One hundred years ago on 1st July 1916, the battle of the Somme commenced. It lasted five months and resulted in some 420,000 British casualties with 127,000 men killed. There were 19,240 casualties on the first day alone.

Of the 13 men from Thriplow who were killed in the First World War and whose names are on the War Memorial, four were killed at the battle of the Somme. We list them here:
Leonard Flack died 1st July, age 24
Richard Unwin, died 1st July, age 24
Arthur Carter died 30th August, age 19
Henry Hall died 12th October, age 23


It seems a while since we celebrated Daffodil Weekend, but it was one of the most successful weekends with over £32,000 being raised. The Thriplow Society put up an exhibition of paintings of local scenes by members of the Society, which created much interest. The two blacksmiths worked hard on both days to an interested audience. Next year we shall need our thermals on as it is 16/17th March!

Bernard Meggitt, Angela Rimmer and Shirley Wittering, Editorial Team.
Dear Editors,

I enjoyed very much the article in the last Journal about the Mallow plant, and confess I became quite animated by your contributor Bernard's statement that the word "mallow" is derived from the Latin *malvus*. Such statements always spur my curiosity, as I wonder how such derivations come about. In this case, the scientific name for the plant is the Latin *Malvus silvestris*, the word *malvus* obviously antedating the scientific nomenclature. The English word *mallow* no doubt predates the scientific nomenclature. Could the Roman legions have brought the plant (and the word) with them? It's possible, for the plant does have some medicinal properties. However, the Greeks had a similar word, *μολόχα* (*molocha*), which, like the Latin, means "soft". The Romans may have borrowed their word from the Greek, but the word is also present in Scots Gaelic (*maloinigh*) and in Irish (*meall*), which points suspiciously to an earlier common origin - the language scholars call Indo-European (no longer spoken of course).

Since the word is also Celtic, perhaps the early Britons imported it when they migrated into the British Isles? Or did the plant spread naturally, and was already known to them when they arrived? In Australia, we do know when the mallow plant was introduced - in the early 1800s, either intentionally, or more likely, by seeds in the dirt on the boots of rural settlers from Britain (P. M. Kloot, "Plant introductions to South Australia prior to 1840", *Journal of the Adelaide Botanical Gardens*, Vol 7(3), 1985.)

The study of the spread of plants by migrating peoples is called ethnobiology, but whether any of its practitioners has studied the Mallow's presence in Britain, I don't know. I do look forward however to Bernard's next article, for the two he has contributed so far have been most informative and most enjoyable.

**Editorial reply to Neville Potter, Canberra - Re: Thriplow Journal Hedgerow Herb articles:**

Dear Neville, Thank you for your appreciative comments. Yes, ethnobiology and indeed etymology can form fascinating studies as you show well in your 'Mallow' searches above. Unfortunately with only a small Journal space, the articles have to be balanced for general interest giving only very limited space for 'Name Origins'.

Your Kloot's reference to seed introduction by rural Australian settlers on their boots is very interesting and has been debated. The desiccating salty moist environment for the seeds with 6 to 8 months at sea would most likely mean a very low survival rate. The early detailed protection methods for plants and seeds for the long passage (not always successful) by Joseph Banks, make very interesting reading. *(Joseph Banks and the continuing influence of European colonisation on Australian Herbal Practice. Sue Evans in Australian J. of Medical Herbalism 2009, 21 (3)*

*Bernard Meggitt*
HERBAL LEGACY IN THE HEDGEROWS OF THRIPLOW

4. Hawthorn – *Crataegus monogyna*

_Hawthorn_ is ‘the’ hedgerow plant of the British Isles being the most commonly found hedge species through the centuries. Many of our present boundary hedges were planted in the 18C during the great ‘Land Enclosure’ movement. They form a spiny living barrier enclosing fields to contain livestock, have steady growth, are easily plashed and survive poor soil and extremes of climate. They provide a vital eco-system for over 350 insects, spiders, birds, small mammals and other plants.

Hawthorn has a long history of herbal use for treatment of ‘the stone’, gout, insomnia and indigestion, and recently extracted from the red berries, a cardiac and circulatory herbal medicine.

**Description:**

Hawthorn species (*Crataegus*) are members of the Rose family (*Rosaceae*) being deciduous thorny shrubs or small trees with clusters of white or pink flowers in Spring (April-May) followed by deep red berries in Autumn. There are over 200 species with many more hybrids
world-wide mostly in the Northern temperate regions of Europe, Asia and America. British settlers took specimens to Australia and, in Tasmania today, the Hawthorn hedges are considered part of its cultural heritage. Rich chalky well drained soil is preferred but it grows almost anywhere except in acidic peaty bog areas. Its main habitat is hedgerows, scrub and woodland margins. There are two species native to the British Isles: the Common Hawthorn – *C. monogyna* distributed widely and the Midland Hawthorn – *C. laevigata* found in Middle and SE England; but sometimes hybridised. The two species are distinguished by their leaves and flowers: *C. monogyna* having 3-5 deeply lobed pointed leaves and one style -seed, and *C. laevigata* with shallow rounded lobes with tapering based leaves and 2-3 styles and seeds.

**Name Origin:**

The name ‘Hawthorn’ is originally from ‘haga’ and ‘thorn’ from Old English ‘hedge’ and ‘sharp point’ although ‘haw’ now refers to the fruit. Other names include *May, May Tree, Whitethorn and Thornapple*. Also not much used today but common in the ‘Land Enclosure Period (1750–1850) is ‘Quick’ referring to quickset hedges mainly Hawthorn, with ‘Quicking’ - hedge planting, from Old German ‘Quickinge’ – reviving. The botanical name ‘*Crataegus*’ most likely derives from the Greek ‘kratos’ – hardness (of the wood) and ‘akis’ – sharp (spines). The common *C. monogyna* refers to the ‘single female part’ having only one style and carpal – seed in the flower. The Midland Hawthorn from Middle and SE England was also called ‘Bread and Butter Tree’ from farmers nibbling the leaves during work before meals to reduce hunger. It was originally called ‘*C.oxyacantha*’ – ‘sharp thorn’ but more recently renamed ‘*C.laevigata*’ – ‘smooth or slippery surface’ (of wood).

**Lucky, Sacred and Evil Folklore:**

Often, after long hard cold winters, the sudden appearance of dense white May blossom coating the awakening Spring countryside has, through the ages, been a sign of hope and good luck for the year ahead. May branches were used to decorate weddings, placed on new babies’ cots, hung over doorways and garlands made for May Day celebrations, to bring happiness and good fortune and ward off evil. Hawthorn was considered to form Christ’s ‘Crown of Thorns’ on the Cross and as the ‘Burning Bush’ seen by Moses on Mount Sinai and so thought to be sacred. However, the association with the crucifixion was considered to bring bad luck if cut in flower and a harbinger of death if brought into the house. Hawthorn wood is very dense being slow to rot and was used in ship building as in the first N. America’s Pilgrim’s ship, named for good fortune, the ‘*May Flower*’. The ‘Glastonbury Thorn’ reputedly grown from Joseph of Arimathea’s implanted Hawthorn staff from Palestine (*C.monogyna biflora*: reputed to flower Christmas and Easter,) later the site of Glastonbury Abbey, was the best known of the English Holy Hawthorns. (Cut down in the 17C Civil War.)

**Thriplow Hawthorn Sites:**

Hawthorn abounds in Thriplow with over half the village gardens having Hawthorn hedges and most of the surrounding fields are bordered with it (dating from the days of ‘enclosure’). The village roads’ and footpaths’ hedgerows are marked with its bushes and trees. The
Hawthorn, along with the Elder and Blackthorn, make any walk in Thriplow in Spring a joyous and uplifting experience with the mass of new white blossom clothing the hedges, spinneys, shrubs and trees.

**Medicinal History and uses:**

One of the earliest records of Hawthorn was by Dioscorides, a Greek herbalist in 1C AD, calling it ‘*Crataegus oxyakantha*’ (sharp spine). This was later used by Carl Linnaeus, an 18C Swedish physician and botanist, in his great publication ‘The Binomial Nomenclature of Plants’, as *C. oxyacantha* (now renamed *C. laevigata*). The first record of Hawthorn’s herbal use is considered to be by Petrus de Crescentis in 1305 in the treatment of gout. In the 16C, the Hawthorn is recorded in many botanical herbal texts in Europe and is documented as useful as a diuretic, for kidney and bladder stones and for dropsy. The astringent extract from the berries was recommended for diarrhoea and, with flowers, for sore throats.

Since the late 1800s, herbal use of Hawthorn has been mainly directed at cardiac and circulatory disorders. There are many reports of improvement and recovery after its use in such conditions as heart failure, post infarction, heart valve diseases, angina, palpitations, high blood pressure and its diuretic effect in dropsy (heart failure swelling). However, there was little scientific support for this until 1981 when the German Health Ministry commissioned a 4 year controlled multicentre study of Hawthorn extract treating ‘cardiac insufficiency’ patients. The published results showed overall improvements in cardiac function where use of the strong cardiac drug, digitalis was not indicated. Another controlled study in Japan reported Hawthorn leaf and berry extract combination improved symptoms of mild congestive heart failure and decreased high blood pressure and oedema with very minor side effects.

Further research suggests that some chemicals in Hawthorn may block the vasoconstrictor enzyme ‘ACE’ (angiotensin converting enzyme) allowing heart and peripheral blood vessels to dilate so improving blood flow to the tissues. Chemical analysis of the Hawthorn extract show it contains the flavonoids vitexin, quercetin, hyperoside and rutin; all known to stimulate blood vessel and heart muscle activity. Other constituents found: cardio-tonic amines, pectin and phenolic acids including crategolic acid, citric acid, chlorogenic acid, tartaric acid, and tannins, triterpene acids, triterpenoids and coumarins. Hawthorn is also claimed to lower blood cholesterol but not yet proven. Today Hawthorn is an official drug in the Pharmacopoeias of France, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Russia and China. It is very popular in Europe, being currently an ingredient in over 200 commercial herbal formulae mainly for the cardio-vascular system treatment being sold in Europe and the USA.

Another long-term use of Hawthorn is for its timber; very hard, light brown and densely fine grained, it is useful in turning and engraving. It has been used to make veneers and cabinets as well as boxes, tool handles and boat parts. It also provides good firewood and charcoal as it burns at a high temperature.

So now, whenever you walk in Thriplow Village, look at the hedges and you will be amazed at the abundance of the Hawthorn. In fact, the village as we know it would not be without this
boundary forming, heart stimulating, eco-friendly woody plant. As Anne Pratt in her Mid-Victorian ‘Survey of British Flowering Plants’ (1857) so aptly expressed:

‘The chief use of the Hawthorn is for those green impenetrable hedges which abound our meadows and lanes, which are so hardy that they are not even killed by the sea breeze, and which, when whitened by their flowers are one of the greatest beauties of the rural landscape. ..........’

Bernard Meggitt


The story began at the Fry Gallery Bridge End Gardens in Saffron Walden where I learnt of the artists of 1930’s who gathered together there to share ideas and accommodation. They were able to rent rooms or cottages in Great Bardfield at reasonable cost and others with similar inclination joined them. As a result the village became well known and over the years has been visited by a number of famous people.

Some of us had lunch at the Vine before meeting our guide for the afternoon – Janet Dyson – who escorted us through the village pointing out places of interest including the museum, church and the cage. The cage was the lock up for the drunk and disorderly who attended the famous horse fair held there in ancient times, the largest in East Anglia at the time.

The artists included Edward Bawden, Eric Ravilious, John Aldridge RA., Sheila Robinson and Martin Cheese among others. Architecturally the village is a mixture of brick, wooden, thatched houses and cottages – all different. Together they make a very pleasing group dating from 14th century. Afterwards we were offered hospitality at the Quakers Meeting House where we were entertained by a cat which was representative of the cats in some of the well-known prints made by the artists. The tea and cake were extremely good and very much appreciated.

There are some excellent pamphlets available at the Museum giving details of the artists and their homes and a visit to this original medieval village is recommended.

Jean Tomlinson
Judy Murch with the very vociferous Quaker Cat

OVER SIXTIES FRIENDSHIP CLUB 1977 CELEBRATING THE QUEEN’S SILVER JUBILEE
OVER-SIXTIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB 1977

Picture taken on ground behind the old Village Hall, Thriplow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gwen Bowes</td>
<td>Bert Hitch</td>
<td>Gwen Baker</td>
<td>Ethel Course</td>
<td>Gertrude Butler</td>
<td>Eva Smith</td>
<td>Ron Wright</td>
<td>Lil Smith</td>
<td>Marjorie Fuller</td>
<td>Milly Pettit</td>
<td>Fred Gambie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheralds Croft</td>
<td>Lynch Lane</td>
<td>Fowlmere Road</td>
<td>London Road</td>
<td>Church Street</td>
<td>Sheralds Croft</td>
<td>Church Street</td>
<td>Chrihall Road F'mere</td>
<td>Fowlmere Road</td>
<td>Sheralds Croft</td>
<td>Sheralds Croft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alice Gambie</td>
<td>Win Badcock</td>
<td>Sheralds Croft</td>
<td>Bacons Farm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lucy Fuller              | Lilian Fuller | Kate Gambie | Lil Bristow | Gladys Flack | Lil Perry |
| Fowlmere Road            | Sheralds Croft | Sheralds Croft | Fowlmere Road | London Road | Dovehouse Close | Sheralds Croft |

Please note: Lynch Lane and London Road (now in Fowlmere) were in the parish of Thriplow at this time.
Pictorial Conundrums

No 5. - The Mystery of the Missing Window

On looking at a print of a painting I had made of Cochranes, Lower Street, Michael Moule noticed a strange thing – the window of a room that had been his bedroom as a child was missing.

Two photos of the back of Cochranes taken in 1994

I had taken the photo about 1994 when I did the painting. It was certainly after the formation of the Thriplow Society in 1992 as I asked John Clark of Ryecroft Data to photocopy the painting, and I had not met him before he began to print our Journal.

Later I found a very old rather faded photo of the house which also shows no window in the same gable.
In August 1997 Sean Hogan made a detailed drawing of the house, the above being the back of the house and showing no window in the gable.

I asked Katherine Martin if there was a mark inside where a window might have been; she said that when they moved in there was no sign of a window and that they had to get special permission (as it is a listed building) to put one in to make the house look more balanced. She gave me some photos taken during the restoration.

Old Pargetting under the plaster 2006 now covered over again.
New window showing new concrete beam over window

A current photo taken this Daffodil Weekend shows a window where Michael said it should be. The side window is original and maybe the one Michael used to look out of.

Buildings as old as Cochranes have a long and complicated history of change and repair. We can all recall being surprised at how small items such as walls seem to us now and how large they seemed when we were children.

Shirley Wittering
Talks to the Society

**Thursday May 19th, History of Long Case Clocks – Dr Colin Lattimore**

The Talk was first put in perspective by covering the need for accurate time measurement in UK and then methods of measuring time, to give better understanding of the long case clock development.

Dr Lattimore began with a slide of a sundial measuring ‘solar time’ against which all clocks were set until the discovery of radio-signal timing (1924). The railways (1830) needed accurate time-tables and the new national telegraph using accurate clocks, allowed synchronisation of all ‘local regional times’ to one UK ‘Greenwich Mean Time’ (1833). The need for stable accurate clocks to determine ‘longitude’ at sea was met by the great British clockmaker, John Harrison’s 20 years’ work developing such a marine chronometer (1761) providing accurate sea navigation.

Ancient Egyptians were early time-keepers with sundials, water clocks, 12 hour night-day and 12 month moon year calendars. Later improved water and oil-burning clocks and hour-glass timers were developed. The first mechanically geared clocks, usually in churches, were very large, crude and inaccurate with heavy hanging weights pulling on a cylinder with no hands but an hourly striking bell (clock Lat. Clocca = bell). Continuous advancement in skill, design and materials during the 16C to 18C resulted in smaller, lighter and more accurate clocks. Particularly the improved gears, escapements, pendulums and temperature-compensating mechanisms all contributed to finely made timepieces with very skilled craftsmen, given in 1631 a Royal Charter by Charles 1st (Worshipful Company of Watch and Clockmakers). The pendulum mechanism control was a great advance; the concept is attributed to Galileo of Pisa (1642) from earlier observing a swinging church chandelier but the first working design was made by the Dutch clockmaker, Christian Huygens (1656). Greater clock accuracy and running time with the newer short-swing but longer pendulum and heavier weights, required strong support and protection. This gave rise to the 6 – 8 ft high ‘coffin-like’ long case clock, being fashionable 1660 – 1860 with walnut, oak (cheap), mahogany and later marquetry wood used. The square clock-face changed to an English style in early 18C with a decorated dome above where the rotating moon-phases disc was popular. This allowed planning of night travel more safely at the time of the bright full moon. In the late 1700’s the long case clock went out of favour being put in the hall or landing, or given to a servant who often sawed off the base to fit in the low ceiling cottage. The smaller neo-classicism table clocks replaced the long case ones. Resurgence in the early Victorian Period of specialist long case clocks occurred with enamel and painted faces, swan-neck tops and ‘mechanical arches’ with rocking ‘tic-toc’ sea or rural scenes. The high quality very accurate but expensive British clock market finally diminished in the mid-1800’s with mass produced cheap imports mostly from the USA.
Dr Lattimore finished with the amusing origin of the name ‘Grandfather Clock’ from a story of a long case clock seen in a Piercebridge Hotel in Darlington by a visiting American folksinger, Henry Clay Work, who wrote the song ‘My Grandfather’s Clock’ in 1876. The talk was very informative, well-illustrated and given with many humorous touches. Dr Lattimore was thanked by the President, Angela Rimmer.

Bernard Meggitt

Thursday June 16th – Bats to Beds to Books – Philomena Guille baud

Philomena Guille baud gave an extremely interesting talk about her chance discovery of the unfamiliar footprint of a series of buildings on a 1927 Ordnance Survey map of Cambridge. These buildings were right under where the University Library is now.
This clue led her to discover the story of the founding and building of the First Eastern General Hospital built to house injured soldiers from the First World War. The hospital was built on what had been a university Cricket Ground (Bats), then the Military Hospital (Beds) and finally the University Library (Books). Over 62,000 soldiers passed through the hospital doors during its lifetime.
After the war the wards were converted to housing for those whose houses had been bombed or were otherwise homeless and eventually in 1929 the old buildings were demolished to allow the building of the University Library.
Accompanied by some fascinating photographs, Phillomena’s talk revealed just how easily knowledge of the past is lost and how wonderful it can be when it is rediscovered.

Shirley Wittering

Thursday July 21st, - Heroism at Sea, Henry Blogg GC, BEM, Cromer Lifeboat Man – by Dr Robin Cox

Dr Robin Cox started his talk with Henry George Blogg’s early life, then presented some of his most heroic sea lifeboat rescues and finished with a summary of his outstanding achievements. Dr Cox had lived in Cromer and came to know Henry Blogg in his later life.
Born in Cromer (1876) and living there all his 78 years, Henry Blogg left school early to work with his step-father in the family fishing business and came to know the treacherous N. Norfolk off-shore waters. At 18 years (1894) he volunteered to join the RNLI Cromer lifeboat, the Benjamin Bond Cabbell, being a newly built self-righting open boat with 14 oars and a lug-sail, with his step-father, the coxswain. He married Ann Brackenbury in 1901 but sadly their son died at 18 months and the daughter at 28 years. Henry was elected to 2nd coxswain at 24 yrs to the new rowing lifeboat, Louisa Heartwell, and to 1st coxswain at 31 yrs (1909) which he continued for the next 38 years. He took over the motorised L F Bailey lifeboat in 1924.
Dr Cox explained that in the late 1800s and early 1900s the lifeboats around the British coast relied on the strength of the oarsmen and the power of the wind. The Cromer ones were launched from the open beach, and judgement and determination were the prime needs of the coxswain. He showed maps of the Wash and N. Norfolk coast with the many shallow hard sandbanks which with the very strong tides, made it a very hazardous area for shipping in bad weather and visibility. Using maps, diagrams and realistic paintings, he described
some of the most heroic medal-awarded rescues often in very severe weather, made by the Cromer lifeboat under cox Henry Blogg. The more dramatic of these involved two rescues over 24 hours on 9-10th January 1917. His crew launched the Louisa Heartwell four times in a severe storm to rescue 22 crew from the grounded Greek vessel, Pyrin. Just after returning, they re-launched and rowed out three times to rescue 11 Swedish sailors from the Fernabo ship that had been blown in two by a German mine. For this Henry Blogg was awarded the first of the new RNLI Gold Medals, his second cox, the Silver and the crew, all Bronze Medals. In 1932 he was awarded the Silver Medal and the Canine D L Medal for, after 50 hours afloat in a gale, rescuing 30 crew and a dog from the Italian Monte Nevosa breaking up aground on the Haisborough Sands. He was given the dog and renamed him ‘Monte’.

Dr Cox said that Cromer’s unique lifesaving record was mainly due to their rescues during WW2 having more launches and the most lives saved than any other lifeboat. In early 1941 L H Bailey was called out to the SS English Trader aground and almost under water on the Hammond Knoll Bank in a gale. The lifeboat was thrown onto her side and Henry with four other crew went overboard. They were all picked up but one was in a critical state and the lifeboat went back to Yarmouth but he died. After recovery, they went back to the English Trader and rescued 44 men and returned to Yarmouth. Henry received the Silver and the Crew all a Bronze Medals for the rescue.

Dr Cox finished with Henry Blogg’s achievements: he retired in 1947 aged 71 and died in 1954; during his 53 years’ service and with coxswain for 38 years, the Cromer lifeboat was out 387 times and saved 873 lives. He was awarded the George Cross for general War Service, the BEM for rescue of Convoy 559, three Gold and Four Silver Medals and the VC and Bar of Lifeboat Service. The new RNLI Cromer Lifeboat in 1947 was named after him on his retirement and in 2006, a museum dedicated to Henry Blogg was opened.

*Bernard Meggitt*
These pictures, all taken this Spring, show a rather alarming fashion in cutting tops and branches of trees leaving just the bare trunk standing rather forlornly to struggle to grow.
Traditionally, there were three main ways of managing trees. They could be grown in woods, in which a proportion were allowed to mature into full timber trees but most were coppiced – cut back to near ground level on a regular rotation in order to supply a crop of ‘poles’ suitable for firewood, fencing and other domestic uses. They could be grown in hedges, pastures, and meadows, either as standards or as pollards – in effect, aerial coppices, cropped out of reach of browsing stock. Or they could be grown in plantations, largely or entirely composed of standard trees, which were first thinned in stages and then felled or – in some cases – left to become an aesthetic feature of the landscape. In an area where wood was scarce, many of the free-standing trees within the village envelopes were pollarded. *

The trees shown in the above photos are neither coppiced nor pollarded; pollarded trees were pruned at head height to prevent browsing by livestock and coppiced trees were cut down to ground level at regular intervals to supply poles as stated above.

The third way to manage trees was to allow them to grow to maturity and then fell them for timber.

If the tops and branches are not wanted then it would be better to fell the whole tree and plant a smaller more decorative tree in its place. The mutilated skeletons shown above are ugly and unnecessary. I’m sure we don’t want our village to look like the Somme after WWI.

A tree pollarded to prevent deer from browsing the foliage, but the branches and top are still there.

A big Thankyou to all those who helped put up and take down the Gazebo for Daffodil Weekend: Geoff Axe, David Easthope, Bernard Meggitt, Michael Moule, Judy Murch, Angela Rimmer, Jean Tomlinson, Nick Wittering and for those who helped in the Smithy over the weekend: Geoff Axe, Michael Braithwaite, Bernard Meggitt, Michael Moule, Judy Murch, Brian Roberts, Jean Tomlinson and Bill Wittering.

Thanks too to Jon Currell with Luca Palmer on Saturday and Peter Allen our two blacksmiths who worked tirelessly on both days blowing the bellows and making horseshoes and other wrought iron items to a large and fascinated crowd.

Thanks to Richard Taylor for several items for the Smithy collection, including a surveyor’s chain and a ladies gas mask.

An unknown person brought a collection of postcards into the shop for the Thriplow Society; they are pencil sketches of the Church, shop and green. They are not signed but I remember these postcards when we first arrived in Thriplow in the late 70s and I think they were done by Alan Percival. So thank you to whoever passed them on to us.

Correction: - The rainfall for 2015 was 577.8mm or 22.7 inches not 44mm or 6.8 inches as printed, we apologise for this error.

Thanks to Sean Hogan for a CD with his drawings of Cochrane’s made in 1997.

Thank you to Jean Tomlinson for organising the outing to Great Bardfield on July 30th. The weather was good and we had a fascinating tour of this wonderful medieval village followed by tea in the Quaker Meeting Room. For those of you interested in the etymology of place names, Great Bardfield means the ‘field by the bank’ of the river Pant.

Gt. Bardfield: L. - Diane Thompson, Barbara Pointon, Judy Murch and Angela Rimmer, Chairman.