

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER

No.9

WINTER/SPRING 2002

ROUNDUP of Speakers to date:

STRAW OR REED?

A thatcher all his working life, Malcolm Dodson from Kings Ripton spoke at the October meeting and gave members an entertaining and informative talk about thatching, its history and future development. Following his talk, Malcolm spent over half an hour answering questions and fielding members' concerns about their thatched roofs

WONDERS IN WOOD

Alan Eade's hobby is studying timber-framed buildings. He spoke at the November meeting about the history of timber framed buildings, illustrating his talk with slides taken on his travels around the UK and Europe.

A GOOD OL' BOR

The Christmas meeting, held in the Townley Hall, was a very happy occasion. Mince pies, mulled wine and the talented John Humphreys (from Bottisham) were a winning combination. John entertained members with hilarious Tales from the Fens., based around his boyhood during the 1940s and 50s at Sutton in the Isle, Ely, where his father was vicar.

LABOUR MARKET

Rachel Wroth spoke most eloquently at the January meeting about College servants in the 19th century. Mrs Wroth handed out a list of servants from Fulbourn who had worked at Emmanuel College, where her late husband was master; she is engaged in further research of this subject.

COPIES OF FULBOURN CHRONICLES AND HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS AVAILABLE NOW FROM FULBOURN POST OFFICE OR NORMAN OSBORNE, 18 TEVERSHAM ROAD, FULBOURN

ENGLISH HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD Local Studies Resources Pack

The National Monuments Record is the public archive of English Heritage and has designed this offer for people interested in finding out more about their local area. An order form is attached detailing the offer so if you are interested, complete and return it to the address shown on the form.

JANUARY DANCE

Ann Waldock again organised a very successful dance to raise money for the Society's funds; a profit of £148 was made. Our thanks to Ann for organising the dance, Ivy for organising the raffle and everyone who came and joined in the fun.

WHEN WAS YOUR HOME BUILT?

The Society is trying to compile an up-to-date record of all buildings in the Parish and would like every FVHS member to check, where possible, the deeds of their house, and let Tony Goodall, 41 Cherry Orchard (tel.880401) have the following information:

- Date built
- Builder's name, if known
- Alterations & dates & builder's name, if known
- Your name & those of any previous occupants, together with dates, if known
- Name & postal address of property
- Any other information of interest relating to property
- If you cannot discover exact details, please give best estimate and state "estimate"

Remember, Tony Goodall is waiting for your response!

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

The 162nd Annual General Meeting will be held Monday 4 March 2002 at 5.45p.m. in the Chemistry Laboratories, Lensfield Road, Cambridge. All members of Fulbourn Village History Society are welcome to attend.

CONFERENCE ELY: Archaeology, architecture & historical perspectives

Cambridge Antiquarian Society have arranged the above conference for Saturday 9 March 2002 at Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge. In recent years there has been considerable research into aspects of Ely's past. Archaeological discoveries have radically altered previous models for the origins and development of the Saxon & mediaeval town, its economic basis and the extent of trading contacts. In addition the monastery & cathedral have attracted much fresh study through historical documents and standing building recording. This conference gives the opportunity for current research and new insights to be presented and discussed.

A full programme has been arranged, to include beverage breaks, starting at 10.00 a.m. and finishing at 5.00 p.m. For booking details, see insert. Cost of conference is £5 for members of affiliated groups..

VILLAGE MILESTONES/MILEPOSTS

At the beginning of World War II practically all milestones & mileposts in the UK were removed or buried in situ to try and confuse any potential invader. Does anyone know the whereabouts or original positions of any pre-war milestones or mileposts in Fulbourn Parish? Tony Goodall (tel. 880401) would like to know so please contact him if you have any information.

GOLDEN JUBILEE EXHIBITION

An exhibition to celebrate our Queen's Golden Jubilee will be held in the Stables at The Manor at the beginning of June. Arrangements for the displays are forging ahead and we now seek volunteers to act as stewards. If you would like to help, please contact Richard Townley (880284) Norman Osborne (880303) or Tony Goodall (880401).

I HAD ONE OF THOSE BUT I THREW IT AWAY

Is there anyone out there who has domestic equipment (TV especially) toys and clothing from the 1950s, 60s and 70s hidden away or in use which they would be willing to lend to the Society for display at the Golden Jubilee Exhibition (above)? We are desperate for items to display so if you can help, Richard, Tony or Norman would love to hear from you.

WELL I NEVER!

A Fulbourn contributor to *Notes and Queries* in 1859 recorded that young men and women in the county who wished to know the name of their future spouse still, at that date, used to put into their right shoe a two-leafed clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and repeat the rhyme:

A clover of two, a clover of two
Put it in your right shoe;
The first young man (woman) you meet
In field, street or lane
You'll have him/her or one of his/her name.

Until early last century many Cambridgeshire children were told, usually by grandparents, that if they pared an apple without breaking the peel and then threw the peel over their left shoulder, it would form the initial letter of the name of the man or woman they would eventually marry.

HAVE YOU AN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR HOME

Aerial photographs are an invaluable way of monitoring the progress of the development of our parish, as they record the situation at the exact time the photograph was taken. Many companies such as Air Marketing International Ltd and Get Mapping plc, as well as private individuals overflying Fulbourn, have taken photographs during the past 50 years or so. If you have copies of any such photographs or know the whereabouts of any, please let us know so we can copy them and use them to produce a more accurate and definitive record of the

History of Fulbourn. Contact Tony Goodall (880401) if you can help.

YEARNING TO USE THOSE COMPUTER SKILLS?

Are you one of our many "Young Pensioners" have spent most of the past year learning how to drive a computer and now yearn for the opportunity to put newly-acquired skills to good use? We can give you the opportunity to practice your skills because we still need help to enter data on to the computer database. John Patten and Joyce Shingler have been typing away now for several months but the number of accessions is growing faster than ever; a couple of hours a week from a few more willing helpers would soon shift the backlog and bring our records up-to-date. It's an easy task for a "beginner" requiring very little training, so why not give it a go? Contact John Patten on 880852 if you'd like to help.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

FULBOURN SCHOOL 1859-72 pt 1

On Friday 9 October 1857 a meeting was held in the vestry of St Vigor's Church Fulbourn. Amongst the people there were Rev D Hall, who was in charge of building schools in Cambridgeshire, Rev J Usill, the Rector of Fulbourn Church, C W Townley and Mr Chaplin. They were discussing the idea of building a school in Fulbourn. They decided to have one.

The villagers gave about £200 of the £596.14s.10d needed. The Universities gave some money and the Church of England gave the rest.

Mr Townley, in 1858, gave a quarter-of-an-acre of land in Wrights Lane. This land was near the church as the school was a church school.

On 17 May 1859 the first people went to school. There were nearly a hundred children there. The first teacher was a Miss Radford. She was not a qualified teacher because she was ten days too young to get her degree. Some of the first children's names were George Rolph, Eliza Hawkins, Harry Hardwick, Harriet Peachey, Jane Banyard and George Banyard.

On the evening before the school opened another meeting was held. This was to decide the rules; here they are:

1. Any child above the age of five could attend.
2. Each child had to pay some money to the teacher. For the oldest it was 2d and 1d for any other child in the family.
3. An entrance fee for one child in a family was 3d. For two children, 4d.
4. Any child absent for four weeks without permission had to pay the entrance fee again.
5. The hours of attendance were 9.00 am- midday and 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

The school was given £5 to spend on books; it cost £500 to buy all the books in the school library!

On 19 December 1859 Miss Radford was asked to resign; Miss Harriet Smith took over. She was the first proper

headmistress of Fulbourn Church School. She left to marry in 1871.
(to be continued)

FAMILY HISTORY IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridgeshire County Council have published a very useful pamphlet detailing the various resource centres throughout the County where locally created documents relating to the former counties of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely may be found. As well as listing useful book titles available through the local library, the pamphlet also lists the following websites which provide information and act as guides to collections and the information they hold:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk (Cambridgeshire County Council) - links to libraries, the County Record Office, archaeology & museums

www.pro.gov.uk (Public Record Office) tips on how to get started, advise & resources. Leaflets on many genealogy topics and an on-line catalogue of all records deposited at the PRO. Also hosts 1901 Census Project!

www.familyrecords.gov.uk (Family Records Centre) Information about the Family Records Centre and its services.

www.genuki.org.uk (UK & Ireland Genealogy Information Service) An excellent site focusing on UK and Ireland. Provides details of Family History Societies, surname lists and detailed information for each county.

www.rootsweb.com (RootsWeb). A huge US genealogical site particularly useful for surname searching and mailing lists. Also acts as host site for several important volunteer genealogy projects such as:

FreeBMD a project which aims to provide free internet access to the Civil Registration Index of Births, Marriages & Deaths since 1937 (St Catherine's House Index).

FreeReg - this project's objective is to provide free internet searches of baptism, marriage & burial records which have been transcribed from UK parish & non-conformist church registers.

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild - Amongst the best and most comprehensive of the many sites detailing ships' passenger lists world-wide.

www.cyndislist.com. (Cyndi's List) Almost 100,000 links to other genealogy sites on the internet and still growing. Well indexed, it contains lots of useful information.

www.familysearch.org. (Mormons' International Genealogical Index) Although not comprehensive, consists of parish registers indexed by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Allows you to do an Ancestral Search.

www.earl.org.uk/familia (Familia) Information about genealogy resources in UK public libraries.

www.genealogytoolbox.com (Genealogy Toolbox) Over 60,000 links to genealogy websites and news on family history research.

www.hmc.gov.uk (Historic Manuscripts Commission) Hosts ARCHON, the principal information gateway for UK archivists and users of manuscript resources.

www.cwgc.org (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) This site includes the Debt of Honour Register which provides personal and service details and

places of commemoration for those who died during both World Wars.

www.sog.org.uk (Society of Genealogists) Includes useful links to other family history sites.

www.originsnet/gro/ (Scots Origins) The official, Governmental source of genealogical data for Scotland. Scottish birth, marriage & death certificates, parish register entries and 1891 census.

www.genfair.com (GENfair) On-line family history fair where you can order microfiche, software, books and search services.

COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE, CAMBRIDGE WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOU

Local and family history have been absorbing interests for all kinds of people. You may want to know about the parish church, the local school or pub, the treatment of the poor, the railway line, your own house or your own ancestors. Some of these questions can be answered in the local library but studying the original documents often presents an exciting opportunity for further discover.

The County Record Office holds records for Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely relating to

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- PARISH & NON-CONFORMIST CHURCHES
- POOR LAW UNIONS
- LOCAL BUSINESSES, CHARITIES & SOCIETIES
- SCHOOLS
- TURNPIKE ROADS & PROPOSED RAILWAYS
- MANORS & ESTATES
- FEN DRAINAGE
- QUARTER SESSIONS & OTHER LOCAL COURTS
- FAMILIES & PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

There are many maps, aerial photographs and printed books on Cambridgeshire history and other subjects useful to research. The Office is a vast documentary resource relating to almost every aspect of the county's history from the middle ages to the present day.

An appointment is not essential but is helpful especially where records required are unusual - an appointment may save you waiting for a place on arrival. It is also advisable to reserve a reader if you wish to search records on microfilm. Documents may be ordered in advance by telephone, fax or letter. The telephone number is 01223 717281.

You are welcome to come and use the records at the following times:

Tuesday-Thursday 9.00-12.45, 1.45-5.15

Friday 9.00-12.45, 1.45-4.15

and

Tuesday Evening strictly by appointment, 5.15-9.00

Only pencils may be used in the search room and briefcases & large bags must be left in the outer office.

Admission to the Record Office is free-of-charge. Photocopies (A4 & A3) can be supplied of many documents at modest cost & photographic prints of maps etc. can be ordered.

HANDS-ON ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES FROM A NOVICE

The discovery that the Archaeological Field Unit were running a training excavation in Fulbourn last summer provided the means of fulfilling a long-term ambition. In the past, through documentaries or evening classes, I have indulged my fascination

Meeting fellow trainees on the first day was reassuring. No-one looked like Indiana Jones and there was a good spread of ages, from teens upwards. Most people who came lived within 20 miles of Fulbourn - through fifteen-year-old Emma had travelled from the Scottish Highlands (she experienced her first traffic jam on the A14). What motivated us to spend 5 to 10 days of our holidays digging and scrabbling around an earth-work? Those still at school hoped to make a career in archaeology, as did one adult who was taking a Certificate in Archaeology and the rest of us were, quite simply, just interested in the subject.

It was, perhaps, a little unnerving to find our induction talk concentrated on Health & Safety. I hadn't realised the number of potential hazards on site, which were all scientifically classified and described, together with their risk factor (tripping over uneven ground or equipment scored highest, closely followed by falling into a trench). However, it became obvious that common sense would help avoid most accidents and it was good to know our safety and that of others was of major concern.

The first test of our ingenuity and stamina involved transporting equipment to the "moat". This required negotiating obstacles such as stiles and two plank bridges, whilst carrying assorted spades, mattocks, buckets etc. Unfortunately the bridge with hand rails was too narrow for the Field Unit's new, lightweight wheelbarrows. Consequently we had to use elderly, dilapidated models which were more awkward and heavier - especially when being lifted over stiles. It was rather irritating and embarrassing to discover much later in the week that the barrows could be pushed through an adjacent 'dog flap'!

In fact, working on the training excavation proved a more enjoyable way of keeping fit than going to the gym. We were given the task of removing the top soil from Trench 5 and by the end of the day had achieved a very respectable pile of earth. Much to my surprise, muscle aches the next morning were minimal, probably because we had been careful to pace ourselves and had also received useful instruction in handling digging tools (ie, carefully!). Further removal of top soil from the trench continued and was made particularly frustrating and difficult by stubborn and tough root systems. More care needed to be taken as well, since we were finding great quantities of roof tile, some still showing the holes for the pegs. Occasionally an oyster shell would also appear (apparently a popular meal in the Middle Ages) and a few pottery shards. Sorting these artefacts was ongoing and helped maintain interest.

Similarly, our personal involvement increased when it was decided that 2m x 1m rectangles at the corners of Trench 5 would receive individual attention. We each became quite attached, even possessive, about our own "patch" especially as the responsibility of uncovering

new evidence began to emerge. As digging progressed we were instructed in the different excavation techniques, discovering that alternating these helped relieve tired muscles. For instance, when your knees & neck began to ache whilst crouched in a hole it was time to straighten up and wield a shovel. Once the lower back started to stiffen, changing to the brisk, but finer, movements involved in scraping a trowel over the surface of the earth was a great relief (though often leading to a condition known as 'archaeologist's elbow')

It was not all physical work and time out was taken for a brief introduction into surveying methods. The technical & electronic instrumentation looked scary (and to a maths phobic so did the formulae which accompanied them). Instead, our group concentrated on a plan of Trench 5, plotting height & distances using the quaintly named 'Dumpy' level. This wonderful invention only required the basic accessories of tripod, measuring staff, notepad & pencil, reading glasses/magnifying glass (optional) and an assistant, preferably someone able to hold the staff still and vertical at the same time.

Gradually our respective 'corners' took shape. Possible features, such as different coloured soil patches perhaps showing fills, became visible. A local coin, dating from approx. 16th century, pottery from the mediaeval period and glazed roof tile finials were found. An opportunity for 'pot washing' allowed all participants and the excavation to compare notes. Indeed, there was an element of healthy competition (kept in scholarly check) throughout the week, culminating in a general tour of the different trenches. The group who had found stained glass remnants and worked stone were particularly envied! Since Friday was the last day for most of us, much time was spent recording the outcome of our work.

Finally a note about the weather: For field archaeologists this is of considerable importance. Heat makes the earth hard and rain makes it soggy - neither condition helpful to the digging process or conducive to personal comfort. During the week I was there Fulbourn experienced hot sun, humidity, wind, thunder and cloudbursts (though no snow!). It did, however, reveal the highly-trained reflexes of those on site as we scurried under trees or into the Portacabin for shelter when the deluge began. Fortunately the ground dried quickly and apart from our clothing accumulating mud in weird and unexpected places, no real harm was done. Indeed, huddling together trying to avoid rain dripping down one's neck, or squeezing tightly into the steamy Portacabin only increased the sense of camaraderie. This, together with the new skills I had been taught, made my week at the Fulbourn Training Excavation a time of great enjoyment and interest. Moreover, in the future, I hope to become involved with ongoing archaeological developments connected to the site, so there may be opportunity to update these notes in the next Newsletter. You have been warned!

Glynis Arber

**Please send contributions for the Newsletter to
Linda Halton at 6 Cambridge Road Fulbourn
The next edition will be ready to roll in July, so
send copy to her before 30 June 2002.**