

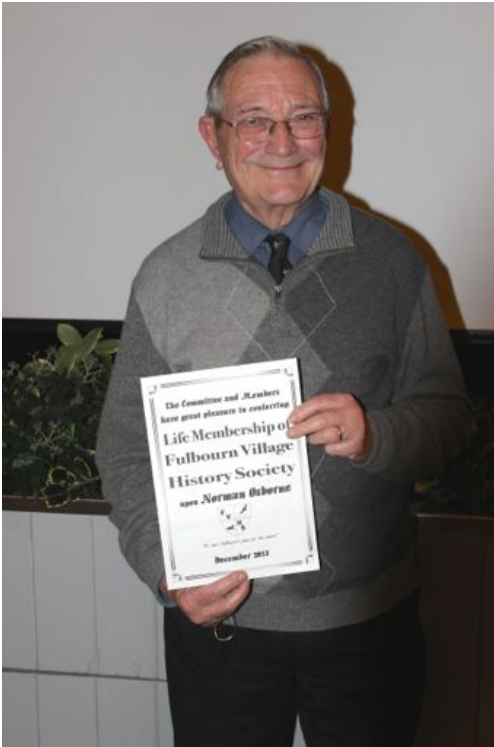
FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 39

Spring 2014

NORMAN OSBORNE BECOMES LIFE MEMBER



Happy 80th Birthday, Norman

A surprise birthday present was awarded to Norman Osborne at Fulbourn Village History Society's December Festive Social Meeting.

He received Life Membership of the Society in recognition of his pivotal role in the formation of the Society fifteen years ago.

It formed a fitting end to a very enjoyable evening where the audience was entertained by anecdotes and information relating to Fulbourn and Farming by John White and Friends. Thank you again, John and Tony, for your hard work devising this presentation.

A further thank you goes to everyone who helped set up/ clean up, wash up and, of course, bake the delicious mincepies. The generosity of members donating raffle prizes and purchasing tickets also raised a profit of £225.35. A very helpful addition to our bank balance!

THE VIKINGS ARE COMING – Rosemary Tristram

In fact, Fulbourn Primary School anticipated the British Museum Viking blockbuster by almost six months. Three classrooms were devoted to exhibitions about the Vikings produced by pupils to a very high standard. Fulbourn Village History Society was invited to observe and comment. I was the lucky committee member chosen to go along. I was blown away by the ingenuity of the children and teachers. Model long boats featured warrior shields along the length of the ship, each shield drawn and painted by the children. Sails with painted emblems hung aloft; fossilized bone fragments were on display; drawings of Vikings illustrating their raids and way of life – just a few of the features of their transformed class-rooms. The children had created their own educational centres with games, such as Vikings and Ladders, and even a short video produced by one of the children. I enjoyed too a special assembly for the parents of the children who had created such an impressive display. I suspect some very creative parents were involved in the designing and making of the Viking costumes worn by the children as they sang and recited in their own words the mysteries and exploits of the Vikings.



For more about the Vikings, come along to next January's FVHS meeting when we hope to engage a speaker to feature the Vikings and ask the question: were they raiders or traders?

RESEARCH MATTERS by Glynis Arber (Editor of F.V.H.S. Newsletter).

The content of our Newsletter is vastly enhanced by the work of those individuals who undertake research into the history of Fulbourn. Over the last few years articles by Ursula Lyons have greatly increased our knowledge of village farms and local farming families. It is not quite complete but Ursula has kindly agreed to the Editor's request to postpone her conclusion to the series, which will now appear in Issue 40.

This has enabled enough space to be allocated to an account of how the coming of the railway in the 19C changed and helped develop Station Road in Fulbourn. It is based on an A4 size booklet researched and produced by a new member of the Society (see adjacent sample page) and is available for consultation in our Archive Store.

To illustrate the various houses mentioned just a few of the delightful drawings within the book have been reproduced in the following pages. However, for technical reasons the scanned images are reduced in size and definition so do not quite capture the subtle quality of the original pictures - as anyone who has seen the book will recognise.

If you feel inspired by what I can only describe as a 'labour of love', and would like to investigate further the history of Fulbourn, why not come along to the Archive Store in the Fulbourn Centre (open Monday and Wednesday from 10.00 until noon) and have a good rummage around our records!

BELOW and RIGHT: Sketch maps of the location of Station Road in Fulbourn. Note: numbers in square brackets on the following pages of N.L. No.39 refer to the plots marked on these sketch maps, which are based on the 1814 Enclosure Award



Cottage ~ Manor & later Shop.

1814 Plot 95 Manor (Townley)

There is no certainty about tenants. Possibly: - Christopher Fickes a Master Tailor, dressmaker in his family. Could have used a shop - C. 1861/1871

This was a cottage, new extended Northwards. The small adjoining single storey was most likely a shop, quite a large garden may have been a yard and the shop served a business. (Listed as late 18/early 19)

C. 1891 Charles Hughes a Stone mason may have used the Yard & Shop.

C. 1901 George Harbin - Baker.

C. 1911 Modern extension to cottage + shop.

OS 1903/5

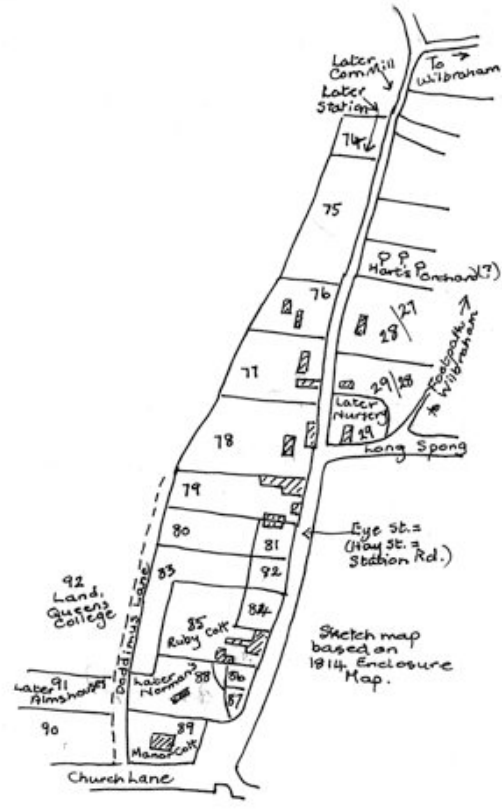
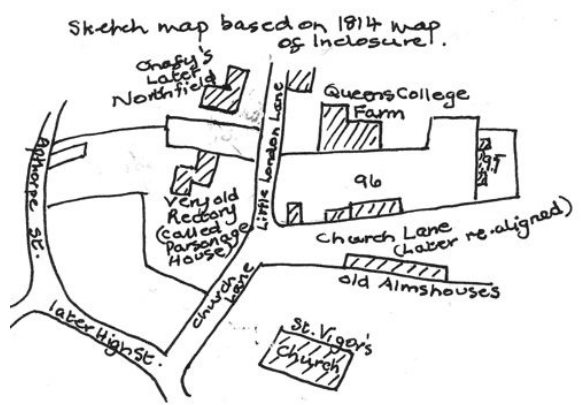
HURCH Lane.

Note: - Across the Lane at the entrance to the Manor is Manor hedge 1909. This is recorded with the Manor.

SP. CC



ABOVE: Sample page (reduced size) of 'Fulbourn From St Vigor's Church via Church Lane and Eye/Hay Strete (Station Road) to Fulbourn Station'.



FROM ST. VIGORS TO FULBOURN STATION – a short account of some of the houses in Church Lane and Station Road.

An old track once stretched uphill in a southerly direction from the Fens, on the north of Fulbourn, to old manors, churches and farms which later became the village of Fulbourn. Part of the fen formed an island; the waters receded leaving Eye (Islet) Field, while the track to the fen became Eye Field Drive, and to the village, Eye Strete. This corrupted into Hay (Hey) Street. After the railway arrived in Fulbourn in 1851, with the opening of the Cambridge-Newmarket line and in the following year by the station, Hay Street became increasingly known as Station Road, though for a while both names were used. Church Lane links Station Road to the village High Street.

Many early inhabitants settled along the Strete. They left bits and pieces, bones, pots, even jewellery, to be found later and which still turn up in residents' gardens. The main settlement was in medieval times in the 13th and 14th centuries, and a few medieval structures remain within present dwellings. The 1814 Award Map shows the many plots which lined the Strete, mostly on the western side, with buildings - whether houses or barns - many of which were later pulled down in the course of the 19th century and replaced by newer, often brick built dwellings. However, dating some of the existing houses can be misleading, due to the extensive re-use of timbers. Also, barns were moved about a lot and then reassembled, after a very careful numbering of their timbers. As for the ownership of property, that, too, in the absence of title deeds, is often difficult to establish.

Church Lane

At the beginning of Church Lane there once stood two 13th-14th century churches, All Saints and St. Vigor's. They were barely six feet apart. Both had a lot of tower trouble: already at the end of the 13th century, St. Vigor's wooden spire came down in a storm and took half the tower stonework with it. Then, in 1766, the tower of All Saints collapsed, causing the church to become unstable, and in 1775 the church was demolished, leaving St. Vigor's as the sole parish church.

Across from the church was once the old **Parsonage House**, shown on the 1814 map as belonging to the Vicar of All Saints. It occupied a large plot stretching from Church Lane to Apthorpe Street. There were barns, large kitchen gardens, flower gardens and a farmyard. Unfortunately this old building suffered serious fire damage: on Nov. 19th 1824, a serious

fire demolished Mr Hancock's barn and most of the Rectory Farm recently taken over by Robert Baker. ... The Rev. Fiske's Rectory House sustained considerable damage: "Mr. Baker, the most extensive sufferer, was not insured", reported the Fulbourn Chronicle.

When the Rectory was taken down in 1868, there was an auction on the premises, which included oak and fir beams, plates, joists, studs, rafters, floorboards, windows, firewood etc. A mortgage to Queen Anne's Bounty of Glebe of St. Vigor was then taken out to secure a loan of £1500 for rebuilding Parsonage House, after which a grand new house was built. (Fig.1)



Fig.1 The new Rectory House

In the 1880's and 90's the Rev. John Durrell lived there with his wife, 9 children and 6 servants. A curate (Robert McClelland) lived in Church House on the High Street. By the 1950's the Rectory was deemed too large and was sold and, in 1953, a new rectory was built in Apthorpe Street on the bottom of the old rectory garden.

In a prominent position by the **South Door of the Church** is an obelisk erected by the Holmes family. It was made by Cusworth, mason, of Pentonville Road, London, and commemorates many members of the Holmes family.

The Holmes were farmers, butchers and grocers from Newmarket. One, William Holmes, married Elizabeth Bird, and they had 7 or 8 children. Their son, William, married Betsy Girling and they rented a grocery and draper's business in Fulbourn in the 1840's. This was the building near the High Street, once a farm, then the **Coach and Horses Inn** (run by John Webb in the 1770's) and later a shop. The Holmes' business flourished, despite a burglary in

1851 : “On the night of Thursday, the 17th (April), the shop of Mr. Holmes....was entered by making a hole through the wall, and a large quantity of calico and handkerchiefs were carried away”.

In the 1860's/70's William took on various assistants. They would live in and Betsy had a cook and a housemaid. Unexpectedly, William died in 1884 on his way back from the Asylum where he had been stocktaking. Betsy took over but ended in the Bankruptcy Court. A new tenant, Mr. Gedney, took over and the property became **Prospect House**, now no.1, School Lane.

A younger son (William's brother), called Richard Bird Holmes, had gone to London to seek his fortune. He married Charlotte from Isleworth, Middlesex. They lived in an attractive Georgian villa in Barnsbury Park, London. Richard became a property developer in Fulbourn but did not live there. He bought **Furbank's Farm** (also possibly once called Spring Hall Farm) in Cox's Drove, which he later renamed Barnsbury Farm after the villa in London, and built **Barnsbury House** nearby. Barnsbury House had a grand drive, ornamental grounds etc, and numerous rooms, including seven bedrooms and a bathroom (most unusual for the 1880s in the country!). In the early 1900's the house was renamed Holly Lodge and Mr John Gardiner, a newspaper proprietor, lived there.

Adjacent to the **Rectory** was a farm, possibly the Rectory Farm in the early 1800's but known as **Chafy's Farm** in the 1870's (after the owners Dr. W. Chafy and son of Cambridge University), and later as **Northfield Farm**. It was occupied by the Payne family. Unfortunately it was demolished in the 1970's. (Fig.2)



Fig.2 Northfield Farm

Opposite the Rectory was a large farmhouse, **Queens' College Farmhouse**, with land belonging to Queens' College, Cambridge. This was a hall house (i.e. hall to roof in centre and with one or two cross wings) dating from the 14th century. In the early 1800s the much respected Wells family were the occupiers.

Between Queen's Farm and Church Lane there was a rectangular plot [96] with a cottage belonging to Thomas B. Apthorpe, according to the map of 1814. After the re-alignment of Church Lane in 1864, half the plot which remained became garden, and around 1860 four terraced cottages were built on the other half. They were called **Church Cottages**. In the 1890's they were owned by Frederick Layton, a highly respected horse dealer. The cottages were rented in 1901 to James Marsh, Ann Plumb, Elizabeth Oslar and James Hall. They had large back gardens and a water pump.

Next to the terrace was an older, 18th century cottage belonging to the Manor (also called **Church Cottage** at times). At some point a small extension was added close to the Lane. This may have started as a wash-house but it made a useful shop later on. The plot [95] was large and seems likely to have been used as a work-yard. The 1861 Census shows Christopher Fickes, master tailor and dressmaker, as living in this area. In 1881 Richard Twinn, miller, with his wife, a baker, are listed as likely tenants. 1891 saw Charles Hughes, stonemason, as living there, and in 1911 among tenants listed is George Harding, also a baker.

Adjoining the church graveyard were eleven old **Almshouses**, small and dilapidated, often with two people to a cottage. The 1851 Census lists as living there : Bradford (63 years), Gilson (54), Page (55), Patten (61), Jordan (88), Preston (65), Redhouse (46), Ship (67), Symkin (75) and Veal (59). It was noted that Page was blind. They were demolished in 1864 and a row of eight rather splendid new almshouses [91] were built on the other side of the road. Each cottage had a sitting room with a fire (for cooking), a brick floor, and one boarded bedroom. Outside there was a wash-house and a pump.



Fig 3. Fernside.

A track ran beside the eastern end of the almshouses, called **Doddimus Lane** (Dodd = rounded summit of a hill). In 1814 it came up from Queens' Farm Fields. The name indicates a very much older track in the direction of the manors. Next to the Lane was a large plot [88] with a cottage which belonged to the Miller family in 1814. The plot was divided and a very smart new house, called **Fernside**, was built in the 1890's. (Fig.3) Isaac Miller and his wife lived there. He was a very busy man, being "Assistant Overseer and Surveyor, Assessor and Collector of Taxes, Agent to Liverpool and London Globe Insurance Co, and Clerk and Attendance Officer to Fulbourn School Board". He died in 1901. The new tenants (?owners) were Clement Smith, a retired draper, and family.

The remaining portion of Miller's plot, an old thatched cottage, gained two more cottages and many outbuildings. In 1861/71 Joseph Norman and family ran his Collar (Harness) business there and the plot became known as **Norman's Corner**. In the 1891 Census, Harry Redhouse (20 years), a blacksmith, was using the yard, and in 1901, James Webb, another blacksmith, lived there. The cottages were owned by the Millers, then the Laytons. The Laytons dealt in horses, so a blacksmith was essential.

Opposite Norman's Corner sits **Manor Cottage** [89]. This was once north of Manor Lane, until the realigned Church Lane left it on the south side. It isn't certain whether there was once a hospital on

the site housing a small leper colony, or just an isolation cottage. The church certainly has a leper squint and a path led to the church from the cottage. However, in the later 1880's the Manor owned the cottage. From 1871-1901 Friend Kemp and family lived there. He was the Hall coachman.

Station Road

A row of decorative Victorian cottages mark the start of Station Road. These are called **Charlotte Cottages** [86/87] and were built in 1874 by Richard Bird Holmes in memory of his wife. (Fig. 4)



Fig 4. Charlotte Cottages

The first cottage was enlarged in 1903 and the gardens of all the cottages were also enlarged. Before this, each cottage had a wash-house and an earth closet at the end of a short garden. A rear path behind these outhouses provided access for the night soil man. In 1814, there were small cottages or barns on this plot, property of William Bye. Some of the first tenants of the new "residences" were in the 1881 Census: Ann King (73 years), retired on a pension, with a servant, Mendelssohn (33) and family, working at the Institution, Susan Sharpe (75) and sister, retired from her post as housekeeper at the Hall, and Ann Cock, a music teacher, and sister, from the Cock family, farmers of Cock's (Cox) Drove.

There were cottages and barns on the next plot, which belonged to the Giddings family in the early 1800's. The cottages along the street were most likely for farm workers. There was a larger house, gable-ended to the street (many older houses and cottages were built with their gable ends on the street, so that they faced the south). By the 1860's Robert Layton owned the property which he rented to Thomas Sutton (carpenter) in 1881.

The property was developed into a pair of semi-detached houses called **Ruby Cottage [83/85]**. Two large barns housed stabling and fodder and smaller outbuildings were also converted into stabling. Robert Layton and his brother were horse dealers. A cottage on the street was joined on and enlarged to house servants. The whole estate was sold on the death of Mrs Layton in 1910.

Next to Ruby Cottage was a square plot [84], owned by Thomas Battyl in 1814, which contained some very old cottages. These changed owners and tenants frequently. In the 20th century, a cottage on the street was used as a cycle shop by Mr Charles J. Beckett, an inventor, of no. 5, Charlotte Cottages.



Fig.5 East View

The next house, **East View, (Fig. 5)** was built in the late 1800's by Frederick Gates, a builder, agricultural wheelwright and carpenter. In 1814, the plot [82] belonged to the Harris family who were bricklayers. An old cottage adjacent may have been used for Gates' undertaking business. The house had electricity and gas by the 1900's but only an earth closet. There was an orchard and apple store. The Harris family owned several plots in the vicinity [80-82] and put up two sets of semi-detached brick cottages. These were auctioned at the Coach and Horses in 1853 on the death of Henry Harris. There was a large orchard behind the properties.

A large plot [79] adjacent to the Harris plots was owned by William Cole in 1814. It contained a large early farmhouse, possibly Tudor in origin, but it had deteriorated into a tenement by 1853. Its outbuildings were converted into small cottages. It is not possible accurately to allot tenants between Ruby Cottage and Grove Terrace from the Censuses.

Grove Terrace was started in 1903 and was built on part of plot [78], opposite a wood called Copse Grove. The houses were of good brick and had front and back gardens. The 1911 Census names as tenants: Ellen Orman (widow), Henry Cambridge (labourer G.E.R.), Harris Webster (own means), Harriet Muffett (widow), Eliza Whitmore (pensioner, sick nurse), and Richard Upchurch (foreman, platelayer).

Beyond Grove Terrace, also on plot [78], there was a thatched farmhouse, possibly dating from the 17th century and owned in 1814 by William Cole. It was divided into two cottages and the land halved between them by 1885. In 1911 William Whitmore, a general labourer, and wife and four daughters were living there with Harry Murfitt (boarder) who was a gardener and nurseryman - probably employed by Nelson Nursery just across the road.

In 1814, John Manning, a prosperous farmer, was the owner of the next large plot [77]. In 1864 the southern half was purchased by Uriah Sargent, a carpenter and shopkeeper from Horningsea. A row of six, nicely built brick houses became **Sargent Terrace**. In 1901 they were occupied by Hart, Barker, John Salmon (P.C.), Kemp, Wilkinson and Smith. (**Fig. 6**)



Fig.6. Sargent Terrace

Close to the end of Sargent Terrace, two smart semi-detached houses were built towards the end of the 19th century. The next plot [76] was owned by the Rev. John Torkington in 1814. An old farmhouse with 15th century origins was here with a large orchard. It became two thatched cottages, each with a large plot.

On the opposite side of the road, in the 1870's James Creek, a well-known seedsman and florist from Cambridge, opened a nursery and built himself **Nelson Villa** on a plot [29] bordering what was known as the Long Spong (a narrow track on the eastern side of Hay Street) and backing on to an old field called Sarmon's Close. The old footpath to

Wilbraham passed the plot on its way north. The nursery thrived and provided flowers and plants locally, as well as stocking his market stalls in Cambridge and Newmarket. His advert in the Chronicle, Feb. 1874, offered : “Fruit-bearing trees and Show Roses, 1s each. Kitchen Garden and Flower Seeds of choice kind, American and English Seed Potatoes.” He was also an importer of Dutch bulbs, German flower seeds and French flowering plants, giving Fulbourn quite a continental flavour.

On the northern border of plot [29], in the 1890’s, the Creeks built a pleasant brick cottage, called **Mabel Cottage**, to rent out. In 1911 it was occupied by Rhoda Beer and daughter, and the nursery had been taken over by Albert Gibbs.

Along the road, to the north of the nursery, **Montrose Cottage** was built in 1866 by Richard Bird Holmes. (Fig. 7)



Fig.7. Montrose Cottage.

It was a luxury “cottage”, having five bedrooms, several reception rooms and a cellar, pantry, W.C. and separate kitchen with bedroom over. There was a stable, chaise and harness house, toolhouse, and a servants’ W.C. - all very splendid when most properties in Station Road had earth closets! The Parkers who lived nearby were employed as gardeners and caretakers. The 1911 Census lists Elliott Man living there with wife and servant. He was a corn merchant and miller.

In 1814 there were several cottages marked north of the Long Spong, possibly the remnants of medieval farms.

The eastern side of Station Road was well treed, with small woods here and there and a large pond at the bottom of the hill. Behind the trees were large, productive fields. Timber sales included ash, elm and pollards etc. There were many orchards on both sides of the road. This side of Station Road remained undeveloped until the 1950’s.

In the 1880’s, a large empty plot [75], owned in 1814 by the Rev. John Torkington, was purchased and a prestigious, brick house built in 1883. The first occupier was Harry Oakey, a livestock dealer. It was called **Montpelier House** in Kelly’s 1896 Directory and then changed to **Havannah**. Oakey, who was not married, employed several staff. In 1911, he was being looked after by Eliza Fabb.

In 1853 land was sold on either side of the new railway. Immediately adjacent to the track there was a smallholding, with one Ogrham as tenant. The plot [75] belonged to Thomas Haggar, a grocer. After the sale of 1853 the **Railway Tavern** was built here (in 1858). By now the cottage, gardens, barn, granary and arable land were let to Wm. Hart and family. In 1861 Elijah Moore, publican and coal dealer, was the “beerhouse keeper”. Robert Norman followed (1891) and in 1899 the Tavern was owned by Phillips and Co., Brewers. The Tavern was demolished in 1966.

The Railway

In 1851, the Newmarket and Eastern Counties Railway Company opened a new line at Fulbourn. It was at first a single track from Newmarket to Cambridge, to which was added a second track in 1875. The station master had a splendid **Station House** near the level crossing. (Fig. 8)



Fig.8. Station House.

Thomas Riches was station master in 1861, Richard Dalley in 1881, Richard Hornford in 1891 and Ernest Orman in 1901. In 1862 the NECRC changed to the Great Eastern Railway. There was a signal box, signals, sidings and a goods depot. Freight facilities covered nearly two acres. Coal wharves (Staveley Coals) stored house coal, steam engine coal and brickyard coal.

The railway brought exciting excursions within reach of local inhabitants:

“Excursion to Ipswich and a boat ride to Harwich” (1866), “Pantomime in London” (1881), and also the ability to emigrate : on July 8, 1854, “The railway station...presented a scene of excitement and confusion, in consequence of about 250 persons congregating to witness the departure of nearly thirty emigrants from this place to Australia”.

The thirty mentioned will have come from the Fulbourn area, but even so, a previously quiet village must have been quite shaken! (We wonder how many of our Australian readers can trace their emigration to this date?)

After the railway level crossing, Hay Street continued on to the fen as Eye Field Drive. At the first bend the road became **Cole’s Lane** on its way to Wilbraham. In the 1853 land sale, the fields behind Station House (i.e.towards Wilbraham) were advertised as “Very important for malting and mercantile purposes”.

On the plot beyond the level crossing, a large steam **Corn Mill** was built in the 1860’s/70’s, plus two labourers’ cottages. In 1901 these were occupied by Arthur Hart, corn millers, and family, and Charles Howard (rail ticket collector). In 1911 the Harts were still there but Harold Butcher, signalman, and family replaced Howard. By 1896 the mill belonged to Aves and Co., who were steam millers as well as corn cake and coal merchants. Later, it was worked by James

Nutter who came to Fulbourn in 1929 after his water-mill at Grantchester was burnt down. As a mill it lasted until the 1950’s. The site is now occupied by Ernest Doe and Sons. Opposite it is the silo built during WW2, erected to store and process grain.

Since the closure of the railway and of the station in 1966, the name of Station Road no longer reflects a reality. Since the 1814 Award Map, there have been many changes and much development on both sides of the road, but whether the number of inhabitants has increased is questionable, as houses now accommodate far fewer people.

While the station and, later, the mill, generated a certain amount of traffic, with the coming of the motor car, the road has seen a considerable increase in traffic, linking Fulbourn with the Wilbrahams and beyond. As well as agricultural vehicles, heavy lorries, too, daily pass along the road on their way to the silo and further industrial premises. However, Station Road continues to present an interesting mix of buildings which reflect its long history going back to at least medieval times.

B. W. with the help of members of Fulbourn Village History Society and staff at the Cambridgeshire Collection.

Reproduction (not to scale) of the top half of Page 48 from the Booklet.

To assist research, an Index of People, Places and Buildings has also been included in the book.

