

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

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FIRST MEETING OF THE 2005/6 SEASON

Fulbourn Village Research Project Update

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In October a Power Point presentation by members of the Research Team described the current stage of the Project. The academic report on excavations carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Field Unit and commissioned by the Project is almost complete. Conservation work on small finds has also been carried out with more detailed information available for the stained glass fragments found at Hall Orchard.

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Field walking results were shown in diagrammatic form (a total of 1,725 finds, not including those discarded as rubbish had been collected by our intrepid volunteers). English Heritage have produced a map based on our earthwork survey and the Enclosure map and pre-Enclosure map is now in digitised format. Mediaeval housing in Fulbourn has been identified and archive research looking for evidence (or not) of the two parishes, Fulbourn Parva and Fulbourn Magna, has also been carried out.

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Preliminary conclusions are fascinating but are still being 'tweaked' so may change in some detail. Briefly, it appears a relatively high status manor known as Dunmowe's was located on the moated site at Hall Orchard.

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Earthworks in the surrounding area have been identified as the remains of a mediaeval settlement although field walking results on Croft Field do not suggest human habitation took place there. The pre-Enclosure map has revealed ancient tract ways and an historic buildings survey confirmed a number of buildings in Fulbourn of mediaeval date, in particular one which had been presumed to have been built in the 17th century. Further documentary research has provided clues about the administrative organisation of the area, and a possible correlation between weather and settlement patterns.

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One of the many finds discovered during the project. An Edward 1st silver coin from the Canterbury Mint.

Results from the Research Project are now in the process of being written up, ready for publication. There are, however, still some loose ends to tie up and a few commitments remain, e.g. arranging a mediaeval handling pack and

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resources for teachers' use in school. So there is plenty of opportunity to become involved, even at this stage. If you would like to help bring the Project to its triumphant conclusion, please contact Glynis (01223 570887) or Tony (01223 880401).

Autumn
2005

HAPPENINGS -reported by Glynis Arber

SUMMER VISIT 2005: 'Rural Relics' & 'Bramley's'

Our outing to Shudy Camps was a delight to all of the 30 or so members who arrived in convoy on a bright, if somewhat fresh, day. Owing to the popularity of this visit, we divided into groups so as not to overcrowd each venue - and what wonderful places they proved to be.

The aptly named 'Rural Relics' private collection of domestic and agricultural exhibits was fascinating. There were lawnmowers dating from 1867, one designed for 'ladies' alone, whilst another needed two people to pull. My personal favourite was a wooden Victorian push chair which could be adapted for use as a high chair. This would be very useful when dining with the grandchildren, especially in crowded self-service restaurants whose few high chairs always seem to be already occupied!

Inside a vast shed was an extensive store of kitchen and laundry memorabilia, which brought many laughs (and nostalgic sighs) of recognition from amongst the visitors. A superb model railway also received much admiration, and even a little envy from some quarters (name no names!)

An opportunity to explore the beautiful thirteenth-century thatched cottage 'Bramley's' was eagerly pursued. It well illustrated how much a building could be made extremely comfortable without sacrificing the charm and period details that made it unique. Re-united with the rest of our party, we all enjoyed a very welcome cup of tea and slice of home-made cake kindly provided by Tony and Ann Broscob, the owners of 'Bramley's'. An enjoyable afternoon, with something for everyone.



Very early Ransomes mower from collection. The 'husband & wife' version... wife pulling and husband pushing and steering.

FULBOURN BANNER

The official 'unveiling' to the general public, of the wonderful banner depicting our parish boundary which also included significant Fulbourn buildings and landmarks, took place at Fulbourn Feast this year.

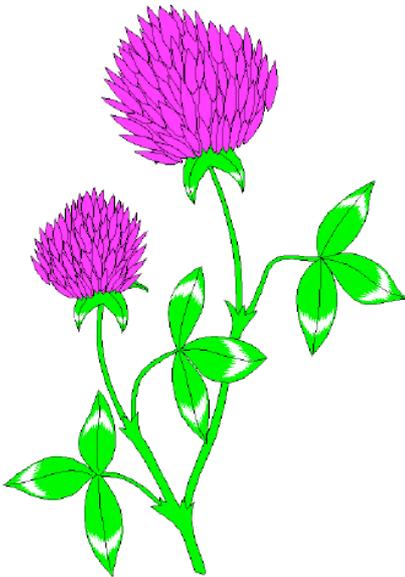


It was in 1999 that as a result of a 'dream', Lorna Woor came up with the idea of making this embroidery to celebrate the Millennium. With support from her friend Sylvia Burgess, plans began to be prepared and 'volunteers' recruited from around the village. In all, 35 to 40 people were involved, with about 20 ladies performing the sewing and 15 to 20 gentlemen drawing and photographing the buildings or making the wooden frames which supported each 'picture'.

The outlines of the buildings were all worked in black thread, which contrasted well with the flashes of colour from flowers and trees. Once individual panels had been completed, they were then sewn together to form the 'banner', thereby providing a unique record of the village. Sadly, Sylvia Burgess died before the project was finished but in her memory, collections raised by displaying the banner in different venues, will go to Cancer Research.

RED CLOVER (*Trifolium pratense*)

Red clover with its rounded pink/purple heads and trifoliate leaves is a commonly recognised and valuable leguminous plant (of the pea family) widely cultivated for its valuable forage properties as well as its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen into the soil by the action of bacteria colonies in nodes in its roots. It is open in growth habit and of variable height up to approx. 45 cms and is a plant of grassy meadows and banks, roadside and waste ground. Its use in grazing needs to be monitored due to its oestrogen content and farmers have long been aware that high intake levels can prevent ewe conception at tupping time. The flower heads can be used to make a country wine which, it has been popularly believed, may help in preventing - or be used in the treatment - of cancer. Both leaves and flowers may be used in salads or as vegetables once cooked.



Red clover is another plant that contains natural aspirin (salicylic acid). The flower heads, or decoctions from them, have been used generally in the past medicinally as a treatment for breast cancer as well as a cough treatment. For coughs approx. 6 dried flower heads infused in a cup of boiling water sweetened as required with sugar or honey and left to stand for about 10 minutes may be found helpful. Currently extracts are employed in the treatment of skin disorders and as an expectorant. The oestrogen levels may also be utilisable. More recent medical investigations have indicated anti-coagulant properties in addition to confirming the long-standing folk claims for anti-tumour properties.

(Should anyone wish to attempt cultivating Lady's Bedstraw or any other wild flower in this series, John Chambers Wild Flower Seeds (01933 652562 will be found helpful.)

Matlow, or Muttillow Hill as it is more frequently called in the neighbourhood, although it is marked on the County Maps by the former appellation, is a large and well known tumulus in Cambridgeshire which in its close vicinity to the remarkable earthwork, Fleam Dyke, has attracted considerable notice in that locality, especially from the tradition belonging to it, that it contained a *gold coach*, which is, or I should rather now say has, been implicitly believed, among the labouring classes thereabouts for many years; for the examination, of which I now detail the results, made under my own superintendence, has for ever extinguished the interesting legend.

It is hardly to be supposed that with such unusual allurements to whet their curiosity, former antiquaries should have suffered this barrow to remain undisturbed, although its having been covered with Scottish firms of many years but stunted growth, must have in some measure protected it from the encroachments of the treasure seeker; and, as the subjoined account will show, shafts have been driven horizontally on the eastern side, and sub perpendicularly on the top, but to judge from the remaining contents, without any, or with but partial success. As the trees on and around the hill are completely worthless and the strip of land on which it stands in conjunction with the dyke is waste, I received early this spring through the medium of Mr John Teverson, in whose occupation the adjacent farm is, the kind permission of the owner of the site, Mr Capel, to make whatever excavations I deemed advisable to ascertain its nature. Judging from my experience in opening other barrows in this neighbourhood and the uncertainty of its having been previously explored, that cutting to the centre would be unsatisfactory, I commenced

on the 12th of April with six labourers turning it over regularly from end to end, advancing from the southern extremity. The tumulus we found to be composed principally of the soil of the vicinity: light, chalky, intersected with two or three bands of darker earth running across horizontally, which satisfied us at once that this part at least had never been disturbed since its originally formation. The first object met with, at the depth of one foot, was a very small and rude illegible coin, similar to others obtained from tombs in the same neighbourhood, which have been pronounced to be imitations of the coins of the later emperors, struck by the tribes of Roman Britons, probably during the latter part of the occupation, or directly subsequent to the departure of the Romans. Shortly afterwards, eight feet from the southern end, and three from the surface, lay a small heap of burnt human bones, apparently but of one person, intensely white from cremation; among them were several of the chipped flints so common in these interments, part of a bronze pin for fastening the cloth in which the bones had been probably wrapped, six long beads of pottery (Comp.Anc.Wilts,pl.ix) each consisting of five smaller ones united, and a bone pin made from the leg bone of a fowl. Within a foot of these, but lower on the floor of the barrow, lay Urn No.1, a small and exceedingly rude specimen of the sunbaked pottery resembling those frequently taken from the large Wiltshire tumuli; when found it was full of burnt ashes, apparently of some plant; it was removed entire, and is now in my collection; by the assistance of the faithful pencil of Mr J M Youngman of Saffron Walden I am enabled to lay before the Society representations of it, and of the others from the same site, which will supply a most accurate notion of the originals. *April 13* - Urn No. 2. Fifteen feet from the western exterior, and two from the surface of the mount of the same material, but larger than preceding, finished with shelving rims. Contents: burnt human bones enveloped in a cloth, which, on looking into the vessel, gave them the appearance of being viewed through a yellow gauze veil, but which upon being touched dissolved into fine powder. This, as well as No. 1, was not inverted; they were interred upright on their bottoms. No. 3. Same day - Thirteen feet from western exterior, three from the surface, had

Continued from page 3...

apparently been crushed at interment.

Contents: burnt human bones, with similar vestiges of cloth as before; the rim only could be restored, which however proves it to have been of extraordinary size, being two feet in diameter. This is not drawn. No. 4. Same day; two feet from the surface, sixteen from the western exterior; of similar form and material and smaller than Nos 2 and 3, though larger than No. 1. Removed entire. Contents: a few bones, apparently of a very young person, without any traces of cloth. This day the cutting at the centre of the hill was more than six feet.

April 14 - Urn No.5. Two feet from the surface and six from the south-west extremity, without any contents. No. 6 Same day. Sixteen feet deep, ten from the outside, in fragments. Contents: burnt human bones; cutting this day exceeded eight feet, and three feet from the west side a large heap of burnt human bones was exposed with palpable vestiges of cloth as before; after this, on the top, we broke into evident traces of a shaft which seemed to have been sunk perpendicularly, but proved to be of small extent.

April 15 = About six feet from the western exterior, and two from the surface, we laid bare another heap of bones, without any relic. This day the workmen broke into another shaft of considerable size which had been driven horizontally towards the centre from the eastern side, accommodating its course to avoid injuring the trees growing on the tumulus. As no deposit was discovered in the whole examination of the eastern side of the mound, though with the exception of this cutting undisturbed, I should imagine that no relics were obtained at the time of its being made.

April 16 - No. 7. A small broken vase in shape as Nos. 1 and 5, three feet from the surface and eight from western exterior. Contents: burnt human bones. No.8 Same day. Four feet four inches from surface, then from western side, a small perfect urn standing upright, without contents. With the exception of another small rude brass coin similar to that mentioned above, and supposed to be of the late Roman period, this closes the list of relics obtained from this remarkable tumulus, of which the following were the dimensions previous to commencing: sixty-seven feet in diameter by one hundred and ninety in circumference. Depth, at greatest elevation, from ten to twelve feet.

From the Archives compiled by Pat White.
To be continued in later issue...

From Gilds in the Medieval Countryside: Cambs

In 1391 William Fulbourne, Lord of the village of Fulbourne St Vigor, requested in his Will:

"I would like to have find candles, each containing twelve pounds of wax, and six torches, and poor tenants to hold the said torches, each having a tunic and a cap".

It was customary at the most lavish funerals, among the "Tableau Vivantes" which accompanied the mourning of a great personage, for a number of paupers, suitably dressed, to attend the dead man or woman.

FROM CHURCHES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE BY E.B. White (p74)
All Saints - Perfectly distinct parishes! The steeple fell demolishing nave and chancel. Two of the five bells were cracked and sold to defray the cost of recasting the other three. A cruciform church. The oak and fittings disappeared. Panels of screen with paintings of Our Saviour and St Elizabeth of Hungary now in library of Trinity College, Cambridge.

REFERENCE TO HALL FARM, FULBOURN FROM FULBOURN PARISH RECORDS (p.75)

On ye 9th Sept. 1727 a terrible fire broke out at the house (then a workhouse for the poor) on ye south of ye Parsonage Barn which burnt down ye said barn (being full of corn) and stables but by God's blessing I rebuilt ye said barn and stables and larger and more convenient than they were before and I have rebuilt the Parsonage House (tho it did not suffer much by the fire and I hope to the satisfaction of my successors for before I built it as it now is, it was a very ill-contrived house and there was not one good room in it - sed soli Deo Gratia agantur.

John Perkin, Rector

June 14th, 1729

COMING SOON TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE , HAGGIS GAP

The popular Christmas meeting will be held on **TUESDAY 13 December**, 7.45 for 8.00 p.m. at the Community Centre on Haggis Gap. The entertainment will be **A History of Recorded Music** and the **ticket price of £5 will include mince pies and mulled wine.** To reserve a place at this popular event please complete and return the reply slip at the bottom of the enclosed "flyer", together with your remittance, to Glynis as soon as possible.

If you have something to contribute to the next issue of the Newsletter, please send your written copy to Linda Halton at 6 Cambridge Road Fulbourn.

We hope you've enjoyed reading this publication and wish you a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



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