

# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

## NEWSLETTER NO. 7 – MIDSUMMER 2001

### Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2001

The objectives of the Society are:- to research, keep and maintain records of all aspects of the village's social and historical development; to publish reports on village history; to stage displays and exhibitions; to hold a programme of regular meetings; to liaise with the Parish Council and to encourage an interest in the study of local history. The Society is administered by a committee currently comprising:

Chairman	Richard Townley
Vice Chairman	Norman Osborne
Hon. Secretary	Linda Halton
Hon. Treasurer	Rachel Thompson
Membership Secretary	Pauline Hunt
Assistant Secretary..	Glynis Arber
and Mary Chaplin, Tony Goodall, Peter Halton, Tim Malim, Geoffrey Rolph, Ivy Smith, Barbara White, Bryan White, Pat White & David Wright.	

The Society has enjoyed a very successful second year and membership has increased to 180. The summer visit was to Ramsey Rural Museum although only a few members went. In September member Adam Menuge twice took parties of members on a guided tour of our village, looking at some of the older and more unusual buildings. Average attendance at meetings has been 90 and the subjects covered in the lecture programme are listed below:

Waving Goodbye (Evacuees in 2<sup>nd</sup> World War)  
20 Years on the Streets of Cambridge (A Street Sweeper's Life)  
Mince Pies, Mulled Wine & A Magic Lantern Show  
Fulbourn Windmill  
The Wilbraham River  
Farming in the 1940s

The highlight of the year was without doubt the Millennium History Exhibition, held over three weekends in June and early July at the Manor Stables and Coachman's Cottage. A very small band of dedicated members researched and prepared display boards for the exhibition; another group of equally dedicated and extremely hard working members prepared and furnished the Coachman's Cottage, ready for the many people who visited the exhibition to see what the Society had accomplished in such a short time and to ponder that achievement over a cup of tea and slice of cake in the tea tent! The local television station, BBC Look East, visited the exhibition and filmed children from the village school, dressed in Victorian costume with your Chairman also in costume and masquerading as the village schoolmaster; the clip was unfortunately not shown on the evening news magazine programme. More than 1500 people visited the exhibition and we hope that they will visit again.

In April last year the Society was awarded a grant of £482 by the Bishops & Caraways Charity which enabled us to purchase a vertical plan chest to store maps and other oversize documents as well as another steel cupboard for general storage. Members have also engaged in fundraising (Millennium Draw, a jumble sale, coffee morning and dance) thereby raising £1735. Some of these monies have been used to purchase a CD Writer for the computer and archive quality albums in which to store the Society's growing collection of photographs and newspaper clippings; £1,000 has been put on deposit with the Cambridge Building Society. These monies will be used to fund research and make further capital purchases.

The Society is looking ahead to next year and has plans in hand to hold an exhibition to celebrate our Queen's Golden Jubilee. We

should like as many members as possible to help with this. A programme of seven meetings has been arranged for next winter and a visit to the local museum at Ashdon is planned for July 2001.

#### **COMMITTEE 2001-2002**

The committee for the coming year will comprise Richard Townley, Norman Osborne, Rachel Thompson, Pauline Hunt, Glynis Arber, Tony Goodall, Peter Halton, Geoff Rolph, Ivy Smith, Barbara, Bryan & Pat White, David Wright and Linda Halton. The first committee of the Society's new year takes place on 5 July, 7.45 at the History Hut, AFU, Haggis Gap.

#### **SUMMER VISIT 2001**

Saturday 28 July is the date chosen to visit Ashdon Village Museum near Saffron Walden. A brief description of this very interesting museum is given below. There is a tea room and plenty of car parking space.

As the museum is being specially opened for us we hope that as many members as possible will come along. There will be a charge of £1.50 per person (cash on the day). This money will be given to the museum as a donation.

We shall rendezvous outside St Vigor's Church at 1.45 p.m. Will members requiring transport, or with extra capacity in their motor car, please contact Norman Osborne at 18 Teversham Road (tel. 880303). **Closing date for registering interest in this visit with Norman is 14 July.**

#### **ASHDON VILLAGE MUSEUM**

##### **A brief outline**

The Museum is situated at the bottom of Church Hill, Ashdon. It is housed in the former disused Labour Hall, purchased by donations from the people of the village as a permanent home for the collection of artefacts gathered together over about a quarter of a century by Glenn Miller, the Curator. A steering committee was formed and the Museum became a registered charity with five Trustees.

After a lot of hard work and more fund-raising, the Museum opened at its new site in June 2000. The Museum opens Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from April to the end of September, from 2-5 p.m. and at other times by prior arrangement. Staffing is on a voluntary basis and the Museum depends for its funding on donations and sales of teas, jams, marmalade, booklets etc. (There is a

small tea room and a pretty garden). Displays are changed regularly and in 2001 the major displays are:

*World War II* – Life in Ashdon during that time and the experiences of some of its men and women who served in the various branches of the Services.

*An Edwardian Bedroom*

*History of the Baptist Church & All Saints' Parish Church*

*The Village Shops – grocer, butcher, dairy, cobbler, garage*

*Period costumes*

*The Village Pub*

There are many other things to see but the Museum can only show one-third of its artefacts at any one time. In the gardens are some larger pieces of agricultural machinery.

There is a small car park outside the Museum; if this is full cars can be parked in the extension car park attached to the Village Hall, beyond the Baptist Church in Radwinter Road. Please do not park in the Baptist Church but cross it to find the Village Hall car park beyond. It is possible to walk across a footpath from there to the Museum

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#### **FROM THE PROGRAMME**

##### **THE WILBRAHAM RIVER PROJECT**

Dr Desmond Hawkins from Little Wilbraham treated members at the February meeting to a most interesting talk, illustrated with slides, about the history of this ancient watercourse which rises in Fulbourn parish. Given the very wet winter weather this year, Dr Hawkins' talk was extremely topical.

Members enjoyed a question and answer session with Dr Hawkins and Peter Halton gave the vote of thanks.

##### **FARMING IN FULBOURN IN THE 40's & 50's**

John White has lived in the village and farmed here all his life. At the March meeting he gave members an illustrated talk on farming in Fulbourn in the 1940s and 1950s. As Fulbourn has changed and become a commuter village for Cambridge and beyond, so the number of working farms and market gardens has shrunk; fifty years ago the village had more than 20 farms and ten market gardens.



John's slides were very interesting and evocative of a slower-paced age. His wryly humorous commentary on farming methods in those far-off days was much appreciated by his audience, which numbered more than 90.

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#### **FUN & FUND RAISING**

It was full house at the dance held at the Townley Hall on 9 March. Around 100 ladies and gentlemen enjoyed themselves dancing the old-fashioned way to music supplied by the talented Nicki Robinson. To enhance our enjoyment, Nicki kept the music's decibels down so everyone was able to chat without having to raise their voice.

Our grateful thanks to all who helped make the dance such a success, especially Ann Waldoock who did all the organising. The dance raised more than £200 for funds.

#### **FUTURE FUND RAISING**

We hope to hold a coffee morning in the late summer. Members will be advised of details in due course. Remember to watch out for posters around the village.

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#### **DATABASE ENTRY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

So many artefacts, photographs, pictures etc have been given to the Society that we can't keep up with listing them on the database!

We desperately need more help inputting entries on to the Society's computer. This would be ideal practice for those members who are taking part in the Parish Council's computer training initiative; it is a job which can be done by anyone who is reasonably computer literate. Training will be provided for those who need it.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to help the Society please contact Rachel Thompson on 882084/07974 625476 for further information.

#### **FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

You've done the I/T course/bought the computer and now want to start researching your family tree. Where to start? There are many websites specialising in genealogical topics and one of the best is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormon Church). The address is <http://www.familysearch.org/eng>. and the good news is that the church has a Family History Centre at its church in Cherry Hinton Road (tel. 247010 for opening times etc.)

There are also published magazine titles specializing in this topic and whilst recently on holiday your Editor stumbled on the Family History Monthly, published by ParkerMead Ltd of Ealing. This magazine is full of information and sources – a very good read for anyone who needs guidance or has a general interest in the subject.

#### **TRAINING EXCAVATION & ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG IN FULBOURN NATURE RESERVE**

There will be a training excavation/archaeological dig in the Nature Reserve between 30 July and 24 August, weekdays only. If you'd like to take part in this dig, please contact Aileen Connor at the AFU (tel. 881614/576021) for an application form.

#### **CAMBRIDGE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGIST'S CLUB**

This is a new organisation catering for 9 – 16 year olds with an interest in archaeology. If you know of a young person in this age group who is interested in archaeology why not give Caroline Malim a ring on 881614 to find out more about this exciting development.

#### **TAPING OF MEMORIES**

We are grateful to everyone who has volunteered to have their memories of the past tape recorded for the future. If you know of anyone living in Fulbourn who has a tale to tell, please contact the Editor on 880465 who will pass the relevant information on to either Barbara White, Pat White or Bernie Gilbertson.

#### **CAMBRIDGE & COUNTY FOLK MUSEUM**

The Folk Museum is a magical place to visit and will be staging several exhibitions during the summer. There will be an exhibition about "Fens & Folklore" which is a new display about local folklore and life in the Fens. "This is Your Cambridge" is another new exhibit which will appeal to everyone, especially children. It is a multi-media mix of oral and visual history and presents the lives of Cambridge people through music, photographs and the written word. It should be great fun.

The Grantabrigge Exhibition opens in July.

Did you know that Grantabrigge was Cambridge's first name; it means "Chester on the Granta". Take a step back in time and explore Cambridge through the eyes of early



inhabitants. Find out more about our ancestors and see archaeology from Roman and Anglo-Saxon sites in Cambridge.

The Cambridge & County Folk Museum is ten minutes walk from the city centre, on the corner of Northampton Street and Castle Street. The nearest car parking is behind the museum on Pound Hill. Opening times are Monday-Saturday 10.30 a.m.-5.00p.m. and Sunday 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Fulbourn's origins can be traced back to before the Romans arrived, although the first official record of the village is dated 1050. We know of five different manors existing in the village in the past; these are known to us today as Zouches, Manners See, Dunmowes, Colvilles and Shardelowes. At the Norman Conquest in 1066 the principal manor was held by a very wealthy and important noble woman called Edeva the Fair. By the time of the Domesday Survey (in 1086) her lands had passed to Count Alan of Brittany, who fought with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings.

#### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS**

English Heritage have funded a series of the particularly significant as it is the only set of surveys to be taken consistently as a whole and so regional patterns can be examined. Results will be available next year.

#### **FOR SALE**

Compaq laptop Contura 430C, 32mb RAM, trackball mouse, Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Word 97, Microsoft Excel 97. Ideal first computer suitable for simple word processing tasks. **£50.00**

Interested enquiries to Rachel Thompson on 01223 882084 or mobile 07974 625476.

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER**

Help to fill the white space below! Contributions from members most welcome by the Editor; send them to her at 6 Cambridge Road Fulbourn.

