



# FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 43

Spring 2016

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## URSULA LYONS 1936-2016

The sad news of Ursula Lyons death on Thursday, 28th January 2016, shocked us all by its suddenness. She had been incredibly stoic about her declining health, preferring to carry on as normal where possible and even chaired a History Society Committee meeting at the beginning of January.

Ursula was a long-standing member of Fulbourn Village History Society joining the Committee in 2010. A year later, she was persuaded to become our Chair and served admirably in that office, employing efficient administrative techniques - and especially, keeping meetings short whilst still covering the necessary business (an ability which certainly endeared her to other committee members).

However, Ursula's special interest was with local research into the people and places of Fulbourn. She kindly made available to the Fulbourn Research Project her lovely thatched cottage in Stonebridge Lane for us to undertake a Historic Building survey. The history of other houses in the Lane were also investigated by Ursula. She was fascinated with the heritage of the village and, as well as researching primary sources, interviewed local residents with links to the past, painstakingly transcribing the audio recordings collected.

A series of detailed articles by Ursula entitled 'Fulbourn and Farming' were subsequently published in our Newsletters [Nos.34, 35, 37]. They described the historical background to farming and the prominent families engaged in this activity. Newsletter 41 provided further information obtained by Ursula into 'Fulbourn Place Names with Farming Associations' and also an intriguing 'Tale of Two Falcons' recounting the results of her enquiry into the provenance of the two stone birds on the gate posts of Fulbourn Manor.

Owing to her knowledge of local history, Ursula often acted as a 'consultant' for organisations who were involved in depicting the heritage of Fulbourn. For instance, she helped check for historical accuracy in the booklet 'A Walking Guide to Fulbourn' (2013) and liaised with artists Andrew Tanser and Andrea Bassil to ensure the correct historical information was inscribed on the 'Fulbourn Life Wall' in the Swifts Estate. (Ursula wrote an interesting report of this in Newsletter 37). Her fastidious proof reading skills were also employed on the writings of those who were associated with the History Society. Indeed, without Ursula's input your Newsletters would have contained many more spelling or punctuation errors!

Although not, initially, particularly computer literate, Ursula realised that being so was extremely useful for research purposes and sharing documents. She therefore persevered and became adept at answering family history queries via email, using attachments etc. Similarly, though not eager to address large meetings, Ursula did not evade this aspect of a Chair's duty and certainly performed it very well.

Ursula was a very supportive member of Fulbourn Village History Society and when chatting to visitors and guests person to person, she took every opportunity to promote the Society. She will be sorely missed by the Committee, members and everyone who knew her.

**Glynis Arber (Secretary of Fulbourn Village History Society)**



Promoting our Research Facilities at the Fund-raising Coffee morning, 2012



Ursula enjoying socialising in Fulbourn Village History Society's Tent, Fulbourn Feast, 2013

## HOME VISITS TO FULBOURN FROM SOLDIERS SERVING DURING WWI: Based on Reports abstracted from the Fulbourn Chronicles 1901-1930.

As the War progressed, The Chronicles noted a number of visits home from combatants on active Service. **Corporal Richard Rule** and **Corporal James Taylor** *'both had a few days leave from the trenches. Both are looking well. Signalmen James Turner has had leave from H.M.S. St Elvies, mine sweeping in the Irish Sea'*. [30.07.15] Two brothers, **Pte George Pearl** and **Pte Robert Pearl**, also came home for a few days leave and again, it was reported *'Both are looking well'*. [17.12.15]

In the New Year of 1916, *'Mr and Mrs William Mason were delighted to receive an unexpected visit from their son, Pte Ernest Mason, who was on home for seven days leave'*. [14.01.16] and a month later, **Lce Corpl. Hodgkin** of Hay Street, was home on leave from the Front. *'He has so far escaped injury and is looking well'*. [04.02.16] as was **Second Corpl Richard Rule**, son of Mr R Rule of the Asylum Lodge, and **Gunner W. Shipp**, R.G.A., son of Mrs W. Richmond, both of whom were *'Home from the Trenches'*. [18.02.16]

The two sons of Mrs R. Foreman, Hay Street, **Lance Corpl. Arthur Forman** and **Pte A. Forman**, R.A.M.C. came back to Fulbourn for *'a few days leave from the Front'* [07.04.16] and two months later, **Pte George Legge** was *'home on leave from France'*. [02.06.16] Once again, the newspaper reporter emphasised that the soldier was *'looking well'*.

Sometimes, a little more information was recorded. For instance, *'Lieut. J.K. Chaplin, of the New Zealand, son of Mrs B. Chaplin, has been home for a few days leave. Lieut. Chaplin was in the Jutland fight, but escaped injury.'* [03.11.16] and *'Mr and Mrs George Moule, of Hawthorn Cottage, have also had their son, Pte Cyril Moule, home. This is the first visit he had paid his parents since he went out to Australia over five years ago. He joined the Australian Imperial Force last January, and is finishing his training in England'*. [03.11.16]

It would appear that some effort was made to allow combatants to come home during the Christmas period. Thus **Pte George Harding** was *'home for a final leave before joining his unit in readiness for France'* [22.12.16] and *'On leave for Christmas'* [29.12.16] were **Gunner F. Coffin**, **Trooper H. White** (time expired leave), **Sergt. F. Wright**, **Sergt. G. Wright**, and **Pte Wilfred Peachey**.

The last entries of visits home on leave occur in 1917. **Lance Corpl Stephen Missing** *'had a few days garden leave'*. [04.05.17] and it was further noted that **Signaller Alfred Charles Willis**, R.G.A. *'has just been home on draft leave'* [05.09.17]. In rather more detail, was the description of the *'surprise visit'* for Mrs Bridge, of Church Street, from her son, **Lance Corpl Edward Bridge**. He *'arrived home from France on a few days leave. Lance Corpl Bridge has seen much fighting and has had some marvellous escapes. He has been wounded three time, "gassed" and buried alive.'* [21.09.17]

A few of the Fulbourn men who came back to the village on leave did so as part of their recovery from injuries or illness which occurred during the War.

[12.03.15] *'Pte. James Outlaw, who was wounded, has now returned to the village for a rest, and is progressing favourably'*. He was certainly unlucky, as a year later, Pte James Outlaw was once more *'home for 10 days convalescent leave after an accident on the battlefield'*. [25.10.16]

[03.03.16] *'Fulbourn Yeoman's Return - Mr & Mrs John Wright, of Hall Farm, were delighted to have home their son, Sergt. J.F. Wright, of the Suffolk Yeomanry, who has been suffering from enteric fever'*.

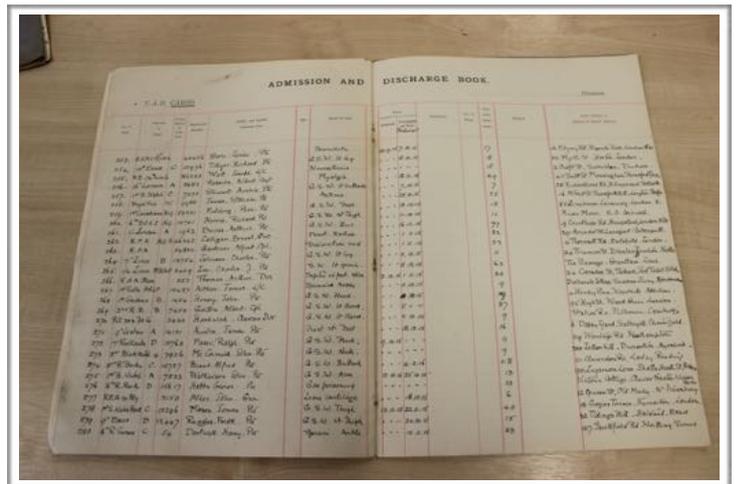
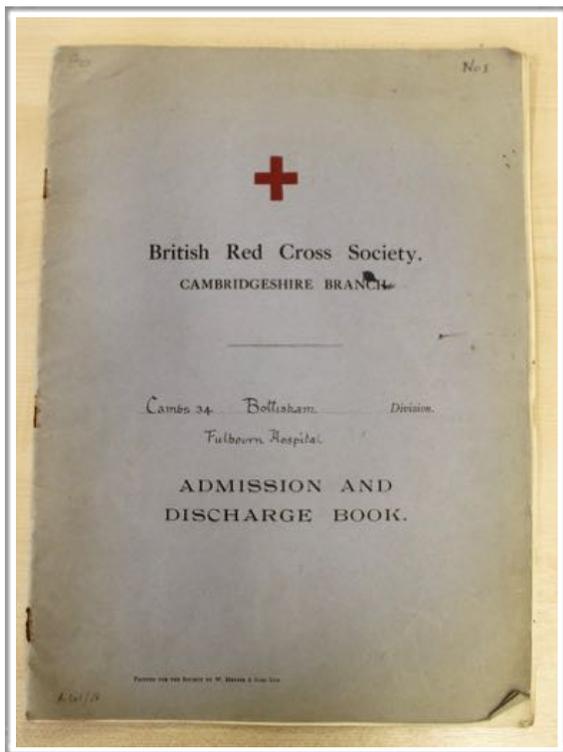
[22.12.16] *'Wheeler Leonard Knights is home for 10 days leave, convalescent from Brighton Hospital'* and **Pte Edwin White** (convalescent) on leave for Christmas [29.12.16]

[04.05.17] 'Pte. Walter Richmond has been home on convalescent leave' and 'Pte. Stanley Ellis is home for a few days convalescent from Derby Hospital'.

There was some question as to whether local men also convalesced at the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Hospital in Fulbourn. It can now be confirmed that they did! This follows a 'discovery' of material relating to the Red Cross Division, Bottisham, in the Cambridge Archives. Fulbourn was part of this division and it was very exciting to find the original Registers of Admission and Discharge dating from the first admission on 23rd November 1914 to the last discharge on 31st November 1918. The registers list the Names and Rank, Regiment or Corps, Regimental Number, Detail of Case, Date admitted and Transferred or Died, Days under Treatment, Destination on discharge, Religion

and Home Address or Address of nearest relative of the 1378 men who were treated in Fulbourn V.A.D. hospital.

It is my intention to transcribe these entries onto a spreadsheet, which would allow a search facility. So far, I have completed the first two ledgers giving information on 588 men, including two locals. No. 270, **Clarence Hardwick**, Driver was admitted on 2nd October 1915 suffering from a gun shot wound to the left hand. He lived in Station Road, Fulbourn. **Pte.A.F. Foreman**, No.570, of Clare Cottage, Fulbourne, came to the hospital to recover from a 'derangement of the knee'. The names of other Fulbourn residents appear in further volumes. Watch this space! (please be patient, however, it is a somewhat labour intensive - and therefore slow process - compiling the spreadsheet.)



First and last page of the Register for Admissions and Discharges to Fulbourn V.A.D. hospital, Vol I.

### Glynis Arber

Note: The numbers in square brackets refer to the day, month and year the newspaper report.

## 2015 was One of our Best Ever Christmas Fund-Raising Events.

A Total 294 tickets were sold (49 attended), the Raffle raised £89.10 and expenses were £94.14. So our net profit was £288.96!!

Thank you, everyone, who helped set up and clear up, baked miscopies and acted as waiters. Thank you also to Ivy Smith for again running the Raffle - and also to those who donated prizes and brought tickets.

# VISIT TO FLEAM DYKE PUMPING STATION

On 9th October 2015, members of local societies, agencies and politicians were invited to the official opening at Fleam Dyke Pumping Station, Babraham Road, of the new Nitrogen processing plant. The event was also attended by Cllr Robert Dryden, Mayor of Cambridge.

As the representative from Fulbourn Village History Society I took this opportunity to discover more about the history of Cambridge Water Company at Fleam Dyke.

In 1853, the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company was set up to supply water to the town, university and eight adjoining parishes. The company's rapid expansion - and that of the Cambridge and its environs, meant that from 1891 a further source of water was obtained from a large chalk well in Fulbourn known as Pools Well.

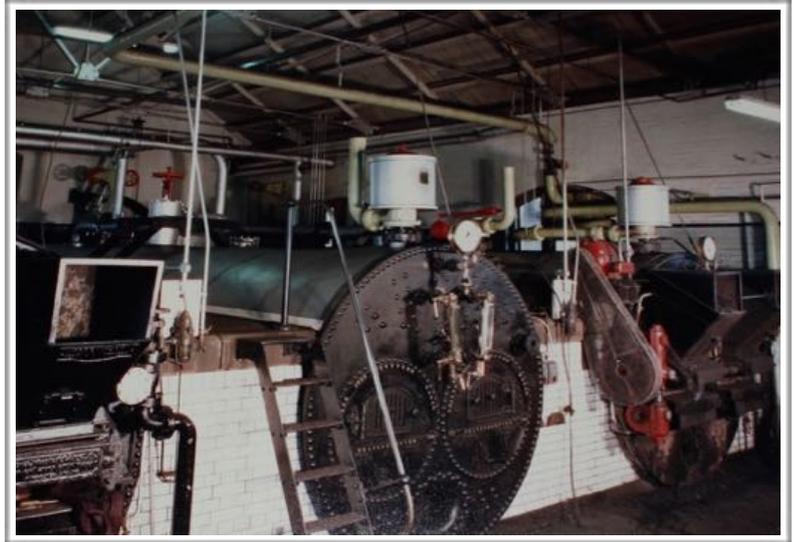
However, an outbreak of typhoid fever at nearby Fulbourn County Lunatic Asylum in 1903 caused some concern that there was a risk of infection to the water from the asylum's primitive sewerage works.

Cambridge Water Company, after expert advice, hoped to sterilise the water with chlorine or ozone (a now commonplace technique). However, it required statutory powers to do so, and the request was refused by the House of Lords Committee.

Instead, approval was given to a scheme comprised of a well, with two tunnels driven out from the bottom to collect more water, known as adits. The water was lifted from the well by a 180 horsepower horizontal steam engine and bucket pump. For the technically minded, they were a 2x Hawthorn Davey and Co (Leeds) horizontal tandem compound rotative steam engines driving horizontal force pumps and 2 vertical pernis type balanced bucket lift pumps.

The site of this pumping station was remote from habitation i.e. at Fleam Dyke and it officially opened in 1921 although the foundation stone, a stone plaque on the wall of the building, is

inscribed 'THIS STONE WAS LAID ON THE 18th DAY OF JUNE 1914 BY COLONEL ROBERT TOWNLEY CALDWELL, L.L.D. MASTER OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE CHAIRMAN OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AND TOWN WATERWORKS COMPANY'.



**Machinery within the main building, now removed to Cambridge Museum of Technology.**

All the water was pumped to Lime Kiln Hill, a four million gallon reservoir at Cherry Hinton which later more than doubled in size. Additional bore holes at Fleam Dyke were sunk to increase the yield and the steam engines continued to pump water from the well until October 1976, when they were stopped following full electrification of the site. During their lifetime they had pumped over 56 million gallons of water.

Today, Fleam Dyke is licensed to abstract over 15 meglitres a day from the main 36 inch borehole and a 12 inch satellite borehole. It accounts for 12% of the water available for use. The quality of the water is regulated by the Drinking Water Inspectorate and must keep the levels of nitrates in drinking water below permitted levels. Nitrates are an essential nutrient for many crops and are added by farmers to fertilisers. However, they are soluble and can seep through the ground into underground water sources.

In the past, Cambridge Water Company have dealt with this issue by blending i.e. mixing water containing higher levels of nitrates with that of low levels. Now nitrate levels have increased to the point that this process is no longer viable and special nitrate treatment plants have been built, of which Fleam Dyke is the third.

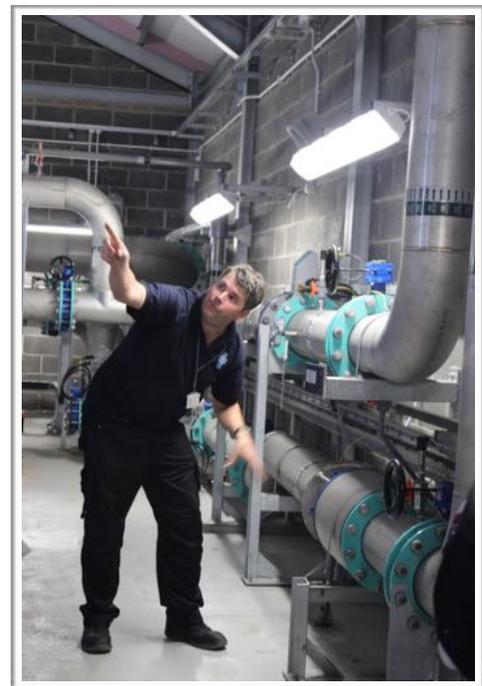
Water is pumped from the borehole into the treatment plant and disinfected using chlorine and ultra violet (UV) light. It is then passed through 20 vessels where the nitrate is removed through a process of ion exchange. This process replaces the nitrate ions with chloride ions (salt) and the nitrate free water is then blended with water from the borehole that complies with the regulations.

The new building housing the nitrate processing plant has been designed to 'fit in' with the original buildings - although its interior is very high tech. Monitoring takes place via computer link to the Cherry Hinton H.Q. With only a few checking up visits from engineers the Fleam Dyke works are fully automatated. A big change from the past, when during the early 20C cottages were built on site to house the workforce!

**Report by Glynis Arber, with help from publicity information provided by Cambridge Water Co.**



**The new Nitrogen processing plant is fully automated and monitored via computer.**



**However, there are still lots of pipes and valves to keep engineers happy!**



**A Photograph of the original building, with the Engine room and Chimney. Now only the foundations remain. (see adjacent photo).**

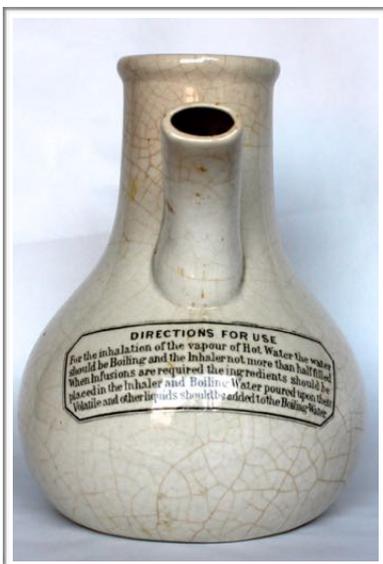


## ARTEFACTS FROM OUR STORE: INHALERS

Certain forms of drugs have been accidentally or intentionally inhaled for centuries, in forms ranging from smoke to vapour. However, inhalation devices were not developed until the late 18C and were designed to deliver medication by breathing through the mouth. They were mostly associated with issues and difficulties with the lungs and it was not until the 20C that they became a widely used method of treating asthma.

Fulbourn Village History Society have in our Artefacts collection several examples of early inhalers. They derive from an invention by English doctor John Judge in 1778. His design was based on a pewter tankard which was used to inhale opium vapour to treat coughs. By the 1800's ceramic pots, such as Dr Nelson's inhaler, were used to inhale plant or chemical substances for the alleviation of breathing problems.

The examples which we hold are ceramic pots such as the Lambeth white glazed 'Improved' earthenware inhaler (the cork and two glass tubes are missing) manufactured by S.Maw and Sons, Aldersgate, England c. 1890-1920. The Directions for use are printed on one side and read as follows: "For the inhalation of the vapour of Hot Water the water should be Boiling and the Inhaler not more than half filled. When Infusions are required the ingredients should be placed in the Inhaler and Boiling Water poured upon them. Volatile and other liquids should be added to the Boiling Water.



**Earthenware Inhaler  
manufactured by  
S. Maw & Sons  
c. 1890-1920**

We also have a specimen produced by Boots Dispensing Chemist c. 1920's. It still contains the original two glass tubes (one is broken) with instructions printed on the side i.e. 'The Hygienic Inhaler Directions for Use. Remove the cork, half fill the bottle with the infusion to be inhaled. Replace the cork and the Inhaler is ready for use. Lower end of bent tube must not touch contents'.



**The 'Hygienic Inhaler c. 1920's**

It is evident that many people self medicated for common ailments and manufactures took advantage of this. One of the artefacts we have is called the 'Vapo-Resolene' and from the advertising spiel printed on its packet, seems to have been marketed as a cure all for everything! For instance it was 'a vapour inhalant easing the Paroxysms of Whooping Cough and Spasmodic Croup: relieving the stifling Conditions of Bronchial Asthma: Nasal Congestion in Catarrh, Hay Fever, Influenza, Head Colds for for Coughs due to colds.'

Humans were not its only 'target' audience! The inhaler was also considered 'Helpful in the treatment of the Respiratory Diseases of Animals, as Distemper and Coughs and Colds in Horses and Dogs; Gapes and Roup in Fowls.'

The manufacturer was Vapo-Resolene Co, 62 Cortlandt St, New York, N.Y.U.S.A whose sole agents for Great Britain were Allen & Hanburys Ltd, 37 Lombard St, London. The product was not cheap, costing 8/- with extras which included Globes (6d each); Burners (9d); Cups (3d); Lamps Complete (2/6)and Wicks (6d a dozen). Quite a nice little earner!



**Vapo-Resolene Dispenser with Oil Heater**

Vapo-Resolene had moved away from ceramic pots and used a metal dispenser which, combined with a small Kerosene (Petroleum) oil heater, provided continuous heat. The patient was therefore able to ‘breathe an atmosphere permeated with the desired medication for a more or less prolonged interval, preferably at night’. The ‘desired’ medication was an antiseptic, Cresolene.

Cresolene was a coal tar based disinfectant. Perhaps more familiar to readers is Wrights Coal Tar Vaporiser and we have an example dating from the 1950’s. Printed information on the metal container of the night light and diffuser explains that its use was for ‘diffusing the valuable Antiseptic Constituents of Wright’s Coal Tar Soap and Liquor Carbonis Detergens’.

Created by William Valentine Wright in 1860, Wrights Traditional Soap or Wright’s Coal Tar Soap was an antiseptic soap designed to thoroughly clean the skin. The inhaler version was, according to its own promotion ‘Invaluable for Whooping Cough, Influenza, Croup and all affections of the Respiratory Organs’.



**Wright's Coal Tar Vaporizer**

Certainly, it was used to great effect in my own family and I actually liked the distinctive smell! However, it is now unobtainable (at least in the original formulation ) since some of the properties of Coal Tar are considered carcinogenic. (Wright's Coal Tar Soap can still be found, but the coal tar derivatives have been replaced by tea tree oil).

**Glynis Arber**

## MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.....

.....or more accurately, a few more hands, on a small number of occasions.

It has become evident that there are some tasks associated with running Fulbourn Village History Society, that are becoming difficult to undertake by just the members of your Committee. We therefore propose to draw up a ‘rota’ system to share these amongst willing volunteers from the Society. For instance:

- ✳ Moving the trolleys containing chairs from the Townley Hall Foyer to the Meeting Room on the evenings of our Talks. It requires a minimum of two people as the wheels are now stiff.
- ✳ Providing a report to The Mill of our Talks, so that it features all the various groups in the village.
- ✳ Helping to run the fund-raising Raffles. Ivy Smith has been superb organising these, but I am sure she would appreciate assistance.

Please contact Glynis (01223 570887) [g.arber@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.arber@ntlworld.com), if you are interested in supporting the Society in this way. Lists will also be circulated at future meetings.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVE STORE

Pat White, Fulbourn Village History Society's Archivist, at the request of your Editor (**who is always looking for items of local interest from the past - this is a big hint to readers!**), has kindly researched our records and found the following extract from the writings of the Rev William Cole. He visited Fulbourn from 1747 and made several acute commentaries of people and buildings - including a description of the dilapidated state of All Saints Church before it was demolished.

The following observation provides an amusing insight into the personalities of the Squire and Vicar who both resided in Fulbourn during the middle of the 18C. Considering the high social status and influence these men had at the time, it must have made village life quite tense!

*Mr Lee the Vicar died of a Pleuritic Fever at Fulborne Jan 24 1750. He was a widower and left some Daughters: a Man of a most inventive Fancy, telling such Tales as no sober Person could give any Credit to: which Faculty meeting with a Rivalry in the person of the Squire of the Parish, tho' a very large one, it was found too small peaceably to hold them both. Pity two such great Genii in the same. Art were planted so near one the other, where there was little Room to display their different Excellencies, without rubbing one against the other! They were both northern Men and both educated originally in the same University.*

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## RESEARCH REQUEST

There are several ongoing research projects being carried out by Fulbourn Village History Society Members. We always welcome new information - or even details that confirm an original hypothesis. Perhaps you can contribute to the following queries?

1. Gill Aslett and Alison Rash, amongst others, are currently preparing 'biographies' of Fulbourn men who died serving their country during the First World War and whose names appear on the Fulbourn War Memorial. Each month in The Mill, accounts of their background and military service will be published. If you can contribute to our knowledge of these men and their families, this would be very helpful.
2. Emigration from Fulbourn: We know that during the mid 19C and 20C, there were several individuals and families who left for a new life in the Colonies. Do you have any stories that can be shared relating to such people? We also know, from email enquiries via the website, that there is considerable interest from abroad into family history. It is a two way process! For those **INTERNATIONAL READERS OF FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER** who might have records of ancestors originally coming from Fulbourn, please pass on to the Society any such details. Many Thanks.
3. **We plan to make audio recordings of life in Fulbourn during World War II. Would you like to participate?** You may become involved either by being the interviewee or interviewer. Why not do both!

Contact Fulbourn Village History Society via email ([info@fulbournhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@fulbournhistory.org.uk)) or phone the Secretary, Glynis Arber (01223 570887)