

## EDITORIAL

Another year for the Thriplow Society! At our AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> April we said thank you to Shirley Wittering who had completed five years as Chairman and welcomed Wendy Seaton as her replacement. Shirley had given great service to the Society, attending all Committee and regular meetings and outings as well as continuing her academic work and holding her weekly classes for the Spinning Group. In addition, for the past year she had been caring for the recuperation of her husband, Bill, who has now recovered his good health and will soon be back to driving once more. Well done Shirley for her work also as the joint editor of this journal and for acting as the Society's archivist.

Wendy is a relative newcomer to the village, but is well known to most of its residents. She and her husband, Ian, live at Manor Farm (known to older villagers as St. John's College Farm) in Church Street. They acted as our hosts for the strawberry tea which the Society held in their gardens on a sunny Saturday in July. Welcome to Wendy and our good wishes for an interesting period of office. We also elected to our committee at the AGM Dr. Anthony Cooper of Lower Street, and welcome him also to our work; he has agreed to act as the Secretary at committee meetings.

We record with deep sorrow the death of Arthur Rowe, an enthusiastic member of the society, and a committee member from the very first meeting. He had lived in Thriplow for many years and had a real love for the village, especially for its agricultural history. An appreciation of Arthur is contained in the edition of the Journal.

Some of you attended our meeting in June when Cherry Fisher of Ashton, just across the border of Cambridgeshire in Essex, gave a first class talk on the discovery by her husband and herself some twenty years ago of a hoard of silver coins in a local hedge bottom. From the first sighting of a few coins scratched away by their dog they gradually came across in just one spot, a collection of over two thousand coins, mainly silver in almost mint condition. The coins were mostly from the early eighteenth century and were declared treasure trove by the coroner in Saffron Walden. After the British Museum and local museums had had their choice the rest were sold, for a quite handsome profit. Take careful watch of the many walkers with dogs who perambulate our lanes and footpaths. They too may be searching for buried treasure!

Our next meeting, the first of the Autumn season will be a talk by Dr Tom Williamson from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, on 'The History of Gardens', on Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 8.0pm, do come along.

*Peter Speak and Shirley Wittering, Joint Editors.*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2005/6

This is our 14<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of the Thriplow Society. As our society is now a budding teenager, I thought you might like a few vital statistics about her.

When we first started we planned to have three talks a year, three outings and three social events. Also three Journals. We still have three Journals a year but all the others have changed somewhat. We now have on average 6 talks a year and over the years we have had 24 outings and excursions and 30 social events. We have produced 42 Journals and we still are finding material to write about. We are very grateful for the articles given to us by you, please keep them coming, everyone had a story to tell.

It is my privilege to thank those who have helped the Society over the past year and I gladly do so now. First I would like to thank my committee for their helpful advice and support. Those who help with the Christmas Tree and in cleaning and manning the Smithy at Daffodil weekend, I have thanked in the Journal and I repeat my thanks to them. I must thank Peter Speak, our secretary, he was our first Chairman and has guided the Society well over the years; he is now retiring but has agreed to stay on the committee, thank you Peter.

Next thank you to Ken and Valerie Joysey for organising the refreshments at each meeting, to Betty Parker who puts our posters up for us, and to David Easthope our vice-chairman and Village Hall representative.

Thanks to Geoffrey Axe for sorting out the membership tangle as membership secretary and to Peter Yates our ever efficient Treasurer.

Three members who are not on the committee deserve our thanks, Pat Easthope who very kindly prints our programmes and '*Welcome to Thriplow*' our leaflet for newcomers, Bill Wittering keeps this publication up to date, thanks also to him for manning the membership table and for selling the publications, also for his help in dispatching the Journals and for the many articles he writes for the Journal. And to Keith Evans who has taken the publications over from Bill and has been a great help in many other ways.

I would like to give special thanks to Elsie Evans for producing a wonderful programme for another year; she works really hard yet never makes a fuss. And to Wendy Seaton our publicity secretary who is always ready to have our committee meetings in her home at short notice and she and Ian have been very generous with their hospitality.

Some more statistics; 7 committee members have been on the committee since we started, we have had 3 Chairmen, 3 Secretaries and 5 Treasurers, which over a period of 14 years shows us to be a very stable lot, I think you'll agree. We have over 80 family members, a remarkable number and our subscriptions have remained at £5 for many years, which I'm sure you will agree is wonderful value.

I have done my 5 years in office and am now stepping down. It has been a great privilege to be Chairman and I'm sure the Thriplow Society will be in good hands in many years to come.

Thank you.

*Shirley Wittering*

## **THE LATE ARTHUR ROWE (1923-2006)**

**– An Appreciation by Bill Wittering**



Arthur (2nd right) with his friends Shirley Wittering, Peter Speak and Bill Wittering at the Smithy 1996

I think the first time I met Arthur was one early Daffodil Weekend when he and his daughter Amber were polishing stones, collected from Norfolk beaches, in a tent in their front garden in Church Street. He had built the polishing machine himself.

Perhaps the next opportunity to talk to him was subsequent to a Parish Council meeting in 1991 when it was decided that something had to be done after a gale that year had damaged the barn at Bacons Manor which had housed the village's museum established by the late Mossy Arbon and opened every Daffodil Weekend. The roof had been lifted up by the gale and moved about six inches. The Council were anxious to save the articles displayed there; the owner, Oliver Walston, was concerned for the safety of people visiting it. At this meeting in 1991, the Council decided that a Sub-Committee be set-up under my chairmanship to advise them on what action should be taken. The Sub-Committee consisted of Geoffrey Axe, David Easthope, Ken Joysey and Arthur Rowe. The Parish Clerk (June Rowe – Arthur's wife whom he married in 1960) had said how much her husband would like to be a member of this body. So Arthur was rather more than a founder member of the Society; he took part in establishing it.

Arthur very quickly showed his value to the Society. He had farmed with his brother Cyril near Chatteris so his knowledge of farm implements was invaluable. After moving to Thriplow when he married June, he had sold his share of the farm to Cyril and had taken a job at the Welding Institute at Abington.

He took a great interest in the Smithy on the Green and spent a lot of time in restoring the

old tools there. His *magnum opus* was in restoring and repainting the old Ransom plough which now stands outside the CPB Twyford laboratory in Church Street. At Daffodil Weekends, he loved nothing better than to be in the Smithy chatting away to visitors about farming in the Fens and the old tools on display. At most meetings, Arthur could be relied on to put interesting questions to the speaker and somehow always manage to interject some point involving the Fens. At one of our Christmas parties, he volunteered to make some 'real' mince pies. These were made not with mincemeat but with real mince! They were lovely. At that time, we had no idea that one of Arthur's hobbies was cooking. He and June collected antique cups and saucers. I remember on the occasions I was invited into their house, I would be taken into the sitting room and asked to take a seat. This was nearly always impossible because the chairs, as well as everything else, were covered with crockery!

Of course, gardening was his first love and it was that that drew him and June together. He collected lithops, a form of cactus that look like pebbles. When he showed me his collection in his greenhouse, he said that he had all the different kinds of lithops in the world except for three. "But I'll get them", he said. He also enjoyed motoring and treated himself to a new Ford Focus every two years. His favourite destination was Harwich where he and June had spent many happy holidays.

Arthur was devastated when June died. He would call round to our house completely unannounced where, over a cup of tea and a biscuit, he and I would reminisce about our times in the Royal Air Force – he had served in the Far East servicing aircraft. We would exchange books on the subject of which, I believe, he had quite a collection. He would then walk round the garden with Shirley, looking and discussing the plants.

It is very difficult when reminiscing to know when to stop, but I must. Thank you Arthur for all you did for the Society. Long may you enjoy your well-earned rest in that place in the sky where all good Fen Tigers go.

*.Bill Wittering*



The first Thriplow Society Committee with Arthur Rowe second left.

## A.S.Rowe. My Life

I was born at CHATTERIS in 1923.

I went to school until the age of 14. When I was young in the 1930s, my friend and I were walking down the road at West Moor, when we saw on the horizon towards Ramsey, 7 waterspouts, these are common in the fens in July and August, but not in so great a number. When we turned, there was a great big one nearly overhead, so we dived into the dyke at the side of the road. Waterspouts tend to follow the dykes and drains. A man with horse and cart on the road along the Sixteen Foot Drain near Chatteris was lifted into the drain by a waterspout. Corn stacks and shocks of corn have been lifted and spread about by waterspouts.

On leaving school in 1937, I worked in my father's orchard for a year, looking after geese and hens; cleaning out the roosts and collecting eggs, (also catching rabbits with a copper wire snare). The following year I went to work on the farm, which was Bedfords farm, then became the Golden Drop farm named after the nearby public house in Tick Fen Warboys. I worked with horses, among them was Jinnie who was 23 years old and wanted to do everything her own way, including at 2.30 in the afternoon going off up the road to the farm. Then there was Sharper who was my best worker, a Suffolk male, enormous and very kind natured.

We had two tractors, both Internationals, a 10/20 and a W.30 both with steel wheels. I learned to drive them and to plough and do all the other jobs that have to be done. We also had a very small Ransom crawler which was used in the orchard and to lift sugar beet. I even ploughed a 10 acre field with it

I was called up and joined the RAF, at the start of 1943 after being in the ATC, and went to Cardington to be kitted out, then to Skegness for square bashing ,then Ipswich airport, Cosford, Mountbatten, Plymouth, Halton, Inverness and Peterhead amongst others, working on many different aircraft,

I was posted overseas; I went on the Mauritania from Liverpool, across the Atlantic in a terrible gale, on through the Med. through Suez to Bombay, where we prepared vehicles for the invasion of Malaya. Then to Madras. Then, surprise, surprise, embarked on a ship for the invasion, code named Pyg or Brisk. We arrived off Morib beach at night in another gale and when it got light, embarked on a landing barge which took us nearer the shore, then onto smaller barges for the final landing. We were warned there might be eight foot of water, as it turned out we had three foot to jump into, which increased to four foot deep nearer the shore which was about a mile or so away. When we got ashore at last we were told that the Japs had surrendered that day.

After a couple of weeks at various places we arrived at a small town, Klang. We used to go to port Swettenham to collect the mail and other things.

After a while I went Kuala Lumpur, then on to Singapore. Most of our food was used to feed the native people. We used to swap our biscuits etc. for eggs, they, had plenty, and we had two or more at every meal, morning, noon and night. Then in 1946 I came home, I weighed seven stone!

When we saw the green fields of England it was wonderful, we had to stop in the channel

near the Isle of Wight to allow the Queen Elizabeth to come in to port before us, to be refitted from an auxiliary cruiser back to a luxury liner.

After coming back home in 1948, I bought A Morris Minor/ MG J2 built in 1932; I wish I still had it, especially as I only paid £100 for it

In 1960 I met June, in 1963 Amber was born. 1964 I went to work at the British Welding Research Association Institute, Abington (now The Welding Institute) and bought my house in Thriplow for £4,250, it was built behind two old cottages in the late 1930s, which were then demolished. The day I moved in I had a phone call from Mr Murray who offered the small piece of land adjoining for £1,000 on which he said he could build a bungalow or a row of garages if I did not buy it; I said no! Later on he was killed in a bicycle accident at Guyhirn where he lived. I bought it from his son Derrick for £100.

A few years later I saw a small figure of a little girl go down the hall to the front bed room, we thought it was the daughter of the previous owner who had died in the house some years before.



The house that predated Arthur's house, where the ghost of the little girl probably lived

In 1967 for the first Daffodil Weekend, Mr Shearing, who lived next door, and I went to the Wisbech bulb auctions to buy bulbs and flowers for sale at the smithy on the green; we did this for several years. Mr Shearing, later on offered me some tickets in a raffle at the open day at Pest Controls Harston where he worked, I bought a book. Later he rang me to say that I had won first prize, a 12 x 8 Critall greenhouse which was delivered that day.

Some years later June and I had a tent on the front lawn with a display of stone polishing and stones which we had collected on Norfolk beaches and polished in a machine which I built and had working in the tent, we did this for several years,

I remember several years when we were snowbound for a few days and a year when there was a terrific gale and trees were blown down. I did not get to work until late by going round by Cambridge.

I had a session in hospital in 1978. When I came round after ten days I did not smoke and lost most of my memory, I had another go in hospital in 1988 and was out for about a week and after a month or two my memory started to come back.

In the early 1990s we held the first meetings of what was to become the Thriplow

Society at the Wittering's house in Middle Street. After the society was formed we held an exhibition for Daffodil Weekend in the pigeon loft at the Bury for several years. I restored the plough and painted it and it now stands at CPB. Twyford. Church Street. In the last few years we have had a smaller exhibition in the Smithy. We also look after the Smithy for the Parish Council.

*Arthur Rowe*



Arthur Rowe in Smithy 2002



Some familiar faces from the past.

From left: Doug Andrews, Sid Badcock, Ted Fuller, George Fuller, George Hall and Tim Pettit. In the background are Peter Hall and Joe Ramsey. Taken at the Dart's Club in the 1960s.



## R I P

Just before Daffodil Weekend 2006, the County Council replaced all the wooden stiles to the designated footpaths within the village with large, metal 'Kissing Gates'. These presumably were to allow disable access to the footpaths. Unfortunately they did not check whether the footpaths themselves were suitable for wheelchairs, they are not. Not only that but the FOOTpaths are for foot access not wheeled access which is what WHEEL chairs are. How much did all this cost? And how much of the rural character was taken into consideration when the local wooden stiles were replaced by these metal monsters?

*"Took a walk in the fields saw an old wood stile taken away from a favourite spot which it had occupied all my life the posts were overgrown with ivy and it seemed so akin to nature and the spot where it stood as though it had taken it on lease for an undisturbed existence it hurt me to see it was gone for my affections claim a friendship with such things..."*  
(John Clare's 'Journal', Sept 1824)

**THE ROMAN ROAD**  
**A PLEASANT WALK ON A SUNNY DAY**

The so-called Roman Road – actually it is part of the Icknield Way and pre-dates the Romans – is only half a mile from the nearest part of Thriplow lying just to the south of Chrishall Grange. To get there, drive to the A505, turn right and then take the first left. After passing through Chrishall Grange, there is a single track motorable road leading to Ickleton; the unmade up Roman Road is to the right at this point.

In the field to the right of the track, the farmer used to keep deer but sadly they are no longer there. On the left of the track, the farmer, in conjunction with DEFRA, had planted a wide belt of wild flowers which suggests that a spring walk could be rewarding.

The hedge on the right is very old; if you believe in dating a hedge by the number of tree species in it, I suspect your calculation might take you back to pre-Roman times! This year (2006) there was a glut of sloes (the fruit of the blackthorn), bullaces (the wild greengage) and crab apples – I don't remember ever having seen so many before. Other interesting trees include the dogwood (planted in the past to make skewers or “dogs”, as they were known, used by butchers) and the purging buckthorn – I would not try eating the berries if I were you! Sloes make excellent sloe gin and crab apples can be used in making crab apple jelly.

After a mile of walking, you reach the Fowlmere to Heydon road. Just before that point, to the left there is a lovely view up a valley towards a block of woodland called Anthonyhill Plantation. A track leads that way towards Heydon. There used to be a sign there at one time saying that the track was private but it was not there recently.

If you want to walk further, cross the New Road (which goes to Chishill) and then the Barley Road (B1368). You will then pass Noon's Folly Farm on your right and eventually join the A505 a couple of miles short of Royston.

*Bill Wittering*

## Tales of Thriplow 4

### There are Peacocks in my Garden!



**Peacocks on my roof, May 1990**

One bright sunny morning in May 1990, I looked out of my bedroom window to see two peacocks (a male and a female) walking down the garden path. I hurriedly dressed and went down to see what they were up to. My presence frightened them and they flew on to the roof of the house. I walked down the garden path to find that in at least three places in the vegetable patch they had tried to make nesting sites each covering about a square yard!

The main problem however was whose birds were they. I knew that Bob Smith, the antique dealer from Fowlmere, kept peacocks – he had an old house with a large garden in Chapel Lane. Had these two escaped?

While I was pondering what to do, the birds had flown – into my neighbour's (Arthur Humphrey's) garden. After a while I went round to see what he had done with them. "I just shooed them into next door's garden", he said!

The facts came to light a bit later. Apparently, Michael Walton, who lived in Thriplow House, had decided that it would be nice to have some peacocks in his property, which extended to over 7 acres, so he bought a pair from Bob Smith. Obviously they resented being taken from their pals in Fowlmere and perhaps found the lodgings provided in Thriplow not to their liking. Hence they had set out to find their way back to their old home. Initially Michael collected them and tried to make them happy but to no avail. After a while he gave up and took them back to Bob Smith where presumably they lived happily ever after.

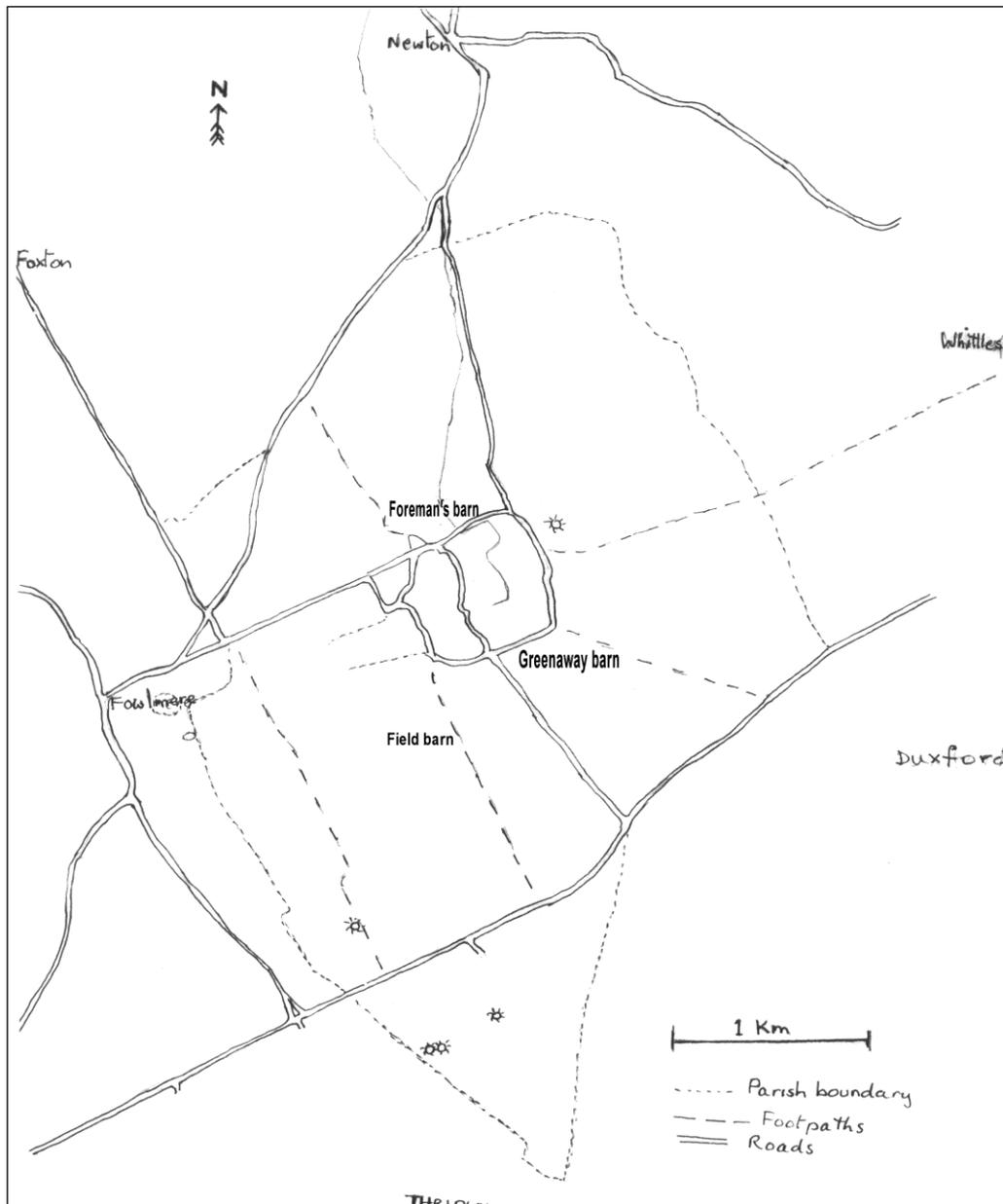
Sadly Bob Smith died a couple of years ago. Whether his peacocks still grace Chapel lane, I do not know. Michael Walton sold Thriplow House about two years ago and went to live in Kirtling near Newmarket.

*Bill Wittering*

**FORGOTTEN NAMES AND LOST LOCATIONS**  
**THRIPLow'S OLD BARNS AND CATTLE YARDS**

Michael Moule

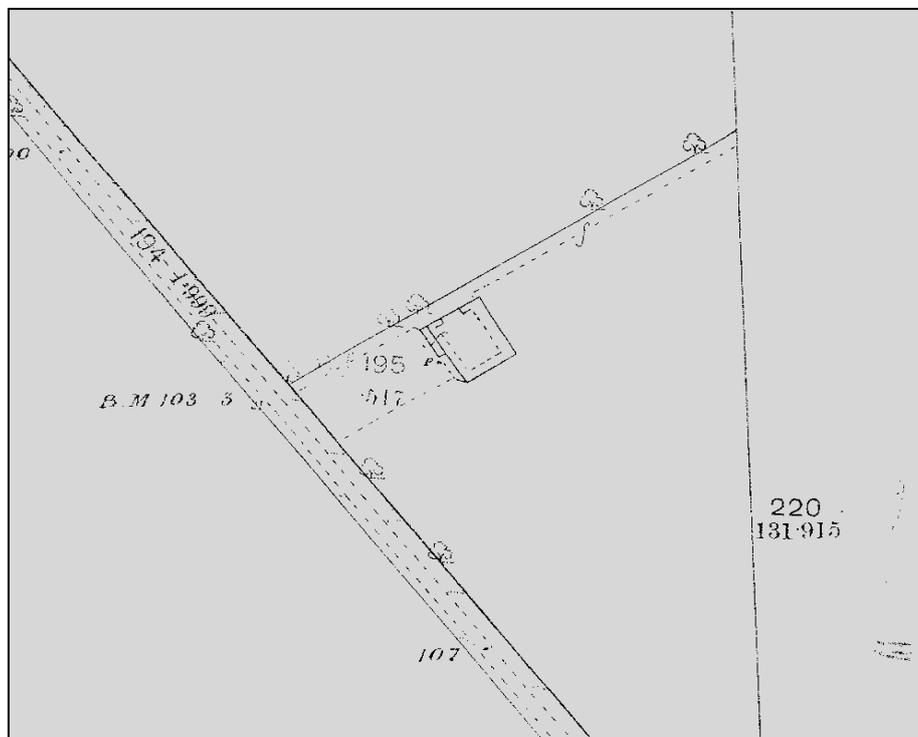
Three important centres of agricultural activity which no longer exist were: Greenaway, Foreman's, and Field barns. They were located in the fields around Thriplow and much used in the last century; they all fulfilled particular farming field practices, but had no living accommodation. (Thriplow Heath cottages were similar with the addition of cottages but their barns have gone).



Map of Thriplow showing location of the centres.

*Greenaway* was found approximately halfway along Gravel Pit Hill, just off the road and close to the present access to CPB Twyford's; *Foreman's* was located at the field end of the farm track off *Foreman's Road*, and approximately half way towards the *Newton Road*; *Field*

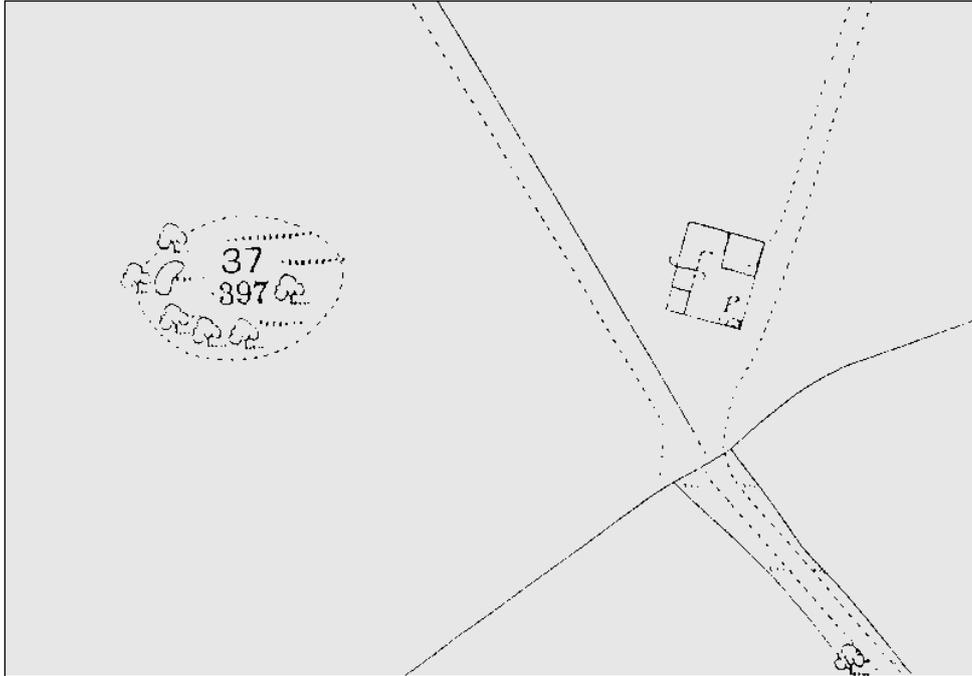
*Barn* was situated on the field track between the road and the A505 halfway between the road and the existing small Dutch barn. They all had a field, rather than a village location in common, and were well situated for storing sheaves of corn and hay at the appropriate season. Their basic construction was wood and tarred; *Greenaway* was constructed of low clunch walls and thatched roofs, it did not have a large barn. It was still standing in 1946 and was presumably dismantled and cleared by the Smith farmers. *Field Barn* had an additional steel Dutch barn added sometime after 1935. They all had large cattle yards built in a rectangle enclosure surrounded with clunch walls which were used for fattening bullocks. They also had access to a good water supply with old style manual pumps, later converted to semi-rotary action, (but still manual). They were well positioned in the fields for harvest time and the provision of bedding and hay for cattle, also for the subsequent distribution of farmyard manure. Farm horses were stabled there during harvest to save the long trek back to Cochranes, horses used on the binders were rested and changed at regular intervals of about two hours.



Greenaway Barn on the 1886 OS map

*Greenaway* was often used for lambing as it had easy road access and the surrounding buildings could be used as sheep pens. *Foreman's* was used heavily for winter threshing of corn, and it was often a major operation to haul the tackle and steam engine up the muddy track. Its construction was similar to the barn at The Bury with a stack yard etc. The excellent water supply was an important feature as good quantities of water were required both for the steam engine and for the store cattle. The steam ploughing teams were of two engines working in pairs and often working through the night. They would blow the whistle if they ran short of water.

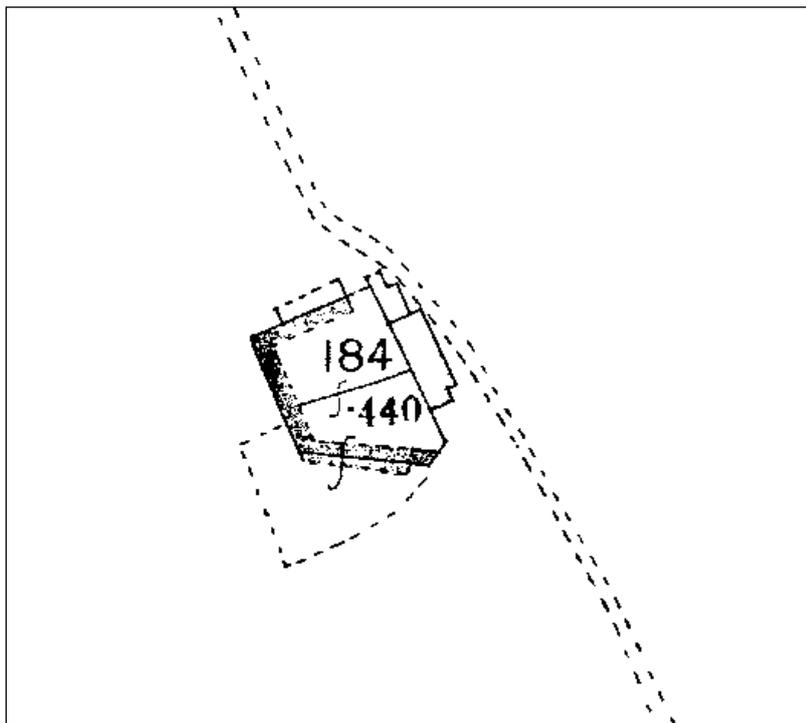
*Field barn* would have served Cochranes, it was owned from 1937 to 1946 by Mr Pumphrey and before him Joe Fordham; *Foremans* would have served Perrins at Tatlers and *Greenaway* would have served College Farm, (now Manor Farm). Harry Ison was the shepherd at *Greenaways*.



Foreman's Barn from 1886 OS map

Who carried out the construction of these barns? Planning permission was not required in those times. They may have been of similar ages, although the Dutch barn construction of *Field Barn* appears more modern, but it was not described in the 1928 sale particulars of The Bury.<sup>1</sup> Although somewhat remote from the rest of the village there was never any need to padlock the barns against intruders and the risk of fire.

Field barn from 1886 OS map.



They were, of course, labour intensive and reflected the nature of agricultural employment in the 1920s and 30s; as late as the early 40s farmer Pumfrey engaged about 50 men on his land. There were no utilities of any kind, no electricity or plumbing. In the early 1940s all general farm workers were exempt from military service, a condition which altered as time went on, and eventually only those in selective occupations could have their service deferred.

After the war ended agriculture changed remarkably, with more mechanisation, and with a preference for the growing of crops rather than specialisation in the keeping of livestock. The barns had lost their usefulness and gradually fell into disrepair, or were pulled down.

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<sup>i</sup> These centres were most probably built some time after Parliamentary Enclosure in 1845. Once the open fields cultivated in common had been abolished and each farmer had his land in compact privately owned fields, they were free to use their land as they pleased, and could build barns and even houses within their own land. (Ed).

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### THE VILLAGE SIGN

We are very pleased to have our village sign back, repaired, repainted and re-erected by David Carter of Whittlesford.



David with the renewed village sign September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006.

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**From the School Log Book  
1879**

January 28<sup>th</sup> – Revd. Woodard instructed class I in Holy Scripture on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, Miss Perkins\* took the Needlework class on Wednesday afternoon. Some of the elder girls began knitting stockings on Monday afternoon.

Entries continue very much the same until

May 16<sup>th</sup> – School attendance very small on Thursday and Friday morning, owing partly to the weather.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Pupil teacher gave a grammar lesson to class II in the afternoon.

June 20<sup>th</sup> – A holiday given on Thursday it being the Vicar's wedding day.

June 34<sup>th</sup> – Numbers very small owing to the fever having broken out in the village. pupil teacher away ill with it.

Geography, standard VI.

1. Physical features of N. America and Asia.
2. Political geog. of N. America, India and Australia.
3. General outline of N. America and S. America.

Nb. To be taken in the above order.

July 16<sup>th</sup> – School re-opened today – attendance smaller than it has been for years, 13 present in the morning, 10 in the afternoon – many of the children ill with fever.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Attendance slightly improved, 19 being present on Monday and the average a little above 20. The Revd. Woodard on Monday requested that a list of absentees should be sent to him.

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Four children present who had recovered from the fever were sent home at the Doctor's request until they were disinfected.

August 27<sup>th</sup> – School attendance very low indeed many of the children having gone to work in the harvest field. Average attendance 20.

October 15<sup>th</sup> – School reopened today after six week holiday – about 30 children present.

November 26<sup>th</sup> – Attendance very bad indeed, more than half the children being ill with the Measles.

December 10<sup>th</sup> – Attendance slightly improved.

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Broke up for Christmas holidays in the afternoon.

\* Miss Perkins lived at the Bury and was the daughter of the Lord of the Manor.

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## Massey's of Thriplow



Marc Massey and his family will be opening the shop in Thriplow within the next few weeks. He also owns the Whittlesford Stores and those of you who have been there will know what to expect. His philosophy is not to try and compete with the big supermarkets but to provide good quality and where possible locally sourced produce. The very attractive bow window will house a couple of tables and chairs for coffee, cakes and chat. He is also hoping to re-open the Post Office.

The village shop is as much a community asset as the school, the church and the pub; a place where people can meet each other, a vital means of communication.

We wish him well.

*The Editors.*



The newly refurbished pump with the cover made by Lewis Stone in 1993, and surroundings restored by Philip Smith of Fowlmere. Photo by Geoffrey Axe.

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## GLEANINGS

**IN MEMORIAM** – We are very sorry to report the death of Arthur Rowe. Arthur was a founder member of the Thriplow Society and a member of the Committee since its inception. He was essentially a practical man and spent much of his time in mending and restoring items in the Society's collection, especially those in the Smithy. A more detailed appreciation of Arthur is to be found in this issue.

We are also very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Doreen Freeman, widow of Vic Freeman who lived in April Cottage, on the Green. Mrs Freeman was always interested in village history and was a previous owner of a bound copy of 'The Banner of Faith' a parish magazine which included information from Thriplow as well as stories and other church information from 1883-1885. She gave it to Rita Dennis who passed it on to the Thriplow Society Archives. Mrs Freeman had moved to Cromer, Norfolk which is where she died on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2006.

**THANK YOU** to Shirley and Derek Murray for a collection of photos of old Thriplow, including two new to the Society's Archives.

And also to Joe Ramsey for photographs mainly relating to his father Doug Andrew's time with Thriplow Farms.

**THANK YOU** also to Jessie and Norman Shires for a pitchfork, an Auger and a Hedgehook. **THANK YOU** too to Joanna Barker for an intriguing adjustable Toaster.

**THANK YOU** also to Jeremy Murray for the old Church Lantern. Also for arranging for the Graffito stone from the south buttress of the church to be rescued during the recent repairs and given to the Society for safe storage. The committee now needs to decide on the best way of displaying it: any ideas from members welcome.

Katherine and David Martin found in Cochrane's Farmhouse garden shed two tickets to The Royal British Legion (Fowlmere and Thriplow Branch) Grand Dance, dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 1977, Jubilee Year. They cost £1.00, I wonder whose they were? **THANK YOU.**

We are very **GRATEFUL** to the Thriplow Daffodil Weekend Trust for a grant to buy a Gazebo for use at Daffodil Weekend; it will be most useful to display documents and photographs. (We did attempt to use it for the Strawberry Tea at Manor Farm but the wind was just too strong for it to be used safely!). Also for a grant towards interpretive boards for the Smithy and for the Village Pump in Fowlmere road; we are working on the wording and design of these boards.

The village pump has been repaired and put in working order, please feel free to give it a pump when passing! Geoffrey Axe organised the work and the Parish Council paid for the repairs, **Many THANKS to all.**

**THANK YOU** to David Carter for repairing our village sign, (picture elsewhere). We are very grateful to David for completing the work despite a debilitating illness; we wish him good health in the future.

