

# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 28

Autumn/Winter 2008

## FVHS 9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESULT

There were no changes to the Officers and Committee members, and therefore Clinton Tweed (Chairman), Tony Goodall (Vice Chairman), Glynis Arber (Secretary) and Pauline Hunt (Treasurer), remain in their current positions.

However, there *are still spaces on the general committee*, so if you would like to contribute towards the running of your Society, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary (01223 570887). Our committee meeting's are not onerous, and there are plenty of opportunities to take part at whatever level you wish, whether working towards fundraising, research or general administration etc. and it can be fun... honestly!

Following the A.G.M, John White, ably assisted by Tony Goodall who had devised the power point presentation, gave a talk about 'Campanology ...and the Bells of Fulbourn'. Of particular dramatic interest (apart from the sight - and sound - of your President, Chairman and Secretary ringing handbells!) was the account of the collapse of the Bell Tower of All Saints church in 1776. If you would like to find out more information about this disaster, it appears in Appendix II of the Fulbourn Chronicles Vol I, copies of which are kept in the Archive Store at the Fulbourn Centre.

## COFFEE MORNING AT HALL FARM A SUCCESS AGAIN!



A LIVING ADVERT FOR THE FVHS COFFEE MORNING... BUT WAS IT JUST ON COFFEE?

Our Coffee Morning Fund Raising event took place on 2nd August, and despite the unsettled weather, attracted a satisfactory number of members and guests all of whom found plenty to do.

On arrival, everyone was greeted by a superb display of hand-crafted cards made by Jackie Newell. The handsome £30 profit she received from selling these during the morning, all goes to swell the coffers of Fulbourn Village History Society. (Coincidentally, it is almost the average amount we now need to pay for each Speaker, so is very much appreciated!). Visitors were then encouraged to browse the 'Bring and Buy Stall', purchase raffle tickets and have a leisurely look at photograph albums showing pictures of Fulbourn places and people. And of course, amidst the lovely setting of Hall Farm's gardens visitors enjoyed a cup of coffee while nibbling on biscuits and chatting to friends.

Whilst a social occasion, giving members an opportunity to meet up before our official Season starts on October 16th (with a talk entitled 'Hallowe'en Traditions and Superstitions'), the Coffee Morning also introduces non-members to our Society - and what we do! In many ways, this is just as important as the fund-raising element (we made over £100), and certainly raises our profile in the village. The 'Sandwich Board' courageously (or outrageously?) carried by Peter Halton, advertising the morning activities also helped, and thanks go to everyone who sold tickets, made bring and buy donations - and brought 'gifts' from the stall, served refreshments, and erected/dismantled our Tent. But most of all, to Ivy Smith for organising another, very successful Coffee Morning.

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## OUR DAY OUT - A very personal view by Glynis Arber.

On Saturday, 19th July, Fulbourn Village History Society's coach trip departed for our eagerly awaited outing to Hampton Court. On arrival we were fortunate to engage the services of a very erudite and informative guide and those of our group who expressed an interest in the tour were shown around the interior of the Palace.



We did not just discover historical facts about the building and people associated with it, but as a bonus, several common expressions of speech were explained - many of which originated at the Tudor and Stuart Courts. For instance, someone called a 'Big Wig' today, arose from the huge and expensive wigs worn by very wealthy courtiers during the second half of the seventeenth century. Again, 'handicapped' (according to our guide) comes from the middle ages and Tudor tradition of the physically or mentally disabled earning their living as entertainers and quite literally, with 'cap in hand' begging from their audience.

After our tour of the State Rooms and kitchens, we had the opportunity to explore for ourselves. I went and visited the separate Exhibitions devoted to showing, in detail, the development of Hampton Court and also, the relationship between the young Henry VIII, his first wife, Katherine of Aragon and Cardinal Wolsey. From a personal perspective, I found the most interesting impression to be that politics, even in the Tudor period, was enhanced by an aggressive public relationship exercise. Thus Wolsey, in building Hampton Court between

1515-1528, on such a huge scale, was making a statement to foreign visitors, about his wealth and power. After he fell from favour, Henry VIII continued to use the building as a means of demonstrating his total royal control in the secular - and ultimately, the religious sphere. The Chapel illustrates this, the Royal motto being repeated on the ceiling thirty two times, with the not so subtle intention of Henry's message denoting his belief in the Tudor Dynasty's divine authority to govern his subjects.

As is well known, desire for a male heir contributed to Henry's rather unfortunate matrimonial record. The executions of Ann Boleyn and Catherine Howard were certainly tragic for these queens, but after viewing the Exhibition partially devoted to Katherine of Aragon, my sympathies were aroused for the injuries done to that princess. She helped Henry rule for over twenty years - being his Regent to all intents and purposes when he was absent from the country. During their marriage Katherine gave birth to three (or was it four) still born infants, a son who lived for seven weeks (and who died whilst his parents were publicly celebrating the birth with a Tournament) and a surviving child, (later Queen Mary I, or as I was taught 'Bloody' Mary). Her reward for such devotion - divorce and banishment from Court and the company of her daughter.

Moving on from people, the decorative features within the building were notable, varying from room to room, with the most rich and splendid reserved for audience chambers where the monarch received ambassadors and courtiers. For me, one of the most fascinating was the ante-chamber designed during the reign of William and Mary. The 'furnishings' consisted of real muskets and swords arranged on the wall in abstract patterns. Our knowledgeable guide had explained that symbolically, these reminded foreign visitors (especially those representing Catholic monarchs), that Protestant King William had access to vast weaponry stores - and by implication the soldiers who would use them, should the need to defend his country ever be required.

Another interesting area to view were the Kitchens, now recreated to show Tudor catering facilities (200

people worked there, feeding 800 mouths at Court with two meals a day). Anything to do with food always arouses my attention, and it was with admiration that I found aristocrats of the period had a 75% meat diet (vegetables were not that common) totalling 5000 calories a day!! (Eat your heart out, followers of Atkin.) In one year the meat cooked in the Royal kitchen of Elizabeth I, consisted of: 1240 oxen, 8200 sheep, 2330 deer, 760 calves, 1870 pigs and 53 wild boar. I wonder what their cholesterol readings registered?

The final architectural feature, if it could be described as such, which I thought quite stunning, was the beautiful Astronomical clock, recently regilded, illustrated below. In keeping with the Tudor periods understanding of the Universe, the figure of the sun revolves around the earth. The clock was



made in 1540-1542 by Nicholas Oousian and shows the hour, day, month, number of days since the beginning of the year and, of particular importance when most goods and (important) people were transported via water, the time of high tide at London.

Unfortunately, I did not have time to fully appreciate the magnificent gardens at Hampton Court - but did take a photo of the less formal area (below) which I prefer.

It was truly a wonderful day out, and on behalf of us all, our thanks go to Gill Bradford for so ably organising the trip.



## FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY NEW SEASON OF TALKS STARTS OCTOBER 16TH

Have you renewed your subscription? If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a member, show them the following programme! And remind them, it is more cost effective to join early (at £7.50 p.p.) and have FREE entry to six talks, than pay £2.00 each time. Membership forms will be available at our first meeting or can be obtained via The Secretary, Glynis Arber, 28 The Haven, Fulbourn, CB21 5BG (Tel. 01223 570887).

### Fulbourn Village History Programme of Talks for 2008-2009

16th October 2008	<b>Brian Jones</b>	<i>Hallowe en Traditions &amp; Superstitions</i>
20th November 2008	<b>John Durrant</b>	<i>Cambridge, Past and Present</i>
12th December 2008	<b>Fiona Lucroft</b>	<i>Christmas Food Through the Ages (Social Event. Entry by Ticket only).</i>
15th January 2009	<b>Michael Bowyer</b>	<i>Mosquito - The Bomber with a Fighter Speed</i>
19th February 2009	<b>Bernard O'Connor</b>	<i>Digging up Dinosaurs around Cambridge</i>
19th March 2009	<b>Sandra Barker</b>	<i>Wonderful World of Willow</i>
16th April 2009	<b>Chris Gerrard</b>	<i>The Great Fen Project</i>

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# THE FULBOURN CHRONICLES - *YESTERYEARS NEWS*

The following extracts are from the Fulbourn Chronicles covering extracts from local newspapers relating to the Fulbourn of 100 and/or 150 years ago this month. The four volumes of the Chronicles, covering a period from 1750 to 1955, were compiled by the late Don Crane and may be purchased from Norman Osborne (01223 880303) or from Fulbourn Post Office.

## September 4, 1858 Cambridge Police Court

*Henry Martin, from Fulbourn, and Mary Ann Seabey, of East Road, Cambridge, the latter a girl apparently not above fifteen years of age, who comported herself with a great deal of assurance, were charged with being incapably drunk on New Square at half-past ten the previous night. They were both speechless; and had to be taken on the stretcher to the Station-house, where they remained until eight o'clock on Thursday morning before they were sober enough to understand the position they were in. The Bench were of opinion that the defendants were not sober yet, and they were remanded till Friday, being sent back to the Station till then. The male defendant stated that he came to Cambridge on Tuesday "laargessing". The girl said she met Martin, whom she had previously known, in Fitzroy Street the night before, and that they first went and had some beer, and then went on to "The Garrick" and finished up.*

**Friday.** - *The youthful votaries of Bacchus, remanded yesterday, were brought up, and after a caution discharged.*

It seems yobbish behaviour in Cambridge City Centre has a long history!

The following incident, which occurred 50 years later, also shows that the current fears about child abduction etc. expressed through articles in today's newspapers, is not just a modern phenomenon.

## September 25, 1908

*An Escape.* - *On Friday, about noon, a little girl about 10 years of age was minding the baby on the Balsham Road, about half a mile from the village, when a cyclist came along, dismounted, and asked the child to go over into the field. He made some very disgraceful overtures to her, and the girl became so frightened that she ran away home, the man after her. But someone came in sight at the time, and the cyclist mounted his machine and rode off.*

## POST SCRIPT

Over the past few years, four members of Fulbourn Village History Society, Linda Halton, Peter Halton, Norman Osborne and Ivy Smith, have been researching and transcribing news clips from 1956 to 1960. Their hard work is almost completed, and we anticipate publishing Volume V of Fulbourn Chronicles in the near future.

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## THINK PINK

**No, not elephants... Support a worthwhile charity and enjoy yourselves.**

*I would like to bring to members attention, a Fundraising Event for Breast Cancer, held at The Fulbourn Centre on Saturday 11th October 2008. Entertainment is by 'John E Ford', who I understand, combines magic tricks, comedy and a great voice singing in the style of Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Lionel Ritchie and more!*

*A two course home cooked cold meat and carvery with desert or cheese and a glass of wine are included at £20 a head. For more information, contact Janice Brown on 07776098294 or by e-mail [janicebrown@hotmail.com](mailto:janicebrown@hotmail.com)*



Ah! The good old days. A photo taken in Fulbourn before the current fuel crisis - but is that price per litre or per gallon? One member, at least, claims to have bought petrol at 4/- per gallon (that's 20p per gallon) and also to buying good beer locally at the equivalent of 6p per pint. Has his mind gone? Mind you it is claimed that in Hogarth's day Gin was one penny per pint. What price progress eh?

**Photo courtesy of OPEC** (- No, just kidding!)

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## MEMORY LANE

**A snapshot of Fulbourn in rather more tranquil and possibly less hurried times with not a single car in sight, and not even a lycra clad cyclist.**

**Can anyone say where precisely this photograph was taken... or maybe even when? Are they waiting for a bus?**



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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

William Cole, the famous antiquarian, lived in Milton and wrote accounts of his visits to many Cambridgeshire villages, including Fulbourn. He was born at 'The King's Arms' Bourn Bridge, in Little Abington in 1714. He has been described as having violent prejudices, being an ardent Tory and having a lively interest in scandal. It is to him we owe the only drawing we have of our two churches side by side in Fulbourn churchyard, and the only one of 'All Saints'.

He visited Fulbourn in 1754 and this is an extract from his manuscript:-

*'Dr Wilson, formerly fellow of St. John's College, as Rector in 1744 and has a son at St. John's. He died at Fulbourn in Oct. 1781 like a hog as he and his wife had lived: never kept a servant of any sort. His son married imprudently and is now a sea chaplain and disinherited by his father'.*

*'Mr Lee the Vicar died of a pleuretic fever at Fulberne Jan. 24 1750. He was a widower and left some daughters. A man of most inventive fancy, telling such tales as no sober person could give any credit to: which faculty meeting with a rivalry in the person of the squire of the parish, though a very large one, it was found too small peaceably to hold them both. Pity such great geni in the same art were planted so near the other, where there was too little room to display their different excellencies, without rubbing one against the other! They were both northern men and both educated originally in the same University.'*

He also visited Fulbourn in 1746 and recorded various items relating to the two churches of All Saints and St Vigor's. These included descriptions of memorial plaques, extracts from the parish records and personal observations about the two buildings. We now have a copy of the relevant material, kept in the Archive Store, Fulbourn Centre, which is very useful since it contains information formerly believed to be lost, especially in regards to the Church of All Saints.

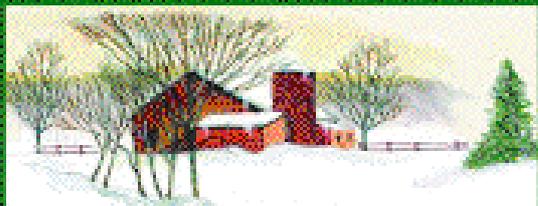
It appears that the collapse of All Saints tower in 1766 (and the subsequent local scandal associated with the 'Bells' of Fulbourn, a subject dealt with in detail by John White following our recent A.G.M meeting), was an accident waiting

to happen. As the Rev Cole commented nineteen years earlier, on October 12, 1747:

*The church here is old and in no good repair, consisting of a square tower in which hang 5 bells: A spacious nave and chancell partly tiled and partly thatched: Two side and cross isles leaded 'and ye N.Vestry dilapidated' .....*

How many other historic buildings in Fulbourn have met the same fate, and been demolished before adequate records could be made about them? One of the tasks undertaken by Fulbourn Village History Society, is to photograph and/or survey (where possible), old structures that might be under threat, a policy very much in keeping with our motto 'To save Fulbourn's past for the future'.

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**SHOP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Members have the opportunity to buy individually created Christmas Cards hand-crafted by Jackie Newell.**

**The cards will be on Sale at our first meetings of the 2008-2009 season on:**

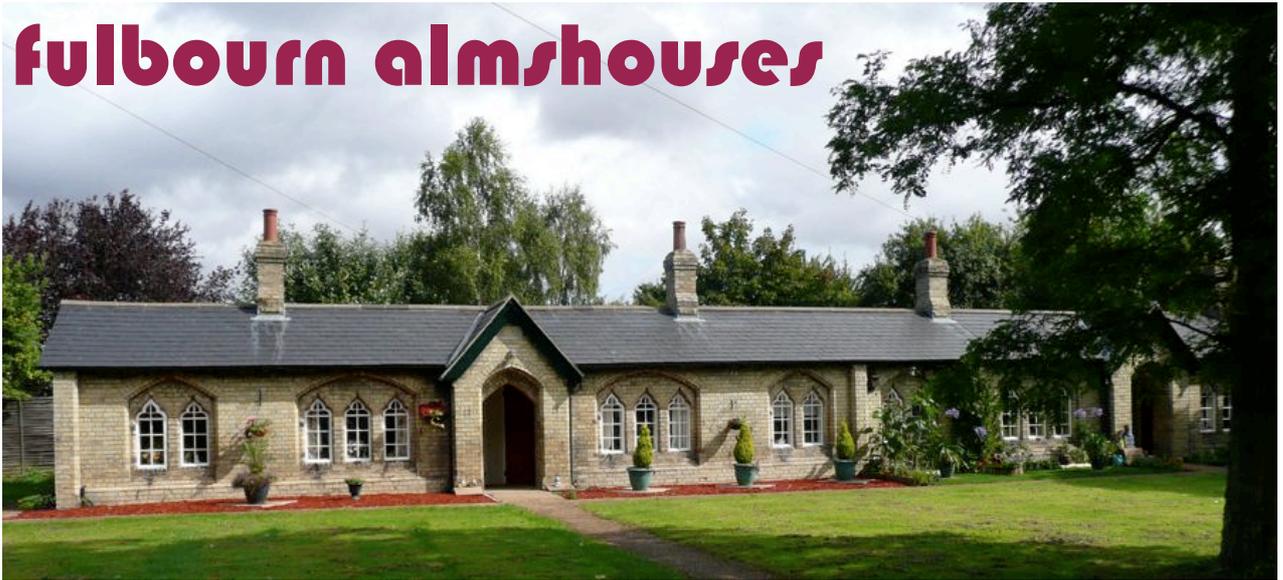
**Thursday 16th October**  
**Thursday 20th November**

**All profit goes to**  
**Fulbourn Village History Society**



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# fulbourn almshouses



Almshouses are dwellings provided in perpetuity for people in need and generally administered by a body of local trustees. They have existed in the United Kingdom for over 1000 years. The tradition has continued down the centuries so that now there are over 2000 almshouse charities providing over 30,000 homes in all parts of the country. Today most almshouses offer independent accommodation in one or two self contained houses or flats.

The original known almshouses in Fulbourn were situated in the churchyard adjacent to land known as The Camping Ground. In 1857 they were noted to be little more than hovels in a very dilapidated state and not fit for human habitation. By 1861, they had no roofs and the doors were completely inadequate and were reported as being 'not even fit for pig- sties'.

A public meeting was called in May 1863, for the purpose of considering the erection of new almshouses on a different site and that the present land be returned to the churchyard along with the Camping Ground. These would be built in commemoration of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII with Alexandra of Denmark.

Mr Townley offered a piece of land on the north side of Webb's Close for the erection of the new almshouses and this was accepted along with a proposal for a new road in exchange for the old one. Arrangements were made to alter the layout

of the road into Hay Street (now Station Road) which included the widening of Church Lane and the closing of a footpath running across the churchyard.

Various subscriptions were raised and eight new dwellings were duly completed in July 1864. Residents moved in immediately and the old hovels were demolished without delay. The new buildings consisted of a sitting room with a brick floor and a boarded bedroom. The sitting room would have been more appropriately named a living room as it held a black leaded kitchen range for cooking as well as heating. There was also an integral coal shed which was later used as a cupboard. The Cambridge Chronicle reported that *'great credit is due to the squire and the parish officers for their activity in carrying out the much-needed improvement'*

By 1905, the ratepayers were no longer forced to make a contribution to the upkeep of the eight Almshouses so the funds had to be raised by other means. Concerts were held, money was bequeathed to the Trustees and in WW11 £70 came from the "War Weapons Week" fund to be invested in "War Loans". Various entertainments organised in the "Wings for Victory Week" brought a donation of £100.

In 1952, running water was installed with help of funds donated by the Fulbourn W.I. Water previously had to be drawn from a tap situated on the green at the front.



In 1959 the Almshouses had extensions built onto the back. A galley kitchen and shower room were erected behind the living room. A communal shed was erected on one end of the row for the use of all the residents.

The Almshouses did not appear as they are today until 2001. It was then that the previous extension was demolished and two new rooms and a back hall were added. They are now in effect, double the size that they were in 1864 and consist of a sitting room, made larger by incorporating the coal shed into it, a kitchen/breakfast room, shower room and a bedroom all with gas central heating.

They are managed today in the same manner as all other Almshouses, by a board of Trustees and a clerk who deals with the administration. The only income

being the rents received from the residents, which pays for the upkeep, making the Almshouses in Fulbourn self sufficient.

**Editor's Note:** Many, many thanks to Gill Bradford (the Clerk of Fulbourn Almshouses and a valued member of Fulbourn Village History Society Committee) for submitting this fascinating report. Similar articles are always greatly appreciated, and add to the diversity of this Newsletter. If you do have any thoughts, accounts etc. which would be of interest to our members, please contact the Editor (01223 570887) or e-mail her at [g.arber@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.arber@ntlworld.com) (and don't worry about the grammar or spelling, I find proof reading software when editing/writing the Newsletter most helpful!).