

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 47

Spring 2018



ANTHONY GOODALL 1934 - 2018

For over 16 years, and since its formation, Tony Goodall was a staunch supporter of F.V.H.S. Serving as a Committee member - including a long period as Vice Chair, he was involved in every aspect of the Society.

This included volunteering at The History Hut on Monday mornings and acting as Steward at our Exhibitions. Indeed, Tony was very much associated with organisation of these events. He was meticulous when setting out the Display Boards - on many occasions providing the layout and was instrumental to the over all professional quality of the resulting presentation.

Practical research into Fulbourn's history was another task which Tony undertook. A dedicated and enthusiastic participant in The Fulbourn Village Research Project he worked on historic building surveys, and traced the ancient trackways of the Parish. Tony also transcribed the text of the section on Fulbourn from The Victoria History Volume for Cambs onto a spread sheet which made its content much more user friendly. Being particularly fascinated by maps Tony was responsible for resourcing the History Society's collection of O.S. publications etc.

Moreover, whenever technical equipment was required, Tony pursued with thorough investigations the 'best deal' for the Society whether it be computers, scanners, printers and cameras. Photography was of great interest to him especially when it became possible to digitise old photographs. Tony spent many patient hours enhancing faded images using photoshop and then transferring them to the computer and onto a C.D.

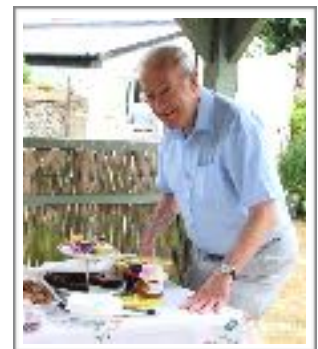
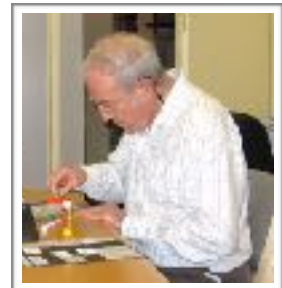
Fulbourn Village History Society Committee acknowledge Tony's contribution by naming our digital archive as a memorial to his achievement. In future it will be known as the Anthony Goodall Digital Collection and is open for consultation and research during F.V.H.S. Office hours at The Fulbourn Centre (Monday and Wednesday from 10.00 to noon).

The part that Tony played in promoting Fulbourn Village History Society to the wider public and local residents was considerable. He was willing to serve in any capacity at our Fund-raising social occasions - from serving behind the cake stall to erecting an Exhibition tent while at the same time 'chatting' to the visitors about our activities.

One of the objectives of the F.V.H.S. is to 'liaise and co-operate with the Parish Council on matters of village interest relevant to the Society'. As a long term member of the Parish Council, Tony ably fulfilled this requirement. His commitment to the village of Fulbourn and to the History Society was absolute. Tony will be missed by all.

GLYNIS ARBER

Thumbnail Images of Tony from our Archives : Top to Bottom: Moving into The Fulbourn Centre, Scrapbooking Newspaper Clippings, Erecting the Exhibition Tent. (left), Enjoying the Exhibition (right), Putting up F.V.H.S. sign, selling Cakes at our Coffee Morning



HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ARTEFACTS HELD IN OUR STORE: HAND-MADE CLOTHING

CHRISTENING ROBE

Two of our most treasured Artefacts are these late Victorian or Edwardian hand made Christening robes for infants.



HISTORY

The Christening Robe evolved in the mid-eighteenth century when babies were freed from being tightly wrapped in swaddling clothes. By the early nineteenth century they were modelled on adult women's fashionable dresses with a high, short bodice, gathered waist and long skirt. They typically had short sleeves (ours do not, which might argue for a later date).

This design changed little during the century and improved manufacturing processes allowed the less wealthy to replace expensive silk and satin with fine cotton, cambric or white linen. Christening robes were expected to symbolise innocence and purity and by this period, whatever the material used, it was normally white.

As the child was taking part in one of the most important ceremonies in the Christian Church, much care was taken to decorate his or her (the dresses were unisex) robe as elaborately as possible.

The two baptismal garments in our Collection are exquisitely hand trimmed with pin tucks,

embroidery anglaise lace and embroidered motifs. By this period, lace could also be purchased rather than being crafted by hand although both dresses show signs of handmade whitework embroidery. It must have been a true labour of love.

NIGHT ATTIRE

HISTORY

By the sixteenth century, nightclothes, closely related to basic daywear, were adopted by both sexes and from the nineteenth century. They featured collars, yokes and cuffs. However, by around 1883 men were gradually replacing the traditional nightshirt with pyjamas.

The nightgown in our Collection was handmade and at some point a tear in the fabric was mended - not very well! Indeed, the quality of the needle work is somewhat basic and perhaps indicates it was performed by a novice.



The pyjama top (no trousers) is also hand made made from a thick cotton fabric with a fine stripe and has covered buttons (manufactured - we have several packets of these in our Collection).



GLYNIS ARBER

VISIT BY MELBOURN U3A HISTORY GROUP

On Tuesday, September 19th 2017, approximately 20 members of Melbourn U3A History Group were guided around Fulbourn by Glynis, Rose and Alison . A programme of points of significance



around the village had been devised earlier and tailor made to fit in within their timescale. Buildings covered included 1 Home End, The United Reform Church, The White Hart, 8 Home End, 16 Balsham Road, The Manor (see photo) , Almshouses, Six Bells, No 8 High Street, and the War Memorial (they were very impressed by the story of the Gilson family and Red Cross V.A.D. hospital). Nick Toovey kindly gave a tour of St Vigor's and some brave souls climbed the bell tower - the 'innards' of the church clock proving a great hit!

It was a very enjoyable occasion for all although the weather could have been

warmer (we were very grateful that The Institute opened early for us and provided coffee and biscuits). The success of the Melbourn visit has encouraged us to provide this walk in the future for interested parties - and with more time, it would be possible to extend it to the Hall Orchard Moat site and other roads within the village. A BIG Thank you to the Committee members who organised this event.

TALKS UPDATE

The quality of our Talks just keep getting better and better. In February, everyone enjoyed watching David Bruce build Ely Cathedral before our very eyes! (See Photo below.)



Rose has worked very hard arranging our next Season's Programme and the subjects/dates chosen are as follows:

2018

- 18 Oct. **Boudicca** by Chris Carr
- 15 Nov. **Samuel Pepys** by Jane Hughes
- 14 Dec. **Tudor Christmas** by Katy Salmon (Social Event).

2019

- 17 Jan. **Mackays** by Duncan Mackay
- 21 Feb. **Cambridge Castle** by Alison Taylor t.b.c.
- 21 Mar. **Special Operations: Nadine's Story** by Joan Munden

Our A.G.M. on 19th April 2018 will be preceded by a Presentation previewing the two booklets to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI that Fulbourn Village History Society have produced and will be selling at Fulbourn Feast 2018. This is your first chance to pre-order a copy of *Fulbourn War Memorial. The men who gave their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918* and *The Story of Fulbourn's Red Cross Voluntary Aid Hospital*. (Note: the print run was limited at 100 for each volume).

FULBOURN CASUALTIES OF THE GREAT WAR: Part 1

Some appreciation of the suffering caused by World War I upon the men and families of Fulbourn may be discerned through the very brief accounts in the Fulbourn Chronicles of injuries received and reports of those combatants that died during the conflict.

Where possible, the following description of events is provided in chronological order.

There were a few soldiers whose wounds were described, and which indicate the type of warfare which they experienced. For instance early into the war, James Peachey, son of Mr & Mrs F. Peachey, Home End, **'was struck by a shell'**. This was during the bombardment by three German warships, of West Hartlepool which occurred on 16 December 1914 [25.12.1914]. He **'was seriously wounded in the head and back and was taken to hospital. We are pleased to learn that he is progressing well'**.

The next casualty reported [16.04.1915] was Pte. Charles Richmond son of Mr George Richmond of Babraham Road, who was wounded at Neuve Chapelle and **'has had his leg amputated'**. About a fortnight later he **'died from shock'** at Boulogne Hospital. It was noted [07.05.1915] that **'out of respect'** for the late Pte. Richmond, **'a muffled peal was rung by the Fulbourn ringers'**.

Sgt. Arthur Plumb, [30.04.1915] eldest son of Mr & Mrs H. Claydon, Old Shardelowes was **'wounded in the arm and has also lost one eye'**. and a month later [21.05.1915] Mr & Mrs Charles Foreman, of The Close had **'two sons wounded at the Front'**. Pte. W. Foreman was **'seriously wounded in the head. He passed through a veritable hailstorm of bullets, when about 500 were killed, on April 20.'** His brother, Pte. T.E. Foreman was also on that week's list of wounded while Mr & Mrs Fred Osborne, Cow Lane, had received a letter from their son Pte. G. Osborne who was wounded in the back. **'It was like hell let loose**

but their regiment gave a good account of themselves, what few of them were left''.

Another letter was sent from a hospital in Basle, by Pte. B. Hart to his father, Mr Arthur Hart, Mill House [18.06.1915]. He was certainly unlucky as he only went into the trenches on Saturday and was **'wounded within about half an hour in the arm'**.

On 1 July 1916, the Great Advance between the French and British armies on one side and the German army on the other, began along the River Somme. Pte. David Durell, son to the Rector of St. Vigor's was killed on that day.

Accounts of other Fulbourn men wounded in the ensuing battle [14.07.1916] include Pte. A. Richmond, son of Mr & Mrs G. Richmond, of Babraham Road, who was **'wounded in the left thigh and arm'**. He was later discharged from the army [04.05.1917] with the cause detailed as having been **'severely wounded'**. Assuming this was the same injury, it must have taken a long time for him to recover - if at all.

The wife of his brother, Mrs W.R. Richmond also received news that her husband **'is wounded in the left forearm'**. While Mrs G. White, Church Street, and Mrs H. Claydon, Old Shardelowes heard that their sons, Pte. Edwin White and Pte. Walter Plumb, were both wounded.

The news did not get any better during the Summer of 1916. Mr & Mrs S. Osborne, Highfield Gate, received reports [26.07.1916] that one son, Corpl. Samuel Osborne was a Prisoner of War and that another son, Lce-Corpl. Harry Osborne, was **wounded**.

Also **'Killed in Action'** [09.08.1916], was Pte. Arthur Hancock, Home End, Fulbourn. The news report continued **'Much sympathy is felt for Mrs Hancock in the loss of her husband. He was 30 years of age and leaves two little children'**.

Two week later [16.08.1916] it was confirmed that Pte. Harry Hancock previously listed as **'missing'**, had been **killed**.

This uncertainty about the fate of sons and husbands, must have caused added anxiety.

Indeed, it took some time for news to reach home and there could also be considerable confusion with conflicting information. The account of Rifleman V. Bridge (son of Mrs E. Bridge, High Street) being **wounded in action** on 18 September 1916, appeared in the newspaper on 11 October 1916, on the same date that Pte. Reginald Halls (son of Mr & Mrs William Halls, Broad Green), was also confirmed as being **wounded**.

However, it was ten months later [15.07.1917], that Mrs Bridge *'heard from the War Office that her son, Rifleman Victor Bridge of the Rifle Brigade, who was reported missing, is now dead. He was killed on September 18th, 1916. Mrs Bridge has two sons still at the front, and three son-in-laws fighting'*.

It may be (the address given for Mrs Bridge here, was Church Street, not High Street) that one of her remaining sons, Lance Corpl. Edward Bridge made a surprise visit home from France that Autumn, on a few days leave. [21.09.1917]. The newspaper recounted that he had *'seen much fighting and has had some marvellous escapes. He has been wounded three times, "gassed" and buried alive.'*

A brief description of the very unpleasant effects of trench warfare is given by the entry [21.02.17] relating to the husband of Mrs Hollman who *'has heard that her husband is suffering from trench fever and wounds caused by barbed wire'*.

The location or name of the hospitals in which the injured were treated was also not always revealed.

Most appear to have been in France or Belgium, though the entry for 19 November 1915 describes Trooper Harry White and Trooper Frank White as being *'in hospital in*

Malta' and Trooper John Plumb *'in the Dardenelles'*. It gives some idea of the spread of the conflict.

However, the family of Corpl. Arthur Foreman must have been relieved to find that although **wounded**, he was in hospital at Leicester [25.20.1916]. Also recovering in England, was Pte. Bertie Anderson (son of Mr & Mrs Anderson, Teversham Road) who was **'wounded in the right arm by shrapnel, and is in hospital at Leeds'**. [03.11.1916] and Pte. George Jobson (son of Mrs Jobson, Home End), **wounded** and *'lies in the Metropolitan Hospital'*.

A family connection to Fulbourn also might illicit a report in the newspaper, as occurred [10.01.1917] with Mr E Manning, of the Old Railroad House, New Shardelowes who had received information that *'his son-in-law, Pte. Sidney Howlett died of wounds on Christmas Day, and was buried somewhere in France'*.

Similarly, Pte. Cyril Moule, 25th Battalion Australian Imperial Force, who had emigrated to Australia and had lived there for about five years, but whose parents, Mr & Mrs George Moule, Hawthorn Cottage still were Fulbourn residents, was reported by the Chronicle as **'killed in action'** [23.05.1917].



The onset of Summer 1917 brought with it news of more casualties. One family especially, was gravely affected by the War, as was acknowledged by the newspaper [09.05.1917].

The Price of Victory

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs Gillson in the loss of another of her sons, Pte. Sidney Gillson, Yorks Regt. who was killed in action on April 23rd. This is the third son Mrs Gillson has lost in the war. Pte. David Gillson, Bedfords, was killed on January 14th, 1916, and Pte. Charles Gillson, Suffolks, fell on March 2nd, 1916'.

The ages of these sons at death was shown by the 'In Memoriam' entry for 29 March 1918 - David was 23 years old, Charles 21 years old and Sidney 19 years old.

This was not the final tragedy experienced by Mrs Gillson. Her eldest son, Gunner R. Rule, also **died in action** on 18 September 1918 - so very near to the end of the war.

The report [04.10.1918] went on to state that 'Two nephews have also fallen in action in France. Gunner Rule leaves a widow to mourn her loss'.

Mrs Gillson did not survive her family for long. An obituary notice in the newspaper dated 6 August 1919 reads:

'Emma Gilson, mother of the four sons killed in the war, and wife of a husband who also died during the war period, aged 57 years. She had been suffering for a long time'.

Glynis Arber



Fulbourn Casualties of the Great War will be continued in future Newsletters. Fulbourn Village History Society is also publishing in 2018, two booklets to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I. They are entitled 'The Fulbourn War Memorial' which provides biographies of the men whose names were inscribed on the monument 1914 -1918 and 'The Story of Fulbourn's Red Cross V.A.D. Hospital, 1914-1918'. More details of how to obtain these volumes are available at a later date.

APOLOGIES, ALISON

In the list of F.V.H.S. Committee Members for 2017-18, Alison Rash was inadvertently left out. Many apologies - she is a valued member of the committee who is currently updating and making more accessible the documents in our Archive Store. She also continues to research local history and had considerable input (amongst others) in the 'Fulbourn War Memorial' booklet.

FULBOURN WINDMILL (Part II). Sail and Fantail Restoration Project 2013 - 2016

3 (Continued from Newsletter 46) The Sails

At the heart of each pair of sails is the stock, a single spar ca xx feet in length. On either side of the stock is a pair of clamps which surround the central canister, providing structural reinforcement to the stocks. Obtaining pieces of timber large enough for these components was something of a challenge.

Eventually, large pieces of laminated wood were sourced from a manufacturer in Denmark. These then had to be cut, planed and sanded into the right shape on site (**fig 6**), all by hand. Once shaped, the timbers were then subjected to the following processes:



- all cracks, knot holes and imperfections in the wood were filled with a high quality epoxy resin
- the wood was then soaked in wood preserver
- one or two coats of raw linseed oil were applied
- two undercoats of a linseed oil based paint were applied
- a final coat of a linseed oil based top coat finished off the process



This same process was applied to every single piece of timber used in the project, including all the elements that would be hidden, such as the inside of all joints, bolt holes and screw holes. The objective was to ensure that there would be no opportunity for rainwater ingress and the subsequent risk of the development of wet rot (**fig 7**).

In order to construct the sail frames, a small marquee was erected on the front lawn of the house, providing shelter for the

volunteer workers and the frames themselves (**fig 8**). Sadly, the marquee itself suffered from the rigours of a rather strong wind! (**fig 9**).





Fig. 10

The construction of the sail frames required a high degree of skill in order to ensure that the mortices for the sail bars were all cut at the correct angle to provide the right degree of twist to create the appropriate propeller effect (**fig 10**). Wherever possible,



Fig. 11

timbers from the old sails were re-used, but as can be seen in **fig 11**, frequently the old timbers were too badly damaged and replacement new wood used – although in one case an old oak floor beam was rescued from a derelict warehouse to provide wood for one of the new sail whips!

Once the components of Sails I & I were complete, in September 2014 the crane was back on site. First, the remaining pair of old sails, III & IV, were removed (**fig 12 i & ii**), before gently lowering the new stock for Sails I & II into place – a bit like threading an oversized needle (**fig 13!**)



Fig. 12 i



Fig. 12 ii

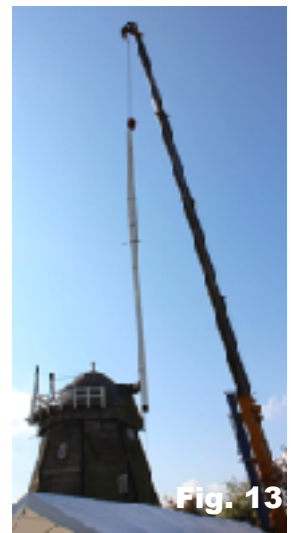


Fig. 13

The clamps were then fitted around the canister (**fig 14**) before attaching the two sail frames (**fig 15**).



Fig. 14

With Sails I & II safely re-installed, the whole manufacturing process now had to be repeated with Sails III and IV. By Spring 2016 these were also completed, ready for the final lift in May 2016

Dr Ian Harrison



Fig15

Further information:

For further information about Fulbourn Mill, please visit the website www.fulbournwindmill.org.uk or find us on Facebook. The Mill is usually open to visitors on the first Saturday of every month, except December to February, although viewings outside these times can be made by prior arrangement with the owners at harrisons@oneservice.co.uk