledge of local history.

Part of the award was used to buy a computer and two members, Rachel Thompson and Richard Doe, are designing a database so that all the documents, photographs and artefacts that are made available to Society can be recorded on the computer. Rachel and Richard hope to begin inputting data by the New Year; if you would like to help with this project, please contact Rachel on 881084.

### REGISTER OF ACCESSIONS

One of the first tasks undertaken by the Society was to compile a Register of Accessions. A suitable book was obtained and the process began with entering and numbering the large number of photographs old and new collected and given by various people. These entries were made by Barbara White who had donated many of them herself. Subsequently, Pat White took over and, at the same time, compiled from the Register an index card system under each subject, ie Roads, Public Houses, Shops, the Churches, Schools, Clubs, Waterworks etc.

There are to date 545 entries in the Register, not only photographs but also maps, newspaper articles, artefacts, play programmes - in fact anything pertaining to Fulbourn that turns up. The oldest photograph amongst the entries is dated 1860 and is of a wedding group at Mulberry Close, Cow Lane. Do you know of an earlier one? We have copies of the Fulbourn entry in the Domesday Book, extracts about the churches from the fourteenth century and from the present time, the most recent entry - a copy from the Cambridge Evening News of the Reception Class at the Primary School. There are many more items waiting to be entered. The entries in the Register will be recorded on the Society's computer once the database has been designed and is ready to receive the data.

It is hoped that people will be able to view these items for themselves in the near future, either at

various exhibitions or at the Village History Hut in Haggis Gap.

### THROW OUT NOTHING OLD OR INTERESTING!

Please don't throw out any old photos, documents etc. about the village before offering them to YOUR Village History Society. We will gladly make copies if you do not want to part with them. Contact either Pat White (881037) or Linda Halton (880465) in this respect.

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

On a balmy September evening 23 members journeyed to Burwell for a guided tour of the Burwell Museum which was specially opened up for the visit. The museum houses all sorts of by-gones, including an old-fashioned telephone exchange, and is a very interesting place. It certainly gave those who went something to think about ..... Fulbourn Museum?

### NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMME

It's never too soon to start planning next year's programme. Here's the opportunity to make the Society your Society - let Linda Halton know what local history topics interest you and she'll try and find suitable speakers.

Do you have an interest you could talk about?  
Would you like to visit to places of historical interest?  
Are you keen on socialising whilst at the same time learning about your village? Let the Secretary or a member of the Committee have your views - make the Society your Society.

### CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Because your Society is affiliated to the above organisation, our members can attend, free of charge, any of the C.A.S's meetings. These are held on the first Monday of the month at the Chemistry Laboratories on the corner of Lensfield Road and Panton Street, Cambridge, starting at 6.00 p.m. The Society's current programme of talk is as follows:

- 6 December Archaeology from Below: the Sedgeford Approach (Dr Neil Faulkner)
- 10 January Thetford Priory (Dr David Dymond)
- 7 February Mediaeval Toys (Dr Geoff Egan)
- 6 March The Archaeology of the Cold War (Dr Wayne Cockroft)

17 April            The Surviving Buildings of the  
 Ramsey Abbey Estates (Mrs Beth Davis)  
 8 May              Time Team-Trowels, Trenches &  
                          Television (Dr Carenza Lewis)  
 5 June              Rethinking the End of Roman  
                          Britain (Dr Ken Dark)

### MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION

The Society will be staging its Millennium Exhibition the weekend of the Fulbourn Feast, 24 & 25 June, and lasting for possibly three weeks. We do not yet know where the exhibition will be staged but some members are already hard at work preparing exhibits. Subjects for inclusion in the exhibition will be Environment, Farming & Industry, Churches, Village Customs, Education, Social History, Wars & Military Action.

If you would like to help please telephone Denise Swallow on 880358.

### WILBRAHAM RIVER PROTECTION SOCIETY

Your Committee are considering joining the Wilbraham River Protection Society. Although that Society is concerned primarily with the river system downstream of Fulbourn, historically the source of the river was in the parish and it ran from what is now the Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve. Until the beginning of the 19th century it powered a watermill adjacent to Mill Gardens in the Reserve.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Revd. D. Baldwin who was minister of the then Congregational Church from 1920-26, had a daughter who became the wife of Mr Harold Wilson who went on to become Prime Minister of this country 1964-70 & 1974-76. Upon retirement they became Lord & Lady Wilson of Rievaulx. Lady Wilson wrote a book of selected poems, and one was about her time at the Fulbourn Manse in Pierce Lane; this is the poem:

#### *The Old Manse*

O what a longing, and a burning deep desire  
 Here in my father's house, to be a child again;  
 To see the lamplight and the winter fire  
 Or smell the garden after summer rain!  
 Just for a moment, Time is overset;  
 The Past is now: the Present is not yet.

Syringa hangs its scent upon the early day  
 And white-heart cherries dangle from the clustering  
    trees  
 Which, draped with threads to keep the birds away,  
 Shelter the rows of ripening strawberries.  
 While in the cornfield by the garden-side

Big poppies throw their crumpled petals wide.

Within the study, where the sunlight never falls  
 My father writes his sermon, hooded eyes down-bent;  
 His books of reference wait round the walls -  
 He shapes each phrase, deploys each argument  
 And turns from time to time, instinctively  
 To the great Bible, open on his knee.

I see my mother in the kitchen, making bread,  
 Setting the pliant dough in shallow pans to rise;  
 Her long brown hair is coiled around her head -  
 How young her form, how shining blue her eyes!  
 The door stands open on the morning sweet,  
 And all the hens come clucking to her feet.

My brother mounts his clean new bicycle to ride  
 The long white Cambridge road which winds up  
    Windmill Hill,

I watch him disappear with shaky pride,  
 And then a silence wraps the garden, 'til  
 My long-dead friend comes calling to the gate -  
 The village school-bell clangs-we shall be late!

A start, and I awake - Time, with impatient hands  
 Has snatched away the picture from before my eyes;  
 Silent and empty now, the Old Manse stands,  
 Weedy and desolate, its garden lies.  
 All, all is changed; and yet, it cannot be!  
 Now is the dream - Then, the reality!

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

The Editor welcomes members' contributions to the Newsletter which she endeavours to distribute to members twice a year. Please hand your contribution, for inclusion in the next edition, to her at any of the Society's meetings.

### AND FINALLY .....

The members only Christmas Social & Any Questions on 16 December should be great fun; we hope members will be ready to ask the Panel those tricky little questions about village history and learn more about the village's past, as well as get to know other members. If any member has not yet received the letter about this ticket-only event please contact Linda Halton, Hon. Secretary on 880465 who will be happy to hear from you and sell you a ticket. See you there!