

EDITORIAL

What was it like in Thriplow 100 years ago? No doubt the thrill of Christmas was much the same, but village people had learned to make the most of what they had nearby. No dashing off, by car to the nearest department store or supermarket, and second thoughts about walking or cycling, or having a lift by the carrier's cart to the nearest railway station at Harston, Foxton or Shepreth, should a longer journey be contemplated.

The festival of Christmas was celebrated then, as now, by the parish church with seasonal carols and by a service on Christmas Eve. The practice of carol singing outside their neighbour's houses was a regular feature, accompanied by men with lanterns in order to guide the way, and an accordion to provide the music, occasionally supplemented by a cornet or trumpet, a flute or penny whistle or fiddle. At the end you would be invited into the 'big' house to partake of a glass of Madeira, or maybe a glass of elderberry cordial made the previous autumn. The sounds rang out as they do today, 'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.' So many things change, yet much remains the same. Christmas trees were common as household decorations, together with branches of holly and sprigs of mistletoe; Christmas cake was dispensed and mince pies passed round.

The Thriplow Society has again provided a lit Christmas Tree in the centre of the village outside the Village Hall; it adds to the gaiety of the season and reminds us all that we are fortunate indeed to live in such a favoured location. In the Society's archives are many pamphlets, church magazines and newspaper articles that describe the village scene over the past centuries and these can be consulted by any member. Please ask at the next meeting. Reminder of the programme for 2008: Monday 28th January 'Digging up Dinosaurs around Cambridge' by Bernard O'Connor, and Monday 28 April, the AGM and Shirley Wittering will lead us through 'Thriplow - The Village in the Map'.

Peter Speak and Shirley Wittering, Joint Editors.

WEATHER LORE

*Oak before Ash,
We're in for a splash,
Ash before Oak,
We're in for a soak.*

The picture below was taken on 5th May 2007. As you can see the Ash has yet to burst into leaf whereas the Oak is in full foliage. And as Bill's article mentions, although it seemed a wet year and in many parts of the country there were floods, here, it was just above average. So it rather looks as though the old saying was incorrect as we certainly did not get a 'soak', not yet a 'splash' either.

I must try and remember to take a similar picture in 2008.



The Ash on the left is in Barrenton's Manor and the Oak, the large tree on the right, is in Gowards.

Shirley Wittering

THE WEATHER IN 2007

2007 was a year for early holidays, April being virtually free from rain with 25 sunny days. Holidays taken from May to August would have meant leaving a wet Thriplow behind; but would it have been any drier elsewhere? Not in Austria when Shirley and I went in May!

We had no very hot days; the temperature reached 87 degrees F on 5th August, the lowest 'high spot' since 1991, and fell to 18 degrees F on 7th February, the coldest night since 1997. We had tiny falls of snow on 24th January and 8th February.

2007 – Temperature and Rainfall

	2007		Mean 1980-2007	
	°F	°C	°F	°C
Daytime temperature	60.8	16.0	58.4	14.7
Night time temperature	45.9	7.7	48.0	8.9
Average day/night	53.4	11.9	53.2	11.8
	2007		Record 1980-2007	
Hottest day	87 (5 Aug)	30.5	97 (3.8 90)	36.1
Coldest night	18 (7 Feb)	-7.8	10 (31.1.87 & 12.12.91)	-12.2
	2007		Mean 1982-2007	
	Inches	Mm	Inches	Mm
Rainfall	26.9	683.3	22.7	576.6

Precipitation

Rain fell on 116 days in 2007 compared with 124 in 2006 with April being the driest month with practically no rain at all. Over the year, we had average rainfall but quite a lot of it fell overnight. There were only a few heavy downpours; 2.6" fell on 27th to 29th May making it the wettest month of the year with nearly 3.5 times the average for that month. June was also wet with 40% more rain than normal with 1.4" falling on the 14th. Once again the springs along The View are not flowing.

We had virtually no snow with just a little falling on 24th January and on 8th February. The last frost of Spring was on 21st March (19 days earlier than 2006) and the first frost of winter was on 19th October (14 days earlier than 2006).

The weather on Guy Fawkes Night was dull with little wind and a temperature of 50 degrees F – a very suitable evening.

Daffodil Weekend (24th and 25th March)

The Saturday was dull and drizzly all day with 1.5 mm of rain falling. It was cold and the temperature rose to only 43 degrees F. The average temperature for January was hotter at 50.6 degrees F. The Sunday was a complete change with sunshine and a temperature of 59 degrees F,

Bill Wittering

THE NEWDITCH PLANTATION CHARITABLE TRUST.

On the south west corner of Thriplow lies a wood known as Newditch Plantation. It was originally planted in the mid 19th century. The new ditch of the name was dug in the 1770s around the estate known as The Bury. Since that time, additional land has been acquired and further tree planting has taken place; most notably between 1990 and 1994, when over two thousand new trees were planted by the owner of The Bury at that time, the late Sir Patrick Browne.

The 7 hectare wood is an important habitat in an area of South Cambridgeshire with little in the way of woodland cover. It is comprised mainly of deciduous trees, including beech, hazel, oak, horse chestnut, ash and willow. Elderberry and hawthorn provide cover at a lower level. In spring, large areas of the woodland floor are covered in snowdrops. The remains of the original drainage ditches can still be seen, and there are two ponds and an area of open pasture within the bounds. Needless to say, the wood provides refuge to a variety of birds and mammals.

In 2001 large areas of the wood were flooded, resulting in a significant number of trees being lost. The effects of this flood are still being felt, with older trees continuing to die. To compensate, many native trees and shrubs have been planted throughout the wood.



Trees in the wood showing the white marks of the flood level 2001

In 2005, Newditch Plantation was made a Charitable Trust (Reg Charity No 1107652) by Lady Browne, with the aim of managing it for wildlife. Trustees with skills in woodland management and wildlife were appointed and a ten year plan was drawn up.

As well as replanting, a range of other work is underway in Newditch Plantation. This includes formative pruning of the younger trees, the control of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) a notifiable alien spreading species, and the protection of trees against deer and rabbit damage. Future projects include the placement of bat and bird boxes and the introduction of native wild flowers to the meadow. In addition, the trustees are looking to obtain grants to enable more significant work, such as the relining of one of the ponds. It is also hoped that a new survey of the flora and fauna of the wood will be implemented together with a photographic record of the wood throughout the year.



The New Ditch dug in 1774; much tree root damage has been done by the rabbits

Public access to the wood will be available by prior agreement with the trustees and probably will be limited to specific open days, at least in the early days, in an effort to minimise disturbance of the wildlife.

Any contributions to the Charity are welcome. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help with some of the activities, either as an individual or a group, should contact Lady Lena Browne (01763 208262), or Jan Butchers (Hon Sec. 01763 260105).

In particular, the trustees would welcome help over Daffodil weekend. If anyone would be able to help for a few hours on Saturday April 12th (between 10 -5) or Sunday April 13th (between 10 – 2) with serving teas, coffees and cakes, or washing up they would be very welcome. Telephones as above.

Peter Butchers

THE THRILOW CHRISTMAS TREES

Sir Harry Godwin, long time professor of Botany at Cambridge, warned of the dangers of ignoring the small, subtle changes that were taking place around us until it was too late and the chance to record them had gone. This set me thinking, as a group of us were putting up this year's tree outside the Village Hall and chatting about past years. The Thriplow Society is now 15 years old and has made some history of its own. There are people in the village who were not here when the Society started, so I thought a potted history of the Society's Christmas Trees might be interesting and would certainly record the small, subtle changes before they are forgotten.

The Society started in 1992 and in December of 1993 the Committee decided to put up a Christmas Tree for the benefit of the community. Cliff Parker, our then Treasurer, offered us a tree that was growing in his garden in Church Street. It was dug up and taken to the garden of the old Village Hall. The Parish Council contributed £50 towards the lights and that year the tree was also decorated with stars and moons cut out of flattened tin cans, but these quickly rusted, so in following years we just put up the lights.



Bill Wittering, Peter Speak and Cliff Parker with tree 1993

Cliff and Betty Parker continued to provide a tree for the Village Hall garden until 2002. There was no Christmas tree in 1999 as the new Village Hall was being built. When it opened on New Year's Day 2000, there was an opening in the fenced off area in front of the building specifically for the Christmas Tree and a plug under the porch.



Peter Yates and Shirley Wittering with the 1998 tree.

After Cliff and Betty had run out of Christmas trees, the Society bought one and for the past few years, it has come from the greengrocers in Sawston who were happy to deliver it to the Village Hall. The lights were replaced in 2003 kindly funded by CPB Twyford in Church Street. Michael Moule arranged this and bought with the money, new more robust lights which continued to shine even if one bulb broke. These lights have been used every year since until this year when they mysteriously disappeared somewhere between our Chairman's house and the Smithy where they were being sent to be stored. Also mislaid was a bag of golden baubles given to the Society by Alison Speak after her wedding in Thriplow Church. Perhaps they will as mysteriously re-appear again. Luckily Wendy Seaton provided a spare set which gave pleasure to all those going by or visiting the Village Hall and the Shop over the Christmas period.

So for fourteen years the Society has given pleasure to the Village; thanks must be given to those members, to Bill Wittering, Geoff Axe, Peter Speak, Peter Yates, Cliff Parker, Michael Moule, Lewis Stone, David Easthope, Wendy and Ian Seaton who variously were happy to spare the odd hour before and after Christmas by putting up and taking down our tree.

Shirley Wittering

CHAMBERLAIN FAMILY HISTORY



Arthur, Emily, Joyce, Marjory and Doris Chamberlain around 1932, outside the Jubilee Room, Middle Street

Through my maternal grandmother, who was born a Chamberlain, I have traced my family as living, and in most cases being born, in Thriplow back to 1774. So my nieces and nephew are at least the ninth generation to do so.

The last person to be actually born in the village of Thriplow with our family's Chamberlain blood was my uncle, Colin Fuller, in 1942. He was born in Myrtle Cottage, Middle Street, as were both his older sisters, next to the cottage where both their mother and grandmother were born. Unfortunately by the time my sister, Debbie Arbon, and I were born it was thought necessary to use maternity hospitals, so we can't claim to have actually been born in the village, only live here.

We have been a fairly consistent family in our lifestyles and types of accommodation over the last two hundred and thirty three years. Working the land and living in small cottages, many of which are still standing today.

The earliest Chamberlain (or Chamberlayne as it was sometimes written) I have found living in Thriplow so far is John. He was born in Thriplow in 1774 and married Elizabeth Stearne of Thriplow on 15th October 1800 in Thriplow Church. They had six children; John, Joshua, Ann, Sarah, Thomas and Emma. On the 1841 census John and Elizabeth were living at Green End in Thriplow, which I am guessing might have meant the 'Green end' of Lower Street. John was employed as an agricultural labourer. He died in 1849 and is buried in the churchyard. On the 1851 census Elizabeth is listed as a pauper and agricultural labourer's widow, so they did not have much money. Elizabeth died on 13th May 1863 in Thriplow. Their son Joshua is the direct line to me.

Joshua Chamberlain was baptised in Thriplow Church on 28th August 1806, he married Susan

Ellis from Ickleton in Thriplow Church on 25th October 1828. Joshua was an agricultural labourer and they lived in Green End. Two of Joshua's brothers were also agricultural labourers and lived in Middle Street with their families. His sister Emma worked in service for Joseph Ellis at what was then called Rectory House. Joshua and Susan had eight children, who were all baptised in Thriplow Church between 1829 and 1848. They lost one daughter before she was a year old. Joshua and Susan emigrated to Australia in 1855. A descendant of theirs from Canberra, Australia visited Thriplow Church in 1986.

Joshua and Susan had a son Joshua, he was my great, great, great grandfather. He was born in Thriplow in 1833, and married Mary Andrews also from Thriplow on 7th February 1852. Joshua was an agricultural labourer and they lived on the Green. They had 12 children, two of whom died as babies, and a further two died when still only young children. They later moved to a cottage in Lower Street and Joshua changed his job to a horsekeeper on the farm. They had one son still living with them and one grandson, both of these were also agricultural labourers. Their eldest son Ellis decided life on the farm, and life in Thriplow wasn't for him. On the 1881 census he was working as a hay salesman and living in Tower Hamlets, London. But by 1901 he was a labourer in a shipyard living in West Ham - so maybe he should have stayed in Thriplow after all. Mary died on 4th January 1902 and Joshua died on 4th March 1929, both are buried in Thriplow churchyard.

One of Joshua and Mary's sons, Alfred, was my great, great, grandfather. He was born in Thriplow in 1861 and married a girl from Fowlmere called Emily in 1883. They had four children; Constance, Arthur, Harold and Kathleen. They lived in Church Street in a cottage next door to the Flack family. (These cottages stood on the site before Arthur Rowe's house was built, No 19) Alfred continued to work in the same occupation as previous generations of his family.

Constance Sarah Chamberlain (Connie, as the family called her), married Alfred and Emily's eldest daughter married Henry Smith, a labourer from Thriplow, on 29th February 1908. They later emigrated to Ontario, Canada, a feat which my great aunt, Doris Chamberlain, was to emulate in the 1940's.

Their son Arthur Alfred, was my great grandfather. He was born in Lower Street on 17th April 1887 (possibly where the Weisberg's live now, which was then divided into cottages). He was baptised in Thriplow Church on the 11th September 1887. The family then moved to 23 Church Street, this was one of a pair of white cottages standing next to the road between Baker's Cottage and the council houses. Arthur was soon out to work, and like his father spent long hours toiling away in the fields. His tall, slim build and sparkling blue eyes soon attracted the attentions of a young Emily Brown living in Middle Street. On the 15th June 1907 they were married in Thriplow Church. They lived in the cottage in Middle Street where Georgina and Graham Tindall live now, it was then three cottages, they lived in the one nearest the road. Here they brought up their five children; Mabel, Alfred, Margery, Joyce and Doris. Mabel died in 1920 at the age of 13 from influenza when an epidemic hit the village. All the children from the school lined the road when her coffin passed on the way to the church.

After the second world war Arthur and Emily moved to Lower Street, the left hand of the two cottages up Narrow Lane. Arthur was now a horsekeeper on Deller's farm. He would have

fed and groomed them and worked with them in the field. Some of the horses went to shows and he had to plait their tails and manes and put ribbon in them ready for showing. I remember visiting their house as a child and seeing all the marvelous horse brasses he had collected over the years. He witnessed the arrival of the tractor on the farm shortly before his retirement, and an end to a way of farming he had known all his life.

Arthur and Emily's son Alfred William, was born in 1910. He married Beatrice Moule. They lived in Middle Street to start with before moving to Church Street, to bring up their four children. Like his ancestors before, Alfred too worked on the land.



Margery Kathleen and Dick Fuller at their Golden Wedding 1984

Arthur and Emily's daughter Margery Kathleen, was my grandmother (Nanny, as we called her). She was born in Thriplow on 24th October 1913. She was a keen scholar at the village school, and enjoyed it even more after they realised she needed glasses. Whilst working in service as a chamber maid for the Vinter family at The Manor, she met and fell in love with their chauffer/gardener Richard Fuller. They were married in Thriplow Church in 1934, and moved into Myrtle Cottage. Here they raised their three children; Jean, Valerie and Colin, before moving to one of the new council houses in Fowlmere Road in 1946, and remained here until they both passed away in 1988.

Margery's sister, Joyce, never married and continued to live with her parents until they died just six weeks apart in 1967; she then moved in with Margery and Richard. She spent all her working life as housekeeper to various matrons at Brookfields Hospital in Cambridge.

Their sister Doris (Dot), born in 1927, married George Frost and emigrated to Canada in 1948. This broke the hearts of her parents as they knew they would never see her again. There wasn't enough money to make visits possible in their lifetime, although Dot did come over to see us once in the 1970s with her youngest son, and my grandparents and Colin visited her a couple of times in Canada. Both Joyce and Dot died in 2001.

So the last person in our family to actually bear the Chamberlain name in Thriplow was my great aunt, Joyce.

Toni Charter

THRESHING COMPARED: Early 1940s and 1970s

The first threshing machines were introduced around 1830. They caused much unrest as agricultural labourers feared losing their winter work; before then grain had been thrashed by hand using a flail and winnowed by tossing the grain in a winnowing basket by the open door of the 'threshing floor' to allow the wind to blow away the husks. Fear of losing their winter wages resulted in the 'swing riots' which occurred over the southern half of England during the 1830s.

By the 1940s threshing machines were in general use and this machinery will be used to compare with that of the 1970s. A steam threshing engine used one hundredweight of coal an hour and 10 gallons of water.

Although the steam machines of the 1940s reduced the need for labour, they still needed a large workforce. The number of workers needed varied between eight and twelve, as follow:

1. Engine Driver/attendant (would give general assistance)
2. Two men to fork the sheaves from the corn stack to the drum platform.
3. One man to take off the grain which would be discharged into large, so-called, 2 hundredweight heavy-duty sacks. Different grains weighed different amounts, oats weighing 12 stone, barley 16 stone, wheat 18 stone and beans 22 stone, weighed on platform see-saw scales with balance weights added as required. A sack barrow and sack lifter would be available to assist in manhandling the sacks. An 8 hour day would produce a total of about 12 tons of grain.
4. One man to cut the string from the sheaves and carefully feed them into the drum, an important and skilful task. As the work progressed a large and neat bundle of string would form magically in the free hand.
5. One man to take off the chaff (probably the least skilled and certainly the dirtiest task and usually given to the youngest employee). So-called gas-goggles were much coveted for this job. Chaff from the drum was low quality husk and broken straw making the sacks light and easy to handle. Not to be confused with the quality feed chaff produced by cutting up the straw. An even lower quality dusty material would build up under the drum and was usually ignored as not worth collecting.
6. Straw with the grain removed was discharged from the rear and could be dealt with by one of the following operations;
 - A – Discharged into an elevator (sometimes called Pitcher) hopper to form a straw stack requiring two men to build the stack.
 - B – Discharged into a chaff cutter needing two men, one to feed and one to take off the sacks of quality feed chaff. Oat straw in particular, was important as horse feed. Horsepower during the 1940s was still very much in evidence, there being up to 25 horses shared between Cochranes and Manor/College Farm.
 - C – Baling: the baler was a hefty piece of equipment, hopper fed and needing four men, one feeding the needles (sometimes called boards, which they were), one threading through wire, one tying or joining the wire and one taking off the bales. If the stack was made on site two more men were needed. We had no lifter or elevator, stacking required ledges to be formed as the height increased. Wheat bales were particularly heavy, (great for producing muscular arms). The large amount of wire ties could create absolute hazard and menace around the

farm, if it was carelessly discarded after scattering the bales, but came in useful for temporary, which could become permanent repairs.

A typical working day started at 7am. There would be a break for breakfast from 9 to 9.30am, lunch from 1 – 2pm and the day would finish at 5pm. Threshing was often a winter job and could be delayed by the weather. If it rained the operations would be halted and all the machinery and stacks covered by sheeting (sheeting tended to be an important factor for agriculture), wooden ladders were always much in evidence. The sheeting or tarpaulins were universal green or blue heavy woven linen, a large stack cloth required fitness and muscle to carry it up a ladder to cover a stack.



Threshing on Mr Pumfrey's farm in the 1930s

Summer threshing took the sheaves carted from the field straight to the drum; experience was needed to ensure the sheaves were fully ripened and dry. No extra drying was available and grain with a high moisture content could grow mouldy and overheat. If this occurred the sacks had to be tipped out and spread. Grain produced from the threshing drum was fairly clean, there was also a lower quality product called 'tail'. Grain needed for a seed sample etc required a much smaller hand-operated machine called a 'dresser'; this was a popular job in the winter, as it was always carried out in a large, dry, cosy barn.

The 1970s – A self-propelled laser steered combine needed one operator/driver, this machine could also do the cutting and gathering which was a separate operation in the 1940s. The amount of grain produced in an 8 hour day would be at least 300 tons compared with the 12 tons of the '40s. This would include the straw cut up and scattered if needed for ploughing in. A yield of 4 tons per acre (2,560 bushels) would equal 75 acres cleared in a day. Compare this with a modern Thriplow Farms combine capable of 60 tons an hour, 480 tons for our 8 hour day and 120 acres cleared a day. (*Compare this with the 1840s, when the yield per acre was 24 bushels. – ed*).

Some of the people I remember – Bob and Sid Pumfrey owned College and Cochranes' Farms, Bob was a mechanical genius and could extract the maximum effort from a steam

engine or tractor. He was very much hands on and much admired by his men; Sid was also involved amongst the men; he was good with horses and organised shoots. George Moule, Farm Foreman, hovered everywhere, directing his workforce to their daily tasks. He had almost veterinary skills for sick animals, acquired after a lifetime of practice. He also had a natural aptitude for troublesome machinery.

Charlie Warner was engine driver and during the war captain of the Home Guard, (see Vol 7.2, 1999). Fred Arbon made the threshing drum his own, cherished and protected it; very few others were even allowed to adopt the delicate feed position. Charlie Pettit and Fred Smith were stackers; they would have built nearly all the corn and straw stacks. These names are mentioned to give some realism to the period; many others made a valuable contribution to the life of the farm and village.

In retrospect, village life may be considered somewhat hard and primitive, but a real community spirit burned within, centred almost entirely on the farming year. Dirt on the roads, damage by heavy machinery, noise and smells were all accepted as a way of life and complaints were non-existent, though problems could occur from irate housewives if lines of washing were covered in sooty smuts from the smoke stacks of the steam engines!

Self-preservation and protection was a natural instinct. However accidents did occur, yet no-one thought of compensation or suing. Charlie Warner lost fingers in the chaff cutter; Mr Neeves a finger in a cutter blade. A Fowlmere man lost a leg by contact with the leather drive belt on the threshing machine caused by the metal belt fastener. Mr Sid Pumfrey received a peppering by someone shooting down the line but was saved by his heavy top coat.

The fear of losing your job when there was no sick pay was always present. You were more likely to be accused of carelessness rather than any Health and Safety responsibility. Despite all this a real community spirit existed with farming and village life being totally integrated.

Life has changed somewhat in this relationship. Recently I was embarrassed in front of a lady guest, reprimanded and advised on country matters for strolling across a field in which as a young boy I had driven game to eagerly awaiting guns and had carefully steered a beloved Allis Chalmers Model 'U' with 3 furrow plough attached at a time when there was a shortage of men owing to the war (no rules for youth protection then).

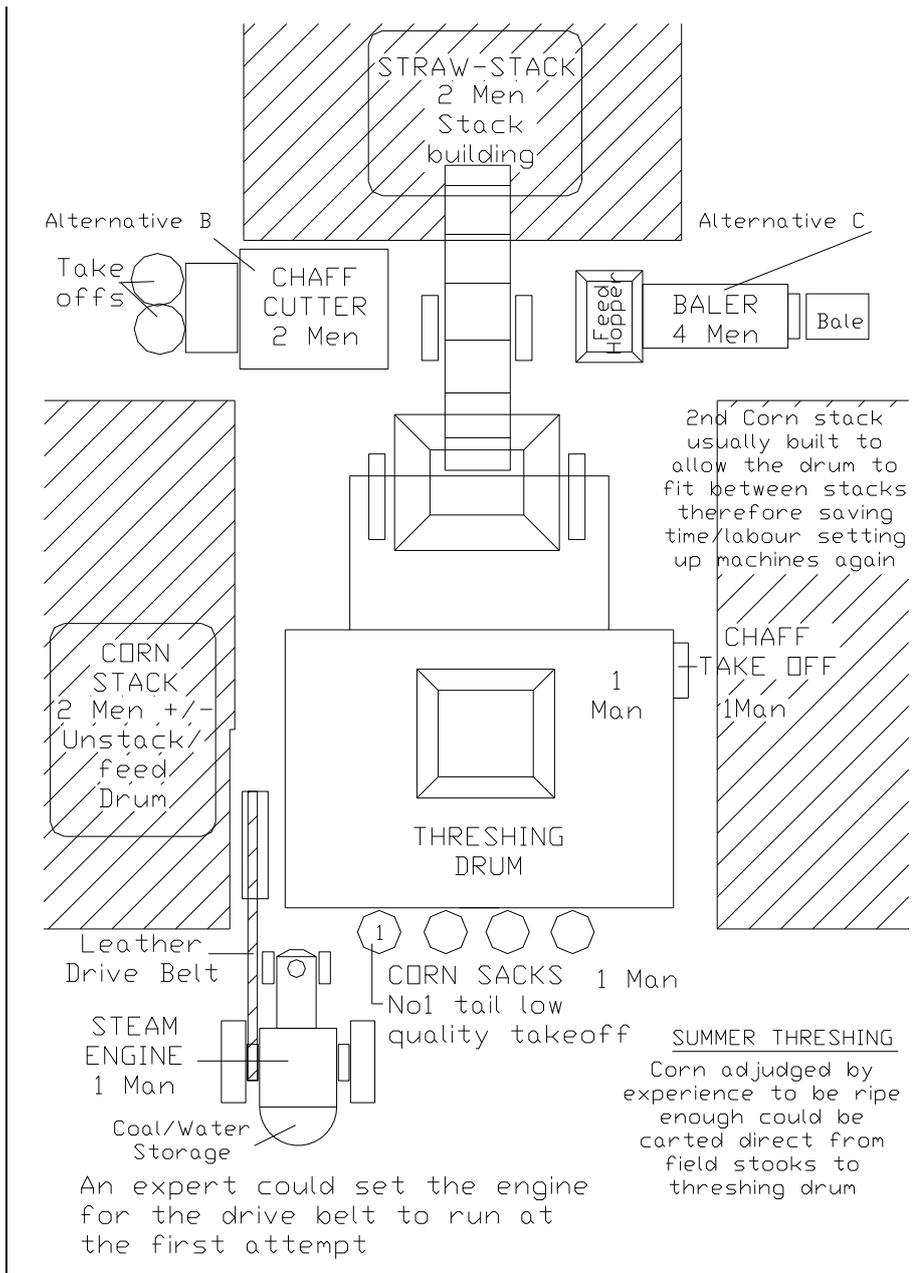


Diagram of Threshing area.

Thriplow is particularly blessed with wonderful countryside, accessible to the public. Thriplow Farms under Oliver Walston more than play their part, including the recently extended area which must be observed and appreciated for its contribution to maintaining diminishing wildlife. The polite welcoming notices displayed need to be fully adhered to by all.

These concluding paragraphs are an attempt to set the previous and the current farming scene within the setting of Thriplow village.

PS I leave to our readers to convert into metric figures, our ton being 2,240 lbs, 160 stone or 20 cwt. 32 bushels = 1 cwt.

Michael Moule

GLEANINGS

THANK YOU to Daphne Ison, widow of Harry Ison who died recently. She is leaving White Hall, Fowlmere, and has given the Society several items for its collection including several Gas Masks, one of them intended for a baby, and some glass tiles which might be useful if we need to replace some of the Smithy tiles, also a very old office desk which was probably used when Whitehall was a Non-conformist Academy before the days when Cambridge University accepted Non-conformists. An interesting subject for an article some day.

Whilst researching in Peterhouse and St John's Colleges, I came across three very interesting plans or drawings. One was the plan to widen the top end of Middle Street, then called Clunch Pit Lane during enclosure in 1840. It would, of course, not have been tarmacked, a process which was not perfected until 1845. The second was a plan of Barenton's Manor estate which included Manor Farm, dated 1859 and the third was a plan of Rectory Farm in Middle Street, dated circa 1780. The last one shows a moat right round the property and several barns against the road on the other side of the entrance to the present barn where George Deller keeps his turkeys and lambs in the spring. The house is obviously not the present house which was built about 1968. Peter Yates has very kindly photocopied them so that a copy can be given to the various owners. A really interesting addition to the archives.

THE BARRINGTON VILLAGE ARCHIVE was officially opened on 29th September. Not only was the Barrington Society celebrating the opening of a room within the Village Hall dedicated to the keeping and display of its records but it was also celebrating its 40th Birthday. Bill and I went along to help them celebrate, look at the archives and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of Birthday cake. The Thriplow Society is just reaching its 15th Birthday; let us hope that we don't have to wait as long as Barrington before we get somewhere to keep our archives.

We were very sorry to hear that both Peter and Diane Lomas have been poorly and wish them the very speediest recovery. We were also sorry to hear that Moira Percival has been very ill and in hospital. We hope that she too, is on the road to recovery.

ONE FOR THE RECORD – The last Postal Collection on a Sunday in Thriplow was 21st of October 2007, (though we have seen the post being collected on Sundays over Christmas)

We also noticed that by early December the telephone box on the Green was no longer taking coins, only credit cards.

THANK YOU to Geoffrey Axe, David Easthope, Peter Yates, and Bill Wittering for helping to put up the Christmas Tree outside the Village Hall.

The Committee wish all members a Happy and Healthy Year

