



# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 33

Spring 2011

## YOUR CHAIRMAN'S VALEDICTORY MESSAGE



Members will know that Peter Halton and I are moving away from Fulbourn and so at the next A.G.M. you will be asked to elect a new Chair and a new Treasurer.

In Oscar Wilde's play "The Importance of Being Earnest" Lady Bracknell pronounces that to

lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune but to lose both looks like carelessness. I hope that for the Society to lose two officers at the same time can be considered a misfortune rather than carelessness.

Since its formation the Society has flourished due to the efforts of dedicated people helping in different ways.

During that time there have been changes to the membership of the committee but our Treasurer (and one time Chairman) Peter has been an ever present; his departure will leave a big gap.

Thanks to the efforts of Society members Fulbourn has a comprehensive and expanding archive relating not just to the farms and buildings (past and present) but to the people and the families who have, over the years, lived here. The archive is a valuable asset for the community and will, I am sure, prove to be of considerable benefit in the years to come.

For the Society to continue to develop we need more members to come forward, not just to replace Peter and me but to help in any way (even a small way) with the archive, at exhibitions, at our meetings and crucially on the committee.

I have enjoyed my time on the committee and as an officer of the Society and will feel sure that other members will come forward to ensure the continued progress of our Society.

Thank you for your patience and consideration during the time that I have been in the Chair and most of all for your friendship.

Clinton Tweed

For anyone contemplating the role of F.V.H.S. Hon. Treasurer, but unsure what is involved, help and advice would be given. A 'job share' is also possible.

## LOOK FORWARD TO A SOCIAL EVENING AMONGST FRIENDS



Peter and Gill Godber have kindly offered their home at 1 The Pines, Fulbourn, as a venue for F.V.H.S. Fundraising Cheese and Wine Party on Saturday April 2nd.

Tickets are limited so early application is advised (please send the enclosed form to Hon. Secretary, Mrs Glynis Arber, 28 The Haven, Fulbourn).

We hope new members will take this opportunity to meet our long standing and loyal supporters whilst enjoying a convivial glass of wine and delicious selection of cheeses.

To enhance the evening's entertainment, everyone is encouraged to wear fashions from yesteryear. I am at this moment opening up cases in the attic and indulging in a fair amount of nostalgia. My present favourite choices verge between a classic 70's cocktail dress - with lots of bling - or an amazing psychedelic dress from the late 1960's. I suspect the one that requires the least amount of safety pins to bridge the gaps will win!

## PLEASE COME FORWARD AND 'DO YOUR BIT' FOR YOUR SOCIETY.

A Belated, but sincere, Welcome to New Members of Fulbourn Village History Society.

Following our recruitment drive in the Autumn, I am please to announce twenty new names now appear on Fulbourn Village History Society Register for the 2010-2011 season. It is therefore an apt moment to restate the opportunities for becoming involved with the objectives and running of the Society.

Our Constitution requires that we '**research, keep and maintain records of all aspects of the Village's social and historical development**'. This takes many forms and volunteers carry out such tasks as:

Entering accessions on a database. N.B. Training will, of course, be given for computer related activities.

Scanning photographs for inclusion in our database of over 6000+ images.

Checking recent acquisitions of Scrapbooks containing Newspaper references to the Parish and residents of Fulbourn, against volumes of the Fulbourn Chronicles which may not include them. Collating addresses and names from Street/Trade Directories with connections to Fulbourn. (eg. Photographic studios in Cambridgeshire, allowing us to date some of our earlier photographic records).

Individual research on subjects of personal interest. For instance, recently Ursula Lyons has provided information about the houses and occupants in Stonebridge Lane, Lamp posts in Fulbourn and a History of Fulbourn Post Office (the latter appearing in this Newsletter).

Ongoing audio tape recording (and transcribing) of Fulbourn people who have memories of life in the village as it was in the last century.

Another objective of Fulbourn Village History Society is '**to stage from time to time, displays and exhibitions**'. Usually, this is at the Fulbourn Feast (last Sunday in June) and tasks required are initial research and preparation of the display (for 2011 we are having as a subject, Shops of Fulbourn) followed on the day, by the 'erecting, and later dismantling, of the History Society Tent' - requiring a minimum of four, preferably six, able bodied persons.

The '*programme of regular meetings*' also set out in the Constitution are always well attended being both informative and entertaining. These are arranged by the Committee, who welcome suggestions from members. We would also like volunteers to take the Register at meetings - this will enable the Secretary to circulate amongst members and obtain feedback, which she is presently unable to do!

In order to maintain our objectives, fund raising is a very necessary aspect of the Society, especially as our rent and 'running costs' increase. We are most grateful for any offers of help - from donations to the Raffle to providing a venue for Coffee mornings and - a new departure - Cheese and Wine party. Whilst these are social occasions greatly enjoyed by members their success owes much to the band of volunteers who serve refreshments, sell raffle tickets, bake cakes ..... Ideas for other ways to raise money are always needed, so please pass on any inspiration you may have!

Indeed, if one, or more, of the above suggestions appeal and you are interested in contributing towards the future of YOUR society, please contact a Committee member or the Secretary (Tel. 570887).

**Please Note:** You do not need to be a Committee member to carry out any of the above (although you would be welcomed with almost indecent haste!!)

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**FIELD STILES** - Postscript to note by Richard Bennett in last issue (no.32) by Ursula Lyons

The 'old' wooden stile depicted was, in fact, erected some 2 or 3 years ago, (at the corner of the Recreation Ground with Stonebridge Lane, where there had previously been no stile). It was replaced last year by the present metal Kissing Gate, also depicted, thanks to the generosity of Fulbourn resident Sheila Roberts. Another Kissing Gate on the Recreation Ground is on the nearby path and this, too, was the result of a gift. It was erected 'to

replace the present stile at the Stonebridge Lane footpath by Miss Jane Barnard in memory of her sister' (Fulbourn Chronicles, 22 Sept. 1961). The Barnard sisters, Jane and Alice, lived in nearby Walnut Tree Cottage from c. 1947-1964.

### Find out more.....

.....A Powerpoint Presentation entitled 'Rambling Over Stiles' - with a historical slant - will be given by Richard Bennett at 7.30 p.m. prior to our A.G.M. on Thursday, 19th May 2011.

## LOOKING BACK TO THE BEGINNING



**Linda, as model for 'medieval' headgear - part of Fulbourn Village Research Project.**

One day in the autumn of 1998 I was chatting with our near neighbour, David Wright when he mentioned that Norman Osborne had suggested to the Parish Council that a village museum be established to celebrate the Millenium. My interest thus titillated I volunteered to help where I could. So it was that, a few weeks' later, I was invited to attend a meeting at The Manor where 13 other interested persons, together with a Man from the County's Museums Service, met around the dining table to explore how to realise Norman's ambition. The museum idea was thoroughly investigated but put on hold in favour of establishing a local history society. In October 1998 an extremely well- supported inaugural meeting of what was subsequently to become the Fulbourn Village History Society was held - again at The Manor. Richard Townley was elected the Society's first Chairman and I was elected its first Secretary; Rachel Thompson

A Very Personal thanks to..

Linda, for patient 'hand-holding' and practical advice to her successor.

...to Peter, for his unfailing humour - especially during the three years of Fulbourn Village History Project which involved applying for grants, organising volunteers and producing interminable reports.

Last, but by no means least, to Clint for his support and particularly, his legal knowledge which has proved invaluable - and much more reliable than if left to the Secretary!

Best Wishes to you All, From Glynis

was the first Treasurer. Richard and I both served for four years before passing the posts to, respectively, Peter Halton (Chairman 2002-2007) and Glynis Arber (2002 & still in post).

Folk flocked to join the newly-established Village History Society; there were fears in the early days that we would outgrow our meeting place - in those days it was the Six Bells Meeting Room before moving in late 2007 to the newly-completed Village Centre. The Society's Christmas Party in 1999 - at the Manor and with optional Victorian fancy dress - smartly followed by the Millenium Exhibition in 2000 (more fancy dress) were both outstanding occasions. The Millenium Exhibition and subsequent exhibitions and displays have showcased members' various talents to the Society's advantage. The Village History Society is - and continues to be - very lucky to have amongst its membership folk who've given (and continue to give) unstintingly of their time and talents to put up tents, stage exhibitions, hold coffee mornings & provide afternoon teas, make & sell jams and cards and run the monthly raffle - all to raise funds for as well advance the Society's profile in the community so it can further its aims and objects.

These are a just a few of my remembrances of times past in the Village History Society. Peter and I will shortly relocate to East Sussex, to a market town with a local history society which it is our intention to join. We will remember our 13-year association with Fulbourn Village History Society with great affection. It is our dearest hope Fulbourn Village History Society continues to thrive and fulfils its aim to save the past for the future.



**Peter, also doing his bit to raise the profile of Fulbourn Village History Society!**

## FULBOURN POST OFFICE 1844 - 2010

The history of Fulbourn Post Office starts in 1844 when the Fulbourn Chronicle reported: "We hear that arrangements are in progress for establishing a post service for a free delivery of letters in this and the neighbouring villages" - [ FC February 24<sup>th</sup> 1884]. So when, sadly, it closed last year, postal services in Fulbourn had had a continuous history of 166 years! In that time, five places served as the location for postal services and then later as post offices, and there have been twelve postmasters and mistresses\* (actually, Sub-postmasters and Sub-postmistresses, Fulbourn being a sub-Post Office). Prior to 1844, there was no Post Office in Fulbourn and mail would have been collected from, and delivered to, the nearest Post Town which was Cambridge. This would have normally been by arrangement with one of the local carriers, who would have charged something like a 1d for the portage.



**5, Ludlow Lane (photo 1976)**

In February 1844 Fulbourn Post Office opened as part of the Cambridge, Cherry Hinton, Fulbourn and Great Wilbraham postal walk, for which the postman, termed a 'messenger', received 14 shillings (70p) a week. The first Fulbourn Postmaster (or, more correctly, Letter Receiver) was John Mason, who was also a schoolmaster, surveyor and parish clerk. Officially Fulbourn was only a Letter Receiving Office, and Mason was the Receiver at a salary of £4 per annum, and handled an average of 242 letters a week. The 1851 census shows Mason living in the Ludlow

Hill area, probably at what is now 5 Ludlow Lane. This is the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century listed property that included the Dog and Partridge Public house and it is probably here that Fulbourn Post Office can be said to have its origins.



**Yew Lodge, Pierce Lane (photo c. 1920)**

By the Census of 1861 John Mason had moved with his family to Yew Cottage, now 1 Pierce Lane, another listed property dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but by 1864 Mason had resigned as Letter Receiver. He died on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1870, aged 65, and was buried at St Vigor's church. Opposite Yew Cottage was Thomas Hagger's grocery, drapery and country store, which is where the Post Office may have had its first definite location and which probably opened after his death in 1861. (Throughout its history, Fulbourn Post Office was always part of a shop selling goods - groceries, stationery, confectionery etc). The Post Office remained in Pierce Lane until 1890, with Peter Hagger, brother of Thomas, becoming the Postmaster from about 1864 until at least 1869, when the Post Office Directory recorded that he was still the Letter Receiver. Peter Hagger died on 14 December 1884, aged 62, and was buried at the United Reformed Church. Kelly's directory of 1883 recorded Peter Hagger still as shop-keeper, but there was now a Telegraph Office and Samuel Saril was named as the Postmaster. By 1896, according to Kelly's Directory, Peter

Hagger's widow Elizabeth had taken over as Postmistress. (As followers of TV's Lark Rise to Candleford will know, married women could not be postmistresses in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so maybe this was no longer the case or an exception was made in the case of widows).

On 1 July 1869 Fulbourn Post Office was upgraded to become a Money Order and Savings Bank. By 1873 it had also become a Telegraph Office and Bessie Turner, Elizabeth Hagger's niece, became the Telegraph Clerk (and later, Postmistress). In 1884 the Post Office started carrying parcels, and this would have increased the pressure for space on the existing office.



**1, Manor Walk (photo c. 1906-15)**

There is some confusion over when Elizabeth Hagger moved the Post Office and General Stores to the top end of Church Street (now the High Street) to what is now 1 Manor Walk, but it is thought to be about 1890. She ran the office until her death in 1900, helped by her daughter, Margaret, who had married Thomas Knights and who ran the Post Office for a short while after her death. The Knights family ran the shop until the 1950s. It was here that the earliest known photograph of the Post Office was taken. The bricked up position of the front door can still be seen between the left-hand ground floor windows.



**High Street/Church Street (photo 1921)**

By the 1901 Census, the Post Office had moved across the road to Elizabeth ('Bessie') Turner's shop at 2 Church Street. Bessie Turner was the Postmistress for the next 35 years. She lived to be 79 and died on 1 April 1937. In 1912 the Post Office took over the private telephone companies and in 1913 Bessie saw the village's first Public Telephone installed at the Post Office. At this stage the telephone exchange was in Cambridge, which was part of the Norwich telephone district. Fulbourn had its own Telephone Exchange in 1920, which closed the following year, but reopened in 1931 and lasted until 1971. It was situated opposite Manor Cottage in Church Lane.

We are not certain if and when Lizzie Sharman took over the Post Office from Bessie Turner, but she certainly ran it (with her assistant, Miss Flo Balls) from at least 1943 until she retired at the age of 80. The shop/Post Office itself was owned by Lucian Peake who sold his business to Thomas Germany in 1951.

Lizzie Sharman's time as Postmistress is recalled by Norman Osborne :

*"As a lad of Fulbourn, my earliest memories of Fulbourn Post Office was the knob on the door to gain entry. It was about 3 feet from the ground, which was all right for me as a boy, but to a grownup it was rather backbreaking. Upon entry, you found the counter 4 feet from the floor,*

*which I could not see over, and which was really too high for an adult to write properly. There were two ladies in the post office – a Miss Sharman and a Miss Balls; Miss Sharman was the postmistress and Miss Balls was the assistant and post lady. They were both about 5 foot tall and could just see over the counter. On the counter were the old type scales for weighing the letters, a tray with a candle, sealing wax and a seal for stamping the wax when put on the knots or the back of letters for security. There was also a massive book with stamps which could be purchased. We also brought our sixpenny saving stamps during the war and put any spare money in the Post Office Savings Account. The Post Office was so small it would only hold about five people and many a time, I remember, you had to queue outside down the street, and as one person came out of the Post Office, another person was allowed in. Miss Sharman would take all the telegram messages and Miss Balls would deliver them. In the period 1939-1945 during the second World War, if there was a telegram of a serviceman being missing, or of a prisoner of war or of someone killed in action, often the whole village knew before the telegram was delivered to the relative concerned. This was true also about post cards from people who were on holiday; if you met the post lady at the gate, the conversation was “so-and-so’s having a lovely holiday and the weather is good” before you had a chance to read the card. My father-in-law was a sales representative and had a new car most years. When a car was due, Miss Ball would take him the telegram and when he opened the door, she would tell him his new car had arrived and where to pick it up.”*



**2, Church Lane (photo 1967)**

In about 1960, Germany sold the Post Office and it then moved to 2 School Lane where the first Postmaster there was John Fairclough. At this time, as Michael Turner - who was a relief postman at the time - recalls, the mail was sorted in the kitchen but when, in 1965, Gordon Brigham became the next Postmaster, the mail was sorted in the shed behind the house, Brigham having a large family. He was Postmaster for the next 12 years, and then in August 1977 he sold the Post Office to Phillip Fitzgerald, who ran it for 8 years with his wife Elizabeth. Then Sydney Epps became Postmaster in 1985 for about a year, assisted by his wife Judith. On 14<sup>th</sup> April 1986, David Belotti took over the Post Office, running the shop with the help of his wife Maureen for 13 years. Finally, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1995 Richard Butcher took over as the last Postmaster, assisted by his wife Jean. The Post Office was also a shop selling mainly cards and stationery. Part of the shed behind the cottage was used as the Fulbourn Post Office Stores and Delivery Office, with racking for the sorting of the mail by the postmen.

Running a village Post Office was not without its risks and more than once it suffered break-ins, among them one in December 2001 when masked men attacked, threatening staff, smashing the security window and forcing the safe and getting away with a substantial amount of cash. The raid was linked by police to other Post Office raids in the area.

After fifteen years as Postmaster, Richard Butcher retired on 23 October 2010, and despite attempts to find someone to take over the postal business, no-one was forthcoming and the Post Office closed. The property, which over the years had been a public house (The Coach and Horses), a grocer’s shop and, for the last 45 years, Fulbourn Post Office, was sold and is now a private dwelling house.

*Ursula Lyons with Dr. Simon R. A. Kelly [Curator, Cambridge Philatelic Society Postal History Collection], and with help from the History team.*

- \* 1844-64 John Mason
- c. 1864-84 Peter Hagger
- 1884-1900 Elizabeth Hagger
- 1900-01 Margaret Knights
- 1901-1937 Elizabeth "Bessie" Turner
- ?1937-60 Lizzie Sharman
- 1960-65 John Fairclough
- 1965-77 Gordon Brigham
- 1977-85 Philip and Elizabeth Fitzgerald
- 1985-6 Sydney and Judith Epps
- 1986-95 David Belotti
- 1995-2010 Richard and Jean Butcher



.....and finally, a farewell photograph of Richard and Jean Butcher, taken November 2010. A framed copy was presented to the couple by Fulbourn Village History Society.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We are very grateful to the family of the late Don Crane for donating to Fulbourn Village History Society a vast amount of material collected by the author of Fulbourn Chronicles.

The photographs and Scrap books of newspaper clippings about Fulbourn, have kept our Archivist, Pat White, enthralled - and Tony Goodall very busy at the scanner! They will be on display at future Exhibitions allowing everyone to take a trip down memory lane - and perhaps identify relatives, Fulbourn people, village events etc.

**N.B.** If you have photographs or records about Fulbourn, we are able to copy them for reference/research purposes, and return the originals to you.

### DIARY DATES

**17 March** 'Thirty Years as a Country Doctor' by Neville Silverston, 7.30 p.m. at the Fulbourn Centre.

**2 April** F.V.H.S. Fund-raising 'Cheese & Wine Party' at 1, The Pines Fulbourn.

**21 April** 'Sutton Hoo' by Veronica Bennett 7.30 p.m. at the Fulbourn Centre.

**19 May** 'Rambling Over Stiles' by Richard Bennett. A.G.M. 7.30 p.m. Fulbourn Centre.

**21 May** F.V.H.S. Fund raising Cake Stall, from 9.00 am. High Street, Fulbourn.



## Need a Greetings Card?

Jackie Newell has a  
**wide selection**  
of hand-made designs and  
will take  
**special orders.**

Interested? Contact Jackie on  
**01223 880611**

She will also be selling  
**Easter Cards at the next  
meeting on 17th March.**

All proceeds go to Fulbourn Village  
History Society.

(We really appreciate the efforts of those  
members who make, bake and contribute  
towards our fund-raising  
activities).



## THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT CERTAIN CAMBRIDGE STREET NAMES

- Bateman Street –** is named after William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich who in the 1350's had Gonville Court built (now part of Gonville & Caius College).
- Botolph's Lane -** was formerly "Penny Farthing Lane".
- Christ's Lane -** was formerly "Hangman's Lane".
- Guildhall Street –** prior to about 1870 was known as "Butcher's Row".
- Harvey Road -** is named after Dr William Harvey one time physician to King James I and King Charles I.
- Jesus Lane -** was formerly "Nuns Lane".
- Kings Parade -** was formerly "High Street".
- Lensfield Road -** was formerly "Deepway".
- Market Street –** has in the past been known as "Shoemaker Row" and "Cordwainer Street". Traditionally a "Cordwainer" was someone who worked in fine leather.
- Park Street –** was formerly "Garlic Fair Lane".
- Parker Street -** is named after Edward Parker a one time cook at Trinity College and one time lessee of Parker's Piece.
- Petty Cury –** in the time of King Edward III (1312 -1377) was called "Petite curye" ("Little cookery") on account of its large number of cookshops and hostelryes.
- Queen's Lane -** was formerly "Milne Street".
- Rose Crescent –** marks the site of the old "Rose and Crown" Yard, which had its front gates on the Market Place with a long irregular shaped yard running back to Trinity Street.
- St Andrew's Street –** was formerly "Preacher's Street" as Emmanuel College is on the site of a former priory of the Dominican Order, also known as the Black Friars or Preachers.
- Sidney Street -** was formerly "Conduit Street".
- Silver Street -** was formerly "Small Bridges Street".
- Wheeler Street –** is named after a basket maker who lived there in the early 1800's – prior to that it was called "Short Butcher Row".