



FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 54 Autumn 2021

THE HOME FRONT IN FULBOURN 1939 -1945 Part III by Glynis Arber

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.

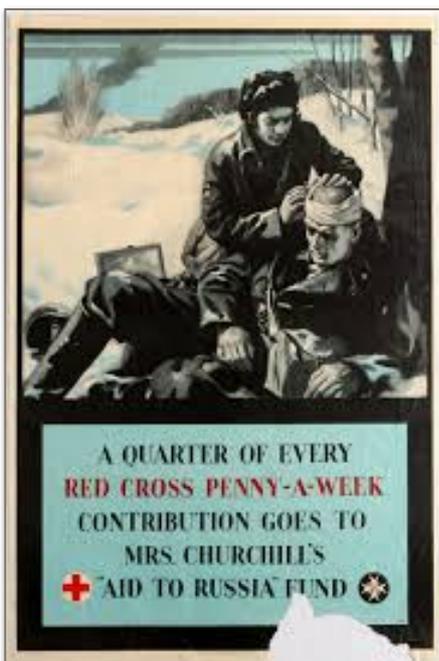
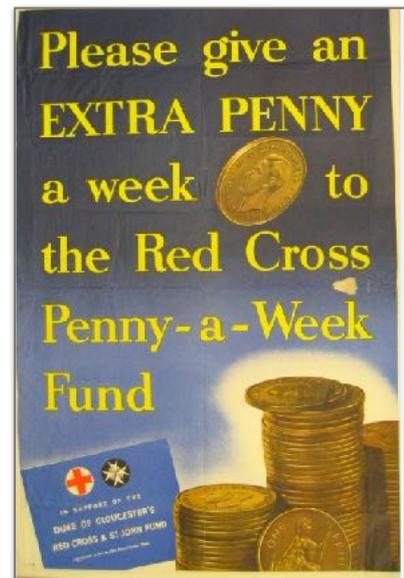
The following article continues the story of fundraising efforts for WWII by different organisations within Fulbourn.



An innovative way of raising money was initiated by the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund which evidently Fulbourn participated in as noted by *The Chronicle* on 10 December 1943

The Rural Pennies collection for Prisoner of War and Red Cross Agricultural Funds, to supply parcels for the prisoners of war, amounted to £18 4s. 4d. [approx. £716.76] for the past four months.

The scheme was created to collect a penny a week from workers, the Red Cross Agricultural Fund being supported by the National Farmers' Union which also organised sales,



Russian Fund and National Air Raid Distress Fund

Fulbourn people did not confine their charitable giving to members of the British Armed Forces. They also contributed to the **Aid to Russia Fund** set up in 1941 and chaired by Clementine Churchill. A whist drive held during December 1941 realised £7 1s [approx £277.39] and a Flag Day in September 1943 collected £17.[approx. £668.89] The funds went to the Soviet Red Cross and helped to pay for medical supplies and warm clothing, including portable x-ray units, ambulances and blankets.

Civilians who had experienced hardship during the war were not forgotten. The Lord Mayor's National Air Raid Distress Fund provided for the relief of suffering and distress resulting from enemy air raids in the UK. A house to house collection in Fulbourn during September 1941 raised £16 16s 1d [£661.02] for this charity.

Another charity that dispensed help to civilians was the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. In an appeal to the villages of Bottisham Petty Sessions District for money, Fulbourn was the first village to respond with the sum of £12 17s. 6d. [approx. £506.58] It received a letter of thanks from the Chairman of the Association which was printed in the Chronicles on 21 April 1944.



My dear Mr Hicks, - Well done Fulbourn! I do congratulate you most heartily on the success of your dance in aid of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association the other night. It really was a great effort and I shall be so pleased if you will express my gratitude to all those who supported the project.....

Yours, etc. N.D.K. MacEwen, Air Vice-Marshal.



FULBOURN CHARITIES: an extract from John Patten's research.

Fulbourn evidently has a long history of charitable giving. There were both ecclesiastical and parochial charities. The article below describes ecclesiastical charities. However, an account of Wright's Clock charity has not been included as this has appeared in Newsletter No. 10, 52 and 53.

Widow's Acre: Thomas Oslar, by a will dated 14th July, 1722, gave a sum of £12 [£1,393.29] in order that 1 acre of land be purchased for the benefit of poor widow's of the parish of St Vigor's. The yearly rent was to be distributed on St. Thomas's Day (December 21st) being the testators birthday, at the discretion of the churchwardens. He further directed that his executors and the churchwardens should walk

around the land together with some of the widows of the parish and call it 'Widows' Acre'. Afterwards they were were to spend 2s 6d [£14.51] on beer and bread for refreshment.

On 25th September 1751 one acre of freehold in the open field was conveyed to William Hancock and his heirs for £12 [£1,400.03], and Thomas Oslar Jnr. his father's executor, was to receive the rents and profits until upon his death they were to be received by the churchwardens and distributed to the parish widows. During Enclosure, 2 roods 20 sq poles of pasture land was allocated in lieu of Widow's Acre and was let to William Nottage at an annual rent of £2. [£88.15]

This small allotment of land was situated on the east side of the present day track known as Cox's Drove, some 300 yards from Barnsbury House, beyond today's railway line. The original one acre of land is still to be seen today as a piece of woodland, just east of, and adjacent to, the moat in Fulbourn Nature Reserve. The Rev. T.H. Hennessey noted that the yearly income was only £3 an acre early this century.

Hilles Charity: John Hilles was a native of Fulbourn and was Rector of St. Vigor's from 1591 to 1626. He was also Archdeacon of Lincoln and Master of St. Catherine's College. He left a benefaction for the repair of the church.

Weston's Charity: Ellen Weston bequeathed 12 cottages that were situated on the west side of Highfield Gate, for the benefit of the poor. In 1914 when a scheme for the relief of Belgian refugees was put before the Parish Council, it was decided that the Weston Charity cottages be

placed at the disposal of a committee for the purpose of refugee accommodation. In 1922 the Trustees of the Weston's Charity decided to sell the cottages since they were becoming more of a liability than an asset. Only one cottage now remains and it is still called Weston's Cottage.

The conveyance of the original cottages to an Ecclesiastical Charity was worded as follows:

This Indenture made the 11th day of May 1901 between Ellen Weston, widow, of the one part, and the Rev. John Vavasor Durell, Reuben Moore and James Francis Hall of the other part....witnesseth that...the Trustees, their heirs and signs (are to hold) the hereditaments upon Trust for the benefit of the poor of the Parish of St. Vigor's, and the said Ellen Weston doth hereby declare that the Trust hereby constituted shall form an Ecclesiastical Charity within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1894.

An account of Farmers Charity appears in Newsletter No 10 which can be viewed on our website fulbournhistory.org.uk However, John Patten's notes reveal more information:

After the Parliamentary Act of Enclosure at Brinkley in 1812, the land in the open fields was re-allocated and defined as containing 41 acres 0 roods 28 poles. The annual rent was £40 and the tenant John Metcalfe, had to defray the expense of enclosure. On expiration of this 20 year lease in 1833, the premises was surveyed and a new rent of £55 was set. 24 shillings was annually expended in insurance, 10 shillings for the churchwardens of each parish and a sum of £2 was set aside for a dinner to be enjoyed by them. A further £1 was for the Parish Clerk's salary and 5 shilling for a dinner for the three tenants. The remainder being used for the church charity.

In the 1890's the tickets were redeemed once a quarter for a penny. W R Brown wrote in 1897, '*Some of the aged beneficiaries have assured the writer that they get more in the long run by the penny ticket system, than they did by the chance sixpence*'.

A tablet in black marble is to be seen inside the church, dedicated to William Farmer, on which the following words are engraved;

'Near this place lyeth the body of WILLIAM FARMER Gent, descended from ye ancient family old the FARMERS of Norton in Leicestershire. He was twice married, but having no issue He left his Estate to his poor Relations and to such poor inhabitants of his parish, as shall most duly attend upon the Worship of God in the Church.

Died Ao Dom. May 3rd. 1712 aged 75 years.'

HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ARTEFACTS HELD IN OUR STORE by Glynis Arber

There have been several concerns expressed in the media about the economic effect to the United Kingdom, of the coronavirus pandemic. Some pundits draw a comparison with the parlous state of the nation just after WWII and the help provided by implementation of the Marshall Plan - suggesting something similar may be required. While this outcome is no doubt unlikely, Fulbourn Village History Society do have an admittedly tenuous link with the original aid programme. It is, indeed, one of our artefacts.



Tin of Powdered Eggs

This rather battered tin contains powdered eggs and printed on its side is the following information.

‘Eggs Net weight 5 Ounces For European Recovery supplied by the United States of America’.

Officially known as the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948, the Marshall plan was largely the idea of the US Secretary of State, George Marshall. It was an economic assistance plan primarily aimed to help rebuild Europe after the devastation of the War. At over \$3 billion, Great Britain was the

greatest recipient of Marshall Plan. Our tin of powdered eggs was just one example of the kind of form the aid took as shown by the description of its provenance printed on the tin - which therefore must be at least 73 years old!

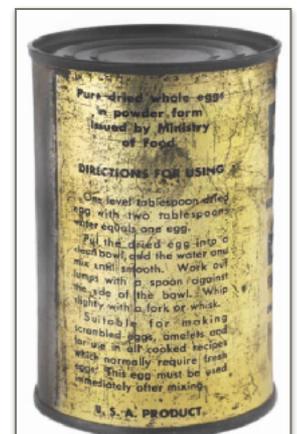
In fact powdered eggs had actually been imported since June 1942 when fresh eggs were rationed and Britain was unable to be completely self-sustaining regarding food. Since shipping space was needed for munitions and essential war materials, anything that could reduce the bulk of food and extend shelf life was used.

Technology developed in the USA allowing the drying and canning of eggs was therefore an important development and the scale of dried egg production in the US during World War Two was enormous. Between 1942 and 1946 the average yearly production was 209 million pounds.

The tin held the equivalent of 12 eggs: An adult was allowed one tin of dried eggs every eight weeks under rationing, costing 1s 9d [£3.44] per tin.

Directions of use were printed on the tin: one tablespoon of powder, mixed with two tablespoons of water was equivalent to one egg.

However, it appears that the British public were not entirely convinced about the product and the Ministry of Food had to run essentially an advertising campaign in an effort to encourage housewives to use it. They advised:



This dried egg is pure fresh egg with no additions, and nothing but the moisture taken away. It is pure egg, spray dried.

Eggs are a highly concentrated form of food. They contain first class body-building material. They also help us to resist colds and other infection because of their high protective properties.

Eggs are easily digested, and for this reason are especially good for children and invalids.

Dried eggs are just as good as fresh eggs and should be used in the same way. They are very useful for main dishes.

Your allowance of dried egg is equal to three eggs a week. You can now get one 12-egg pack per four-week rationing period. Children, holders of green ration books, get two-packets per rationing period. You can buy dried eggs at the shop you are registered for shell eggs; poultry keepers can buy anywhere.

Note: Do not make up dried eggs until you are ready to use them. They should not be allowed to stand after they have been mixed with water or other liquid. Use dry when making cakes and so on, and add a little more moisture when mixing.

FOOD FACTS

EXTRA EGGS!

Good news! You will be able to buy a tin of dried eggs from the shop at which you are registered for shell eggs. Each tin equals 12 fresh eggs. These dried eggs are extra to your egg ration. The price is 1/9 the tin, each egg costs 1/12d. The egg in powder form is pure fresh egg, nothing added, nothing taken away except shell and water. Already there should be enough in the shops to provide one tin for every family, soon there will be enough to provide one tin per ration book. Later on there will be other distributions. Use these dried eggs for your main meal. Give them to the children, they are a first-class body-building food and rich in protective-vitamins.

Rules for using DRIED EGGS

- 1 Store in a cool, dry place and replace the lid of the tin after use.
- 2 To turn a **dried egg** into a fresh one, mix one level tablespoonful of the powder with two tablespoonfuls of water. This mixture equals one fresh egg.
- 3 Now treat the egg as you would a fresh one. Don't make up more egg than is necessary for the dish you are making. Beat as usual before adding to other ingredients.



RECIPE of the WEEK
(No. 11)

CHEESE PUDDING

Time: Preparation 15 minutes. Cooking 30 minutes.
*Ingredients: 2 eggs (2 level tablespoonfuls **dried egg** mixed with 4 tablespoonfuls water), 1 pint milk or house-hold milk, 4 oz. grated cheese, 1 breakfastcupful of breadcrumbs, salt, pepper, 1 teaspoonful dry mustard.*
Quantity: 4 helpings. Method: Add the milk to the egg mixture and stir in the other ingredients. Pour into a greased dish and bake for about 30 minutes till brown and set.
(Gas—mark 5. Electric—425° F.)

POINTS NEWS

New period beginning June 29th

DOWN

CANNED MEATS	Points per lb.
U.S.A. Luncheon Meat	16
Sliced (or in any container not specified below)	6 lb. 86
	4 lb. 57
	3 lb. 45
<small>(The 1 lb. and 12 oz. cans remain at 39 and 24 points respectively)</small>	
Pork Sausage Meal, in or out of container	6
Meat Roll or Galantine (excluding Australian Minced Meat Loaf) Sliced (or in any container other than shown below)	4
	3 lb. 10
	2 lb. 8
CANNED FISH	
Pink Salmon (Grade 3)	1½ tall 16
	1½ flat 16
	1½ flat 8
	1½ flat 4
Any other container	16
Pilchards, Herrings and Mackerel	
	1½ tall 8
<small>(All other sizes remain 12 points per lb.)</small>	
UP	
DRIED FRUIT	12
Currents, Muscatels, Raisins, Sultanas, and evaporated fruit such as dried apples and apricots	16
<small>(Prunes and Figs remain at 6 points per lb.) You will have 24 points per book as before.</small>	

FOOD FACTS No. 103, THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, LONDON, W.1

WATER PUMPS AND STANDPIPES IN FULBOURN by John Patten (written in 1992)

Most of the larger houses and some small cottages had hand pumps to raise the water from the well into a tank inside the building, but a large number of inhabitants depended on the bucket and rope method with everyone obtaining water from wells next to their dwelling and 'night soil' being dug into their gardens. It is not surprising that outbreaks of typhoid occurred from time to time and although the water in these wells was tested several times a year, very little was done to stop the contaminated water being used. For example, in September 1887, the Medical Officer of the Chesterton Sanitary Authority, Dr Anningson reported;

'Another outbreak of typhoid fever has occurred in the vicinity of Barrett's Yard, Fulbourn and the well from which the water was taken had been analysed and found to be perfectly filthy'.

He suggested that the well should be closed and that the Cambridge Water Company should be requested to erect standpipes in the village, having begun the construction of their new station near Poor's Well the previous year.

In October 1887 the village was presented with no less than eight standpipes for domestic supplies and one (later two) standpipes for water carts. A ceremony took place to celebrate the occasion and amongst those present were the Chairman of the Water Company and Messrs. Payne, Chaplin, Reuben Moore, Layton and many other residents. Before the Chairman turned on the supply, he explained what a boon it was for the residents to have a gratuitous supply of water. When it had been turned on, three cheers were given and samples of water were drawn; prosperity to the Water Company and the Fulbourn parish was then drunk to, with the purest of water. The pressure was then exhibited by water being turned on through a hosepipe and jet, and after exchanging friendly greetings the Directors returned home carrying with them the best wishes of the inhabitants of the village.

These eight standpipes for domestic supply were in use until well after the First World War. Gradually however, water became available to most dwellings via the main supply. The two standpipes for filling water carts still survive; one situated at Poor's Well and the other in Doggett's Lane. Only one standpipe for domestic supply still remains at Home End, whilst another, which was situated at the junction of Teversham Road and Hinton Way, was removed in 1982. The Act of Parliament which brought into being the pumping station and was responsible for supplying Fulbourn with a free supply of water around a hundred years ago, has never been amended and therefore the inhabitants of Fulbourn are presumably still entitled to a free supply of water from these remaining standpipes.



Cow Lane c 1991



Home End c 1991

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2021-2022

Owing to the continuing rates of Covid infection, the Committee has reluctantly decided that Talks in 2021 will take place via Zoom. This proved very successful previously, with positive feedback from participants. A link will be provided the day before the talk. Hopefully, we will be able to meet up in person for 2022.

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

18 November 'The private life of Oliver Cromwell' by Stuart Orme

9 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 'Miss Wright's of Fulbourn Autograph Book Part Two' by Glynis Arber

21 April AGM and possible speaker TBA

F.V.H.S. COMMITTEE 2021-2022

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Committee members: Clare Champion, Tim Vaughan-Lane