

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 46

Autumn 2017

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

Chair: Glynis Arber

Secretary: Rosemary Tristram

Treasurer: Ian Harrison

Keeper of the Archives: Pat White

Webmaster: John Timperio

Committee Members: Richard Bennett and
Clare Champion

Many thanks to Richard Bennett as our outgoing, very efficient Treasurer. We are pleased that he has agreed to remain on the Committee. A big welcome also to Clare Champion who joins us in working on your behalf for the benefit of the Members and of the Society.

PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2017-2018

- 19th Oct. Wendy Barnes *'Queen Elizabeth Slept Here'*
16th Nov. Craig Cessford *'Archaeology of Church End Cherry Hinton and Fulbourn'*
8th Dec. Geoff Hales *'Travelling Theatre'* (Social Event. Admission by Ticket only)
18th Jan. Miranda Stearn *'The Fitzwilliam Museum'*
15th Feb. David Bruce *'Ely Cathedral'*
15th March Fiona Lucraft: *'Food in Britain 1900-1960, including food in wartime.'*
19th April + AGM Glynis Arber, Gill Aslett *'Fulbourn and the Great War 1914-1918'*
-

FUND-RAISING THANKS

THANK YOU to Members who supported - by buying tickets and generously donating to - our Fundraising Bottle Stall at Fulbourn Feast 2017. We made a magnificent £74.90 profit. The Coffee Morning held at Gill and Peter Godber's home (many thanks for their kind hospitality) was also a great success. Although primarily a Social Event - we still collected the sum of £46.55 which will help pay for speakers. The following 'snapshots' show that a great time was had by all!



HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ARTEFACTS HELD IN OUR STORE: FOOTWEAR

CHILD'S SHOE



The leather child's shoe (above) is a recent acquisition to our Artefact Store. It was found under the floorboards of Colin Beecroft's shoe shop when it was demolished in 1975.

The shoe could date from the 18th century but the metal eyelets suggest early to middle 19C as these were not patented until 1823. It is likely to be part of European folk culture whereby shoes (especially a child's) were concealed within the home in order to protect against evil or malign influences eg ghosts, demons, witches and their familiars. Apparently, witches were believed to be attracted by the human scent of a shoe and when 'magically' inside one were unable to reverse, thus becoming trapped and their powers nullified.

Another interpretation is that burying or enclosing shoes and garments could be related to the belief found throughout Northern Europe in a household deity or helpful spirit.

The location of these objects is significant. They are concealed under floorboards or within walls near to doorways, windows and fireplaces. These were considered to be the most vulnerable parts of the house being entry and exit points as well as the area open to the sky ie the hearth.

PAIR OF GAITERS

The gaiter dates from the late eighteenth century and is a covering for the ankle or with it, the



small of the leg, often spreading out over the upper of the shoe or boot. It was secured by a strap passing under the instep and straps or buttons generally located on the outer side.

In our collection we have a pair of gaiters, fastened by straps and made from leather. They were probably used by an agricultural worker to help protect his trousers and legs from mud and make it easier to walk through overgrown bracken etc.



PATTEN

This strange object in our Collection is one of a pair (the other is missing) and is a type of footwear.

Called 'Pattens' - a name probably derived from the Old French word *pate*, meaning hoof or claw - they were worn in Europe from the Middle Ages until the early twentieth century.

During this period, those on foot would not wish to make full contact with the unpaved roads where refuse and sewage might flood the streets.

Pattens were designed to elevate the foot above the dirt and were worn over a normal shoe.

There were three main patterns. One had a wooden 'platform' sole raised from the ground by wood wedges or iron stands. Another had a flat wooden sole that was often hinged and the third type, again with a flat sole, was made from stacked layers of leather.

From the seventeenth century onwards, the most common form had a flat metal ring which made contact with the ground, attached to a metal

plate nailed into the wooden sole via connecting metal. It could create a platform 7 cm high. Ours is of a similar pattern but without the height. It appears to be of a rather 'home made' construction which may be why the wedge or stand did not survive - if it ever had one!

The invention of cheap rubber galoshes in the nineteenth century and improved urban path and road surfaces meant the pattens then tended to be worn only by working class men and women in outdoor, probably rural, occupations.

THE HOME FRONT 1914-1918: Exemptions from Service

Undertaking research into the past is an ongoing process and the results are subject to amendments or additions as new primary sources are discovered. This has occurred with my enquiries into the Service Exemptions awarded (or not) to Fulbourn men during WWI.

The original article about the subject appeared in Newsletter 42 and was based upon reports that appeared in local newspapers. Further information has now been obtained from Chesterton Rural District Council letters 1914-1918.

As WW1 progressed, the British Government found that voluntary recruitment was unable to raise the necessary military manpower for pursuing the War. Existing statistics about the number of men within the population available to fight were considered to be not sufficiently accurate.

Therefore, on 15 July, 1915, the National Registration Act 1915 was passed, requiring ALL persons between the ages of 15 and 65 years who were not members of the Armed Forces, to register at their residential location on 15 August 1915. Unlike a census, it was the individual, not the head of the household who was responsible for completing the form.



Personal information on the adult population was compiled in locally-held registers and identity cards issued. The central registration authority was the Registrar General acting under the direction of the Local Government Board. In practice, the councils of metropolitan and municipal boroughs and all urban and rural districts were the local registration authorities.

Fulbourn came under the jurisdiction of Chesterton Rural District Council and the letters sent out by its Clerk, Mr John Symonds, during the First World War, provide an insight into the issues raised by the bureaucratic process of National Registration. However, it would appear that the actual implementation of National Registration went quite smoothly since there were few letters from July 1915 onwards concerned with this subject. One of these was received from a Fulbourn resident as

these was received from a Fulbourn resident as Mr Symond's reply dated 9 June 1916 shows

Dear Sir

National Registration Act

In reply to your letter of 7th inst, I enclose a form and shall be glad if you will kindly fill it up and return it to me.

Yours Faithfully

It was addressed to Mr James Stokes, Baker & Co, Pierce Lane, Fulbourn. The style of the letter appears to be the standard response by Mr Symonds to similar enquiries - he sent an exact copy to Mr G.W. Harley, Western's Cottage, Fulbourn on 7 April 1917.

There was rather more correspondence relating to the Military Service Act (passed 26 January 1916), which enforced compulsory military service for the first time in British History. It did allow those faced with conscription to appeal for exemption from military service at local or county based military service tribunals. Most of the reasons that were permitted were considered to be 'expedient in the national interests' depending on the type of employment or training in which the man was 'habitually engaged'. Some occupations were also certified or 'starred' by Government Departments for exemption. Other grounds on which a man could apply for exemption from military service included serious hardship would ensue owing to his exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position, ill-health or infirmity and conscientious objection to the undertaking of combatant service.

Unfortunately there are no records, as yet found, that document how decisions were taken by the Local Tribunal which residents of Fulbourn would appeal to. Some information was reported in Local Newspapers and are detailed in an article in Fulbourn Village History Society's Newsletter No 42. Other information can be obtained from the correspondence of Mr John Symonds, who as Clerk to Chesterton Rural District Council, was also involved in administrative matters for the Local Military Tribunal.

He responded to enquiries about the bureaucratic process required to put in motion an Exemption from Service Appeal. One of the earliest (9 Feb 1916) replies from Mr Symonds was addressed to Mr H.E. Brown, Northfield Farm, Fulbourn.

'Dear Sir

If you wish to appeal and if your son has been attested, you can apply for postponement, or for him to be starred.

If you will kindly let know what you wish to do, I will post you a form.'

Mr Brown was evidently still concerned about the status of his workforce (which may have included his son) as a letter dated 6 Nov 1916 provides the information that 'farm hands are not to be called up until after the end of the year'. Again, on 18 Feb 1917, he was asked to send in to Mr Symonds, the 'full name of the man for whom you wish to appeal and his age'. It would appear that employers were able to make representation to the Tribunal on behalf of their workers.

Providing the correct paperwork was a major part of Mr Symonds work. Mr J Plumb, of Fulbourn was instructed in a letter dated 13 September, 1916, to call in person or send for a form so as 'to give the necessary particulars and the name of the man for whom application is to be made.'

For someone already serving in the forces, albeit still in the U.K., the situation was less obvious - but still required forms! A letter was addressed to a local Fulbourn man, Trooper Cecil White No 3174, A. Squad, 2/1st Suffolk Yeomanry, Butts Farm, Hamworth, Middlesex, who was told by Mr Symonds that

'I enclose forms R11 and R12. The Tribunal do not decide whether a man is to remain in Home Service'

There may have been further enquiries, which resulted in the letter sent, on 10 March 1917 to Cecil White, c/o Major Williams, Laplands Hotel, Seaford, Sussex complaining

'I do not appear to have received an application for exemption. Will you kindly fill in the enclosed in duplicate and return for me to complete.'

Another difficulty was locating people. In a letter dated 18 Nov 1916 to Col Burrell (no address given) providing papers to be signed and returned for men with Conditional Exemption, Mr Symonds also revealed he had been unable to trace a number of men, including B.G. Mason of Fulbourn. However, it would seem the latter was found since a communication addressed to Mr B.G. Mason, Hinton Road, Fulbourn was sent to him on 20 March 1918. It was sub-headed 'Local Tribunal' and went on to state, with some exasperation

'Your letter does not contain sufficient particulars from me to be able to answer it. Will you kindly call at my office'.

The Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion Cambs Volunteer Regiment was Major G Howard who was in receipt of four letters between 21 September 1916 to 28 February 1917, confirming lists of men who had been granted certificates of exemption 'Conditional on Joining the Voluntary Forces'. The names of several Fulbourn residents appear on these e.g. Wm. Edwards (Home End), Charles Missing (Norman's Corner), Jonas Turner (Fulbourn), Oliver Pask (High Street), Harold Manning (Old RR House, New Shardelowes). A letter dated 23 May 1917 shows Certificates were later issued to W. Franklyn (Cow Lane) and V.J. Wood (County Asylum).

It may be assumed that men working at the Asylum, which was situated within the parish of Fulbourn, were engaged in the care of patients or of the premises and could not be spared for military service. Earlier, on 20 May 1916, the Medical Superintendent of the County Asylum in Fulbourn was advised by Mr Symonds that the 'Board of Control' recommend Percy Is. Woodhouse, Samuel Clinton and William R Wilson be 'exempted

from military service' and that if he would 'wish to apply for them' to fill in the enclosed forms.

The Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment Convalescent Hospital in Fulbourn also gave the opportunity for some local men to serve there, rather than in the Volunteer Force. Thus C.J. Pask (Fulbourn) was informed on 25 October 1916 that 'The Tribunal are willing that you should join the V.A.D. instead of the Volunteer Force'.

However, it seems the Local Tribunal were flexible enough to accommodate a change of mind! A letter sent to Jonas Turner (Thatcher, Fulbourn) dated 18 October 1916 declared

'Your letter was read at a meeting of the Tribunal yesterday and it was resolved that you be allowed to join the V.A.D. instead of the Volunteer Force.'

Yet nearly two weeks later, on 1 November 1916, Mr Turner was notified that

'The Tribunal reviewed your Certificate again this morning and made an amended order that you should join the Volunteer Force instead of the V.A.D.'

Serving in either capacity, which involved drills and deployment obviously required that considerable time be devoted to training. Mr Symonds was obliged, on occasion, to warn some persons that they were not fulfilling the terms of their Exemption Certificate. As a letter addressed to Mr O T Pask, Butcher, High Street, Fulbourn just over a month after his certificate was awarded reveals

'I was directed at the meeting of the Tribunal on Wednesday to remind you that your exemption was granted on condition you joined the Volunteer Force and that you have not yet done so. I am to inform you that unless you do your certificate will be removed'.

During food rationing, the occupation of butcher might well be quite stressful and busy,

which may account for his non-compliance. Certainly, another Fulbourn butcher, Mr A D Whitmore must also have made an enquiry about the necessity of joining the Volunteer Force, as Mr Symonds reply dated 1 July 1918, shows

‘Under the present regulations everyone has to join the Volunteers unless they are exempted by the Tribunal and as no application has been made you are liable to join’.

It would appear that Mr Whitmore’s attempt to persuade the Local Tribunal to change their mind fell on deaf ears as Mr Symonds explained

‘Your letter was read at a meeting of the Tribunal this morning, but they were not able to release you from service as a volunteer’.

Admittedly, the information obtained from the Chesterton Rural District letter books during WWI is somewhat sparse. However, what can be inferred is the imposition of a bureaucratic system which required form filling and strict adherence to procedure and regulations. All of which must have had considerable impact on the lives of those who perhaps encountered it for the first time.

Glynis Arber

FULBOURN WINDMILL (Part I).

Sail and Fantail Restoration Project 2013 - 2016

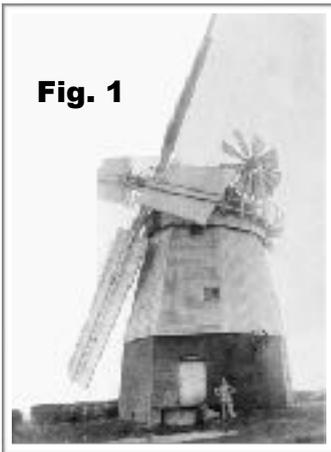


Fig. 1

Introduction

Fulbourn Mill stands on an outlier of the Gog Magog hills some 4 miles East of Cambridge. Its prominent position makes it an important local landmark and an icon that has been adopted by several local institutions. Built in 1808, the mill is an octagonal smock mill (so called because of its resemblance to a miller’s smock) standing ca 45ft high, on a brick base, with 3 sets of millstones. Initially built to replace a watermill that ceased working following the drainage and enclosure of the local fenland, the mill benefited from its position at the heart of the local area’s productive arable farms. The mill operated profitably in the hands of the local Chaplin family through most of the 19th century (fig 1).

However, towards the end of that period, as increasing quantities of imported grain put pressure on local wheat prices, and grain milling was increasingly transferred to more efficient steam mills, flour production at Fulbourn mill gradually declined and milling shifted to less profitable animal feeds, mainly on behalf of small local tenant farmers. In the summer of 1933 the windmill was struck twice by lightning which split the mill from top to bottom on one side. Three years later another storm blew the fantail off the mill. The mill finally ceased grinding in 1937. The mill was then left to decay for the next quarter of a century and by the 1970s was in imminent danger of collapse (fig 2).



Fig. 2



Recognising the importance of the mill, both as an increasingly rare example of a key element of local industrial archaeology, and as a notable local landmark, a local Society was formed in 1974 with the aim of restoring and preserving the mill. Over the following 25 years, with the support of the Mill owners, Paul and Sarah Mardon, a group of local volunteers and a local Windmill Society, the mill was made weatherproof, the sails refurbished, a skeleton fantail installed, copper sheeting placed over the mill cap and the external weatherboarding replaced. By 2000, the external appearance of the mill had been largely restored and, with its internal workings still largely intact, provided a fine example of a Cambridgeshire smock mill (fig 3) (although sadly, structural weaknesses of the mill prevented any grinding of flour).

Over the next 10 years, the Mill was looked after on a largely care and maintenance basis, with the regular volunteers periodically repainting the mill and refurbishing some of the internal workings. In the meantime, the Mill changed ownership, with Dr Ian and Mrs Prue Harrison taking over the mill in 2006.

The Project

Although one of the pair of sails had been replaced during the restoration programme in the 1980s, by 2010 it became apparent that ingress of rainwater had caused significant damage to sails I and II. In particular, the stock (the main spar at the core of the sail) had become rotten and was only being held in place by the two large clamps on either side of the canister. Concern over its structural integrity resulted in the new owners contacting millwright Paul Kemp for advice on the remediation of the sails. As a result it was agreed that the affected pair of sails would need to be removed and replaced with a new pair. At the same time, it was agreed that the skeleton fantail, which had also suffered from rainwater damage, would need to be replaced. However, it was decided to take the opportunity to replace the skeleton with fantail blades which would replicate the original set, thereby restoring the external look of the mill closer to its original appearance.



In May 2013 a large crane was hired to remove the damaged pair of sails (fig 4). This revealed the extent of the rot inside the stock (fig 5). But more seriously, in removing sails I and II it was discovered that sails III and IV were also badly rotten and would also need urgent replacement, triggering a major rethink of the planned restoration programme.



With significant input from Paul Kemp, it was agreed that the scope of the project would be revised to achieve the goal of having a full set of turning sails, together with a cap that would be capable of turning to wind unaided, in line with its original design. This would require the completion of six key elements:

- The removal, reconstruction and reinstallation of all four sails
- The removal and rebuild of the fantail
- Refurbishment of the framework supporting the fantail (the staging), which would require the removal and refurbishment of some of its component parts
- The refurbishment of all the ironwork associated with the cap winding gear and the mechanism for opening and closing the shutters (the striking gear)
- Refurbishment of the kerb on which the cap sits to ensure it was true and level
- Reassembly of all components, with the addition of new sail shutters and a new lightning conductor

Dr Ian Harrison

Further information:

For further information about Fulbourn Mill, please visit the website www.fulbournwindmill.org.uk or find us on Facebook. The Mill is usually open to visitors on the first Saturday of every month, except December to February, although viewings outside these times can be made by prior arrangement with the owners at harrisons@oneservice.co.uk

Acknowledgements

The completion of this latest stage of the restoration of Fulbourn Mill has only been possible with the expertise, time and commitment of millwright Paul Kemp, to whom a real debt of gratitude is owed. Thanks must also go to the various volunteers who have willingly given up their own time and expertise to help work on the mill. In particular thanks should go to William Cook and Peter Filby, both of whom have been regular stalwarts on the mill for many years.

Although much of this restoration programme has been funded by the owners, thanks must also go to the Fulbourn Windmill Society, Fulbourn Parish Council, Peter Filby, the estate of the late Charles Swithinbank and to the Mills Section of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings for their financial contributions.

OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Members are encouraged to take up the new option of paying for your Annual Subscription to Fulbourn Village History Society by Standing Order. This will help immensely with our administration and avoid 'double payments' in future! The Standing Order Mandate form will be included with the 2017-18 Membership Form. It is though, still possible to pay by cheque or cash.

Your Membership Card will be available for collection at the October meeting. Please ensure that on your arrival, the Treasurer, Dr Ian Harrison, is informed as to whether you have already paid by Standing Order. Many Thanks.