



FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 44

Autumn 2016

At Fulbourn Village History Society's Seventeenth Annual General Meeting, the following members were unanimously elected to the Committee of Fulbourn Village History Society:

Chair: Glynis Arber

Secretary: Rosemary Tristram

Keeper of the Archives: Pat White

Committee Member: Alison Rash

Vice Chair: Tony Goodall

Treasurer: Richard Bennett

Webmaster: John Timperio

Committee Member: Ian Harrison

We are very happy to welcome a relatively new F.V.H.S. member, Ian Harrison, onto our Committee. He is extremely interested in the local history of Fulbourn - its places and people and will be a great asset towards the running of the Society.

Many thanks to everyone on the Committee, all of whom willingly and tirelessly work on behalf of YOUR Society.



John at his 'station' entering data onto the F.V.H.S. laptop. He will now be handing over this work to new Committee member, Ian Harrison.

THANK YOU, JOHN

Despite increasing difficulties with his eyesight over the last few years, John Patten has continued to type in new accessions onto our database and has been the main F.V.H.S. volunteer who has undertaken this task - reaching a total of over 12,000 entries over a period of at least 10 years!!!

However, with great reluctance John has now announced his 'retirement' from volunteering on Wednesday mornings at the Archive Store. His valued contribution towards our aim to "research, keep and maintain records of all aspects of the village's social and historical development" is very much appreciated. On your behalf, the Committee will present John with a horticultural gift as a token of our gratitude for his hard work.

THE HOME FRONT 1914-1918: The Role of Fulbourn Women (and children) based on Reports from the Fulbourn Chronicles Vol III.

During the war years, the women of Fulbourn continued to run their households, and also took over work that the men fighting at the front were not at home to do.

The newspaper accounts (extracts from Fulbourn Chronicles Vol III, dates in square brackets) do not provide many specific details, but a few pieces of information were revealed.

Evidently there was a shortage of agricultural labour.

An entry dated 10 March 1916 stated *'About 60 women and girls have volunteered for field work as the farmers may require'*.

Local farmer Mr John Chaplin, certainly took advantage of this offer as shown by his remark at a Service Exemption Tribunal on behalf of one of his employees, ie *'he was using women where he reasonably could'* [15.09.16].

Women's contribution to agriculture must have continued throughout the war and even young girls were involved - *'The leaders of the Girl Guides are to be congratulated upon the success of the members of the Girl Guides setting out 20 acres of mangolds for Mr T. White, Barnsbury Farm, Fulbourn'*. [20.06.18]

Children also helped with the War effort.

'As a result of a collection by Miss Alice Wakely, £1 14s. has been raised in the

village to buy wool for the schoolgirls to make mittens, cuffs, scarves and helmets for the soldiers at the front'. [11.12.14]

A special effort was made for Christmas 1916.

'Fulbourn Council School children collected for the Soldiers' Christmas Pudding Fund the sum of £1 1s. 2d. This amount has been dispatched to headquarters by the Headmistress (Mrs Hollman)'. [10.11.16]

To assist in providing tobacco and cigarettes for the soldiers in the trenches at Christmastide *'The small children of the Infants School brought their halfpennies and pennies and the sum of 4s 6d has been forwarded by their head teacher to the Overseas' Club Tobacco and Comforts Fund,*. [22.12.16]

Benefitting from the members of the Girls Friendly Society was the Red Cross Fund.

The girls *'sung carols in the village during Christmas'*. They raised £1 6s. which was handed over by Miss M. Nicholls, secretary to the G.F.S. [28.12.17]

The need to conserve resources was recognised and acted upon by the 1st Fulbourn Company of Girl Guides

who *'to save our imports of paper'* collected *'waste paper of all sorts by a system of monthly visits. It is hoped all will save their paper in readiness'*. [28.02.17]



Members of the 1st Fulbourn Company of Girl Guides c. 1918 - some of whom no doubt were involved in the waste paper collections and setting out Mangolds on Mr T White's Farm.

Fund-raising for various war related causes was an activity in which the women of Fulbourn participated enthusiastically.

For instance, Mrs Webster undertook a *'house to house collection for Addenbrooke's Hospital and the sum realised was £5 1s. 6d.'* [12.09.17].

It appears money towards supplying or perhaps outfitting a Motor Ambulance Waggon was also organised by the Red Cross Bottisham Division, of whom Mrs Townley was Vice-President. The sum of £43 19s. 3d was received from subscriptions from Fulbourn and Mrs F. J. Chaplin and others were *'kind enough to make these collections'* [21.08.14]

Fulbourn's contribution to the subscriptions and work of the Cambridgeshire Red Cross Society, up to 25 November 1914 was again noted on 27 November 1914. Subscriptions

totalled £47 5s. 6d. and a list of articles, which may have been donated or supplied by villagers, including women, was also provided.

'22 flannel singlets, 54 night caps, 24 pair day socks, 8 rubber hot water bottles (servants at the Manor), 23 bed jackets, 1 nightingale, 42 nightshirts (10 flannel, 32 flannelette), 30 paid bed socks, 2 Cardigan jackets, 60 hankerchiefs, 2 flannel pyjamas, 10 pair sheets, 16 flannel body bandages, 46 day shirts, 4 scarves, 12 huckaback towels'.

Another house to house collection, which no doubt involved women, *'found a hearty and generous response'* ie. £15 5s. 7d. for the prisoners of war [24.04.18] with a very similar amount (£15 5s. 2d.), for the same organisation being raised a month later by a Jumble sale. *'Much credit is due to all the ladies in making it such a success'.*

Perhaps the most interesting development of the role played by women in Fulbourn at this most difficult period was the setting up of what would now be called a ‘support group’.

[23.06.16] ‘Mothers and wives of those who are serving with the colours spent a pleasant afternoon on The Harrow lawn on Friday, this being the first of a series of fortnightly meetings which it is hoped may do something to relieve the stress and strain of the present time. A short address was given by Mrs Gray, music and song were rendered, and tea was served.’

Note:

The following information was not obtained from the Fulbourn Chronicles, but from Cambridgeshire Archives - Council Letter Book DT8/AL7 Feb 1917 - July 1918.

In the last year of the war, Food Rationing was introduced. One Fulbourn lady seems to have been the local organiser for the administration of ration cards.

This is evident from the number of letters sent to Miss M Nicholls initially addressed to Kellet Lodge, Tennis Court Road Cambridge then later to The Harrow, Fulbourn - or just Fulbourn, by the Clerk of Chesterton Rural District Council a Mr John Symonds.

Cambridgeshire Archives do not have the original correspondence, only copies of the replies sent to Miss Nicholls. However, it can be inferred from these that she was asking advice about unauthorised possession of sugar tickets, how invalids might obtain special rations, the residential qualifications for issuing ration books as well as general queries. It must have been quite an undertaking.

Glynis Arber

ADVANCE NOTICE TO MEMBERS

It is a recognised phenomena that Annual General Meetings are often sparsely attended and Fulbourn Village History Society’s A.G.M. in May was no exception. I believe that apart from the Committee only three members were present. This is embarrassing and not very democratic. **We have therefore decided to encourage more of you to turn up by holding ‘The F.V.H.S. Roadshow’ at our 17th A.G.M. next May.** Please bring along your oldest possession to ‘show and tell’!! (No valuations - just some fun - and a chance to chat). More details will follow.

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held before the Talk on 17th November when F.V.H.S. Committee will recommend that the Constitution be adjusted as follows: Composition of the committee: 4 officers and up to 4 other members would be sufficient. Quorum: to be 4 members including at least 2 officers.

SECULAR USES OF MEDIEVAL CHURCHES by Pat White

Churches in earlier times were often used for secular as well as religious purposes. As they were almost always the largest building in the village parish this is not surprising. In some porches may appear deep marks where arrows or even swords were sharpened made by men who practised at the local Butts which were often near to the church yard.

Often on Sundays in the middle ages, Fairs were held in the churchyards where local folk could sell their crafts and produce until this was cracked down on by the authorities and in 1285 a law forbidding the practice was passed. Sometimes rooms above the porch were used by guilds as their meeting place.

In general the church was used as a meeting place for village gossip, opportunities for conversation between the common population whether they be housewives, courting couples, village worthies about their business etc. There must have been a general hub bub going on in the chancel, in some cases even whilst mass was being performed and prayers said in the chancel.

Games were played both inside and outside in the churchyard including dancing, quoiting, tennis, handball, stool ball, football and all manner of other pastimes. Sometimes gentlemen even ???

Walls were built around the churchyards. On nights preceding a funeral, when corpses were watched before burial, dances and games were held and much beer consumed. During the twelve and thirteen hundreds the church was often the place to sleep off the night before excesses and the congregation did not refrain from using the church floor as a spittoon.

COFFEE MORNING at 1, The Pines



Members had a very convivial morning at our Coffee Morning held on 16th July 2016. The weather was fine, so everyone was able to sit outside and enjoy Peter and Gill Godber's wonderful garden. Although primarily a social gathering as the last F.V.H.S. event before we meet again in October, over £40.00 was raised - which will pay for one of our speakers. The Bottle Stall at Feast 2016 also contributed £63.45 towards F.V.H.S. funds. **THANK YOU** to ALL who helped on both occasions, your efforts are much appreciated - and a very special thanks to the Goober's for inviting us to their lovely home and garden.

HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ARTEFACTS HELD IN OUR STORE

The Kitchen Part 1



This pair of wooden objects in our Collection, could well be mistaken for bats used in games. They are actually BUTTER PAT PADDLES and would have been found in the Dairy or Kitchen.

HISTORY AND METHOD OF USE

Until the 19th century, once butter had been produced it was usually moulded into shape by hand. However, the heat of the hands could be a problem. Eventually, wooden spatulas or paddles were used for manipulating the butter.

Normally worked in pairs, often with ridges on one side, Butter Pats were quite versatile for such a simple utensil. They could double up as scoops for taking butter from the churn and might stir, cut, slap and lift the butter, forming it into a block.

Well into the 20th century, Grocers shops in Britain were using the Pats to cut a piece of butter from a large block, at the customers request. However, in the kitchen, they could be used to roll a small lump of butter between the two wooden pats in order to make individual butter balls for serving at the table.

OTHER NAMES FOR BUTTER PATS

They can have several different names e.g. Butter Pats, Scotch Hands, Butter Paddles, Beaters, Clappers, Spades - amongst others.

These wooden BUTTER STAMPS (one has a rotary design) in our collection were probably used in the domestic kitchen, as an artistic enhancement to the butter presented at table.

HISTORY AND METHOD OF USE



In England, butter might be formed into various shapes. During the 19th century half-pound bricks became the standard, though bulk buyers bought it in barrels or large blocks.

Patterns, stamped or cut, could mark the original source of the butter and varied by region - with cross designs associated with the north-west and thistles with Yorkshire. They usually depicted flowers and birds like the Swan on our Stamp.

When farmers' wives sold their butter in the market it was useful to have a 'trade mark' to identify their product which is one reason why the butter was imprinted with a pattern.



This object in our Collection may look like a colander though it was not used to strain vegetables, but to separate cream from milk.

HISTORY AND METHOD OF USE

One of the earliest methods of cream separation made use of gravity. Milk was poured into shallow pans (called setting dishes) and left to settle in a cool, clean room. Once the cream had risen to the top it was skimmed by hand with a utensil called a **CREAM SKIMMER**.

In the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, brass and earthenware dishes were used - even wood. By the nineteenth century enamelled dishes, like ours, were being manufactured.

The object in our Collection conforms to a design that had lasted for over two centuries. It is saucer shaped with perforations to catch the cream whilst allowing the milk to drip back into the pan. The handle and shallow dish with a narrow edge assisted the user in removing the cream.

This method used to skim the cream made it difficult to handle large quantities of milk. It is therefore likely our Skimmer was not used for commercial butter, cheese or cream production, but 'in house' for domestic consumption.

When I began to research the History of the objects in our Collection my first instinct was to consult the Public Library. However, whilst some knowledge was obtained via books, much of the information was found on the internet.

I have found the web sites of the manufacturers who made some of the artefacts very useful. There are several commercial companies dealing in antiques who provide facts about the chronological history of certain items. Wikipedia, though used with caution, was also helpful.

Since Fulbourn Village History Society was formed, we have been given or loaned many objects which are kept in our Artefact Store. Those published in this Newsletter are just some of the items we keep. A list of these articles is available on request.

My apologies if there are inadvertent inaccuracies. If you have any further details, information or corrections about the Artefacts in our Collection, please contact Fulbourn Village History Society. We very much welcome such additional input.

GLYNIS ARBER

ABRIDGED ARTICLE FROM THE ARCHIVE STORE: John Mason of Fulbourn

On February 24th, 1844 a report in Cambridge Chronicles stated that arrangements were in process for establishing a Post Office in Fulbourn and to provide a free delivery of letters around the neighbouring villages. The mail route covered Cambridge, Cherry Hinton, Fulbourn and the Wilbrahams. Fulbourn received its letters from Cambridge at 10am, and the letter box closed at 4pm from December 25th to March 25th and at 5pm the rest of the year.

John Mason, then 39 years old, was appointed Postmaster - being also the Parish Clerk and since May 1834, the Master of Fulbourn School for which he received £20 a year. Parish records show he was married - and that it was probable his wife, Elizabeth, was unable to read or write since she signed her name with a cross.

The early site of the Post Office is unclear but the 1851 Census shows that Mason lived in the Ludlow Hill area of the village - perhaps at what is now 5 Ludlow Lane. This was then two properties, the other half being the Dog and Pheasant Public House. However, by the time of the 1861 Census, the Post Office was at Yew Lodge, 1 Pierce Lane.

It is a Grade II building of 16C origins with location details given in the sale by auction of a shop in Pierce Lane i.e. Thomas Hagger's Drapers, Grocers and General Country Store in 1861:

Lot 1 - All the newly erected Dwelling House, *situated opposite the Post Office*, with Front Shop, 2 Parlours, Kitchen, Warehouse, Cellar and 4 bedrooms.....

By 1864, John Mason had retired as Postmaster and was replaced by Peter Hagger, the brother of Thomas. John Mason continued to live at Yew Lodge until his death on December 29th, 1870 aged 65.

PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2016-2017

20 Oct.	Ken Sneath	What we can learn from personal diaries of the seventeenth century.
17 Nov	Sarah Poppy	The History of the Cambridge Castle
9 Dec.	Jenny Culank	If Clothes could Talk (Social Event. Entry by Ticket only)
19 Jan.	Tamsin Wimhurst	The David Parr House
16 Feb.	Jody Joy	The Snettisham Treasure
16 Mar.	Sean Lang	Cambridge Bonfires: a battle for order in late 19C Cambridge
21 Apr.	t.b.c.	18 May AGM