

EDITORIAL

This is the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Thriplow Society. How time flies! A review of the work of the Society is given in an article in this issue and at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting there will be an opportunity for members to discuss the Society's objectives and achievements. At this meeting the Committee will present a revised and extended 'Rules of the Society' for discussion and approval. Nominations for election to the Committee should be sent as soon as possible to the Secretary and before the meeting so that voting papers can be prepared. Persons seeking election must be proposed and seconded. It is hoped that a sufficient number of members will seek nomination in order to make an election possible.

Please note that a revised date for holding the AGM has had to be determined due to the non-availability at present of the Village Hall. The new date is Monday May 19th 1997 when it is hoped that measures for ensuring a safe Hall will have been completed. This date replaces April 21st. As we now have a household membership number of 84 there is no appropriate alternative accommodation in the village where we could hold an AGM. Please support this meeting to hear the reports on the past year's activities, to vote on the membership of the Committee, and to learn of our proposals for the coming year. Subscriptions will be due and will remain at the present £5 per household. At this meeting we do not have a principal speaker but we shall devote the time after the AGM to listening to members describing and demonstrating their interests in the Thriplow region and to displaying the Society's considerable collection of documents, maps, photographs and other Thriplow memorabilia. If you have anything you would like to show or describe please bring it along.

Daffodil Weekend is nearly here as this editorial is written. Let us hope for fine weather, for the survival of flowers in good bloom during this warm spell and for many visitors. The Society is unable to mount its customary exhibition in the Dovecote at the Bury this year, but there will be a display of tools in the restored Smithy, a working Blacksmith arranged by the Society, some equipment on show, and members will be around the village selling *About Thriplow*.

Peter Speak and Shirley Wittering, Joint Editors.

FIVE YEARS ON

The Thriplow Society had its inaugural meeting in April 1992. After five years it seems a good time to reflect on its activities, achievements and acquisitions. The objective of publishing three journals each year has been maintained so that this issue (5/3) is our fifteenth number. There were some who felt that it would be difficult to keep the copy coming if the text was to be primarily about one small village in South Cambridgeshire. But with a balance of articles historical and contemporary, and a regular feature Profile of a village resident, and an illustrated article on a seasonal flower or tree we have seldom needed to venture beyond the Thriplow Region. We have been fortunate to have a co-operative printer, John Clark of Ryecroft Data, Fowlmere, who has been able to scan into the computer black and white photographs, maps, line drawings and sketches.

Whilst most of the articles have come from the pens of the co-editors, Bill Wittering has been a regular contributor and there have been occasional pieces (more would be welcome), from the Society's members. We are very pleased to have this issue's Profile written by a member. We have also published two fine poems sent to us via Maureen Leach from a member of her family visiting the area. We continue to urge members to send in articles for publishing. This is the Journal of all the Society's members.

The regular Profile feature has enabled us to record memories and biographical material from Thriplow residents of very long standing. For most of these we have recorded their material at interview and so have a collection of tapes contributing to an 'Oral History' of the village.

Much archival work has been accomplished due to the zeal for Local History of our Secretary, Shirley Wittering. She has taken two courses in Local History over a period of three years, organised by Cambridge University's Board of Continuing Education, and has obtained the Certificate and Advanced Certificate of Local History awarded by the University. These now qualify her for entry to the Master of Studies Degree in Local History and she hopes to enter the University to pursue this subject as a student in next Michaelmas Term. In the course of her research she has combed the archives of the County Record Office, the Cambridgeshire Collection in Lion Yard, Cambridge and the depths of the University Library. We now possess, therefore, an excellent collection of copies of documents relating to Thriplow dating from the thirteenth century onwards. Her courses in Palaeography and medieval Latin have enabled her to translate for our benefit these early Court Rolls, Wills, Land Transactions etc.

In addition we have examined maps and photographs. The large pre-enclosure map has recently been painstakingly copied by the Secretary, and also the Enclosure map itself and coloured by hand, then photo-copied and made available at a modest charge to members. If not the originals we at least have copies of all the maps of Thriplow that are believed extant. Similarly we have

assiduously collected photographs of Thriplow scenes, family groups and buildings. Those that have been lent to us have been copied by Bill Wittering and returned to their owners. We have submitted a photographic collection and map to the Cambridge Local History Society and Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Of course we should also mention 'About Thriplow', an illustrated guide and history, a major publishing venture for us. It continues to sell well. We also produced for a small charge a re-issue of Fred Gambie's Memories of Thriplow, and a specially drawn map of the Village. And this summer we hope to produce a new autobiography written by a member who was born in the village.

The Society has been active too in the preservation and conservation of domestic and agricultural artefacts that are connected with the region. We inherited a small number of 'bygones' from an earlier museum collection and some of these have been on display each year. A comprehensive display took place in the Village Hall in association with Thriplow's remembrance after 50 years of the end of the last war. These articles and photographs are normally on show at Daffodil Weekend as the Society's contribution to the village's annual event. In some ways a more substantial collection is that of farm machinery which we now possess - a seed drill, plough, water carriers, sieves, game cage etc. And a large collection of Blacksmith's tools in the Smithy. The Society cares for the Smithy and the Village Sign on behalf of the Parish Council. The 1920s plough and seed drill were cleaned by sand-blasting and repainted by Arthur Rowe in their original colours. The plough looks resplendent as a piece of rural architecture outside Twyford Plant Breeders International in Church Street.

We have also been active in the preservation of records from our local school: an important Log Book dating from 1875 had fallen apart and has now been professionally restored and rebound with the help of a grant from Daffodil Weekend Trust. The Log will be lodged in the County Record Office.

Nor has the Society neglected social activities for members. These have included the highly successful annual Musical Soirees held in the first four years at the Bury, the home of our President, Lady Lena Browne, and this year at Alderley, Church Street, the home of John Mawe and Penny Grant. We have also organised costumed parties for Victorian, Edwardian and Valentine evenings. Outings have been made to Swaffham and Castle Acre, Wandlebury Woods and meadows, Fowlmere Bird reserve, and in Cambridge to the University Library, the Zoology Museum and the Scott Polar Research Institute. Well remembered too are a summer garden party and a 1920s cocktail party at the Bury.

Our speakers on more formal evenings have included experts from the County Collections, eminent archaeologists and historians. Our stated objectives five years ago were to provide a combination of: talks about the local region, social events, and the collection of documents, illustrations and artefacts in relation to Thriplow. We believe that we have not done too badly in the first five years and look forward now to the next five!

P.S.

Margery Kathleen Fuller 1913-1988



Dick and Marjorie Fuller on their 50th wedding anniversary

Margery like her parents before her was born in Thriplow and spent all her life in Thriplow. She was born on October 24th 1913 one of five children, in 23 Middle Street. In 1913 this house was still two cottages, Margery's parents, Arthur and Emily Chamberlain, lived in one half and her grandparents in the other.

She attended the village school from the age of five. Learning was not a comfortable experience in those days, long hours were spent sitting on hard benches in a cold classroom. All writing was done on slates. Parents had to pay a penny a child to attend school. The harsh facts of life and death were experienced at a young age by Margery, her older sister Mabel fell victim to the 'flu epidemic which hit the village in 1920, she could remember all the children lining the road as Mabel's coffin was carried up to the church. On one occasion near the end of the First World War, she remembered getting excited as a German zeppelin passed over the village.

Margery left school when she was fourteen and went into domestic service. She worked for several families in Thriplow and Fowlmere. Most of her spare time was spent helping out at home, on her occasional day off she would cycle up to Heydon to see her friend. When she was nineteen she started work for the Vinter's at Thriplow manor as house parlour maid. Here she fell in love with the Chauffeur/Gardener, Richard Fuller, and a year later they were married. They set up home together in Myrtle Cottage in Middle Street. They had the chance to buy the cottage for £40, but this was an absolute fortune back then and way beyond their means, so they continued to rent it. During the next eight years Margery had three children, Jean, Valerie and Colin, whilst continuing to work for the Vinter's. During the Second World War while her husband served in the Fire Brigade, Margery donned a civil defence hat, helping out whenever and wherever she was needed most. In 1945 her husband Richard got a

job on Thriplow Farms and they moved to the last council house in Fowlmere Road which had just been built. Here they spent the rest of their lives.

As well as continuing to work at the Manor, Margery also worked for Mrs Rawlins at Basset's and Mrs O'Brien-Butler at the Bury Lodge. Monday was always the busiest day of the week, with all the laundry to be done. With no modern appliances to help, a wet Monday was a disaster. Many hours were spent washing, putting it all through the mangle and pegging it out on the line. The people she worked for liked their sheets and pillowcases starched before ironing. Entertainment was usually in the form of radio programmes and sometimes listening to a favourite dance band such as Geraldo, on the little wind-up gramophone. Whilst it was always hard to stretch the food around the whole family, nobody went hungry. There were always plenty of home-grown vegetables and fresh eggs from the chickens they kept.

Actively involved in the church all her life, Margery spent many years serving on the Church Council. Along with Win Badcock, she cleaned the church every week and ensured there was a supply of clean linen. One of her favourite jobs was setting up the nativity scene at Christmas. When the Queen visited Ely Cathedral to distribute the Maundy Money, Margery was very honoured to be one of the people from this village chosen to attend the service. When she was 35 she was one of the founding members of the Thriplow Friendship Club, she started doing the cooking for them and never really stopped. She also belonged to the Women's Club and Mother's Union at Fowlmere and served on the Village Hall Committee. Margery was involved with Daffodil Weekend from the very first meeting, presiding over a teapot at the school for many years, whilst taking part in some friendly rivalry with Mrs Win Badcock at the village hall.

A lady very much involved with the village, she gave her time and effort willingly and cheerfully. Her bravery and courage at tackling health problems in her last year was admired by many. Finally, her heart no longer strong enough, Margery passed away during the early hours of her seventy fifth birthday.

Toni Charter, granddaughter.

BUS SERVICES IN THE THRILOW AREA Part 1

The earliest scheduled buses to run in South Cambridgeshire were double deckers drawn by four horses, bound for Cambridge. They started from Shepreth Station, where the trains from London terminated from 1st August 1851 until 1st April the following year.

Cambridge had to wait until 1880 for its first regular internal public transport system for this was the year that horse-drawn trams first ran in the city. Cambridge Street Tramways enjoyed 16 years without serious competition but in 1896 two separate companies started horse drawn bus services from the Railway Station to Chesterton and Huntingdon Roads. The only real hope of survival for the tramway was to electrify but this was rejected by the City and University on the grounds that the overhead wires would be unsightly amid so many buildings of architectural merit.

The advent of the Ortona bus company added more nails to the tramways' coffin when Ortona inaugurated their first motor bus service (from the Station to Chesterton) on 1st August 1907, less than three years after Thomas Tilling introduced the first motor buses to the streets of London. Such was the rate of increase of these vehicles in London that during World War I, 1300 of them were sent to France to transport servicemen behind the front. Some of the best motor buses from Cambridge also went to the lines. As might have been expected, the horse-drawn trams lost out to the motor buses and ceased to run in March 1914.

Other than in London and Edinburgh, motor buses were slow in catching on; most other towns and cities were firmly committed to electric tramways. When world war I started in August 1914, country places still relied almost exclusively on the horse in the form of the well-established network of carriers which linked villages to market towns and railway stations carrying people, animals and goods. [More about carriers will appear in a later article.]

During WWI, the carrier from Harston to Cambridge was Charles Thompson who ventured there - to the "Carriers' Arms" in St. Tibbs Row - on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. He was but one of the 80 or so carriers connecting Cambridge with its surrounding villages.

By 1910, motor bus services had ventured outside the town to Sawston and to Cottenham. In 1922, Charles' brother, Norman Pennell Thompson, founded a bus company called Harston & District Motor Services. He had been demobbed from the Royal Navy four years earlier. Like other ex-servicemen, presumably using his gratuity, he bought an old army lorry and fitted it with wooden benches to carry passengers. This must have been a natural extension to his brother Charles' carrier's service and Mrs Violet Pennell of Fowlmere (Norman's cousin by marriage) tells how he would take the benches out of his converted lorry, carry pigs and chickens to Royston market, put the benches back in and resume his passenger service! By 1936, the Company had five vehicles built between 1929 and 1933 and a garage in Harston at the junction of Newton and Royston Roads opposite the Pemberton Arms pub.

Before the advent of Harston & District Motor Services, the only practical way of commuting to Cambridge for workers or school-children was to cycle to Foxton and catch a train or a bus on Ortona route 8 (Royston to Cambridge). As a young schoolboy, Mr John Ison of Fowlmere

and some of his pals used this method of travelling to school. These Ortona buses were double deckers, open-topped and with solid rubber tyres!. As a child, Mrs Pennell used to go on excursions to London on the upper deck of these vehicles with only a tarpaulin over her knees to protect her from the weather!



A bus from the Premier Travel Fleet which served Thriplow for many years.

If any company will be for ever associated with buses to Cambridge from our village however, it will surely be Premier Travel. When I first came to Thriplow in 1977, three buses went to Cambridge at around 7.45 am every morning. One entered the village from Duxford via Gravel Pit Hill and Middle Street and the other two came along Fowlmere Road. The three took different routes to Cambridge; one went via Little Shelford and Hauxton (as the present 7.45 am bus does), one travelled via Haslingfield and one went direct via Trumpington. They were always very full. Now, only 20 years later, on most days perhaps five passengers board the early bus at The Green.

It was in January 1936 that Premier Travel was founded by Edward Arthur Lainson, a graduate of St Catherine's College. Whilst an undergraduate, he and nine others had founded a bus company called Undergraduate Roadways. They hired buses from other companies and in 1933 ran a timetabled service on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Cambridge to Skegness via Peterborough. As Company Chairman, they chose Sir Christopher Magnay whose Premier Omnibus Company in London had been compulsorily absorbed into London Transport by the 1933 Act which set up that organisation. Norman Thompson became a director of the new company and Arthur Lainson the Managing Director. Charles Thompson became a kind of general factotum in the garage.

Lainson chose the name Premier Travel for his company which was formed out of the Harston & District Motor Services, Royal Blue Coaches of Cambridge and his original company, Undergraduate Roadways. From the Harston company, he took over the route (which he called No 1) which, by then, plied between Royston and Cambridge via the A505, Dotterall (sic), Fowlmere, Thriplow, Newton, Haslingfield and Barton. Mr Ison used this bus and remembers that Robin Page's father would board it at Barton. The existence of the Ortona bus from Royston to Cambridge along the A.10 was the reason why Thompsons were not permitted to run their buses direct from Harston to Cambridge along the same road.

To be continued

Bill Wittering

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W O Wittering

TO THE MANOR BORN?

EARLY DAYS:

Before the seventh century there was no privately-owned land, all land was owned by the king. Out of the dark and chaotic centuries that followed the

withdrawal of the Romans a pattern of kingdoms had emerged. The most important were Kent, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Essex, Mercia and Northumberland, the 'Heptarchy'. Power depended on military force and Kings depended on personal loyalty from a military aristocracy. This loyalty by the King's Lords was rewarded by grants of land so that wherever the King might be, he could rely on a local fighting force to support him. The coming of the Danes in the eighth and ninth centuries reinforced the need for a mobile, local fighting force loyal to the King. The Lords in their turn granted smaller parcels of land to their Thegns thus communal land became fragmented and owned by individuals.

By the eleventh century a single English Kingdom gradually emerged rooted in the dominance of the royal house of one of the existing kingdoms and these events had a direct effect at local levels. The period saw rising population levels, the growth of nucleated rural settlements and related field systems with a related infra-structure of taxes, services and rights. The Manor was born.

CONSOLIDATION:

The Manor was the basic unit of feudal administration. A Baron as Tenant-in-Chief held land directly from the king and he might hold as many as 40 manors; in return he swore an oath of FEALTY to the king. The king had right of ESCHEAT whereby he could take the manor back at the lord's death and demand a RELIEF to be paid by the heir to the property. The King could also demand AID for ransom or payment of a dowry and right of WARSHIP if the heir was under-age. Those who have been watching 'Ivanhoe' will find this familiar.

The greatest right the king had was SCUTAGE, military service in exchange for land. Each manor was held for one Knight's Fee, that is it was big enough to support one fighting knight, his retainers and servants. This was to provide an army when the king needed it. The Domesday survey recorded two such manors in Thriplow, one, *The Bury*, held by the Abbot of Ely, and one, *Barentons*, held by Geoffrey de Mandeville, one of William's Barons. Bacon's Manor was probably held from the Bury (the name first appears in fourteenth century).

The tenant-in-chief let out his lands to his own retainers in return for services and so on down the line. By the thirteenth century this system of SUBINFEUDATION had become so complicated and unwieldy with men owing allegiance to several land owners at the same time that military service became commuted to cash payment with which the king could hire mercenaries, though they had to be Freemen as unfree peasants did not have the right to bear arms.

THE WORKINGS OF THE MANOR:

In 1279 Edward I ordered a national survey more detailed than Domesday, *The Hundred Rolls*, it includes the names of the holders of the manors, their rights and services, all the retainers are named and how much land they hold and the services they have to perform in return for their land and houses. The lower the rank of the peasant the more work he had to do for the lord, ploughing, sowing, reaping, mowing, carting wood and digging ditches. He had to pay a fine on entering into his land at the death of his father, *Gersuma*: a *Heriot* or his best beast was taken by the lord when he died: he had to pay a fine if his daughter married, *Merchat*: and if she became pregnant before she was married he had to pay *Lerwite*. If he wished to leave the manor he paid *Chevage*, and if he did not turn up at the Manor Courts he was fined for that too. The lord of the manor had power of life and death over his peasants, he owned the gallows and could hang anyone found committing a crime within his domesne and confiscate his belongings, though having said that the main punishment was usually a fine.

THE MANOR COURTS:

There were two types of manorial court: The Court Baron and Court Leet.

THE COURT BARON was held every 3 - 6 weeks and dealt with mainly civil jurisdictions - inheritance of land, trespass by beasts, non-payment of dues, cutting timber, blocking water-courses, dumping dung in front of another mans house, marrying or leaving the village. A Homage or Jury made up of villeins of the manor would swear allegiance and present any business to the lord's steward. Fines would be levied or days set aside to deal with offenders. The clerk would write all this down on a sheet of parchment and these sheets would be sown together and rolled up, latin was the official language used until it was changed to English in 1733.

THE COURT LEET was a criminal court and was held twice a year, the lord of the manor had *View of Frankpledge*, this was a means of self-policing by grouping the men into Tythings or groups of 12 men over the age of 12 years who pledged each others good behaviour. The sheriff of the county had twice a year to ensure that the Tythings were intact and as usual received a fee for this from the men. If a crime was committed the men had to raise the 'Hue and Cry' and chase the criminal as far as the parish boundary where the 'Hue and Cry' would be taken up by the tything in the next parish.

THE HUNDRED COURT:

This was a meeting attended by all the freemen of the Hundred, originally held out-of-doors at a common meeting place, the *Moot*, *Mutloe Hill* between Newton and Thriplow gives a

clue to its whereabouts. By the sixteenth century it had been replaced by the Quarter Sessions.

The earliest manor court records for Thriplow date from 1633 though there are some dated 1576 in the Public Record Office in London. By this time there were three manors in Thriplow though originally there had been four – The Bury, Barentons, Bacon's and Crouchman's, and although Pittensaries was called a manor there seem to be no court records for it. By this time all services of work had been commuted to rent, though the land owner retained the privilege of owning all the timber trees. On first reading these court minute books the language seems incomprehensible; words such as messuage, appurtenances, surrender, to the use of his will, by the rod, customary tenant, copyhold, craves admittance, he hath payed his fyne and made fealty, yet once these are understood a fascinating picture of land tenure emerges.

It must be remembered that up to very recently nearly all property was rented, only a privileged few actually owned the land on which they lived. In medieval days there were two types of tenant, FREE tenants payed rent but owed no services, and COPYHOLD tenants who owed both, they were the descendant of the villeins and held their land by copy of court roll. They would swear fealty or loyalty to the lord who would hold his rod of office out to the tenant who would grasp it as prove of his loyalty. When he died the land reverted to the lord who could let the heir inherit the property and become his tenant on payment of a fine. A way of not paying the fine was for the copyholder to surrender his property to the lord, to the use of his (the villeins) will. The copyholder could also surrender (sell) his land to another person just as one can sell a leasehold property today. There were two kinds of surrender, ABSOLUTE which was outright selling of the copyhold and CONDITIONAL which was a way to raise cash using the copyhold as security. This was one of the ways by which the Ellis family gradually came to own two thirds of the whole village of Thriplow.

Copyholds were abolished in 1935 and many copyholds became freehold. Manor Courts lasted until 1955 when Lordships of Manors suddenly became the fashionable thing to be and many were sold for large sums of money although they conferred no legal rights. The last court held in Thriplow was at Barentons in 1937. It is these Manor Court Records, more than any other record that gives the clue to the history of the old houses in the Village.

Shirley Wittering

THRILOW'S PUBS
THE SARACEN'S HEAD



The Saracen's Head around 1900

The first mention I have found so far of this abode come from Kelly's Directory for 1847 quoting a William Coleman as a Beer Retailer. The Public House is mentioned on a Sale poster:-

**Triplow, Cambridgeshire, Valuable Freehold Estate,
to be sold by Auction by Wentworth & Son
at the Saracen's Head public-house, Triplow,
on Thursday, March 16th, 1848,
at six o'clock in the evening,
unless previously disposed of by private contract.**

William Coleman is still quoted as beer retailer in 1851 in the History Gazetteer of Cambridge, and the census of that year names him as publican of The Saracen's Head, it also notes that he is aged 55 and his wife Mary is 48 years old. In the same house living with them is Henry Gambie, grandson, aged 5 years and William Gambie, grandson aged 9 years. There is also a lodger Mr George Perrin aged 64 years, an agricultural labourer.

In Kelly's Directory of 1858, a Joseph Coleman is also listed as beer retailer. He is 39 years of age and is also an agricultural labourer, his wife Mary is 34 and their daughter Selina, 14 years old is listed in the census as a scholar. Although Joseph is not William's son, he is related. The 1861 census shows us that William Coleman is 64 and an agricultural labourer and ran a public house; his wife Mary is 55. This is the last mention of this public house in the records I have researched. There is a further mention of William and Mary in the 1871 census, who were then living in Middle Street with their grandson William Gambie and Elizabeth his wife and their children Charles and Henry who was 25 years old and an agricultural labourer. The last mention of William and Mary appears in the Cambridge Chronicle in 1872:-

Excerpt from *The Cambridge Chronicle* Saturday September 21st 1872:

THRILOW - DEATH FROM BURNING:

On Wednesday evening, the dress of an old lady of this village, named Mary Coleman, who has passed the allotted three score years and ten, caught fire and she was burned so severely as to cause death to supervene in about 24 hours. An Inquest is to be held today (Saturday).

Cambridge Chronicle Saturday September 28th 1872:

The inquest on the body of Mary Coleman, whose death we announced last week, was held on Saturday before C.W.Palmer, Esq., deputy coroner. It transpired that the deceased was 71 years of age, and that her husband is childish. On Wednesday, the 18th, the married daughter of the deceased went to the house where her mother and father lived, when she found that her mother's clothes had by some means caught fire, and that she was burnt across the loins, up her back and upon her legs. Mr Patterson was sent for, and prescribed for deceased, but she gradually sank from her injuries, and died on the following day, at about 5 o'clock. The deceased told a neighbour that she was trying to get a cup of tea. The husband, being helpless himself, could render no assistance. The jury returned an open verdict to the effect that death resulted from burns, but that there was no evidence to show how the clothes caught fire.

Geoffrey Axe

GLEANINGS

From an inquiry taken at Cambridge on August 9th 1316:

Item: `That from the village of Triplow was levied a tax of 35shillings of which was used in the purchase of one Aketon 5s. One Bacenett 2s 4d. One Bow with Arrows 2s. One sword 18d. One Knife 6d. The rest is in the hands of Robert de Corneye and John son of Walter le Clerk, Constables, together with the armour.'

Aketon = padded wool body armour covering from the neck to the knees, worn under a coat of mail.

Bacenett = Helmett

N.b. In 1314 King Edward the second was fighting the Scots under Robert the Bruce. He was defeated soundly at the Battle of Bannockburn. Edward was an unpopular king and in 1327 he was murdered in Berkley Castle under the orders of his wife Isabella.

THANKS to Lady Lena Browne for several copies of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society's 'Transactions' for the Thriplow Society's archives.
Also to several members who have loaned the Society photographs for copying. Has anyone got a photo of the old Fox Public House in Church Street?

Don't forget the next meeting Monday May 19th, 8.0pm.

Letter to a Gardening Programme:

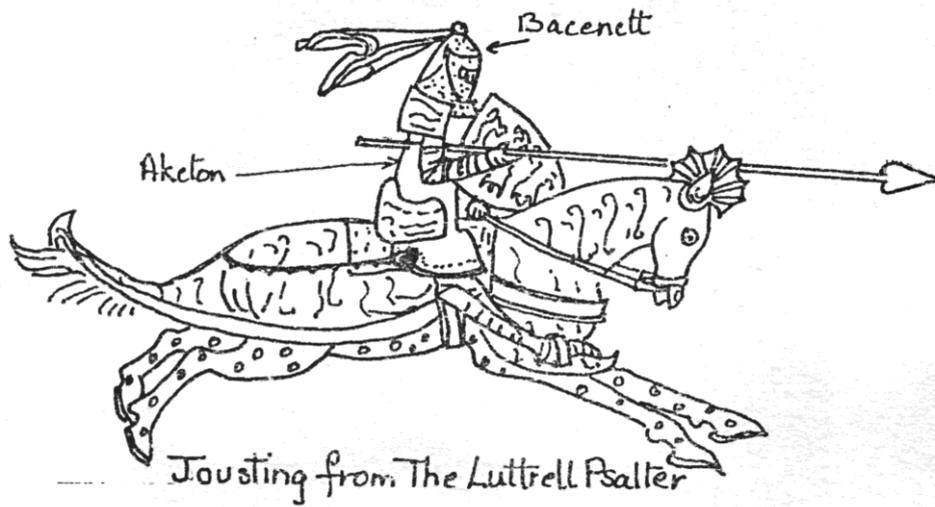
"I bought a sundial last summer and put it in my garden, As winter came along, I realized it was going slow. Thinking it might be the cold weather, I took it into the garden shed where it stopped completely. I feel that it must need new batteries but I can't see where they go. Can you advise me please."

Footnote to the Shoulder of Mutton Pub:

I have found more evidence regarding the Shoulder of Mutton Public House. Wm Lodge was the son of Thomas Lodge and had taken over as publican by 1871; he is also quoted as being a Blacksmith in Little Thriplow. In 1872 he is listed as a voter qualified as a ratepayer (house and land) of the Shoulder of Mutton.

Keppy's Directory for 1873 shows Mr Henry Course as Victualler of the Shoulder of Mutton and Coal Merchant, so the pub had changed hands. Kelly's Directory for 1876 and 1879 described him as a beer retailer. In 1885 he was listed in the Harston Polling District (Parish of Thriplow) as a voter in occupation of the public house. in the licensing list of the Petty Sessions he was also shown as a farmer. This document gives some interesting details; the type of user was; Saturday and Sunday nights, labourers'. The rateable value is £16, the Brewers as Phillips and Co, Royston and the house described as having 4 bedrooms, 2 public rooms, 1 stable, 1 front entrance, 1 back entrance and no urinal! The polling list mentiuned the Shoulder of Mutton again in 1913 and 1915. Maybe the First World War and the consequent shortage of men put an end to the Shoulder of Mutton pub.

Geoffrey Axe.



Jousting from the Luttrell Psalter