



# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

*"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"*

NEWSLETTER NO. 29

Spring/Summer 2009

## BARBARA WHITE 1923 –

Barbara White was a founder member of Fulbourn Village History Society. She was one of the six who gathered at Hall Farm and decided that they would try to start a history society for the village. Norman Osborne had asked for anyone so interested to meet there to discuss having a museum, and to collect photographs and other items pertaining to Fulbourn to form a permanent record.

Before we had anywhere to keep these records we had accumulated over 300 photographs, many of them taken by Barbara and her family, of sites in the village. She entered their details in our first Register of Accessions in her neat, clear, handwriting. She did her share of 'manning' the 'History Hut' in Haggis Gap, sifting through the documents etc. which were brought in, and helping to answer any questions.

After we moved to The Fulbourn Centre, she found the walk just a little too far, but still maintained a lively interest in the Society. She also attended, and indeed instigated, recordings of villagers' memories,



which are stored on tape in the History Archive Room.

We shall indeed miss someone to whom history was of paramount interest.

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY SPRING

The Spring Conference this year, held on Saturday 28 March from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m., is entitled 'Ely 1109-2009 Celebrating 900 years'. It takes place in Room LG18, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DZ. Members of Fulbourn Village History Society can attend for an entrance fee of £8.50 (non-members £10.00). You do not need to book unless you order a sandwich lunch (£6.50 p.p. extra). For the concluding part of the report on the 2008 conference, see item on page 4 *"Not Just Old Bones"*.



**Robe of the Order of the Bath. Just one of the fascinating collection of Naval uniforms & costumes from the Maritime Museum at Greenwich - destination of our Summer trip in 2009. See page 6 for more information.**

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## PERSONAL RESEARCH by Ursula Lyons.

As Fulbourn Village History Society enters its Tenth Anniversary Year, it is apposite that we reflect upon one of the main objectives set down in our Constitution. *“To research, keep and maintain records of all aspects of the village’s social and historical development”*.

This can take place in many ways, (and has done!) but perhaps the most rewarding is the satisfaction obtained from personal research undertaken by an individual, which reveals answers to what they had been seeking. In fact, enquiries from people tracing their Family history have increased in recent years and e-mails from many parts of the U.K., as well as Canada and Australia are often received. Moreover, visitors to the Archive Store have been impressed with its extensive collection of photographs and documents relevant to Fulbourn. They certainly appreciate (as do we all) the local knowledge and helpful advice of the Society’s Archivist, Pat White, and her assistants.

One of our members, Ursula Lyons, has drawn on these sources whilst undertaking a fascinating project to discover the origins and former inhabitants of Walnut Tree Cottage, Stonebridge Lane, the house in which she now lives. Ursula has kindly shared with us, via the History Society Newsletter, her account of what has been revealed so far.

### STONE BRIDGE LANE AND ITS COTTAGES (Part 1)

It has been said that the area around Stonebridge Lane was almost certainly the original site of the Anglo-Saxon settlement from which the village of Fulbourn grew (Crane: Highways and Byways). According to the Victoria Counties History: “During the 18<sup>th</sup> century a line of eight two-or-three-bayed cottages, one dated 1735, were built on small crofts south west [sic] of the village along the south side of Broad Green, so named by 1460, where dwellings had been recorded by 1506”. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century dwellings in the village mostly stood toward the eastern end of the village where housing had largely been concentrated in 1800, and of the forty or so houses surviving in Fulbourn from before 1800, most stood there. Until the 1940’s this area (i.e. the Lane and its cottages) was known as Broad Green, which is how it was known locally and is referred to in all the Fulbourn Chronicles until that date and how it appears on all the early maps. (The

pre enclosure map marks it over what is now the gardens to the north of the houses, while later maps show Broad Green written over the fields to the south).

The first reference to Stonebridge Lane is in the Chronicle in 1912. Formerly, it is claimed, there were many more houses, while the remains of four manors (Colville, Shardelowes, Zouches and Dunmowes), now little more than bumps in the ground, are all congregated here on the north side of the Lane. Now the Mill House as well as the six separate dwellings on the south side are all that remain as a link with the past. These six cottages (and I am excluding from my researches later buildings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) are made of original 18<sup>th</sup> century structures, with timber frames and - apart from Hindloders - thatched roofs. Living in such an interesting part of Fulbourn and in one of these 18<sup>th</sup> century cottages – Walnut Tree Cottage – has led to my desire to discover its origins and who lived here before us. (Also I am responding to the History Society’s call for information about one’s house – Your Home’s History!) But where to start?

It seemed best to work backwards, as we were fortunate to have inherited sufficient documents to take the history of the house and its owners back some sixty years to 1942, which is when Walnut Tree Cottage and all its neighbours eastwards in the Lane were sold, in four lots, by the Townley Estate. 1942 marked the end of probably some 160 years of occupancy by people, mostly villagers, who were closely attached to the land as agricultural labourers and who lived in the houses as tenants. There had been few changes to their way of life and the cottages lacked any utilities such as water, electricity, sewerage and gas. The sale description of our cottage lists the accommodation as having a “living room with cooking range, sitting room with fireplace, and 2 bedrooms”: it also has an earth closet and is “main water connected” (I need to find a date\* for this connection, as I was later told that during the Missings’ time the water came from a well). That sale broke this link with the land when the houses were bought and lived in by incomers, for the most part, who improved and modernised their houses. With them the modern era arrived. Through our documents we learnt of the six previous owners up till 1942. We also discovered that the first owner/occupiers were two Irish sisters, Jane and Alice (Maude) Barnard who are still remembered in Fulbourn – Alice is commemorated by a kissing gate erected in her memory by her sister Jane in 1961, on the footpath leading from

Stonebridge Lane alongside the Recreation Ground. (But does anyone know anything about Richard and Hilary Dale who lived in Walnut Tree Cottage from 1982-1984, or about Michael and Marie Ryan and A.J.Holmes who sold the house to them?)\*

Going back to before 1942, I thought things would become difficult in trying to discover who the tenants were who lived in the house. But I did know that the last of the tenants was a Mrs. Scott, as she was listed as such ("rent 3/6 per week") when the house was sold by the Townley Estate. The Scotts\* (Eric and Florence) are remembered as being a large family of 7 children (two of whom were to be born in Walnut Tree Cottage) who were evacuated from London and who lived in the house from about 1940 to 1947, (after which they all emigrated to Australia), this despite the fact that the house had been bought in 1942 by one Mears, farmer, of Milton Road, Cambridge who sold it the following year to the Barnard sisters (though they only went to live there in 1947).

Then a stroke of luck. One day last year I spotted from our kitchen window a group of ladies clustered by our garden gate, cameras in hand. They turned out to be a Missing (no pun) link with the occupants of the past. Eileen and her 2 daughters were on a trip down memory lane, having come down from Cheshire where they now live. Eileen was the daughter of Harry MISSING, who in turn was one of the 9 children of "George and Mary Ann Missing of Broad Green" (as they appear in Electoral Registers from 1926 and in the Censuses from 1881 to 1901). From her I was able to piece together the history of Walnut Tree Cottage for over a period of some sixty years! Eileen's grandparents George and Mary Ann married in 1872 but it is not known when they started to live in Broad Green, as they first appear in the 1881 census as living in Broad Green with

their first three children. She herself remembered staying in the house with them for three months, round about 1930, and was able to recall many interesting details about the interior and the garden. The house was then just a 2-up 2-down place, so life was very crowded at times! There was a bedroom for the parents and another for all the children, the boys sleeping one side of a curtain coming down from a central beam and the girls on the other! According to Eileen, all 9 children of George and Mary Ann were born in here between 1872 and 1897. She put me in touch with a cousin who lives in Cambridge, Dorothy Kent, who is a great grand daughter of George and Mary Ann, and whose mother, Grace (Mathews), and brother Horace Benstead were also born in the house (in 1893 and 1915 respectively).

As a result of this stroke of luck I now know who lived here for the past 130 years! Just another hundred to go... Best of all, I was given this copy of a photograph (below) taken on the south side of the cottage in about 1902 on the occasion of the wedding of Robert Missing to Edith(?). This is a Missing family group of 15 adults and 5 children, all dressed up in the clothes of that time – large hats worn by all the ladies, even by the 3 young girls at the front. This to me is a document to treasure. The History Society also now have a copy, and I have passed on to them what I have been able to discover about the Missing/Missen family history from Parish Records, Electoral Rolls, Censuses, as Missings are recorded in



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Part 2 of Ursula's ongoing quest will be printed in the next Newsletter.

(The Editor would be most grateful to receive articles written by other members/relatives/friends on aspects of local history - people, places, events etc.)

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# CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH

## “Not Just Old Bones: The Archaeology of Past Lives”

The way academic research and practical archaeology is also relevant for the world we live in today, as was ably illustrated by Professor John Hunter, (University of Birmingham) whose lecture ‘**Archaeology and the Crime Scene**’ was graphically brought to life through a selection of photographs documenting his work as a Forensic Archaeologist. They showed investigations into sites that encompass the accidental death or murder of individuals to those of mass graves following genocide.

He explained that, from the 1990’s onwards, police and archaeologist have begun to co-operate, using the specialised expertise of the latter at crime scenes involving potentially buried remains. It has now been recognised that Archaeological techniques aid and facilitate the process of Search and Recovery.

For example:-

- An understanding of landscapes and how disturbances to the ground affect the topography and vegetation.
- The accurate and meticulous recording of stratified levels when working on graves and their associated context.
- Excavation without contamination.
- Experience of identifying hard tissue.

However, there are certain imperatives where Forensic Archaeology diverges from main stream archaeology. For instance, when dealing with the site of a probable major incident the timeframe of the operation and the hierarchies involved in its administration are different. As are legal constraints and the role of the ‘Expert’ witness whereby the ‘findings’ of the Forensic Archaeologist are

‘published’ to members of a jury, and not subject to peer review. There are also social implications, since the Forensic Archaeologist is dealing with the recent dead and the living. The distinction between whether human remains have ‘been’ buried or ‘become buried’, is also crucial.

Questions asked by a Forensic Archaeologist, which are of particular relevance to his presentation of the evidence are:-

- How was the grave dug, and with what implements?
- Was the grave dug in a hurry?
- Does the grave contain any associated material or fills which are foreign to the context?
- Did the perpetrator leave traces around the grave?

When first approaching a crime scene, the Forensic Archaeologist will always work from non-invasive to invasive techniques, so as to minimise disturbance of the area and avoid trashing evidence. eg Geophysics and ‘sniffer’ dogs are employed and research into the signatures put out by decaying organic matter is being developed. The latter involves the controlled burial of pigs, under a variety of conditions/times, to set parameters for the rates at which decay can be detected. (Heat is produced once the process has been started, although this depends on many different factors.)

Much of the work of the Forensic Archaeologist involves the investigation of sites containing anomalies, often following tip offs. In most instances, the results eliminate rather than produce a significant find or clue, a factor which is just as important. [*Remember this aspect of archaeology, those Members of Fulbourn Village Research Group who undertook the Field Walking Survey!*]

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## A CRAFTY MEETING

Our next meeting is on 19th March, when Sandra Barker when Sandra Barker, who is a yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers (of whom there are only eight in the world) will talk about 'The Wonderful World of Willow". There will also be an opportunity to 'have a go' at this ancient craft.



In keeping with this crafty theme, Jackie Newell will be selling her lovely individually designed Easter Cards. Her efforts are much appreciated, since as well as producing something just that bit different, all profits go to Fulbourn Village History Society.

# A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Fulbourn Village History Society members have again been very generous with their donations to the Raffle, especially at our December meeting. This proved a very enjoyable social event - the wine, mincepies and festive nibbles forming an apt background to Fiona Lucroft's presentation about 'Christmas Food Through The Ages'. As an added bonus, at the end of the evening, the Society's funds were in profit by the princely sum of £200!!

We have also received a Certificate from East Anglian Air Ambulance, thanking us for our donation of £36. This was raised through a collection held at the personal request of Michael Bowyer, the speaker in January. He had attended despite ill health, but with the aid of a pre-recorded commentary 'transmitted' through the Society's

portable P.A. system and synchronised with a Power Point presentation (Oh, the wonders of modern technology - once you have managed to get the digital projector to work!), gave an informative account of the history and development of the Mosquito fighter bomber. The real star of the show, this plane was instrumental in helping to change the result of World War II and the way we may all live our lives now.

Again, many thanks for your support in buying raffle tickets at our regular meetings also. Incidentally - the recent talk by Bernard O'Connor in February, advertised as 'Digging Up Dinosaurs Around Cambridgeshire' perhaps more accurately should have had the word 'Dung' inserted after 'Dinosaurs', since it described the Copralite mining industry in our area during the late nineteenth century and was a fascinating insight into local social history.

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## HELP!!! Your opportunity to play a part.

Two members of our Fund-Raising group, Jackie Newell and Ivy Smith, are taking a well earned 'retirement' from organising and running the Fulbourn Village History Society Raffle and Bottle Stall respectively. Their help has contributed significantly to the healthy condition of our past, and present, balance sheets. Many, many thanks.

We are now seeking any member/s who would be prepared to undertake these sociable and worthwhile activities in the future. The 'job' descriptions (below) indicate what is involved (you do not have to be a member of the committee - though you would be very welcome if you wish to join us), while advice and support will still be available from both Jackie and Ivy.

### RAFFLE

#### Why do we have a raffle?

*The profits go towards speaker fees, and enable us to have a varied and interesting programme of talks.*

#### What is involved?

*To collect donations, or buy (you are reimbursed, of course!), three prizes before each meeting. Ticket sales suggest that at least one should be a 'bottle'!*

#### How does the The Big Christmas Raffle operate?

*A list of volunteers who have kindly offered to donate prizes is provided by the Secretary. You then telephone them to ensure we are not inundated with Christmas Puds and nothing else!*

### BOTTLE STALL.

#### Why do we have a Bottle Stall at Fulbourn Feast?

*The profits also go towards speaker fees, and is a fun way to meet and chat to a wider audience.*

#### What is involved?

*Following publicity at our meetings and flyers sent out by the Secretary, donations of bottles are deposited at your address. These can be containers of shampoo,*

*toiletries, sauces etc as well as alcohol.*

*Usually about £25 is spent purchasing items at the supermarket.*

#### How does the Bottle Stall operate?

*Each bottle has a number taken from a raffle book and attached by sellotape. (eg. 0, 5, 10, 15, 20 etc.). Their 'duplicates' and the remainder of the raffle book numbers are folded up and placed in a basket, to be drawn by the participants.*



***If you can help out contact Glynis Arber on 01223 570887***

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## SUMMER 2009 VISIT TO GREENWICH



Our Summer Visit this year will be to Greenwich, London. The plan for the day is as follows: Coach leaves Fulbourn at 8.30 a.m. On arrival at Greenwich, and optional 'Coffee break' members are able to visit various attractions in their own time. These can include **The National Maritime Museum** (free entry) which details inspirational stories of exploration, discovery and endeavour from Britain's seafaring past, together with the continuing effects the oceans still have on the world today.

Also within a short walking distance is the Royal Observatory and Queen's House. **The Royal Observatory** (free entry), is the home of **Greenwich Mean Time** and the famous **Prime Meridian of the World**. Sir Christopher Wren's Royal Observatory is also a museum of time and astronomy and London's only public **Planetarium** (timed shows, £6.00 adult ticket). The **Queen's House** (free entry) completed in 1638 by Inigo Jones as a summer house for Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, is the first purely classical Renaissance building in Britain. It is now the principal showcase for the National Maritime Museum's world-class collection of fine art, displaying master works by artists including **Gainsborough, Reynolds, Hogarth, Turner** and the **van de Veldes**.

### Other

world heritage site attractions in Greenwich are the Fan Museum, Greenwich Market, Old Royal Naval College, St Alfege Church, Trafalgar Tavern, Trinity Hospital, The Wernher Art Collection at Ranger's House and Blackheath. After lunch (there is a cafe and tea house within Greenwich Park, and doubtless pubs/restaurants in the surrounding streets), we have booked a **Guided Tour of Greenwich** (included in the price of your ticket), which will take us to view the **Cutty Sark** (still undergoing conservation work), as well as describing the history of the area and its famous buildings. We will be picked up by the coach at 5.00 p.m..

**Please Note:** Although most of the sites are contained within a reasonable distance, a certain degree of walking is involved.

**The cost of the visit is £16.00 p.p. which includes both the coach hire and Guided Walk.** A non-refundable deposit of £5.00 will be collected at our next meeting on March 19th, and the balance at the following meeting on April 16th. If you are not attending any of these evenings, **please contact Gill Bradford (01223 880783) to make arrangements for your payment - and of course, if you require more information about the trip.**

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# THE FULBOURN CHRONICLES - *YESTERYEARS*

## From The Fulbourn Chronicles 1851-1900

*The following somewhat macabre extracts appear in Vol II of The Fulbourn Chronicles.*

### Skeleton Unearthed

March 1, 1856



Fulbourn. - A Human Skeleton Found. - A few days since, as Mr Thomas Wells' men were ploughing in a field called Wind-mill hill, the horses suddenly sunk in the earth to several inches in depth. Curiosity prompted the men to examine the place; and after digging to the depth of about 15 inches, they discovered a human frame of rather a large stature; they also found a well beneath where the skeleton lay, but filled up with earth. They continued digging and found several earthen vessels. How or when the skeleton came there, or at what period the well was in use, is involved in

mystery, but in all probability the well has not been in use for many score years.

### Burnt Bodies Discovered!

March 6, 1875

Fulbourn. - A correspondent writes:- In making the double line of rails between Cambridge and Six Mile Bottom, a curious and interesting discovery has been made, about 200 yards from the Fulbourn Station. The remains of an ancient furnace have been found. It had been used for cremation, and contained the calcined remains of the bodies of men; it is about five feet deep, and six wide; round the bottom is a rudely made flue, containing the remains of charred wood; the dome of the furnace is cased with rough stone. A passage large enough for a man to creep into runs from it horizontally in a N.W. direction; this has been followed for about six feet, and it is supposed to lead to a similar furnace. Above the furnace were found the remains of men's bodies, thighs, leg-bones, and skulls, the whole looking as if, after some considerable slaughter, the bodies of a large number of men had been burned, and a few bodies of those who had died afterwards, and that had been at first overlooked, were afterwards buried. The date of the remains can hardly be placed later than Anglo-Saxon times.

*(Hmmm, it seems imaginative speculation was not invented by Time Team! - Ed.)*

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## REFERENCE BOOKS

### Just a few of the Titles kept in the Archive Store

Fulbourn Chronicles Volume I, II, III, IV, V  
Glossary of Household, Farming and Trade Terms  
*Rosemary Milward (1977)*  
Life in an English Village  
*N Carrington, E Bawden (1949)*  
Trace Your Ancestors  
*L G Pine (1953)*

History of the Farmstead  
*John Weller (1952)*  
Reconstructing Historical Communities  
*Alan MacFarlane (1977)*  
Poverty in Cambridge  
*Michael J Murphy (1978)*  
Sources for English Local History  
*W B Stephens (1973)*  
Maps for the Local Historian  
*J B Harley (1977)*

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## FULBOURN FOLK LORE

In 1969, I spent £5 5s 0d of my very first wages on the recently published book 'Cambridgeshire Customs and Folklore' by Enid Porter. It was money well spent, covering a wide range of folk beliefs and customs held and observed in the county both in the past and present.

This is only one of the many volumes of reference books held by Fulbourn Village History Society in our Archive Store (See page 7) and available for use by members of the public. Why not come along and browse? You may be surprised at what you find.

The following extracts specifically relate to Fulbourn, and are found in Chapters dealing with 'Folklore and Customs of Human Life', 'Curing the Sick' and 'Calendar Customs', respectively.

### Marriage

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 husbands or wives still, at that date, used to put into their right shoes a two-leaved 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.*

### Bites of Mad Dogs

Among the papers of the Townley family of Fulbourn Manor, now lodged in the County Record Office in Cambridge, is the following charm against the bite of a mad dog:

*the charme for a madd-dogg is to be wrote upon a piece of Cheese pairing or little rowle of paper & given the doggs to eate, that which is wrote on paper we made up in butter. ye words are Oribus diebus, vivas vives, minas mines a populus quarae, the commaes & the diphthong at last must be observed.*

The doggerel Latin of this and many other charms is probably a dimly remembered memory of pre-Reformation Church Latin.

### Plough Monday

In Fulbourn 'the unemployed dressed up and molly danced'. In the evening they were joined by ploughboys and the plough.

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## STOP PRESS

Following the final demise of our photocopier, Fulbourn Village History Society Committee have purchased, on your behalf, a commercial quality A3 colour printer, scanner and photocopier.

Manufactured by Ricoh, this was a real bargain since although second hand, it had only made 80 copies before becoming bankrupt stock, and subsequently cost us just one quarter of the recommended retail price.

The machine will be of immense value in our objective to 'research keep and maintain records of all aspects of the village's social and historical development', since the ability to produce material at A3 size is often required. Similarly, scanning records that do not conform to the A4

or A5 format will now be much easier. Having the colour option (which will be used frugally!) is also an added bonus.

It is able to automatically print on both sides of paper, and indeed, this current Newsletter is destined to be the first project using this function. (Wish me luck!).

Our thanks go to Anthony Goodall, who researched the subject thoroughly, and tracked down this machine. Furthermore the 'volunteer time' spent by other members of the I.T. team, John Patten and Peter Halton who, together with Tony, are in the process of 'getting to grips' with the new technology, is much appreciated.