



FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 25

Autumn 2007

RECENT CHANGES IN FVHS OFFICERS



Since the AGM, the Society now has a regular full time Chairman, Clint Tweed, pictured on the left for those who may not already know him. A warm welcome to Clint in his new 'high profile' position and thanks to Norman Osborne for keeping the seat filled in the interim as Acting Chairman. Also, Linda Halton, who has been your newsletter editor for nearly as long as anyone can remember, is stepping down with effect from this issue. Many thanks for a job well done Linda. Linda will be the first to admit that she was rarely inundated with copy but if you wish to astound the new incumbent, then the new target is the letterbox at 28, The Haven. Glynis Arber now becomes newsletter editor as well as secretary and can be contacted on 01223 570887 and sometimes even by email.

SUMMER OUTING TO HATFIELD HOUSE - by Glynis Arber

Efficiently organised by Gill Bradford, the Fulbourn Village History Society Summer Outing to Hatfield House on Saturday, July 14th 2007, was a resounding success. We had received sufficient support from members to fill a 47 seater coach – which did pose a potential problem when the company sent a 44 seater! However, owing to late cancellations and your secretary perching next to the driver (a very good view, even if my feet did dangle over the steps!), all was resolved. The journey proved uneventful, and everyone enjoyed dipping into the 'sweetie' bag and munching on toffee's, peppermints and 'Werther's Originals'.

Arriving 20 minutes before Hatfield House opened, there was plenty of time for a welcome cup of coffee or tea in the Restaurant – a venue which later in the day provided excellent home cooked lunches and picnic food. I can only describe my own positive experience of the visit, but am sure it was shared by the rest of our party. The House is delightful – with plenty of portraits and



HATFIELD HOUSE ON OUR SUMMER OUTING THIS YEAR

photographs associated with the Salisbury family and the interior of the rooms are well maintained. Obviously, there are many 'historic' objects d'art and furnishings, such as armour dating from the late 16th century and from the same period a magnificent carved oak staircase - though the original gilding on heraldic emblems has alas, been removed. It must have looked spectacular and I suppose displaying a vast amount of 'Bling' would have been expected in the home of the Lord Treasurer of England.

Apparently, his descendant, the present Marquis, carries on the family tradition of enhancing Hatfield for the benefit of future generations. In a bedroom of early nineteenth century design, the wall paper was quite recently hand painted in China - while a superb inlaid desk, showing scenes from the history of Hatfield, has only just been delivered. However, my own favourite item was a simple trestle table, which had spent most of its life in the Old Palace. Now displayed as a serving table in the dining room, it was originally used 'below stairs' by servants. Made in the late 15th century (or was it 14th? Perhaps a dendrology test should be suggested?) it was formed from a single 'plank' of elm - 60 feet long!!

No account of Hatfield House can be made without a mention of its most famous resident, Princess Elizabeth, and inside the house there are several portraits of Elizabeth I and personal belongings owned by her. Outside, a wooden plaque in the park is inscribed with the words 'This oak tree was planted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 22nd July 1985 on the site of the original oak tree under which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I heard of her succession to the throne'. Yet, only a few years earlier, the dangerous political situation surrounding the young princess is evocatively indicated by a letter, (a facsimile is on display) written by her while at 'Atfield.' It's content categorically denies the rumour put about by Elizabeth's enemies, that she was pregnant by 'my Lord High Admiral'.

Unfortunately, the Old Palace, where Elizabeth was held, in many respects, as a political prisoner, was not open to visitors, although its charming

formal knot garden (with modern wind vane) could still be viewed. Indeed, members were able to wander around the gardens and parkland of Hatfield, which while not exactly 'manicured' to the extent of National Trust properties (they only have three gardeners to serve the whole area), had its own appeal. I certainly enjoyed the wooded Nature trail, even if my sense of direction was poor (despite colour coded sign posts). The discovery of Gill and David Bradford admiring Queen Elizabeth's oak tree therefore proved a welcome sight as they put me back on track and I would not be late for the coach departure!

In fact, this was not a problem since the driver apologetically had to call for assistance owing to a flat battery. Luckily, the weather had become warmer as the day progressed, and it was positively hot by now. Most of our group took advantage of the extra time to buy ice-creams or drinks and we all spent a leisurely hour, sitting on the grass, chatting and relaxing. Eventually, with the engine restarted, we started off for home, and members were both surprised and pleased to have the opportunity to participate in a free raffle en route. There were even some sweets still left! A great day out - and again, many thanks to Gill.



DRESSING UP! See item Re. Farmland Museum

COFFEE MORNING AT FULBOURN MANOR

On Saturday, July 28th, Fulbourn Village History Society's annual Coffee morning was held in the grounds of Fulbourn Manor, by kind invitation of our Hon. President, Richard Townley. A constant trickle of visitors took advantage of the final arrival of summer, and enjoyed the opportunity to socialise, in beautiful surroundings.

Members had worked hard to make this event not just a chance to meet up with friends, but also to raise funds. With the increased costs of hiring rooms, speaker fees, and the updating of office equipment, this is an important aspect of the Society. It is also, perhaps, rather taken for granted. A brief account of the Coffee Morning, might well go some way towards providing a general acknowledgement of the tasks involved.

SETTING UP

Owing to the somewhat unsettled weather, it was decided to erect our Tent as a fail-safe measure, in case of rain. So on Friday evening, a group of members met at The Manor, ready to assemble its poles and polypropylene covering. Colour coding of the former, and an understanding of the correct order of fitting everything together (ie best to put on the roof, before sides have been connected, and it becomes too tall to reach!) contributed to what is now a very efficient exercise.

Chairs and tables were then collected from a store, although we subsequently found that numbers had been underestimated – many apologies for those who had to drink their coffee whilst standing!

PUBLICITY

Flyers had been distributed to members and posters displayed around the village a few weeks before. On the day, a sandwich board was placed at the signpost, which although somewhat makeshift, seems to have been useful in drawing attention to the event. (Any offers to make a more professional 'A' frame, would be very welcome.). A personal approach to passers by was also made, with considerable success.

FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Selling tickets for the Raffle was ongoing throughout the morning, and received lots of support. The large selection of great prizes were the result of a generous response by members, to the request for donations.

Arranging assorted contributions on the Bring and Buy Stall logically, called for considerable creative skills, which was matched by the sales 'patter'. All who participated in bringing, buying and selling, had great fun, and the added satisfaction of knowing that by recycling, they were helping to 'Save the Planet'.

The hand-crafted cards on sale, proved very popular. This was not surprising, since they obviously were very good value considering the time involved making them, and the originality of the designs.

Finally, the modest entry fee, collected at the door, included coffee, biscuits and waitress service! (refills were freely available, and appeared very welcome).

PROFIT BREAKDOWN

Entry	£70.00
Raffle	£93.00
Bring and Buy	£72.40
Cards	£35.00
Coffee/Biscuits	- £ 9.00
Total	£261.40

Many congratulations to ALL who helped organise and run Fulbourn Village History Society Coffee Morning 2007. Your efforts are very much appreciated and the magnificent profit of £261.40 will be a most welcome and valuable addition to our funds.

Indeed, the fund-raising team had already made a very encouraging start to our new season, with the

Bottle Stall, held at Fulbourn Feast, raising £103.00. Together with the Raffle held at our monthly meetings from October to April, these all contribute towards paying the bills and ensuring our research facilities are available to anyone who is interested in local history. Thank you, again, to all concerned.

P.S. If you would like to be involved in Fund-

Raising for Fulbourn Village History Society and/or have ideas that could help, please contact the Secretary (C. 570887). You do not need to become a committee member, and the time spent on such activities is not onerous. Moreover, there is a great sense of camaraderie and fun as everyone pitches in (quite literally, in the case of the Tent!) towards a common goal.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION OF 'FULBOURN PLACES, PAST AND PRESENT'



BE VERY WORRIED SIR ALFRED McALPINE !! THE FVHS 'SPECIAL FORCES' TENT ERECTION TEAM IN ACTION

At 9.30 am, on the morning of Fulbourn Feast, 2007, a stalwart band of Fulbourn Village History Society members gathered to engage in the challenging, frustrating and also, it must be admitted, amusing (at least to onlookers) 'Erection of the Tent'. Despite a depressing drizzle which made the instruction sheet (and volunteers) rather damp, this was accomplished in record time (practise makes perfect – aided by many willing helpers – thanks to all concerned) and we were able to quickly move on to stage two ie setting up the Bottle Stall and photographic Exhibition.

Under the well organised supervision of Ivy Smith and Gill Bradford, the Bottle Stall was soon running efficiently, ultimately making a very welcome profit of £103.00 Congratulations to our dedicated group of Fund - Raisers.

Once more, the Display boards purchased from our Lottery Grant, made arranging the photographic exhibition much easier. It was entitled 'Fulbourn Places, Past and Present' and displayed pictures, dating from 1867 to the 1970's, of Fulbourn streets. Similar views, taken during June of this year, were also shown adjacent to the earlier photos. This allowed a revealing comparison of the changes which have taken place in our village.

Certainly the many visitors found the experience fascinating – a count of numbers was given up after we reached 200! They also enjoyed the opportunity to browse amongst History Society Albums which contain 'thumb nail' prints of the 5000+ photographs held in our Archive Store. These are associated with Fulbourn either through its buildings, people, places or events. Keeping this



A LADY WITH REAL 'BOTTLE' - BUT ALAS NO CORKSCREW !

pictorial record of the village is an ongoing exercise and we welcome further interesting additions to the collection from all sources.

If anyone has old (or even not so old) photographs relevant to the historical and social development of Fulbourn or knows of such photos that could be made available, please arrange to have them brought to the Archive Room situated in The Fulbourn Centre, (opening hours Monday and Wednesday, 10 am. until noon, or contact Tony Goodall, on 01223 880401).

They will be digitally copied and the originals returned safely and speedily to you or the owner.

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY AT THE FARMLAND MUSEUM, DENNY ABBEY.

Following the Society's successful exhibition of the Fulbourn Village Research Project results during National Archaeology Week last year, we were asked to mount a similar display at The Farmland Museum in 2007, as part of their Archaeology Discovery Day.

It was rewarding to see that the general public, with no connection to Fulbourn, found the work of our Project team fascinating - perhaps we might inspire them to undertake field walking, house and building surveys - or even archaeological excavations in their own locality!

While adults enjoyed looking at the fine detail of maps, artefacts etc. children had a wonderful time dressing up as a medieval 'lady of the manor' or peasant boy. The clothes were part of the medieval handling pack assembled by members of the Research Project and it was very satisfying being on hand to supervise the 'operation' of this fun learning aid. One constant complaint by the youngsters, was that the tunic and hood were 'scratchy' - which led to interesting discussions about the contrast between clothes today and those of the past. They were also intrigued by the fact that a vegetable dye, 'woad' had been used to colour



**INTERESTED VISITORS AT THE MUSEUM
(See also further picture on page 3)**

the outer garment blue with one little girl asking if it was available to try on in pink!

The staff at the Farmland Museum were very appreciative of our presence there, and most impressed by the content of the Display Panels.

VITAL COMMUNITIES

During the past 12 months, Fulbourn Village History Society has participated in a community discussion group organised by 'Vital Communities'. This is a unique research project which began with a three-year pilot and aims to conduct the study over a 15 year period. Through a vibrant programme of creative activities, including dance, drama, film, literature, music, and visual art, the project will assess the impact of the arts upon both individual and community development in specific communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Fulbourn is one of the ten active locations where Vital Communities is taking place and already several events have been held in the village, mostly centred in the Primary School. To coincide with the start of Fulbourn Arts Festival 2007, an exhibition of art, music and drama performed by the children, was held in the United Reform Church.



A 'SAXY' LADY TAKING PART IN THE EVENT.

The photographs display some of the art work produced by pupils - and very impressive it is too especially in full colour as per the pdf version!





BIG, BRIGHT & COLOURFUL WAS THE KEYNOTE OF THE ART PROJECT

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOURS?

The much vaunted term ‘Global warming’ is viewed by some as a description of coming out of an ice age which the world does from time to time. Regardless of any damage caused by I.C.E. (internal combustion engines) you can benefit by receiving this newsletter in vibrant colour and before your other members by having it sent electronically. The difference is so dramatic, it is probably worth buying a computer and getting online for. Additionally it uses far less resources in production and distribution and keeps the Society Green! Really, if you can receive this as a pdf by email, then you really should email to piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk and ***demand*** it in this form. If you really cannot well then! What else are you missing out on, now and in the future? If you have any queries in this respect or would wish to see the difference for yourself then contact Glynis Arber on 01223 570887, herself hardly the typical IT nerd so she will fully understand!

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Mrs. Pat White

RECOLLECTIONS

“There are now only a few old people left in Fulbourn but they have given us many interesting recollections of life in the village seventy to eighty years ago. The ringing of church bells was quite a feature of those days, remembered by all the old villagers. A tombstone in the churchyard records that Francis Mason, who died on 26th October 1922 aged 77 years, was ringer of the curfew bell and the day bell for more than 50 years and gives details of the bells he rang.

THE HORSEKEEPERS’ BELL at 4.00 am in the summer and 5.00 am in the winter. This was the signal for the horsekeepers to get the horses ready for the men to start work in the fields at 6.00am.

THE EIGHT AM BELL - at 8.00 am
THE DINNER BELL - at 1.00 pm

CURFEW - This was rung every weekday at 8.00 pm except saturday, when it was rung at 7.00 pm. In addition the bell was tolled a number of times equivalent to the day of the month. During harvest time he also rang another bell for the gleaners at 5.00 pm. No gleaners may start work before the 8.00 am bell and they must finish by the 5.00 pm bell. The gleaners wore old sacks as aprons in which they gathered the corn which they emptied into old sheets spread on the ground. When they had finished they wrapped up their gleanings in the sheet and carried it on their heads to a barn, part of an old farm which stood on the site of Hope Terrace, next to the Royal Oak, an old inn at the corner of Impetts Lane. Here they threshed it with flails, separating the wheat from the chaff in a

Dressing gig, weighed it and took it to the Windmill, either in Tuppy Lane or at the top of Mill Hill to be ground.

The flour they used for baking their bread etc. Mrs. George Hancock, aged 83, boasted that sometimes she collected as much as eleven bushels in one harvest. There was a communal bakehouse at the Royal Oak and also one in Shipp's Yard fired by faggots.

Mr. Joseph Chaplin has in his possession the first shilling paid for grinding a bushel of wheat at Mill Hill windmill."

COPY WANTED !! Your new editor seeks informative, interesting and entertaining items for this newsletter. Items by ball point or word processor to Glynis Arber please, 26 The Haven or phone 01223 570887

CONGRATULATIONS !

To all those that members who responded to reminders and ensured a further year of delights of membership of the Fulbourn Village History Society. These great benefits will be revealed in our new programme, shortly to be circulated to fully paid up members.

We would be most despondent if anyone were to miss out due to forgetfulness so, if you have not yet renewed, please do so and continue to enjoy what must be one of Fulbourn's best value subscriptions.

Stuck for a different birthday or early Christmas gift? Why not gift a years FVHS subscription to friends, relatives or neighbours not currently members?



The exhibition of photographs at the Fulbourn Feast was a popular source of interest. It is hoped that some of these may feature in future newsletters, when and if they eventually arrive with me that is !