

# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

## NEWSLETTER NO. 3 – February 2000

### HISTORY HUT OPEN

The Society's office at the Archaeological Field Unit in Haggis Gap Fulbourn is now open two hours every Wednesday afternoon, between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. to allow members of the Society and others to access the hut's resources. Please call in and see for yourself what your Society is doing. We are in the Portakabin right at the back of the site. If you would like to use the Society's resources but cannot make Wednesday afternoons, the hut can be opened for personal research by appointment. Telephone the Secretary on 880465 for further details.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Finds Processing Group of the County Council's Archaeological Field unit is based in Haggis Gap, Fulbourn. It is looking for volunteers who would like to meet regularly on a weekday for 2 hours to help in archaeological finds processing. No previous experience is required. If you are interested in the area's history, by joining the Finds Processing Group you will be handling recently excavated finds most of which are around 2,000 years old.

Interested? Then contact Nicola on 01223 576201 to register your interest.

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society has 1200 members worldwide and undertakes an extensive programme of transcription and publication of Cambridgeshire documents.

On 26 February 2000 they are holding a one-day conference at Comberton Village College entitled "Emigrants – Free or in Chains?" There will be speakers, stalls and displays and the cost is £8.50, including lunch; the day starts at 9.30 and finishes at 4.30. For further details please send an s.a.e. to Wendy Doyle, 65 Station Road, Histon, Cambridge CB3 9LQ or visit their website at <http://www.cfhs.org.uk/>

### HELP SOUGHT

Mrs Betty Eveleigh is a student from St Neots working on an Advanced Diploma in English Local History. She is researching Urban and Rural Post Offices and their role in the community in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, 1930 to 1950 and has written to the Society to ask whether our members can help her. She would be pleased to hear from any member with recollections of their local Post Office, whether as employee or customer, and from those with childhood memories. If you would like to help Mrs Eveleigh with her research, please telephone her on 01480 880454 and she will happily send a questionnaire with pre-paid envelope. Alternatively written descriptions can be sent to her at PO Box 55, St Neots PE19 6SJ

### WATER STANDPIPES

The standpipes put in by the Water Company many years ago to compensate for the loss of water when the pumping station was built were removed several years ago; they were being used illegally by non-residents and there was a risk of contamination to the mains water supply when they were used to fill bowsers. We are pleased to report that the Parish Council is having one of the standpipes restored and they hope to return it to its site at Poor's Well later in the year.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC CARE

At the October meeting Dr Ross Mitchell (a retired consultant at Fulbourn Hospital with a special interest in community care) gave a very interesting and informative talk on the development of psychiatric care from the Middle Ages to the present time. He was accompanied by Ian Preston, Hospital Librarian, who spoke about the Hospital's archives and Ms Sarah Whitcher, a retired nurse-manager at the Hospital. Ms Whitcher outlined the latest developments at the Hospital site. Members were very interested in the copies of the plans for the redevelopment, which she had brought with her. Following the talk, members plied the speakers with lots of questions and the vote of thanks was given by Bryan White.

### OUR LOCAL WATER COMPANY

Cambridge Water Company has a long association with the village: it has been an employer of Fulbourn folk as well as pumping water from the rock beneath our feet, and at the November meeting their Public Relations Officer, Mrs Valerie Miller, visited the Society to tell members about the Company's history. Once officially known as "The Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company" (since shortened to Cambridge Water Company) our local water company has been around for over 140 years and has been pumping water from Fulbourn since the turn of the century. It was bought in January this year by the Spanish energy company Ufacex.

Mrs Miller used slides to illustrate her very informative talk and members plied her with lots of questions. The vote of thanks was given by Mary Chaplin.

### THE CHRISTMAS EVENT

A very enjoyable version of Any Questions? was staged in the Function Room at the Six Bells on 16 December. Bryan White kept order and the panel comprised those well-known local persons Stan Hardwick, Norman Osborne, Richard Wombwell, John White, John Lacey and Denise Swallow. Their answers to the questions posed were always interesting, sometimes thought-provoking and often very, very funny. Horace and Lynda White provided a buffet supper and the raffle raised £67 for funds.

### THE FULBOURN BRANCH LINE

Bill Hames took the chair at the January meeting when Tony Kirby of Anglia Polytechnic University spoke about the railway service the village once enjoyed. A social and economic historian by profession as well as a railway buff, he delivered his talk at machine-gun speed and positively glowed with enthusiasm for his subject. The meeting was extremely well attended and we apologise to those who were without a seat or who could not properly see the screen. We shall do our best to remedy these matters.

### MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION

We are looking for items once in general use and now rarely seen. If you have any of the following and were thinking of throwing them away, please don't! The History Society may be very interested and would be pleased to collect. Alternatively we would appreciate having anything on loan you may not wish to part with; it would be treated with care and returned.

Enamel or earthenware bread crock, stone or metal hot water bottle, pestle and mortar, wooden rolling pin and pastry board, old cutlery, knife sharpener, knife polisher, old hob kettle, old black saucepan etc. Flat irons, fender, fire guard, fire irons, coal bucket, skuttle, coke hod, shovels. Cut-throat razor, real sponge, old bar of soap, zinc bucket, non-electric carpet sweeper, metal mincer, old scales with weights, candle holder, wooden trouser press. Children's games, toys, dolls, bricks etc., babies' clothing, woollies, long robes, nappies, old perambulator or push chair, cot or crib etc. Maids' uniforms, clothing associated with trades or any pre-War clothing. Old fireplace or kitchen range, iron bedstead, wooden kitchen table and chairs, wooden dresser, wicker chairs clothes basket. Tools of all trades, farming equipment and gardening tools, old Farmers' Weekly, horse shoes, brasses, harness etc., milk churn and pint measure.

These are just a few suggestions to give you an idea of the kind of things we are looking for.

If you can help, please let your nearest Committee member know; names addresses and telephone numbers are listed here.

Mary Chaplin	880739
Judy Chaplin	880722
Phyllis Devon	503460
Linda Halton	880465
Pauline Hunt	882088
Norman Osborne	880303
Geoffrey Rolph	Croft Farm Pierce Lane
Ivy Smith	880203
Denise Swallow	880358
Richard Townley	880284
Bryan White	880362
Pat White	881037
David Wright	880304

### CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

The Group is currently walking fields in Fulbourn for the County Archaeology Unit. These were thought to likely site of an earlier village of Fulbourn, but little evidence of this is forthcoming.

This year, the Group hopes to be walking in Histon in the Mill Lane area. If you are interested in taking part, please

contact Mike Coles on 01223 871403, Susan May on 01223 843121 or Val Whittaker on 01223 424759

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE RECORDS SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1972 and membership is open to anyone interested in local and family history. The annual subscription is £14 and members receive one free copy of each volume on publication and can purchase back volumes at a reduced price. The Society also organises occasional visits and talks. Contact Dr Rosemary Horrox at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, for further information.

### ELY CATHEDRAL MILLENNIUM PAGEANT

Come and watch the amazing history of Ely Cathedral come alive. Marvel at dramatic use of light, sound and music in a spectacular

Costume Pageant

Son et Lumiere

Making all things New

Ely Cathedral - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30 p.m.

Adults £7.00, children £3.50 - Bookings (01353) 660459 or 667735

### NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2000/2001

Nomination forms will be distributed to all members in April, to be returned to the Secretary no later than Wednesday 10 May. Being an officer and serving on the committee is not at all onerous - we meet in the evening on average every eight weeks and meetings last about two hours so if you'd like to help with the Society, get someone to put your name forward. If you want to nominate someone for the committee, don't forget to seek their permission first before completing and returning the form.

### FRIENDS OF FULBOURN NATURE RESERVE

Forms were distributed by Richard Townley at our January meeting and a number of people have responded. Further interest is welcomed and a meeting will be held very shortly to form a Group of Friends. All enquiries to Richard Townley on 880284.

### SUBSCRIPTION 2000/2001

When the Society's first subscription was set last year we had little idea of the sort of expenditure we would become involved in. The Committee have decided that subscriptions should be raised from 1 April 2000 to £6.00 for an individual and £10.00 for a joint subscription. Please pay your subscription to Rachel Thompson, Hon. Treasurer, at 12 Dogget Lane, Fulbourn, as soon as possible and no later than 1<sup>st</sup> September 2000.

### AND FINALLY...

Next winter's programme of lectures is in hand and we will be providing an exciting and stimulating choice. We also hope this summer to organise an evening visit to Denny Abbey and a Village Walkabout. To find out more, **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE SEPTEMBER!**

### STOP PRESS!

Your Editor, Linda Halton, welcomes copy from members for the Newsletter which she tries to publish quarterly. The next edition should be due in time for the AGM in May, so contributions to her by beginning of May, please.