

# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 31

Spring 2010

## BARBARA WHITE LEGACY

Members will recall that Barbara White, one of the founder members of our Society, died just over one year ago (see Spring / Summer 2009 Newsletter). Barbara's family arranged for a collection to be taken at her funeral, the proceeds of which were donated to our Society. After some deliberation your Committee decided that the best way to spend the money, as a memorial to Barbara, would be to purchase some items to help those interested in researching for ancestors from Fulbourn and Cambridgeshire. To facilitate the research we purchased a laptop computer and from the Cambridgeshire Family History Society we acquired CD's containing:-

1. Transcriptions of the Census for the old County of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely for the years 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871.
2. Transcriptions of the following Fulbourn Church and Chapel Registers and Asylum records:-

### Fulbourn All Saints

Baptisms: 1558 – 1925  
Marriages: 1560 – 1925  
Banns: 1756 – 1864  
Burials: 1558 – 1950

### Fulbourn St Vigor

Baptisms: 1538 – 1950  
Marriages: 1556 – 1950  
Banns: 1754 – 1950  
Burials: 1556 – 1880

Burial Book: 1937 - 1950

### Fulbourn Dissenting Congregation

Registers: 1816 – 1840

### Fulbourn Asylum

Burial Book: 1901 – 1949

### 3. The Cambridgeshire Burial Index

This contains details of over 200,000 burials taken from the Parish and Chapel Registers of various villages in the existing County of Cambridgeshire.

The Burial Index is an ongoing project by the Family History Society and so the information on our CD does not cover every village in the county.

Details of the Fulbourn burials are, however, contained on the CD.

The laptop and the discs are stored at the Fulbourn Centre and they can be accessed by anybody undertaking research on Mondays and Wednesdays 10.00a.m – 12.00 noon.

As Barbara spent much time registering the accessions which the Society has, thereby helping those engaged in research about Fulbourn, we like to think that she would approve of these additional aids to research.



## IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES



**The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of Fulbourn Village History Society takes place on Thursday, 20th May 2010 at 8.00 pm, in The Fulbourn Centre.**

*Please try to support this meeting.*

# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY: TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



## **WILLIAM MORRIS WITH HIS APPARATUS**

Held at Townley Hall on Friday, 11th December, this was indeed, a night to remember. Our speaker was Mr William Morris who, though arriving a little late owing to foggy weather conditions, managed to 'set up' his technical equipment - consisting of a wind-up gramophone (with electric power back-up) in record time (forgive the pun). Having had previous traumatic experiences with the products of today's digital age, this proved a welcome change.

The audience, now replete with warm mince-pies and mellow having imbibed a glass (or two) of wine, were in a very receptive mood to listen, quite literally, as Mr Morris introduced his subject 'Musical Nostalgia'. An informative history of recorded music, beginning with the early days of wax cylinders was recounted and we were privileged to be able to hear the original disc of Caruso singing. Other famous names, illustrated by their music, followed, including George Formby (Senior and his more famous son, both almost indistinguishable from each other), Kathleen Ferrar, the first recording of 'Lily Marlene' (by a Danish artist and not Marlene Dietrich), and popular titles like Glenn Miller's 'In

the Mood', 'The Pee Wee Hunt' and 'A Nightingale Sung in Berkeley Square'.

Humorous novelty songs such as 'The Laughing Policeman' were not neglected, with perhaps the most nostalgic moment for most present being the stirring theme tune to 'Dick Barton, Secret Agent'! A few of our members had 'requested' some songs - and I personally was pleased to discover that Mr Morris had all seven volumes of 'Sparky and the Magic Piano' - though much I suspect, to the relief of the audience, he only played a minute or two!

Everyone had a most enjoyable evening, and our official Tenth Anniversary cake, baked and decorated with the Society's logo, by local Fulbourn resident, Halina Szutowicz was much admired. The honour of cutting the first slice, was of course, undertaken by Norman Osborne who in 1998 had originally proposed the setting up of a History Society in Fulbourn and was instrumental in seeing that wish fulfilled a year later with the formation of our constitution. We now look forward to celebrating our fifteenth 'birthday' in 2014!!



## **OUR FOUNDER, NORMAN OSBORNE, SEEMS TO RELISH THE PROSPECT OF A SLICE OF CAKE!**

## FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY: Our first two talks of the 2009/10 Season.

### OCTOBER

Following our summer break, members of Fulbourn Village History society were entertained by the first talk of our lecture season, aptly entitled "*The Rise and Fall of the English Seaside*". Experienced speaker Tony Kirby provided fascinating details about the history of holidays taken by the English seaside - from early spa's like Scarborough, which attracted the upper echelons of society to the multitude of 'day trippers' spawned by the coming of the railways.

Illustrated by slides, the evening developed a somewhat nostalgic theme, as the advent of the 'holiday camp' and seaside attractions such as the pier show, wax work exhibitions and fun fairs were revealed. The gradual decline of our seaside towns caused by cheap package holidays and air travel was traced and for those with personal experience, like myself, of a happy childhood spent on the beaches of the north Norfolk coast, rather regretted. Perhaps, though, the current economic climate (and global warming), will revive the idea of a 'staycation'!!

### NOVEMBER

We were very fortunate this month, in having as our speaker a member of Fulbourn Village History Society, George Culling. He had long been intrigued that 'In 1780, we were about to lead the World into the Industrial Revolution' yet "It is an extraordinary fact that England, at that time, was one of the worst educated countries in

Europe. The literacy level was particularly low. Only one child in twenty attended any kind of school. There was, therefore, an urgent need for the Government to legislate so that a national system of education could be developed that would underpin our rapidly expanding industrial system'.

However, during the course of his talk on "The Struggle for Literacy in the Nineteenth Century), we discovered that it was not until 1870 that the famous Forster Education Act was passed, providing free, compulsory, state run primary schooling. The reasons for this long neglect (helpfully explained chronologically) were identified as the Class System, Unreformed Parliaments, Repercussions of the French Revolution, Effect of the Napoleonic Wars, Widespread use of Child Labour, Apathy and Indifference, and the Churches (both Anglican and Non-Conformist).

At the end of the evening, all present had a much clearer understanding of the social and political history of the nineteenth century, and how these impacted upon and influenced, the education system of the day. Certainly, the very lively and enthusiastic 'question and answer' session was a great endorsement of a most informative and enjoyable talk.

P.S. George has very kindly offered to make his lecture notes available to anyone interested. Please contact the Secretary (01223 570887) if you would like a copy.

## FOUNDATION AND TREASURES OF THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM



**CHINESE GUAN JAR Circa 1330-1338**

At our first meeting of 2010 over 60?? members of Fulbourn Village History Society were fascinated by Elizabeth Everitt's talk about the '*Foundation and Treasures of the Fitzwilliam Museum*'.

She explained that it owed its foundation to Richard, seventh Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion who in 1816 bequeathed to the University of Cambridge, where he had been a student, his works of art and library, together with the funds to house them. He also left £500 to the family of French opera singer Anne Bernard. Mrs Everitt revealed that the recent discovery of correspondence between the Viscount and this family relating to two boys called Fitz and Billy indicate he had illegitimate sons. The relationship with their mother was no doubt formed when the

Viscount chose Paris as the destination of his 'Grand Tour' rather than the more usual choice of Italy, since he was particularly interested in music. Indeed, his library contained a collection of autographed music by Handel, Purcell and other composers that has guaranteed the Museum a place of prominence amongst the music libraries of the world.

The audience were able to see, with the aid of slides, a fascinating 'tour' showing a representative selection of the 'Treasures' housed within the Museum, eg an exquisite

Guan Jar, Chinese, Yuan dynasty c.1330-38 as illustrated above..

In addition, Mrs Everitt gave an informative account of the Art History behind such objects. and the iconography within paintings in particular revealed fascinating aspects of social history, including attitudes towards religion, sex and social class. It was a very informative talk and I am sure I am not alone in being inspired to revisit our 'local' Museum and to examine with much more understanding, the objects brought so vividly to our attention.

## FEBRUARY TALK BY LINDA SCOLES.

Our February Talk was not as advertised, owing to the unfortunate ill health of the speaker. However, his place was ably taken by Linda Scoles, who proved to be a marvellous raconteur as she humorously described her Journey to Citizenship: "Now I'm as British as Yo' all!". It was, she confessed, 'A Fairy Tale' which saw Linda travel from an idyllic childhood on a Ranch in the American N.W, surrounded by family and a close community to life as the wife of an officer in the USAF. As such they had several postings around the world, but felt truly at home in England, immediately they arrived in September 1971. Both settled happily in Great Barton and later, Ixworth remaining there after Jim's retirement.

Widowed in 2001 by the sad death of Jim at the early age of 61, Linda embarked on a new profession, that of property development. A recent change in the law by the U.S. government now allowed Linda



to become a British citizen whilst still retaining her U.S. nationality and all present at the Talk were then amazed to discover how much hard work was involved for anyone taking the British Citizenship test. Challenged by Linda to take our own 'test' based on 24 questions all of which were examples of those presented to 'official' candidates, members of Fulbourn Village History Society were suitably chastened to find that 'en masse' those present failed!

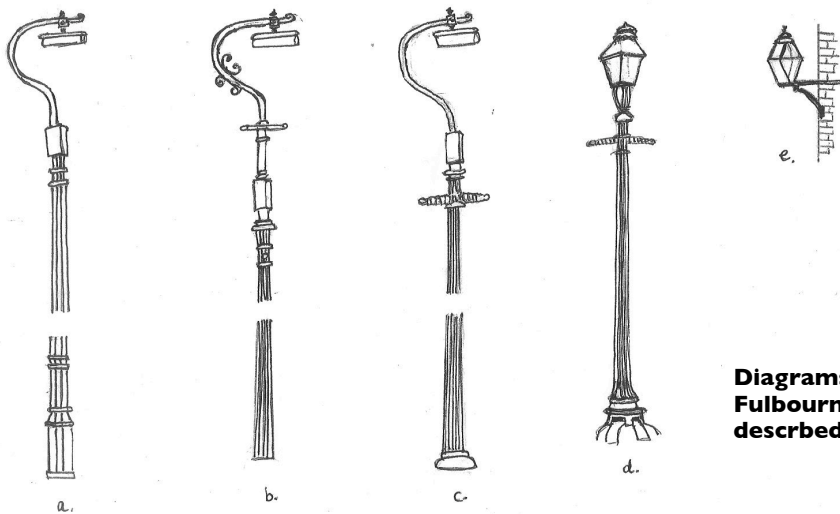
Fortunately, Linda and her daughter both passed first time and her 'journey' ended with a great celebration being held during a private 'swearing in' ceremony on March 9 2009 at the Register Office in Bury St Edmunds.



### FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY FUND-RAISING HOME MADE CAKES STAND.

*Saturday, 22 May from 9.00 a.m. Fulbourn High Street. Please spread the word to your friends, relations and neighbours! (Donations of cakes, biscuits etc. welcome. Contact Jackie Newell on 01223 880611.)*

## THE STREET LAMPS OF FULBOURN. By Ursula Lyons (with the help of Tony Goodall)



Diagrams of the various Fulbourn lamp styles as described in this article.

In September 2009 Fulbourn Parish Council made a survey of all the 209 street lamps of Fulbourn, as well as of the twenty seven lamps in Fulbourn Old Drift. The majority of these are of concrete or metal (zinc, aluminium), but fifty seven are of cast iron which is what the first lamps were made of. These cast iron lamps, which at present are in a very sorry state, are worth a closer look, as their story is part of the history of Fulbourn and of its modernisation.

We now take street lighting for granted, but its introduction in Fulbourn goes back over a hundred years, to 1892, when the idea was first proposed. Already in the following year, the Fulbourn Chronicle entry for January 13th 1893 is able to report:

“Lamp lighting. – On Tuesday evening last, a supper was held at the Six Bells Inn, to celebrate the completion of the lighting of the village by oil lamps. Last year a committee was formed to arrange for lighting the streets from the Station to the Post Office, and their efforts in obtaining subscriptions were so successful that it was decided this year to light the whole village, which was accordingly done, and on Tuesday evening the Committee invited a few friends and subscribers to meet them at supper to celebrate the occasion. Mr. Kent of Ditton was also invited to bring his ringers over to enliven the proceedings and a merry peal was rung at intervals on the capital set of bells in the old church steeple which have been silent so long.”

Records of Parish Council meetings from this period onwards, right into the 1950s, regularly report discussions about street lighting and make fascinating and, at times, amusing reading. The obtaining of new or additional lamps is often mentioned, and also repairs - in 1906 it appears several lamps already needed renewing and

repairing. (In 1910 it was estimated that two coats of paint would cost £2. 10s. 6d. per lamp!) Lamps were also removed – one at the entrance to Town Close was removed because it was dangerous, as was one on Station Road (1923-4). In 1929 the committee on lighting recommended that a “scheme be adopted for lighting the village by electric light” and negotiations then followed with both the Bedford, Cambs and Huntingdon Electric Co. and the Cambridge University and Town Gas Light Co. Quotations were sought for “installing the light, including the supply of standards, lamps and fittings”. Discussions followed about the number and placing of the lamps and a sub-committee “had placed approximately the position of the lamps required in the village to the number of thirty one”. Eventually, after much bargaining, in 1934 (when the mains were laid in Fulbourn) a ten year contract was entered into with the Cambridge company to install forty five lamps of 130 candle power, and a further committee was formed to arrange details as to the position of the lamps etc. It must be noted that the arrangement was for the lamps to be lit for only six months of the year, the lights going off for summer time on 31 March, though a request to the Company for an extension of the period until 30 April is recorded. Of course, the second World war soon followed, resulting, as had happened in the first World war, in the lights being turned off altogether, and it would require obtaining the sanction of the Ministry of Home Securities and the Police before the streets could be relit. (In 1945, it was even suggested that savings could be made by extinguishing the lamps on moonlit nights!)

From this it is clear that the lamps were installed piecemeal and over a period of time. Their conversion to electricity also took time and it is presumed that the last lamp was converted in the

1950s. One must also presume that after the war the old style cast iron lamps were no longer erected, being replaced by the concrete or metal version. However, the old cast iron lamps are still to be found throughout the village, - fifty seven of them, - from the High Street to Station Road, Pierce Lane, Cow Lane, Teversham Road, School Lane, Impetts Lane, Home End, Stonebridge Lane and Ludlow Lane.

At first the lamps were lit by oil but later they were converted to gas after mains were laid in 1922, followed by electricity from 1934 onwards and into the 1950s, by which time the last of the gas lamps had been converted. The oil lamps were lit by hand (and here the question arises: who lit the lamps? Was there a village lamplighter?) but the gas and electric lamps had time switches (later, light sensors). Both gas and electric lamps could, it appears, be easily turned off, for it is recorded in 1952 that “some of the lamps were being turned off by children” who, I have been told, climbed up the lamp posts and tampered with the clocks! A photograph of the High Street dating from 1910 show two of the original oil lamps, one attached to the wall of no.1, High Street, and the other opposite on the wall of no.1, Manor Walk [see photograph 1 and fig.e], while an earlier photograph of 1900 [see photograph 2 and fig.d] shows the pillar lamp which actually stood in the middle of the High Street between what are now Beaumonts, the butchers, and Richard’s greengrocer’s shop. These lamps were of the lantern type, with clear glass.

The fifty seven existing lamps seem to fall into two kinds – those with fluted columns [figs.b, c] (of which there are forty eight) and those with octagonal columns [fig.a] (of which there are nine); the photograph of 1917 shows the lamp to be one of the ribbed, or fluted, kind, with ladder rests as can still be seen on the other fluted columns, but of a thickness only to be found on one other lamp, in Stonebridge Lane opposite no. 2 [fig.c]. These ladder date from when the lamps were lit by oil but were also used later for the frequent maintenance the gas lamps required. The lantern style casing, which is the same as that of the two lamps fixed to the houses either side of the High Street, is, however, no longer to be found. This style must have gone out when the lamps were converted to electricity. All the remaining lamps were presumably then fitted with the present oblong translucent glass light casings.

These are suspended from the curved upper part of the column to which they are attached by a decorative fitting. Two lamps in Cow Lane and the lamp in front of the Church lych gate [fig.b] have, in addition, decorative “curlicues” on the upper part of the curve. Finally, two lamps bear at their base the name of the foundry where they originated – “By Blacks & Co. Cam.” on a lamp in Impetts Lane and “Stokes Mansfield” on the lamp opposite no 2 in Stonebridge Lane.

These elegant old cast iron lamps are indeed part of our village history and are in some danger of being replaced by the rather less attractive concrete or aluminium modern versions to be found throughout the village. Sadly, they have been allowed to deteriorate and are badly in need of repainting, but the cost of restoring them may prove to be very expensive. The Parish Council’s survey of all the street lamps in Fulbourn was made partly with a view to investigate the costs involved in repairing and restoring the old cast iron lamps. As the Fulbourn Chronicle noted, the lighting of the village was originally provided by public subscription, so one wonders if that or some similar way might not be found to help preserve them. At any rate, do please have a good look at them - while they are still there - and perhaps you will agree they need to be cherished and preserved!



**Examples of Lamps in Fulbourn High Street taken from old postcards. Circa 1910 - 1914**



**A VERY POSH FULBOURN EARTH CLOSET - GILL ASLETT, LIVING AT 1A LUDLOW LANE, IS THE PROUD POSSESSOR OF A VERY UPMARKET ‘OUTSIDE LOO’ IN HER GARDEN.**



This is an ‘earth’, as opposed to ‘water’ closet, whereby dry earth is used to cover excreta. Originally it was built in the grounds of Flendyshe House at the corner of Ludlow Lane. According to Don Crane (The Highways and

Byways of Fulbourn) the old house dates from the early 17th century, being re-modelled in 1807 and it is probable that the ‘earth closet’ was built during a further re-modelling in the later part of the nineteenth century.

Certainly, Henry Moule, the champion of the earth closet, brought out a patent in 1860 (and others in 1869 and 1873) which fits this period. He formed a company that manufactured and sold an earth closet for every occasion - the expensive models in mahogany and oak. While some were installed indoors, most were inside a shed or privy and Gill’s ‘building’ is a fine example of the family or ‘three seater’ construction. It seems clear from the photograph that the size of the seats was a design constraint - possibly a large, one size fits all was not favoured by parents with small children (who might fall down the hole!!) - and Don Crane does mention that Joseph Chaplin lived at Flendyshe House in 1861, together with his two sons Francis Joseph and Howard Foster then aged 6 and 7 respectively.

We can of course, only speculate on the explanation or motivation behind the ‘choice’ of this privy, and thank Gill for allowing us to photograph and thereby share, this delightful insight into Fulbourn’s social history.

Well, this certainly goes one better than ‘a bicycle made for two’ doesn’t it? Could the users have been referred to as a splinter group I wonder. Now is anyone in the village going to confess to a four seater?



N.B. We are always looking for similar ‘human interest stories’ about the village - which we can recount in the Newsletter. Can you help? Contact the Editor on 01223 570887.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Fulbourn Village History Society has nearly 6000 photographs in our Archive collection.

We are able to print copies using our 'professional' quality laser printer/scanner and photocopier.

These are available for purchase, so you can have your own personal record relating to Fulbourn past and present - before even more change occurs.

Price list as follows:

Black & White/Colour Photo Print

A6 = £3.00

A5 = £4.00

A4 = £5.00

A3 = £8.00

We are always wanting to extend the collection and would welcome photographs you may have

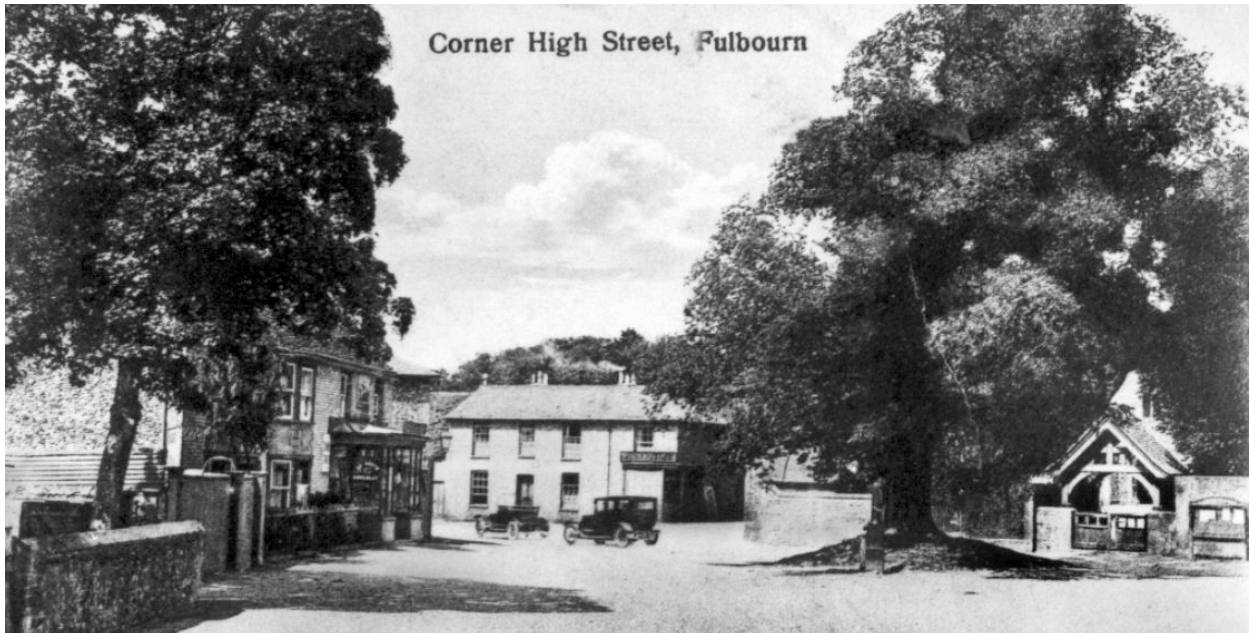
that are associated with Fulbourn people, places, buildings or events.

The originals would be returned to you, with copies being kept in the Archive Store at The Fulbourn Centre, for research and reference purposes.



If you can help, please bring along any photo's during the Store's opening hours (Monday and Wednesday, from 10.00 to noon) or contact Tony Goodall on 01223 88040.

*Please pass on this information to neighbours, friends and relatives!*



### A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Selected at random, the above idyllic scene illustrates just one of the 6,000+ images at your disposal in our extensive library. Come along and browse and receive a visual panorama of your heritage. All members and others interested are welcome to utilise these facilities.... only part of our great value annual subscription package.