



FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 56 Autumn 2022

F.V.H.S. COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Chair: Glynis Arber

Minutes Secretary: Tim Vaughan-Lane

Treasurer: Ian Harrison

Archivist: Alison Rash

Webmaster: John Timperio

Committee members: Pat Meakin

Clare Champion

We very much welcome a new member of our Committee, Pat Meakin who is already doing sterling work helping Alison with our Archive store re-organisation - now almost complete. Our next job - sorting out the Artefacts and updating their location on the computer.

Following Rose Tristram's well earned retirement as Fulbourn Village History Society Secretary, the Committee were extremely pleased that Tim agreed to serve as Minutes Secretary.

If anyone would like to become involved in research, organising events and generally helping out please email glynisarber48@gmail.com - your assistance would be most appreciated.

It was unsurprising that, during the pandemic, membership decreased significantly and we now find that our expenditure is more than our income. In these circumstances, may I urge you to renew your annual subscription a.s.a.p. and also 'spread the word' around that Fulbourn Village History Society is back in business (not that we ever really went away - just adapted to the challenges encountered).

Glynis Arber

THE HOME FRONT IN FULBOURN 1939 -1945 Part IV by Glynis Arber

Much of the information that Fulbourn Village History Society has about the village between 1939 -1945 comes from extracts in The Fulbourn Chronicles Vol IV whose earliest entry relating to the war years occurred on 22 September 1939.

The following article provides an account of how the village became involved with the demand for salvage.

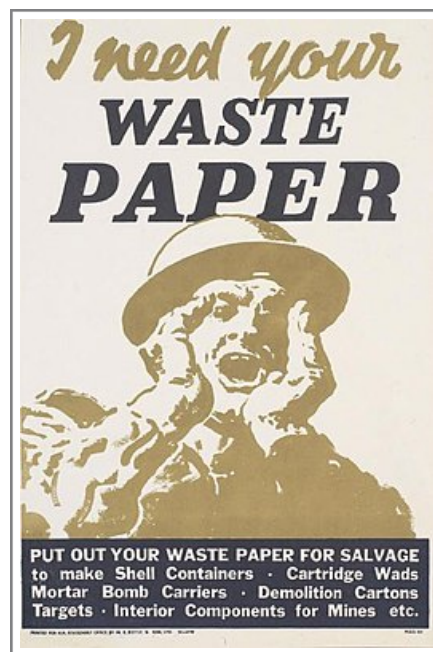
During the Second World War, the demand for ordinary materials used in manufacturing drastically increased and placed significant strain on the availability of materials that were essential to supporting the war effort. In response to this ever-increasing demand, the Ministry of Supply introduced the National Salvage Scheme in December 1939.

Highly desirable were paper, bones, rags, metals, rubber and kitchen waste. These six materials formed the foundation for all salvage activities during the Second World War. The Fulbourn Chronicle mentions four of them - scrap iron, waste paper, rags and bones.

A special meeting of Fulbourn Parish Council was held in the Townley Memorial Hall to make arrangements for the collection of **scrap iron**. The offer of **Mr Rowell**, of Field House, to act as organiser, was gratefully accepted. [June 1940]

It seems such salvage earned a financial return which could be re-directed to a war charity, eg in November 1942:

The sum of £5 0s 3d, [today worth approximately* £590.69] the proceeds of the sale of waste paper, etc. has been handed to the Prisoner of War Fund by the committee of the paper salvage scheme.



Towards the end of the War, it appears that the village needed to be reminded that salvage was still important.

*Will housewives please note that **Paper, Rags and Bones** are still urgently required, and help by seeing that these materials are sent to the central parish dump regularly each month?* [December 1944]

* figure obtained from National Archives Currency Converter <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/>

HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ARTEFACTS HELD IN OUR STORE: Keeping a Lady's hair tidy by Glynis Arber

We have in our Archive Store three items dating from the first half of the 20C, all of which helped keep a woman's hair tidy. They are a hair net, pack of bobby pins and a hat pin. Information about these objects has been obtained from the internet at the following websites:

<https://thecounter.org/hairnet-food-safety-laws/>

<http://postej-stew.dk/2016/11/female-headgear-and-hairstyles-in-the-middle-ages/>

<https://antiques.lovetoknow.com/about-antiques/identify-authentic-antique-hat-pin>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairnet>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_pin

<https://www.allthingshair.com/en-us/hairstyles-haircuts/hair-trends/bobby-pin-history/>

<https://www.samwallermuseum.ca/collections/feature/hat-pins/> <https://www.history.com/news/how-women-defended-themselves-against-street-gropers-100-years-ago>

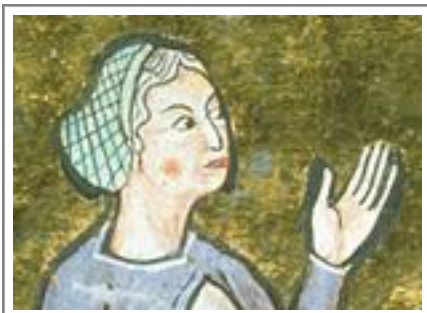
HAIR NET



The packet is actually described as a BUN NET and the model appears to be wearing this at the base of her neck. However, perhaps we are more familiar with the way that the Coronation Street character Ena Sharples wore a hairnet. It certainly kept her hairstyle under control!



Hair nets, in several forms, have a long history with the earliest evidence in the 3300 years old grave of a Danish teenager called the Egtved Girl. Other examples were found in Ancient Greece. By the Middle Ages the hair was often confined by a net called a 'creeping' or caul and was visible only at the back. The hair net is often shown as gold. This illustration below shows a nurse wearing a hair net or snood c. 1285

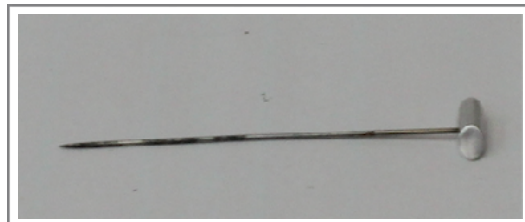


In 1915 a ballroom dancer, Irene Castle, trimmed her long hair into a short style which became known as the Castle Bob. This cropped look became popular with women who joined the workforce in increased numbers during WWI. The short bob required little more than a few hair grips to maintain control.

It caused dismay amongst hair net makers, hair pin and hair comb manufacturers whose profits fell. The burgeoning public relations industry came to the rescue when hair net maker Venida hired Edward Bernays to help build up their business again. He contacted female celebrities of the era and had them defend long hair - unsuccessfully. However, Bernays also produced propaganda to promote the use of hair nets for food service workers by providing propaganda about the dangers of hair in food, although there has never been scientific evidence that it poses a health hazard. Nonetheless, not wearing a hair net might signal a lax attitude toward food safety, so even if they are not strictly necessary, hair nets are required by law.

The HALO product has printed on the packet PURE SILK and probably dates from before WWII and even WWI. Natural material was the only alternative at this time and there were even hairnets made from 'sterilised human hair'. Today nylon and other synthetic materials are used, many of which are disposable especially when used in a health or food environment.

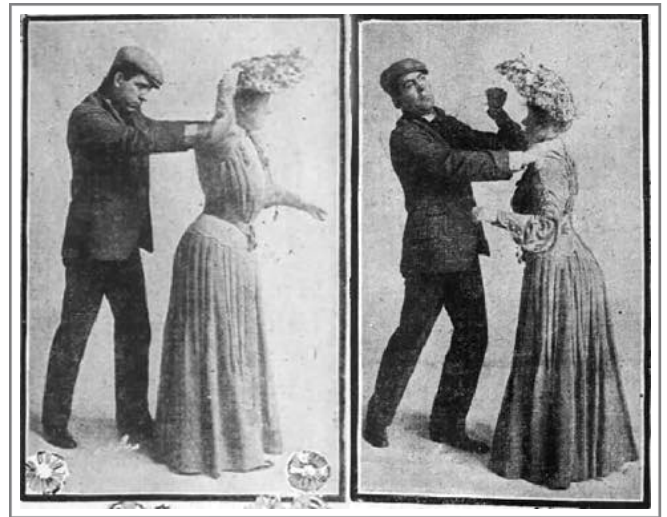
HAT PIN



This plain but effective hat pin in our Archive store probably dates from the early 20C.

Rather than wearing bonnets tied under the chin the fashion at that time and in the previous century was to have long hair pinned up in ornate hairstyles covered by large, extravagant (for those that could afford them) hats. To secure these from blowing off, large hat pins were used.

Hat pins came in many different lengths, colours and material including brass, gold, wood, and ivory. Some pin tops were decorated with faux jewels, feathers flowers, fruit and birds.



However, much like the suffragettes agitating for women's rights, the hat pin began to be considered (by men!) a dangerous nuisance, especially as some were used against the police in suffragette demonstrations. By 1910 onwards, hat pins were declared a national and international threat! A number of countries including England and the USA imposed laws restricting the sale of hat pins over 9 inches in length.

The use of hat pins declined during WWI when they were considered an extravagance and the materials used to make them were re-directed towards the war effort. By the end of the war, fashion had begun to change in favour of smaller hats and shorter hair, so that eventually, hat pins became obsolete.

At the upper end of the market is this rare 'Plique-à-Jour' enamel hat pin (above). It is in marked contrast to the simple pin in Fulbourn Village History Society's artefact store which was known as a 'working girl's' hat pin for obvious reasons.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, women gained more independence and started walking and travelling alone. With this new freedom came an increase in harassment from unsavoury men. The hat pin, as a 'weapon of [defence](#)' became a favourite choice by women because it was easily concealed and one good jab was usually all that was necessary to deter unwanted attention.

BOBBY PIN OR KIRBY GRIP



In our collection we have this packet of (somewhat rusty) 'Stay Rite' hair grips costing 6d. (probably between the two world wars).

Known as a bobby pin in America, they were invented after World War I by Luis Marcus, a San Francisco-based cosmetics manufacturer, and came into wide use as the hairstyle known as the "bob cut" or "bobbed hair" took hold.

The main use of a bobby pin is to hold hair in place. In addition to bobbed hair, bobby pins are often used in up-dos, buns, and other hair styles where a sleek look is desired. To use a bobby pin in hair, hold the hair in the desired position and push the bobby pin (straight side up) into place.

Before its invention, English manufacturers Kirby, Beard & Co. Ltd. of Birmingham made hairpins similar to the bobby pin.

The trademarked pin, the "Kirbigrip" was just one of the pins produced by Kirby, and it closely resembled the bobby pin ie a small double-pronged hair **pin** or clip that slides into hair with the prongs open and then the flexible prongs close over the hair to hold it in place. Today they are very often sold with decorated clips - just as had occurred with the original hat pin.



COFFEE MORNING AT 10 CHURCH LANE



MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AND DONATED.



IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. WE RECEIVED £86 IN DONATIONS - ENOUGH FOR ALMOST TWO SPEAKERS!

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

On Saturday se'nnight in the evening, about five o'clock, as Mr Hammond, merchant, of Whittlesea, was going in a post-chaise from the Sun Inn, Cambridge, to the seat of Wm. Greaves, B. B. Esq., at Fulbourn, he was met by a highwayman at the three mile stone near Gogmagog-hills, who desired the driver to stop, which he not complying with, the highwayman instantly drew a pistol, and told him if he did not stop that moment, he would blow his brains out. Upon the chaise stopping he went round to the other window, put in his pistol thro' the glass, which he broke in so doing, and said, "Deliver your money, or I will blow your brains out." He then robbed Mr Hammond of his watch and money: afterwards he said, Sir, I know you have a pocket-book, and give it me this instant, or I will blow you to atoms. Upon its being delivered to him, he turned his horse round and politely wished him a good night.



*Leeds Intelligencer - Tuesday 07 December
1779*

Researched by John Beresford

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2022-2023

Once again, after too long an absence, our venue for the Talks will be in the Meeting Room of the Fulbourn Centre, starting at 7.30 pm. I am certainly looking forward to finding out about fascinating topics whilst also enjoying convivial company.

At the October meeting we will not be holding a fund-raising Raffle but shall be providing light refreshments as a 'Welcome back to normality'. However, if you are able to bring along to this meeting any unwanted or superfluous items that we could later offer as Raffle prizes, that would be most appreciated.

20 October 'After the Plague project and rural/village sites' by Craig Cessford

17 November 'Cambridge Horse Trams' by David Stubbings

8 December 'Inns and Outs of Pub signs' by Mark Pardoe (Social event. Entry by ticket only)

19 January 'From Holywell to Lidos: Our Love of Water' by Helen Harewood

16 February 'Accents & Dialects in Cambridgeshire' by Mike McCarthy

16 March 'The Weird and Wonderful World of the Romans' by Paddy Lambert

20 April 'A History of Schools in Fulbourn' by Glynis Arber followed by our A.G.M.