



FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 59 SPRING 2024

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2024-2025

Our venue for the Talks will be in the Meeting Room of the Fulbourn Centre, starting at 7.30 pm.

2024

17 October 'A History of the Mill' by *Steve Temple*, followed by F.V.H.S. A.G.M.

21 November 'The History of Chivers' by *David Oates*

12 December 'The History of Christmas' by *Sean Lang*

2025

16 January 'How a Cambridge man made the Victorian Post Office so great - and what has gone wrong' by *Prof. Martin Daunton*

20 February 'A community of negligent, thoughtless, dissolute and incontinent spiritual harlots? The nunnery of St Radegund, Cambridge, and other religious women in medieval Cambridgeshire' by *Craig Cessford*

20 March 'Seeing Science - Objects from the Whipple Museum' by *Alison Giles*

17 April 'Fulbourn Windmill' by *Ian Harrison*

BOOK LAUNCH OF 'FULBOURN PAST' BY JOHN PATTEN

At the very successful 'Our Patch' event in May 2024, the Chair of Fulbourn Village History Society, Glynis Arber, took part in the book reading afternoon. Excerpts from John Patten's book 'Fulbourn Past' were read to an appreciative audience.

As John explained, he subsequently '*became curious to know more about the community in which Thomas had lived, what the village had been like and how it had developed up to the present day.*

This book is a collection of all those items of interest that have been gathered together over the last 15 years or so, about the Parish of Fulbourn. It can only be described as an 'overview' of the past and not a detailed or comprehensive history, since this would require more time and resources than those available to me at this time'.

The 'arrangement' of 'Fulbourn Past'. There are 17 Chapters, relating to particular subjects. Headings include: Early History, Archaeology, Antiquities, the Cambridge and Fulbourn Road,



the Village Roads, Village Schools, Water Supplies, Railways and Canals, Churches and Chapels, Parish Charities, Fulbourn Manors, Population in the 19th Century, Property, Farming, Field Enclosure, Village Affairs. These Chapters are illustrated by over 50 photographs and maps.

The Booklet was written in 1992. It was evidently a work in progress, and a Bibliography, list of primary and secondary sources used, was not found amongst John's notes.

We have printed out the booklet as it was received - apart from moving Chapter 13 'Village Affairs' to the final Chapter in the book.

Some of the photocopied images were of poor quality and have been replaced with enhanced photographs of similar views.

The layout has been slightly changed to accommodate illustrations within the text rather than on separate pages.

As a draft version, probably not entirely completed, the booklet ended somewhat abruptly.

Regretfully, John Patten did not provide a conclusion to 'Fulbourn Past'. John researched and wrote the booklet during a 15 year period from the late 1970's to early 1990's, providing a commentary on the village as it was then - and as such is a product of its time.

It would appear that Fulbourn as a village was undergoing a number of changes. New housing developments and businesses emerged which John documented whilst also making the point that many of the old buildings were being demolished. Indeed, the sections about the heritage of the village and its history are still valid.

Fulbourn Village History Society is extremely grateful to the family of John Patten for allowing us to transcribe into a digital format, his draft booklet entitled 'Fulbourn Past'. Its publication is funded by the Society and is part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations. Reference copies will be available in our Archive Store, Fulbourn Village Library and local schools.

Glynis Arber (Editor of Fulbourn Past)

A HISTORY OF SCHOOLS IN FULBOURN PART III: The early 19C **by Glynis Arber**

This article, based on a Presentation given at a F.V.H.S. meeting, is an amalgamation of all the research done on Schools in the parish of Fulbourn by members of The Fulbourn Village History Society over many years. Various sources eg Buildings, Maps, Documents, Newspaper reports and Photographs were consulted, all of which are in our Archive Store. Hopefully, a story emerges that gives an insight into education within the village from the early 19C to the early 21C.

Continuing the section on Sunday Schools, it was evident that they formed an important function as a provider of entertainment and social activities for the children of Fulbourn. A number of descriptions about The Annual Sunday School Treat in Fulbourn appear in The Chronicles. They all have the same formulae - games, food and later, prize giving. This is an account of the first one. The passage in bold reveals two facts - that 200 of the village's population of children (noted as being 'well-conducted' and appreciative) were members of the Sunday school and that some of the older boys were employed in agriculture.

July 20, 1844 Fulbourn. -

*The annual treat to the Children of the Sunday School was given on Wednesday afternoon at the Rectory. **About 200 children were present, some of the elder boys having been kindly allowed by their masters to leave their occupations in the field to attend on the happy occasion.....**Having spent an hour in a variety of innocent gaieties, they were regaled in the school-room with plum cake and tea; and the the well-known grace having been sung, they retired in groups, some joining in a simple dance, others trying their skill at leaping and other forms of activity, and others speeding along with a plough of their own contriving. Thus they amused themselves until fruit and wine were announced, and about half-past eight o'clock, the Evening Hymn having been sung, a selection from the beautiful Collects of the National Liturgy used, and the Blessing pronounced, these well-conducted children went to their homes delighted with their entertainment, and wishing to be at the treat another year.'*

EARLY NEWSPAPER REPORTS ABOUT VACCINATION IN FULBOURN by Glynis Arber

No doubt many of our members are now receiving reminders about having this year's flu jab and even the RSV virus vaccine. There are several references in the Fulbourn Chronicles to infectious diseases, including measles, having occurred in the village - especially during the 19th Century.

Perhaps one of the most significant was that appearing in the Cambridge General Advertiser on Wednesday 15 August 1849.

RAVAGES OF THE SMALL-POX. —*The smallpox has for some time past been prevalent in this parish, though fortunately very few cases have proved fatal, considering the numbers that have been attacked. At least 150 have suffered, but of these 13 only have died. It is worthy of remark that not one of the parties whose decease resulted had been vaccinated, and where vaccination had been performed, the disease presented itself in a much milder form, thus proving that if not a thorough prevention, vaccination at least modifies the severity of the attack of the disease. It is to be presumed then that there are many parents who would now be happy in the society of the late victims had they taken the advice of parties much more competent to judge of the efficiency of vaccination than they can possibly be, while many formerly a pretty face has received indelible marks of the neglect of parents in this respect.*

Evidently, there was still resistance to the procedure. It was, after all, only about 50 years earlier in 1796, that the world's first vaccine was demonstrated. Centuries beforehand, there had been successful attempts in Asia and some parts of Africa, of using the practise of Variolation as an ameliorative measure. This consisted of transferring small amounts of material directly from small pox sores to healthy people. It resulted in a milder form of the illness and a much lower mortality rate.

Variolation was introduced into Europe by the wife of the British Ambassador to Turkey, Lady

Mary Wortley Montagu in 1721 after she had seen the practice in the Ottoman Empire.

The world's first vaccine was not demonstrated until 1796 when Dr Edward Jenner inoculated 8 year old James Phipps with matter from a cowpox sore on the hand of a local milkmaid. This less dangerous viral source left the boy unwell but making a full recovery within a few days. During the following months, Dr Jenner inoculated the child repeatedly again - this time with matter from a smallpox sore. Phipps did not succumb to smallpox proving the efficacy - if not the ethical conduct by today's standards - of Dr Jenner's treatment.

Initially, there were rumours that the vaccine would turn people into cows - as shown by Gilroy's iconic cartoon below.



However, by 1801 extensive testing had shown it to be effective protection against smallpox. At some point in the 1800's the vaccine changed from cowpox to vaccinia virus.

Eventually, mandatory vaccination against smallpox came into effect in Britain, the USA and other parts of the world during the 1840's and 1850's, leading to the requirement of vaccination certificates for travellers. It is now the first and only human disease to be eradicated globally.

Yet in Fulbourn there was still resistance to its use - not just in the 1849 Fulbourn cases but later, in 1903 when the Cambridge Daily News reported on Tuesday 13 October.

Vaccination Exemption. —*At the Bottisham Sessions, on Monday, before Mr. C. P. Allix (chairman), Mr. R. S. Hicks, and Mr. W. Ambrose, application for certificate of exemption from vaccination by Edmund Webb and Alfred Edward Hollis, in respect to their children, were granted. —Mr. Webb, in support of his application, said his sister had three children who were "totally ruined" through vaccination.—Mr. Hollis said he had known cases where children came out full of sores after vaccination. He had had one exemption.—Mr. Allix did not think that was a sufficient reason, and refused to sign the certificate, which was granted by the two other magistrates.*

Regrettably, vaccine hesitancy for various complex reasons, is still an issue today.

Websites consulted:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/history-of-smallpox-vaccination>

<https://www.cdc.gov/smallpox/history/>

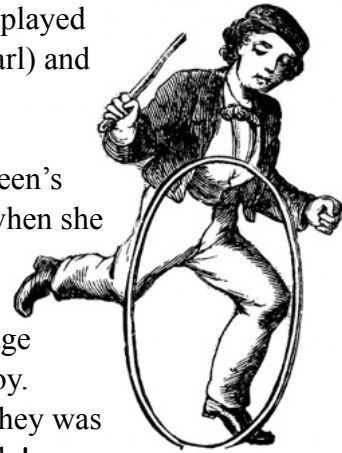
HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ARTEFACTS HELD IN OUR STORE: A Child's Hoop by Glynis Arber



A metal 'hoop' dating from the Victorian period and owned by a Fulbourn family. It was played with by Mrs Doreen Teversham (née Pearl) and her six siblings.

Later, the hoop was still enjoyed by Doreen's daughter, Ann Sporle (née Teversham) when she was little.

Such hoops - probably made by the village blacksmith - were a popular children's toy. Guided by the separate handle or stick, they were rolled along - no doubt as fast as possible!



TOWNLEY MEMORIAL HALL REQUEST

Fulbourn Village History Society is part of the Centennial Working party which is organising events to celebrate Townley Memorial Hall's 100th 'birthday' in May 2025. Do you, your family or friends have any documents or photographs which are connected to the village hall? For instance, publicity posters and flyers of functions held there. The Fulbourn Chronicles have revealed that meetings of Village Societies were held in the room regularly, especially the Women's Institute. It was also the venue for wedding receptions - couples include Norman Osborne & Janet Rogers (May 1957), Michael Sporle & Ann Teversham (November 1957), Maureen Page and James Sanderson (August 1958), Brian Addley and Janet Harley (November 1959), Frederick Johnson and Gwendolene Andrews (1961), Veronica Liles and Frederick Sharman (October 1960), John Wayne and Marilyn Harris (January 1965). Perhaps you have photographs taken on such occasions? Any such documents can be digitally copied and the originals returned to you.

If you are able to help, please email info@fulbournhistory.org.uk and we will get into contact with you.

REVIEWS OF FULBOURN HISTORY SOCIETY TALKS

December 2023. The History of Father Christmas - his Rise, Fall and Triumph.

Aided by mince pies and mulled wine, a wonderful start to the festive season was provided for us by Honor Ridout, with her history of Christmas and the bearded man in the red suit.

St Nicholas was an early Christian bishop who died in December 343 AD. Perhaps his most famous exploit was to save from prostitution the three daughters of a merchant, who had fallen on hard times. Legend has it that he dropped a bag of gold coins down their chimney on three consecutive nights, a dowry for each of them. Thus, the tradition of Sinterklaas (Santa Claus) began.

The twelve days of Christmas started on Christmas Day in medieval times. A Lord of Misrule was chosen, who was in charge of festivities in local halls and one was also chosen in the courts of Kings. However, this all changed by virtue of a government ordinance in 1644. The Puritan government stated that "Festival days vulgarly known as Holy days, having no warrant in the Word of God, are not to be continued". As a result, Christmas all but disappeared, much to the annoyance of the populace. In 1660 the ordinances were overturned - Charles II was back and the fall of Father Christmas was over.

On 23rd December 1823 a poem was published that seemed to sum up Christmas. *'Twas the night before Christmas* is the more well-known title of the original *A visit from Saint Nicholas*. There was mention of the jolly old man with a little round belly that shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly – yet he somehow came down the chimney and filled all the children's stockings with toys.

January 2024. The Cambridge Scientific Company. Report by Tim Vaughan-Lane

The History Society's January talk was enthusiastically given by Dr Richard Paden, an Honorary member of the Royal Microscopical Society. He did a Natural science degree at Cambridge but for his part 2 changed to Engineering. His PhD was to "build" an electron microscope. He joined the CSIC in 1967. He subsequently moved to EMI in Bar Hill. He spent 35 years designing Electron microscopes finishing as CEO.



However, illustrations of the time were of him in a green gown. This goes back to ancient pre-Christian midwinter festivals, where an unnamed pagan figure dressed in a green hooded cloak and wreath of holly or ivy would appear in order to lighten the bleakest time of the year.

Life sized Santa's were the subject of many seasonal early 20C magazine illustrations. But the modern iconic image of the red coated white bearded figure is derived from one produced by Haddon Sunburn in 1931, with the first classic Father Christmas advertisements for Coca Cola.



He then described the Darwin family tree and Charles's marriage to Emma (Ida) W Farrer 1839. They had ten children and Charles's fifth son Horace was born in 1851. He gained a BA whilst at Trinity College in 1874. He then took up a three year apprenticeship with Easton and Anderson engineers in Kent. On his return to Cambridge, he started to design scientific instruments for the University. In 1881 the CSIC was formed in partnership with his friend Albert Dew-Smith.

Their first premises were in Panton Street but as the firm grew it moved to Tibbs Row in 1882. Everything was done by hand to a very high specification that the firm was renowned for. Drew-Smith moved on in 1891 setting up his own business but he didn't move far. It was on the top floor of the building! Horace became the sole owner.

So, what did the firm produce? One of the most successful was a rocking microtome which continued in production until the early 70s. A microtome is an instrument used to produce fine slices of material such as tumours so that they can be examined under a microscope. Another unusual instrument was a micrometer used to study and analyse the rate at which worms could bury stones in the ground!

In 1894/5 the firm moved to larger premises. The workforce had increased from 25 to over 400, mainly men. Machine tools were introduced in 1896. Mechanical power for the tools was at one time provided by a tractor! Robert Whipple became Horace's assistant then MD in 1905 and Chairman in 1940. The museum that bears his name in Free School Lane features many of the CSIC instruments.

Horace was mayor of Cambridge from 1896 to 1897. He was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1903. The company contributed to the war effort in both the first and second world wars. A gun sounding apparatus must have saved countless lives by accurate location of enemy gun sites. Not so successful was the underwater sounding device tested in local swimming baths. Horace was knighted for his war work in 1918. The firm amalgamated with the London firm of Robert Paul in 1919.

They were renowned for their work with galvanometers. Production was in specialised "shops" around the site. Professor Einthoven, working in Leiden, in the Netherlands, produced the first working ECG in 1905. By the end of 1915 the CSIC had produced 84 to their own design. The diversity of instruments produced included an early aircraft trainer, the fore runner of the Lynx trainer microscope.

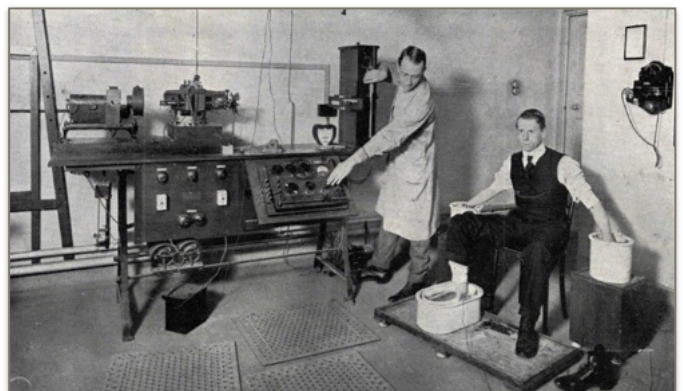
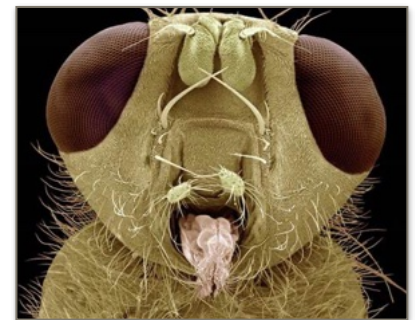
Following discoveries in the early twentieth century such as X-rays and radioactivity, the CSIC led the way in electron microscopes and micro scan analysis. The constituent parts of a sample would be revealed by micro scanning,

eg chromium, iron, and aluminium. The first electron scanning device in 1951 was engineered using surplus war materials. In 1965 the company produced their own 3D scanning microscope.



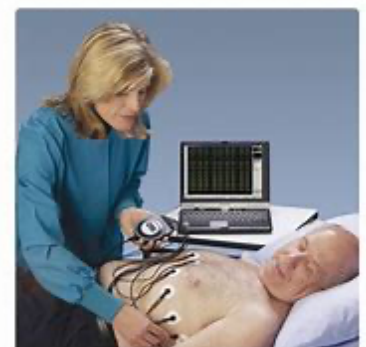
One of the original CSIC electron microscopes, costing over £250,000. Current desk top versions can be bought for under £10,000

A modern electron microscopic picture of a fly's head



Above: An original ECG machine. Note the foot and arm in an ice bucket.

A difference from a modern machine!



Unfortunately, the CSIC was not as good a business company as it was an instrument making company. It underwent many mergers, and finally ceased trading in 1968 after a century of pioneering work. The members enjoyed the talk as much as Doctor Paden had enjoyed his career.

February 2024. The History of Denny Abbey at the Farmland Museum. Report by Tim Vaughan-Lane

Christine Easterfield one of the Guides at the Abbey started this very interesting talk by asking us how many people had visited the Abbey and embarrassingly only a few had. This English Heritage site is just up the road from Fulbourn off the A10 towards Ely. The site has been inhabited and farmed from before Roman times. It is of note in that it is a raised area of land above the surrounding marshy lands. It is featured in the Domesday book and was recorded as belonging to Edith the Fair, the consort of King Harold.



Alan first Earl of Richmond founded the church which was consecrated in 1159, a group of monks from Ely having moved to set up the church. They followed the Benedictine rules of Prayer, Obedience, Discipline, Humility and Hospitality. This was a simple church but only occupied by them until 1159.

The Knights Templar moved in. They completed the church and added a Priest's house. They used the buildings essentially as a retirement home for old and sick members of the order. The Knights were bankers and their wealth was much envied by European countries and the Papacy. Many members in Europe were executed when it was disbanded in 1308.

The crown then passed the buildings and surrounding farmlands on to Marie de St Pol, Countess of Pembroke, and founder of Pembroke College, the third oldest of Cambridge colleges. The Poor Clare Nuns, a branch of the Franciscan order moved reluctantly from Waterbeach but at least they were dry!

The Countess did not join the order but expanded the church into a much grander affair. A building for her occupation was added with a window through which she could observe the church services. Part of the original church was knocked down leaving the oldest part as a farmhouse.

Further damage to the buildings occurred during the reformation. Much of the large church was taken down; stone and decorative features from the Abbey were used elsewhere including the city of London. The farmhouse was then leased to various personages including Tobias Hobson's daughter, he of Conduit and Hobson's choice. A farming family by name of Dimmock bought the farmland but the buildings remained in the care of the Ministry of works and subsequently English Heritage. The farm is still worked by the Martin family.

So, what is there to see in the farmhouse? It was pretty derelict when English Heritage embarked on an extensive renovation project in the 50s and 60s. The garderobe on the second floor provided a snapshot of what people ate at Denny, fig and grape pips being recovered. Garderobe is French for cupboard. A large arch of the Benedictine church has been revealed. Some stone pillars are still in evidence but others had been used to construct a link to the Ely road. Some floor tiles from the Countess of Pembroke's time remain. The large entertainment room was brightly painted as is evidenced by yellow paint on a wall.

The Dimmocks were still using the room for parties until the early 1920s. The refectory is a separate building, once used as a barn. Pottery shards were found as were some well-preserved 14th century floor tiles. There remains a large pillar on the outside of the farmhouse, one of the pillars that lined the nave of the large addition to the church. The door to the Countess of Pembroke's house can clearly be seen, this enabled her to have access without having to go through the church.



March 2024. Roman Tunisia. Report by Glynis Arber

Although sadly due to illness, the programmed Talk for March was cancelled, members were still able to learn more about the Ancient Romans - this time those living in Tunisia rather than Britain. Glynis Arber, Chair of Fulbourn Village History Society, filling in for the speaker, gave a presentation which was based upon a holiday taken in 2006.

The main focus was on the archaeology of Carthage, Utica and Dougga followed by a 'visit' to the Bardo Museum in Tunis. A map helpfully showed the extent of the Phoenician trading empire - and the location to their main settlement's including those in modern day Tunisia. There was a brief chronological history of the city of Carthage founded (allegedly in 814 BC by the Tyrian princess Dido) and eventually conquered by the Romans in 146 BC.

Through a series of photographs, a 'tour' of the ancient sites was given including the Acropolis at Bysra Hill where excavations revealed remains of a Carthaginian residential neighbourhood built in a regular rectangular grid showing houses, water tanks, drains, plastered walls and tiled floors.



Stone 'memorial' found at The Tophat.

Of particular significance was the area known as The Tophat, the oldest religious site in Carthage and the sanctuary of the Carthaginian divinities Tanit and Baal-Hammon. According to legend, the noble Carthaginian families brought their children here to be ritually sacrificed. It is certainly true that Urns containing ashes and the remains of many children have been found there.

Dougga became the economic and administration centre of a rich agricultural area, and was a Roman colony by the end of the 2nd century AD. Utica however, was made a free city and the administrative centre of the Roman province of Africa because it had supported Rome against Carthage in the third Punic War (149-146 BC).

It was evidently very prosperous as seen by the high quality mosaics still in situ within the remains of buildings.

From the archaeology discovered, Carthage was a major maritime city - the port built c. 200 BC had anchorage for 220 vessels. Many of the other ancient cities explored had more Roman rather than Carthaginian structures surviving. Particular highlights in Dougga were the beautifully engineered paved streets which showed no signs of potholes even after 2000 years! Also the imposing Theatre built in 168-9 AD and able to hold 3500 people. No wonder also on site was a communal latrine with 'seating' for ten!

Arguably, it is the mosaics dating from the Roman period that were the most impressive part of the talk. Many of these have been re-located to the Bardo Museum in Tunis and provide a fascinating commentary on the social life and economy of the time. There were designs illustrating people farming, fishing, hunting and socialising as well as the more usual, mythological portrayals of gods and goddesses. The craftsmanship of the artists was staggering and subtle expressions on humans and animals were created through the well considered placement of the tesserae.



This mosaic of an especially evil looking goat caused much amusement.

Bringing the talk to a conclusion, some slides were shown of 'picturesque' Tunisia - including the fortresses built at harbours to protect against pirates and enemies, the Souk, architectural features such as doors and windows and finally, a young lady performing a traditional 'belly dance'.

It would appear from positive feedback that the audience found Plan B an agreeable substitute for the cancelled Talk, which hopefully will be re-arranged for a future date.