



# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

**NEWSLETTER NO. 53 SPRING 2021**

**Fulbourn Village History Society is extremely saddened by the loss during last year, of three of our most loyal members. They will be greatly missed.**

**Pat White** was a founder member of the Society, serving on the Committee since its formation and admirably fulfilling her role as Archivist - or as she preferred to be known - Keeper of the Records. This most important task she undertook with dedication, was writing down in an Accession Register a description of the object/document, the source of this and allocating it an accession number. She was the person who greeted visitors to the Archive Store and with the help of other volunteers, dealt with their enquiries - usually about family history, buildings, and social history relevant to Fulbourn.

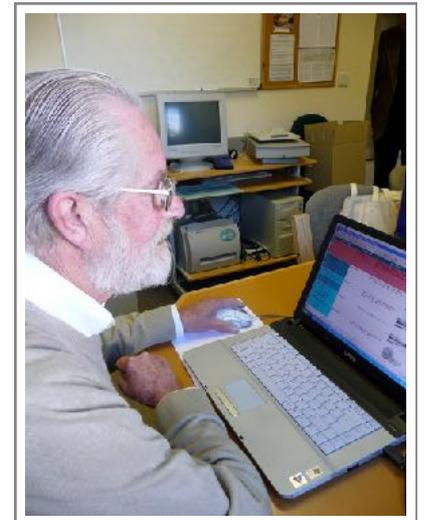
Whenever F.V.H.S. held exhibitions and published papers, Pat was involved with doing the background research and during The Fulbourn Project, was actively engaged in identifying, from her expertise in the subject, finds obtained during field walking - especially pottery shards.

Often concerned that opening times of the Archive Store, which she attended for 2 hours, twice weekly with very few absences, were not long enough for her to manage all the work, Pat also took this home with her and put in extra hours there.

**John Patten** regularly came to the Archive Store each Wednesday morning where he diligently and patiently, transferred information from the Accession Registers, onto a spreadsheet. This was an unenviable task as the programme was not exactly user friendly.

In fact, John was the 'visible' face of 'hands on I.T.' for the society as he was always happy to 'man the lap top', demonstrating how the database worked and showing presentations to the general public at various FVHS exhibitions. It was incredibly valuable to have John's technical know how to draw on when we worked on The Fulbourn Project, which involved a considerable amount of surveying and drafting the results - all of which John did superbly.

**Iris Levitt** was a very supportive member of F.V.H.S. activities. She always came along to our Talks and fund raising events such as Coffee mornings. Many times, Iris volunteered in practical ways and helped with refreshments, setting/clearing up, the Raffle and serving behind a F.V.H.S. Bottle stall.



## THE POOR IN 19C FULBOURN PART IV by Glynis Arber

During my research into family histories on behalf of Fulbourn Village History Society, I noticed that in the Church Burial Registers, against some names, was that of Chesterton Union. This would suggest that the individuals had died in the workhouse. Cambridgeshire Archives have the Register of Deaths from Chesterton Union Workhouse covering the period 1866 - 1919. It was also possible to obtain information from the census returns of 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 for the Workhouse. **By comparing the three sources**, I hoped to identify which of the Fulbourn poor had, indeed, been admitted to the Workhouse - at least for the dates from 1855 - 1901.

There are though, several caveats to be had.

1. The Church Burial records do not always record Chesterton Union against the name of the deceased person - as occurred with Ann Joyce even though her death, age 72 was noted in the Register of Deaths for Chesterton Union Workhouse.
2. The Chesterton Union Workhouse Register of Deaths does not give the place of birth of the deceased, only the parish from where he or she was admitted - and to which churchyard the pauper's body was returned and buried.
3. The Censuses for Chesterton Union Workhouse obviously only provides information about the inmates who were there on the date the census was taken.

4. The Register of Deaths from Chesterton Union Workhouse only cover the period from 1866 to 1919. However, there are earlier Church Burial Records which note Chesterton Union beside the deceased name.

After calculating the numbers, the names of 18 paupers were recorded in **both** the Workhouse and Church Registers. 30 paupers only have Chesterton Union against their Burial record yet they are not recorded in the Workhouse Register of Deaths. 22 paupers have Buried in Fulbourn noted in the Workhouse Register of Deaths - but they are not recorded in the Church Burial Register with Chesterton Union against their name. However, like Ann Joyce, they may still appear in the Burial registers. It would appear that some inconsistency was prevalent during this period when the records were compiled.

The other source of identifying inmates of the Chesterton Union Workhouse are the Census returns from 1851 to 1901. The chart below shows figures for the total number of inmates. Relatively few were born in Fulbourn compared to other parishes. The numbers seem to confirm that the parish of Fulbourn did not send all its poor to the Chesterton Union Workhouse. They must therefore have been in receipt of 'outdoor' parish relief - which may be considered a more humane method of dealing with the most financially disadvantaged members of the community (and cheaper!).

Census Year	Total number of Inmates (not including Officers).	Total No of Paupers with Fulbourn as Birthplace
1851	210	14
1861	117	3
1871	157	5
1881	147	1
1891	144	6
1901	144	9

**Census data Chart showing the numbers of inmates in Chesterton Union Workhouse**

One further comment may be made. The information revealed by the Census returns for the Workhouse and its Register of Deaths together with the Church's Registers of Burials of Fulbourn paupers also provides an insight into the personal family histories of the period. For instance, the census return in 1851 for Chesterton Union Workhouse shows that residing there was a Fulbourn family - John Bright (36) an agricultural labourer, his wife Mary (30) a servant, and their five children ranging in age from 6 years to 2 months! There were some advantages - Teachers were noted as amongst the Officers when the censuses were taken which infers the workhouse had its own school, the aim of the government being to educate the poor so they would be more able to earn a living. Certainly, the eldest Bright child was described as a scholar, as were 6 other children born in Fulbourn and who were living in the Workhouse in 1851, 1861 and 1871. The latter appear to have been orphans as there is no record of their parents.

A number of infant deaths were recorded. On 26 February 1874, in the Chesterton Union Register, the death of William Hart, age one hour, was noted. A year later, the burial of William Arthur Hart, age 5 weeks was written in St Vigor's register. It may be assumed they were brothers - a personal tragedy for the family. Of course, infant mortality during the 19C was high and the poor were likely to be most affected. In the Church Burial records between 1854 and 1880 five children age from 2 months to 2 years, have the note Chesterton Union against their name, while Margaret Agram, age 2 months was entered on the Workhouse Register of deaths for 29 January 1880. Conversely, in the 1901 Workhouse census, the birthplace of Charles William Jobson age 12 days was given as Chesterton Workhouse. His mother, Martha Jane Jobson age 26, was born in Fulbourn. It was not a very auspicious start for her son.

Whilst transcribing John Patten's local history research (kindly donated to F.V.H.S. by his family) I found he had listed the names of paupers from Fulbourn Parish found in Chesterton Workhouse Records for the year 1836 when the

Union was formed. However, the building was not completed until 1838 and it is possible these people were still resident in Fulbourn - certainly some were receiving poor relief in kind as well as in cash.

Now entered onto a spreadsheet, this data throws even further light about the reasons that men, women and children during the 19C were forced to claim help from the parish. The death of a parent or parents was one tragic cause. There were two orphans, siblings Eliz (5) and William Benstead (7). Two other siblings, aged 2 ½ and 5 were the children of a widow, Mary Ship (27). Thomas (4) and Mary Ann (7) Warren sadly appear to have been deserted by their remaining parent as a note records 'Mother married again'. Beside Susan Hancock's (13) name was 'Father dead' - it is possible Anne Hancock was her mother but no details are shown for that person. Another teenager, aged 15 was the daughter of Sarah Stone (54) a widow.

In fact there were a total of 6 women who were widows with children, although the christian names and ages of their offspring were not always given. One unfortunate woman though not technically a widow was Mary Bradford who with her four children were in the workhouse because her husband had been transported. Another woman, Martha Page had three children and a blind husband, Richard .

Disabilities and illness were, unsurprisingly, a major cause of being admitted to the workhouse. Mary Meush (29) and Judith (27) Meush were described as 'afflicted' - though no information was available as to whether this was a mental or physical condition. More specifically, Mary Harvey (30) was described as 'deaf and dumb'. The word 'infirm' was written besides the names of 5 men between the ages of 66 and 80, plus two widowers, Ebenezer Butt (69) and Henry Peachey (68). There were a total of 19 widows (12 without children), 4 spinsters between the ages of 53 and 64, 6 widowers including the two who were infirm, two aged 84 and 74 and two age 39 and 40. Confirmation that old age, frailty and lack of family support were primarily responsible for

these Fulbourn residents being on the Workhouse list. The two youngest widowers perhaps do not follow this trend although no further information about their condition is provided and one, George Edwards, had no parish relief listed aside his

name and neither did Ann Beaumont (64) Spinster. This could be an oversight as against all other names the amounts of cash each person received together with the equivalent relief allowed in kind, were carefully set down.

Relief allowed in cash	Relief Allowed in kind (cash equivalent)	Total Amount of relief recieved	National Archives currency Converter comparison for 1840: In 2017 worth approx:	Number of paupers receiving relief (siblings and wives/husbands shared this amount).
1 shilling		1 shilling	£3.39	3
1 shilling 6 pence		1 shilling 6 pence	£5.09	1
2 shillings		2 shillings	£6.78	8
2 shillings	1 shilling	3 shillings	£10.17	4
2 shillings 6 pence		2 shillings 6 pence	£8.48	7
3 shillings		3 shillings	£10.17	7
3 shillings	1 shilling	4 shillings	£13.56	5
3 shillings	2 shillings 6 pence	4 shillings 6 pence	£15.26	1
3 shillings 6 pence		3 shillings 6 pence	£11.87	4
4 shillings		4 shillings	£13.56	4
4 shillings	1 shilling	5 shillings	£16.95	1
4 shillings	2 shillings	6 shillings	£20.34	2
4 shillings 6 pence		4 shillings 6 pence	£15.26	8
5 shillings	2 shillings	7 shillings	£23.73	1
	1 shilling	1 shilling	£3.39	1
0	0	0	£3.39	2
		Total	£183.90	

The total number of the poor on the 1836 Workhouse list was 62, including children. Families appear to have shared the amount of cash provided to the named individual - which varied according to numbers and age/need. Its modern equivalent would be £183.90. (averaging approx. £2.00 per person - though this no doubt

purchased more in 1836 than it would today). However, it is not clear how often the money was paid out. Some attempts to reclaim this expense seems to have been put into action as a note beside Mary Newman, the mother of 'two bastards' records that the father was 'to be summoned'.

Comparing the surnames of the paupers in Fulbourn found in both the Registers for Workhouse Deaths and Church Burials with the names on the census returns for the Workhouse may also reveal the identities of the Fulbourn poor. One other source which might provide further information could be in documents relating to local Charities. For instance Geoffrey Bishop's Charity was founded in 1474 with the benefits eventually being restricted to the poor of All Saint's where it paid their taxes and rates. There are accounts of income and expenditure from 1698-1822 which mention the names of individuals who may have been assisted by this charity. Similarly, John Caraway's Charity founded in 1442 in order to relieve the poorer inhabitants of Fulbourn from the payment of fifteenths, also has Accounts from 1731 to 1796

and two potentially useful documents - one from 1856 listing the recipients of the charity and one from 1859 detailing a scale of allowances to be paid.

There are other Fulbourn Charities whose records, like those of the two above, are held in Cambridgeshire Archive. All of these have yet to be researched.

It must be acknowledged that a definitive account of the poor in Fulbourn during the 19C can never be completely realised because of a lack of documentation. This attempt to discover as much as is possible with the records that are so far available, must therefore be considered 'a work in progress'!

**Editors Note:** Fulbourn Village History Society has a number of reference books in our Archive Store. One is especially relevant to the topic just investigated. It is entitled 'Poverty in Cambridgeshire' [1978] by Michael J Murphy. A section deals with the 19C Poor Laws - and although Fulbourn is not specifically mentioned, it was no doubt not much different to the villages that were.

The author makes the point that 'The Commissioners in 1834 did not investigate the causes or nature of poverty. They were concerned primarily with pauperism [ie a person without any means of support, especially a destitute person who depends on aid from public welfare funds or charity], the allowance system and rural unemployment. As it happened the problem in the century after 1834 turned out to be urban, industrial poverty, for which the new Poor Law was totally ill-adapted.'

M J Murphy asks the question 'What was the cause of poverty during this later period?' His answer was low wages, large families, sickness 'particularly when it struck down the breadwinner, and if death occurred, the widow and dependent children were bound to suffer. Old age completed the cycle'. All of these factors were present in 19C Fulbourn, according to the Workhouse records of 1834.

(Arguably, many of them are still there 200 years later).

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### CAREWAYS'S CHARITY by John Patten

John Careway, by feoffment dated 15th October 1442, conveyed 100 acres of arable land to trustees and ordered that they were to meet every year on Easter Tuesday in St Vigors Church and to elect an officer to let the land and collect rents at the best possible price. The money should be given to the Rector of St. Vigor's for the relief of the poor of the parish.

In a lease made on 13th January 1739, the property was described as 100 acres 1 rood 0 poles of arable and pasture land let at a rent of £32 10s. But another lease dated 26th April 1784 described the property as being 104 acres 1 rood of arable and pasture called Coles Croft, another called Great Shitts (Ed note: I wonder how that name originated! and two pightles

one of which was pasture, with their appurtenances in the the town and fields of Fulbourn, with trees and shrubs. It was let at a rent of £42.

After the Parliamentary Enclosure Act, an award dated 20th August 1814 of 58 acres 2 roods 21 sq. poles was allowed in lieu of the open fields and certain old enclosures. This, together with the old enclosure called Great Shitts, containing 9 acres 1 rood 2 sq. poles, brought the whole allotment to form from the charity land, free from tithes. Great Shitts was let to Joseph Redhouse as a yearly tenant at a rate of £12. The 58 acres (situated on the north side of today's Shelford Road, at the edge of the parish boundary) was divided into portions varying in size from 1 rood to 1 acre and let to the people of both parishes of Fulbourn at a rent of 30 shillings an acre. The total income from the charity allotments was £98 12s and the proceeds, after payment of rates and other expenses, were paid partly in money and partly

by tickets to the poor according to the following scale;

To a man with 5 children	10s 0d
To a man with 4 children	8s 6d
To a man with 3 children	7s 0d
To a man with 2 children	5s 6d
To a man with 1 child or none	4s 0d
To widows and widowers	2s 6d

The tickets could not be redeemed for cash, but entitled the bearer to clothes to the value specified, which were only to be obtained from one of any three shops in Fulbourn. Objections were voiced about this arrangement since this restriction, it was pointed out, had the effect of raising the price of articles sold. This was denied however, although there were probably grounds for complaint.

In 1977 Careway's Charity had a balance of £21.98. The income during 1977/78 from shooting rights was £1,300.16 and outgoing expenses and charity payments amounted to £894.80.

**Editor's Note:** Just before the Cambridgeshire Archives moved from Shire Hall to Ely, I examined some of the ledgers of Caraway's Charity. There was not time to list the names of all the recipients, but I was able to make notes about the trustees allocation of the cash. It was reported 'At a meeting of the Trustees of Caraway's Charity held in the Vestry this 6th Day of April 1859. Present the Rev. James Harley Usill, Vicar, also Thomas Chaplin and James King. The scale of allowances agreed on for the Easter Distribution as....'.

A table set down the amounts provided which depended on age, marital status and number of (presumably dependent) children. Thus single men, women, widows and widowers over 60 years received 4 shillings and 6 pence, while under 60 years they had 3 shillings 6 pence and between 20 and 30 years, 3 shillings. Married couples over 60 were given 8 shillings 6 pence and those under 60, 6 shillings 6 pence. An increment of 1 shilling operated for families, depending on the number of children they had ie ranging from a man and wife with one child having 9 shillings 6 pence and a couple with 7 children 14 shillings 6 pence. Figures from the National Archive currency converter calculate the smallest amount given in 1859 to be the equivalent in 2017 of £8.87 and the highest to be £42.87. This sliding scale continued in later years as reports of meetings held by the Trustees on 21 March 1860, 7 December 1860, 9 December 1861 and 2 December 1863 show the cash amounts increased by one shilling (£2.96) for all groups.

An insight into the way moral values were applied emerges from a note written below the Trustees tables of allowances from Caraway's Charity ie 'The mother of an illegitimate child during the past year to be excluded. The mother of an illegitimate child at any time previous to the past years to have 6 pence less. The child or children to have the same as other ('legitimate' annotation in 1868) children.' It is possible this monetary punishment of women who had had children out of wedlock, was later relaxed as after December 1871 the statement was discontinued.

**Much of the information Fulbourn Village History Society has about the village between 1939 -1945 comes from extracts in The Fulbourn Chronicles Vol IV whose earliest entry relating to the war years occurred on 22 September 1939.**

### **Comfort for Troops and Prisoners of War Fund**

The Chronicle details several fundraising efforts by different organisations within Fulbourn all contributing to one Charity eg November 1939 - March 1940 Fulbourn Working Party, Fulbourn Conservative Party and the British Legion, Women's section raised a total of £7 18s 0d [today worth approx.£311.32] which went to '**Comfort for Troops**'. Fulbourn Women's Conservative Association also provided 297 articles for the use of H.M. Forces.

Separate organisations also combined resources as shown by an account in The Chronicle on 1 December 1939

*Women's Institute, the Women's section of the British Legion, and Red Cross Detachments Cambs. 33 and Cambs. 34. was held in the Townley Memorial Hall. Although a very wet evening, the dance proved a great success. The sum of £7 16s. [today worth approx £306.90] was raised and provided an enjoyable evening for the village during the **black-out**. Mr Gordon Smith acted as M.S.*

It would appear that this money would be going to a specific cause which today, on health grounds, would not be recommended ie **Cigarettes for the British Expeditionary Force**.

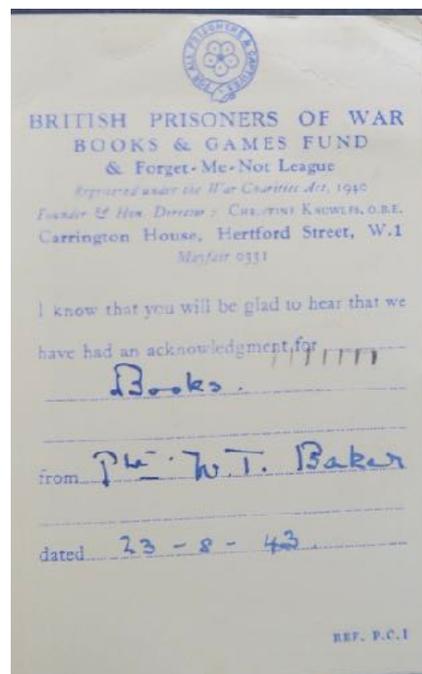
Similarly, a Flag Day at Fulbourn and a whist drive held by the Fulbourn branch of the British Legion in aid of the **Prisoners of War Fund** collected a total of £36 11s 9d [today worth approx £1439.59]. Furthermore, The Chronicle describes that on 15 September 1944

*A garden sale was held in the garden of Manor Lodge in aid of the **Prisoners of War Fund**. which was arranged by **Rosemary Duke**, aged 15, with the help of **Joan Page**, both pupils of Paston House, also **Ann Carr-Hill**, and **Shirley Duke**.*

Receipts totalled £14 [today worth approx. £550.85]

Another entry dated 17 October 1941 reported that at the annual meeting of the women's section of the Fulbourn branch of the British Legion

*Mrs Townley gave a good report of the **knitting party**, which showed that 301 garments had been knitted, and that comforts could be obtained from Holly Lodge. After the business was over Mr Roger Paul (organising secretary) gave a talk on the British Prisoner of War Books and Games Fund, and as the women's section have already **adopted a prisoner of war**, the members were interested to know what each prisoner received when*



Also in our Archives are administration forms about the correct procedure for sending parcels to prisoners of war (see Above)

There is also an appeal sent by the Merchant Navy Comfort Service to all Registered Knitting Parties and Individual Knitters for specific items needed urgently ie sweaters with high necks and long sleeves, scarves 54 inches long and 12 inches wide and socks 11 & a half inches to 12 inches foot size (apparently they had enough small and medium socks!).

A letter of thanks (below) was written to Mrs Townley who organised the Fulbourn Knitting parties. These must have been social as well as practical occasions.



Dear Mrs. Townley, 5.12.40

We wish especially to thank your working party for the very great help given in supplying knitted articles to the troops. From Oct. 1st to Nov. 27th 8254 garments were sent out. More than that amount is desired now, and we hope that every possible effort can be made to supply the men immediately. Over 2,000 articles were sent out to individual men. If your own men have not yet received something, we hope they will come next.

With best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,  
Hon. Secretary.

THE MERCHANT NAVY COMFORT SERVICE

SWEATER PATTERN NO. 1.

**MATERIALS** 1 lb. 8 oz. knitting wool (extra thick)  
1 pair No. 7 needles (long)  
1 set of 4 No. 7 needles - points at both ends.

**TENSION** 5 stitches to 1 inch.

**BACK-** Cast on 90 sts. Rib K.2, P.2 for three inches. Change to stocking stitch and continue to work until 25 inches from the beginning. Cast off 30 sts. each side, and leave 30 sts. on spare needle in Centre.

**FRONT** As Back.

**SLEEVES** Cast on 60 sts. Rib K.2, P.2 for three inches. Change to stocking stitch and increase 1 st. at beginning and end of every 6th row until there are 80 sts. Continue until sleeve is 20 inches.

**COLLAR** Join shoulder seams. Arrange the stitches left for collar on three needles. When picking up neck stitches make four extra stitches on each shoulder between back and front. Work in rib K.2, P.2, for six inches. Cast off in rib very loosely.

**TO MAKE UP** Join side and sleeve seams leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches for arm holes. Put sleeves in seam to seam.

THE FRONT

Fulbourn Village History Archive has a number of instruction sheets for making articles of clothing such as 'Men's Stocking Stitch Gloves and Socks, Sweater pattern No1 for the Merchant Navy, Man's Sleeveless Pullover.

Part III of the Home Front in Fulbourn 1939-1945 will included in the next Newsletter

## HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ARTEFACTS HELD IN OUR STORE by Glynis Arber



Useful Websites: [cambridgemask.com](http://cambridgemask.com) , [art.org](http://art.org) , [thelancet.com](http://thelancet.com) , [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com) , [gizmodo.com](http://gizmodo.com)

Alexander von Humboldt invented a miners respirator in 1799 and in 1854, in order to remove the chemical gases while he was performing experiments. A Scottish chemist named John Stenhouse, created the gas mask using wood charcoal to disinfect the air filters.

This Box contains a Respirator and consists of a metal gauze mask with instructions. Printed on the box is 'The improved Factory Respirator.....' and it is an 'Air Filter' but 'only intended for use when dust, as distinct from fumes, is to be guarded against' The manufacturer is 'Frazer & Green Ltd' of Buchanan Street, Glasgow founded in 1830. They were Pharmaceutical Chemists with a wide range of products, including respirators.

### History of Industrial Respirators

Throughout history, air pollution from smog caused by the burning of coal, mining and increased emissions resulting from expanding industrial processes have affected people. Ways to combat this have been invented - in the first century AD, Pliny the elder recommended the use of animal bladder to protect Roman miners from inhaling lead oxide dust while Leonardo da Vinci used a wet woven cloth to protect against the toxic agents from chemicals in paint and plaster entering his lungs.



The John Stenhouse Respirator

Just after WWII ended, the U.K experienced its worst air pollution event. In December 1952, the city of London was afflicted by a thick layer of smog, lasting for five days and resulting in 12,000 fatalities and 100,000 reported cases of respiratory tract illness. Known as 'the great smog' or 'big smoke', it was caused by the overuse of coal, combined with extremely cold weather and lack of wind.

Environmental reforms and greater awareness of pollution issues were recognised in the years that followed. Although modern devices have been created that were more sophisticated in design and in the materials they used, they still fall in two main categories, reminiscent of pioneer respirators:

Air-purifying respirators: these purify the air by removing pollutants before they are inhaled.

Air-supplied respirators: which deliver fresh air from an alternate supply.

Fulbourn Village History Society does not currently, have any *medical* face masks in our collection - though doubtless there will be some in the future as we continue to document the Covid 19 pandemic as it relates to Fulbourn's history (donations of masks - with local connections eg hand made - will be welcome though not just yet!) . However, I thought here would be an appropriate place, to set out the development of mask wearing for medical purposes. It has a long history, and we are just in the latest phase of this!

The earliest recorded face mask-like objects in history are 6th century BC images of people wearing cloth over their mouths found on the doors of Persian tombs. From the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368) a scarf like object, woven with silk and gold threads is believed to be the earliest item in China that is similar to today's face mask. *The Travels of Marco Polo*, a 13th-century travelogue of the Italian merchant visit to China during this period, recorded that servants serving the emperor during meals needed to wear silk scarves to cover their mouths and noses. It was considered that the silk scarves would keep the servants' breath from impacting on the smell and taste of the food.

Epidemics of infectious disease ravaged countries throughout history and bubonic plague was one of the most virulent. The Black Death (1346-53) killing an estimated 60% of European population together with smaller outbreaks in the following centuries (over a period of 18 months, 100,000 people died in London of the Great Plague 1665-66) all helped promote the use of masks as a means of protection, especially for those who

were working directly with the sick such as the 'plague doctors'.

In 1619, the bubonic plague erupted in Paris, and a French physician named Charles Delorme created a plague preventive costume. The iconic 'beak' of the face mask was based upon the now defunct theory of miasma dating back to ancient Greece. This theory held that foul smells or 'bad air' caused disease. Thus the design had a 'nose half a foot long, shaped like a beak, filled with perfume with only two holes, one on each side near the nostrils, but that can suffice to breathe and to carry along with the air one breathes the impression of the drugs enclosed further along in the beak'. The herbs etc were to counteract the miasma and further protection was supplied by glass in the eye sockets to ensure visibility, a very long over clothing garment so that air could not penetrate it and gloves, boots, and a hat made of waxed leather.



17C Illustrations of a Plague Doctor wearing the iconic 'beak' style mask.

It invites a comparison to our modern day equivalent of medics and health care workers in full PPE.



By the the 18th century, as plagues were not so prevalent the wearing of masks waned, although in the early 1700s, the occasional beak might still adorn a doctor inspecting quarantined ships. However, in 1861, French biologist, microbiologist and chemist Louis Pasteur proved the presence of bacteria in the air which made more people pay attention to the efficacy of masks. Although there was some reluctance by the medical profession to use these eventually the face mask stood for a strategy of infection control that focused on keeping all germs away, as opposed to killing them with chemicals.

French surgeon Paul Berger in 1897, became one of the first surgeons to wear a face mask during an operation. It was made from six layers of gauze, and its lower edge was sewn to the top of a sterilised linen apron. It gradually evolved into a form that could be freely tied and hung on the ears with a looped strap, thus giving birth to the modern mask.

The Manchurian pneumonic plague of 1910 with a 60,000 death toll over 4 months, helped to finally popularise the face mask as a weapon against contagion from epidemics. Chinese medical scientist Wu Liande invented a mask made of two layers of gauze called "Wu's mask" which he insisted should be worn by all doctors, nurses, and even burial staff. It was commended by experts in different countries as it was simple to manufacture, had a low production cost and the materials were easy to obtain. Wu's face mask was still in use during the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic.

Indeed, it was mainly the use of the mask to cover the mouth and nose (and beard!) during the Manchurian plague and Spanish influenza outbreak that transformed the face mask into a means of protecting medical workers and patients from infectious diseases outside of the operating room.

During the 1930's Medical masks began to be replaced by disposable paper masks and were increasingly made of synthetic materials for single use in the 1960s. Unlike most earlier traditional medical masks (usually made of several layers of cotton gauze, sometimes with an additional layer of impervious material, held by a metal frame - their main aim being to prevent respiratory droplets from being transmitted from and to the wearer), these cup-shaped respirator masks fitted snugly on the face and were designed to filter incoming, not only outgoing, air, as well as prevent the spread of droplets. Unlike the cloth based masks which could mostly be washed and the metal parts sterilised, they could only be used once because their synthetic fabric would deteriorate during sterilisation.

I became quite fascinated by the historic background to face coverings and conclude this short description by quoting part of an article entitled 'A Brief History of Medical masks' by Sarah Durn, a freelance writer and medievalist [gizmodo.com](http://gizmodo.com)

*'The history of masks is in many ways a history of epidemiology. While the plague doctors of the 17th century certainly had a scary getup, de Lorme's miasma-inspired leather overcoat and bird mask didn't prevent anyone from contracting the plague. The transition from miasma to germ theory was a slow one, but already in the 1800s there was an understanding of the usefulness of face masks in factories.*

*The medical world was much slower to adopt the innovation. For nearly 50 years, doctors fought against wearing masks, until the Manchurian plague became a lethal testing ground for the face mask's importance. It's a testament to the need not only for innovations like the face mask but for changing public opinion.*

## WRIGHT'S CHARITY by John Patten

**Wright's Clock Land:** On the 16th April 1525 (during the reign of Henry VIII) Robert Wright and Robert Casbred by deed poll enfeoffed (granted possession of) to Nicholas Wood and others and their heirs, 13 acres of land and another grant in that year to the same persons, of another 10 acres. The profits from these lands were to be used to repair and keep in good order the clock in the parish church of St Vigor's and towards ringing the curfew bell and the day bell from Michaelmas (September 29th) until St Mark's day (April 25th) and any money left over should be used for the repair of the steeple and the bell.

In the year 1755 the feoffment was comprised of 26 acres but the later Enclosure Act of 1806 allotted 14 acres 2 roods 34 square poles in lieu of the open fields and this new allocation was situated on the south side of the Cherryhinton to Fulbourn road, at the edge of the parish boundary. On the 8th May 1827, Rev. Robert Fiske, eldest son of the Rev. Robert Fiske Snr., Rector of St Vigor's who was a surviving trustee, conveyed the allotment to Richard Greaves Townley, Rev. Frederick Hall, John Wells Snr., William Lucas and others. The land was let by tender to William Furbank at a rent of £35 [today worth approx.£2,010.06], although later in 1835 a reduction of rent was made because of damage caused by a violent storm.

In 1837 it was stated that 13s 4d [£42.10] was given as a fee to the steward and about 11 shillings [£37.29] is expended for dinner, with £13 [£881.42] pounds allowed for winding up the clock and ringing the bell four times a day, the residue being used in repairing the clock, steeple and tower. A balance in hand at that year was £34 14s 9d. [£2,355.25] The original piece of land before Enclosure was known as Clock Holt, a wood that to date has not been located on any maps to my knowledge.

**Editors Note:** The family of John Patten have kindly donated to F.V.H.S. documents belonging to him that relate to his research into the local history of Fulbourn. John was working on a booklet called 'Fulbourn Past'. It was apparently not completed although draft copies exist and we have been given permission to transcribe these into a digital format.

The booklet will eventually be available for research purposes and in the meantime, sections (like the one above) of it will be included in future editions of the Newsletter.

Chapter headings have titles such as: Early History, Archaeology, Antiquities, The Village Roads, Village Schools, Water Supplies, Railways and Canals, Churches and Chapels, Parish Charities, Fulbourn Manors, Village Affairs, Population in the 19th Century, Property, Farming, Field Enclosure.

So there is plenty of material, all of which will add to our knowledge of Fulbourn's heritage.

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## PROGRAMME OF TALKS FOR 2021-2022 SEASON

**21 October** 'The Archaeology Roads: evidence from the A14 and A428' by Dr Steve Sherlock

**18 November** 'The Cambridge Horse Tram' by David Stubbings

**9 OR 16 December** 'Beer and Spirits: Tales of our haunted hostleries' by Julie Boundford

**20 January** 'The Industrial Revolution and its Heritage' by Martin Daunton

**17 February** 'Charles Darwin in Cambridge' by Murray Jacobs

**17 March** TBA

**21 April** AGM and possible speaker TBA