

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 4 - JUNE 2000

SKILLS REGISTER

The Committee would like to establish a Skills Register so that there is a pool of skilled members with time to spare upon whom we can call to help contribute towards the fulfilment of the Society's objectives. Whatever your skill, your Society can use it! We are especially keen to find members with time to spare and skills in data input, desk top publishing, photography (we have a digital camera!), fund-raising and delivering the Newsletter. Please complete the tear-off slip attached to this Newsletter and return it to the Secretary at 6 Cambridge Road Fulbourn.

YEAR 6 PUPILS VISIT HISTORY HUT

During the afternoon of 5 April teacher John Dowman and Learning Assistant Denise Wynn accompanied seven Year 6 pupils from the Primary School on a visit to the History Hut.

It was a very happy occasion and the first time that we have been visited by children from our village school. Norman Osborne and four other members of the Society were at the Hut to answer the children's questions about the village's history and each child was given an information pack about the village to take home. The children must have enjoyed themselves because we have since received seven charming "thank you" letters!

MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION & GRAND DRAW

Arrangements for the Millennium Village History Exhibition continue apace. Do try and get along to the Exhibition which will take place at The Stables and Coachman's Cottage, Fulbourn Manor on three successive weekends: 24 & 25 June, 1 & 2 July and 8 & 9 July between 2.00 and 5.00 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. If you are willing to help in anyway, ie manning the exhibition, making refreshments, please contact Richard Townley on 880284 or Norman Osborne on 880303. We'd like to spread the load!

The Grand Draw, with a first prize of £100 cash, will take place at 4.00 p.m. on 9 July. The Society is raising funds to buy a CD Writer as well as offset the costs of the Exhibition. We are very grateful to our members and everyone else who has sold tickets, and to local traders and businesses for their generosity in giving prizes.

PROGRAMME 2000 - 2001

Next year's programme is nearing completion and will be sent to everyone who has paid a subscription for 2000/2001. There will be an outing in August and a Village Walk in early September. Winter lectures start on 19 October at the Six Bells Function Room.

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's easy to overlook paying one's subscription but if you have enjoyed the programme of lectures & film shows, and want to continue your membership, please let our Treasurer Rachel Thompson have your subscription as soon as possible and by 31 August at the very latest. Rachel can be contacted at 12 Dogget Lane, Fulbourn. The charge to non-members will, from September 2000, be £2.00 per meeting.

VISITOR CHARGES

The Committee has decided to double the charge made to visitors & guests from £1.00 to £2.00. This has been done because we now have to pay to hire the room at the Six Bells.

FULBOURN CHRONICLES

Mrs Betty Crane, whose late husband wrote the Fulbourn Chronicles, has graciously given the Society permission to reprint these books. If you are interested in a copy or a set of all four volumes, please complete the tear-off slip attached to this Newsletter. This will enable us to gauge interest and decide whether it is worth going ahead with the reprint. Prices are as follows:

Volume I, 1750 - 1850	£6.00
Volume II, 1851 - 1900 .. .	£9.00
Volume III 1901-1930	£9.00
Volume IV 1931 - 1955	£7.00.
A set of all four volumes would cost £30, thus saving £1.00.	

Please address all enquiries to Norman Osborne on 880303.

MEMORIES OF FULBOURN POST OFFICE

As a lad from Fulbourn, my earliest memory of the Village Post Office was the knob on the door by which we gained entry. It was about 3 feet from the ground which was all right for me as a boy but to a grown-up it was rather back-breaking. Upon entry you found the counter 4 feet from the floor - I couldn't see over it and it was too high for an adult to write properly.

There were two ladies in the Post Office - Miss Sharman and Miss Balls. Miss Sharman was the Postmistress and Miss Balls was the Assistant and Post Lady. They were both around five feet tall and could themselves only just see over the counter. On the counter were kept old-type scales for weighing letters, a tray with a candle, sealing wax and a seal for stamping the wax which was put on to parcels' string knots or the back of letters for added security. There

was also a massive book in which was kept stamps which could be purchased. We also bought our sixpenny Savings Stamps during the War and put any spare money into our Post Office Savings account.

The Post Office was so small it could only hold about five people and many a time I remember queuing up outside and down the street – as one person came out of the Post Office another was allowed in.

Miss Sharman would take all the telegram messages and Miss Balls would deliver them. During the 2nd World War the whole village often knew before the telegram was delivered to a relative that a serviceman was missing, taken prisoner or killed in action. Similarly with holiday post cards – if you met the post lady at the gate, the conversation was “so-and-so’s having a lovely time and the weather is good” before you’d had a chance to read the card! My father-in-law was a sales representative and most years he had a new car. Miss Balls would take him the telegram saying when the car was due and when he opened the door to her, she would tell him his new car had arrived and where to pick it up!!

The bush telegraph could not compete with the village Post Office. Time was time and the Post Office opened and closed on the dot. Both Miss Sharman and Miss Balls were great village characters. Miss Sharman was about 80 when she retired and the Post Office closed and moved round the corner to its present site which was then a grocery shop, thus ending a great era.

→ by Norman Osborne

REVOLTING ROMANS

On Sunday 2 July, 12.00 – 4.00 p.m., at Stonea Camp near March there will be Iron Age and Roman ‘hands on’ activities for all the family. Adults will be charged £1 each. For further details contact Diane Walls or Stephen Macaulay on 01223 576201.

BOUDICAN TALES

Sunday 2nd July at Stonea Camp near March, 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. Adults £6.00, students children and OAPs £4.50. Bookings to Stephen Macaulay on 01223 576201.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Sunday 23rd July, 12.00 – 4.00 p.m. at Wimpole Hall. FREE., Archaeology displays and “hands on” activities.

LIVING IN THE PAST

Sunday 24 September – Activity Day at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, 11 – 4p.m., adults £1. Contact Pat Knight or Judy Arnold on 01480 451568.

BOOK LAUNCH AT ELY CATHEDRAL

The Dean and Chapter invite members to attend the launch of a new book ELY CATHEDRAL: DESIGN AND MEANING by John Maddison in the Cathedral on Sunday 18th June at 12 noon.. The book launch will

be followed by drinks so if you’d like to go telephone the Chapter Office on 01353 667735.

A VICTORIAN SCHOOL DAY

Children love dressing up and on 30th June pupils at the primary school will be encouraged to do just that. As part of the village’s millennium celebrations and to coincide with the Millennium Village History exhibition, the children will be invited to come to school dressed in Victorian costume. Lessons and games will also be in theme and the highlight of the day will be at lunchtime when there will be a Victorian picnic. Details will be announced later.

SUMMER OUTING

Norman Osborne is organising a trip to Ramsey Rural Museum, Ramsey on Sunday 13 August. If you do not have transport, then Norman will do his best to find someone to take you. Entry to the Museum costs £1.00 and a letter about the arrangements will be sent to all paid-up members in July.

JUMBLE SALE

A very successful jumble sale was held on 15 April at the Townley Hall. The day dawned wet and cold and those who helped during the morning were gloomily anticipating very few customers in the afternoon. The rain worsened as the day progressed and there were no customers about when helpers returned after lunch. But when the doors opened at 2.00 p.m. customers materialised out of the downpour and £233 was raised for funds. Our grateful thanks to everyone who helped in any way – perhaps we should make this an annual event!

COMMITTEE 2000/2001

Committee members for the coming year are:

Mrs Glynis ARBER	
Miss Mary CHAPLIN	
Mr Tony GOODALL	
Mrs Linda HALTON	(Secretary)
Mr Peter HALTON	(I/T Development)
Mrs Pauline HUNT	
Mr Tim MALIM	
Mr Norman OSBORNE	(Vice-Chairman)
Mr Geoffrey ROLPH	
Mrs Ivy SMITH	(I/C Fund-Raising)
Miss Rachel THOMPSON	(Treasurer)
Mr Richard TOWNLEY	(Chairman)
Mrs Barbara WHITE	
Mr Bryan WHITE	
Mrs Pat WHITE	(Archivist)
Mr David WRIGHT	

AND FINALLY...

If you have a contribution for the next Newsletter, please get it to the Secretary no later than 30 September 2000.