

EDITORIAL

Summer 2005, - the usual mixture of intermittent sunny days, with showers; with no prolonged spell of weather, either good, or bad. It is not likely to be remembered for anything very special-at least not so far! True, there was a sufficient spell of hot sunny weather to allow the harvesting of wheat and barley crops, but nowadays the farmer can manage with only a small window of good days to garner his fields, often working with the large harvesters into the late evening, or even into the night.

As soon as we have a change of the weather lasting more than a week or so-be it a heat-wave, or low cloud and heavy downpours, there is an outcry that it must be due to *global warming*. This has become a mantra for the so-called weather experts. It is really a quasi-scientific explanation, based on very little evidence, to encourage a change in our habits. "It must be due to the greenhouse effect", shouts one expert, "cut down the burning of fossil fuels cries another", and "no garden fires to be allowed", calls a third.

Global warming refers to an increase in the average temperature of the lower atmosphere around the world. Undoubtedly this has been occurring in the past decade or so. *Greenhouse effect* is caused by the emission of noxious gases which accumulate in the lower part of the atmosphere and trap heat radiated from the earth's surface. Yes, this has been taking place at least from the middle of the eighteenth century when the coal-burning economy of the Industrial Revolution began. Today we burn less coal, but more fossil fuels of petroleum which issue vast quantities of gases from motor vehicles.

These factors are but a few of the many critical criteria that affect our weather. Perhaps the sun is less powerful than before, or the earth is slightly changing its orbit around it, or perhaps there are more natural dust particles in the atmosphere from volcanic emissions and the like. The controls on our weather are many and complex: it is too easy to jump to the first explanation that appears to fit the facts. Of course it is well recorded that the ice of the polar regions is melting faster than in recent decades, and sea level is rising perceptively, but what are the causes? This year in the North-West Passage in the Canadian arctic the thickness of ice was thicker than ever recorded, and only broken by a nuclear powered ice-breaker ploughing ahead with six engines at full throttle! What is the cause of that?

A few years ago Tony Carter of Whittlesford gave the Society a talk about the climate of East Anglia and demonstrated that *change*, and not *stability* is the hallmark of our weather. Do not be pessimistic- next year we might have the glorious heat- waves of 1975 and 76!

Peter Speak and Shirley Wittering, Editors.

This poem was found among Sheila Andrew's papers by her son Joe Ramsay, it is obviously part of a school entertainment, unfortunately we don't know the date though Alfred was a pupil at Thriplow School from 1894.

Poem by Granny Deller (Amelia) for Uncle Alf for a school play.

OPENING SPEECH



Ladies and Gentlemen how do you do,
I'm sure we think it very kind of you
To leave your homes your firesides and your slippers
To come and listen to a lot of nippers.
Tis very kind and surely such a might
Of pleasant faces that are here tonight,
Must fill each youthful bosom with a jest
To try and entertain you with our best.

We bid you welcome, welcome every one,
My speech is ended so of course I've done;
But no, I don't care what the others say,
For once in school I mean to have my way. (Sit down)
Sit down I won't I've got a tale to tell
A pretty tale and I can tell it well.
Tis not a story you hear every day,
But just a small conundrum in its way.

One wintry day when water turned to ice,
A little school boy thought it would be nice
To play the truant and upon a slide,
From nine till twelve o'clock so smoothly glide.
Soon after nine he reached the wished-for place,
Ran o'er the pond with pleased and smiling face;
Threw up his hands, stretched his legs,
And then what did he do?
Ladies and gentlemen 'He tumbled in', Oh no!
He had a slide, Oh No! pray do not frown,
He did what I must do, he just sat down!



THRIPLow'S PLANTATIONS AND GROVES

When we hear the word 'Plantation' we think of sugar plantations in the deep south of the United States of America, but the word may have originated in this country, as the narrow belts of trees that are such a feature of the Cambridgeshire landscape, are called Plantations. The Tithe map of 1842 for Thriplow mentions four plantations totalling just over 5 acres. The other names for woodland are Grove and Close; often closes contain orchards rather than timber trees. In 1842 there was a total of 22 acres of woodland within the village. Not much for a parish of 2,353 acres.



Village Green with Godson's Grove on right 1930s

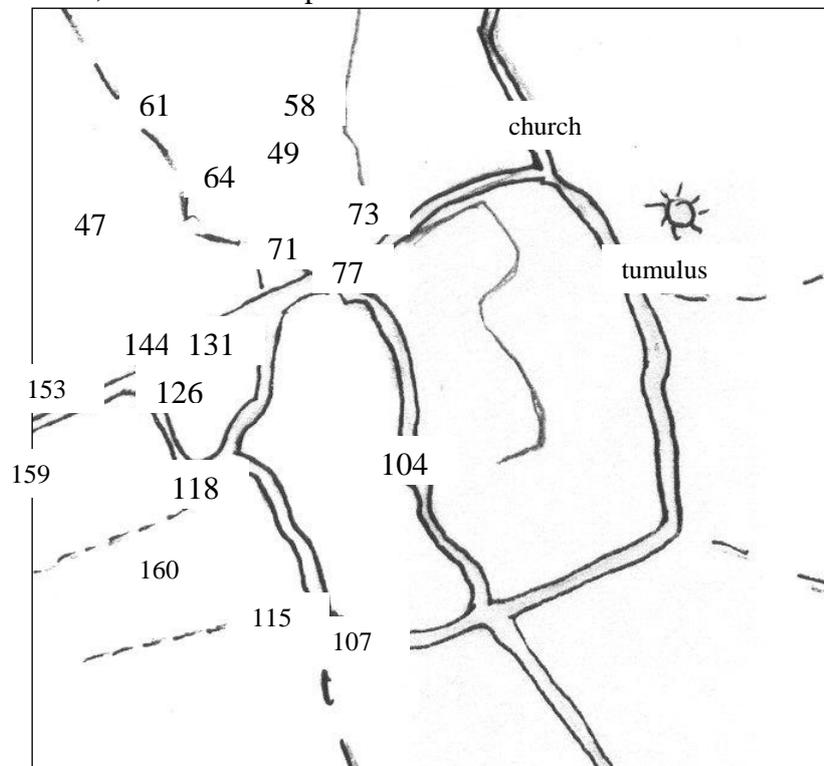


As it is today, more trees on the Green but less in Godson's Grove

Of the Groves and Closes there are 17 mentioned,

Number	Name	Description
41	Godson's Grove	Opposite Village Hall, has a few trees left
47	Grove	Behind The Old Bake House, the Green
49	Squirrel's Grove	Next to School field, no trees there
58	Town's End Close	West of Brook Road, no trees there
61	Town's End Close	Behind Thriplow Farm, next to Thriplow Meadows
64	Squirrels Grove	Next to School field, no trees there
71	Grove	School Lane, alongside Barker's Close, no trees.
73	Grove	Next to 71
77	Grove	Between Barkers Close and pig farm
104	Bury Wells	Alongside View footpath leading to Manor Farm
115		East side of Farm Lane at junction with Mill Lane
118	Ball's Grove	Lewis Stone's wood, Balls Lane
126	Rectorial Glebe	Alongside Narrow Lane on south side
137	Grove	Where Opus One, Pointons' house now is.
139	Grove	Part of Mike Murch's garden.
144	Grove	Lower Street opposite Green Man Pub.
153	Grove	Behind Dower House bordering Cricket Meadow.

Of the four plantations mentioned two are numbered 160 and 162 on the tithe map and contain just over 5 roods, this strip of trees runs parallel to the Bury along Farm Lane, the next is number 107 on the map and runs alongside Middle Street and is now part of Thriplow House, it measures 16 roods and finally number 159 is between the end of The Lodge garden and Revival's works; it measures 37 poles.





Trees behind the Red Lion (site of Village Hall).1906

In an area that is so sparsely wooded, timber was highly prized and jealously guarded, many leases in the past specified that the timber belonged to the owner and not to the lessee. The lease from Peterhouse of the Rectory to Thomas Pryme dated 1558 specifies that he is 'Not to fell any trees or other growth but only by consent of Peterhouse, except only lop and top and fallen trees. Not to lop any trees within four years of end of lease.'



Old pollarded Sycamore in 'The View' at the top of Middle Street.



One tree that is still there, the large Horse Chestnut in Church Street.

Timber could be cut down only by permission; in 1795 the Manor Court of Bacons permitted John Knight to ‘cut down several timber trees growing upon part of the aforesaid copyhold for the purposes of employing the same in the repairs of the aforesaid messuage (house).’ At the same time Ambrose Benning had with the Lord’s permission ‘Cut down several timber trees growing upon part of his customary estate and sold the same for £11-14-0. He had paid to the Lord £3-18-3 being the Lord’s proportion thereof according to the custom of the Manor.’ In 1794 the Manor Court of the Bury granted to Joseph Ellis license to ‘Fell and cut down fifteen trees standing on any part of his copyhold premises held of this Manor on condition that he uses the same on some part of his copyhold buildings.’

An example of how many trees were growing in Thriplow in the nineteenth century comes from advertisements in the *Cambridge Chronicle*, over 20 years before the enclosure of the parish.

6 February 1818 – 99 Large Elms, 27 fine Sycamores, 13 Ash, 2 Oaks and 24 Pollards.

Also, In the Avenue (the Bury) 30 fine Elms, 26 large Sycamore, 4 Ash and 10 Pollards.

By the Moat, (the Bury) 1 Ash and 1 Sycamore

In New Close (field on right at junction of Farm Lane and Mill Lane) 4 Elm

In Capon’s Close (Where the Grain Store is now) 9 Elm and 1 Ash

In Townsend Close and Spinney (Where Thriplow Farm is now) 30 Elm, 4 Ash and 14 Pollards.

In Upper and Lower Gentleman’s (Next to Bacon’s Manor and next to Manor Farm) 9 Elm.

Also a considerable quantity of Logwood and Brush.

31 December 1819 – 213 very large Elms, 65 Ash, 7 Oak, 4 Poplar, 1 Sycamore and 1 Maple Timber Trees. Also a large Walnut tree and 2 Pear trees. The timber is well worth the attention of the public being very large and of superior quality and lying an easy distance from good roads in every direction.

Also– One hundred and twenty five lots of large ARMS (branches) useful for posts and piles for inclosing and good Firewood arising from 300 large Timber Trees.

On 31 December of the same year the following advertisement was posted;

To Timber merchants, Carpenters, Wheelwrights and others.

To be sold by Auction on 13 January 1820;

213 Very Large Elms, 65 Ash, 7 Oak, 4 Poplar, 1 Sycamore and 1 Maple,
TIMBER TREES.

Also a large Walnut Tree and 2 Pear Trees; now lying numbered with white paint, in several inclosed fields at Triplow.

The timber is well worth the attention of the public being very large and of superiour quality and lying at an easy distance from good roads in every direction.

To be viewed by applying to Mr Ellis Sen, who will appoint a proper person to shew the different lots.

NB. Application has been made to Parliament for Inclosing the Parish of Triplow.

In 1849 another advertisement in the newspaper for the sale of a house and land probably in Little Thriplow mentioned that among the trees growing were 300 Italian Black Poplars, this is a hybrid of the Black Poplar and the American Cotton-wood tree.

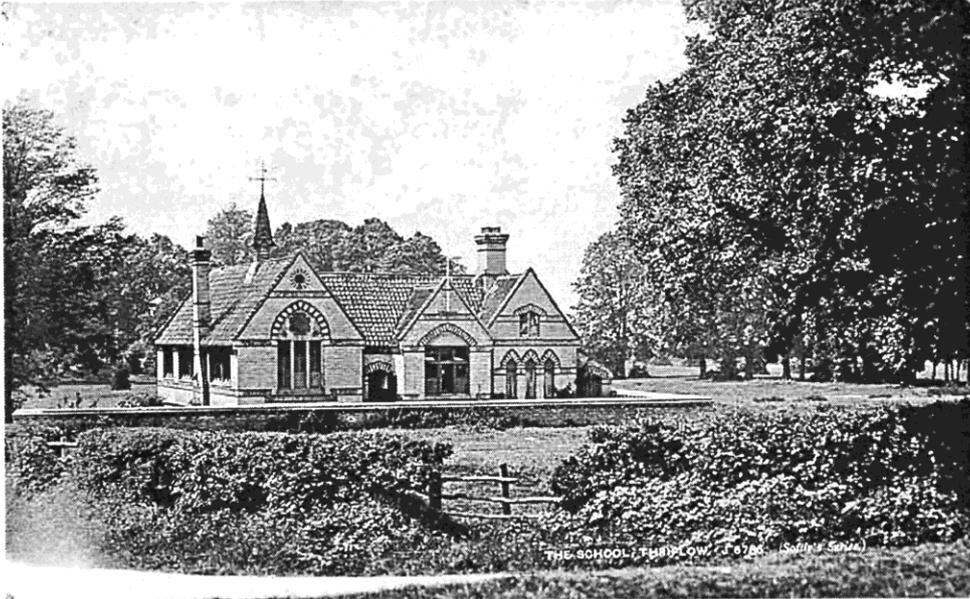
We are now aware of the lack of trees in Cambridgeshire and the part they play in providing oxygen, food for birds and insects and their function in retaining moisture, and efforts are being made to plant more. Organizations such as the W I and the Thriplow Society have planted individual specimens, usually Oaks grown from Thriplow acorns to commemorate special anniversaries. Trees have been planted by individuals such as the late Sir Patrick and Lady Lena Browne who planted over 2,000 trees in Newditch Plantation; Alan and Anne White in Church Street have planted over 100 trees and 200 metres of hedging with a corresponding increase in birds; Hilary and William Russell at the Bury have planted trees on their land and Ted King of Thriplow Farms tells me that over 12,000 metres of hedging has been planted around its fields; Robert Smith and Mark Deller have planted trees in the hedgerows around Long Croft Lane now called Church Street. Thriplow is now seen as a green oasis when approached from the A505.



Early morning in The View

Shirley Wittering

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO



From the Thriplow School Log Book – January 9th 1905, School opened today after being closed for three weeks for influenza. Average 103.

January 23rd – 90 children present, 17 children absent with cold.

March 25th – Attendance very good this week but 5 children absent with Scarlet Fever.

April 3rd – Wm Parker, Kate Howe, Leonard Hagger, Lillie Smith, Leonard Flack, Bernard Perrin, Rose Wombwell and Ralph Flack have passed in Standard VI, Ethel Freeman has failed.

April 7th – Many children absent having sore throats.

April 14th – School closed by Medical authority for Scarlet Fever.

May 5th – School re-opened

June 2nd – Many of the children have influenza

July 21st – A holiday was given on Monday for Chapel Sunday School Treat, also a half holiday on Thursday afternoon for Church Sunday School Treat.

July 28th – A half holiday was given on Tuesday for the 'Flower Show'.

September 18th – Opened School today, attendance very good. A change has been made in the teaching staff. Miss James left and her place has been taken by Miss E Norman. E. Gambie has left.

September 30th – Average 109.

October 6th – Examination given this morning to Standards IV, V and II.

October 10th – Attendance not so good this week, some children have been kept home to gather potatoes.

November 24th – Mabel Neeves has passed in Standard VI.

December 1st – Attendance not so good this week, some of the children being ill and some kept at home to work.

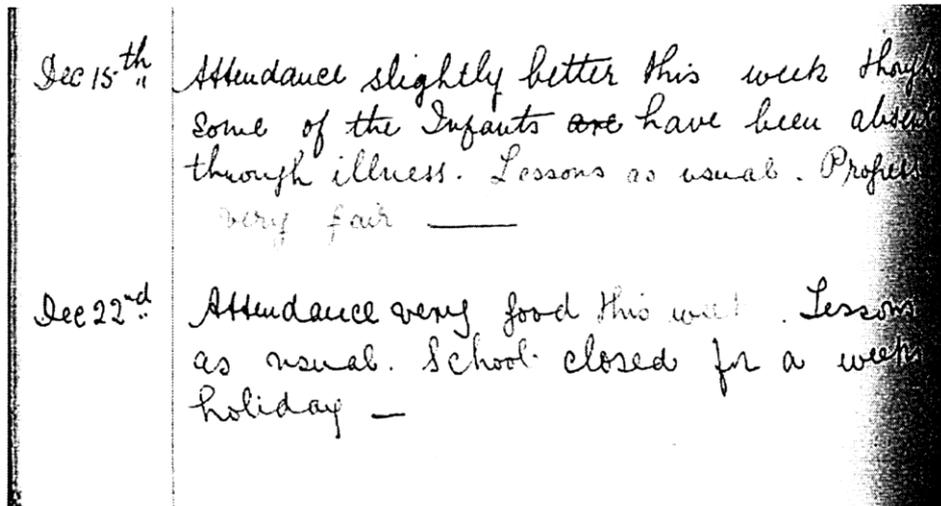
December 22nd – School closed for a week's holiday.

In 1905 the Head Teacher was Miss Isabella Walker, she took over the post in 1900 and stayed until April 1913 when she left owing to illness; she resumed duties in June 1913 but left again in September. Under her as Assistant teachers were Miss Ada James who also came in 1900, she left in 1905 and was followed by Miss E Norman. Miss Agnes Lofts was supplementary teacher of infants from 1900 until 1919. Florence Perrin was Monitor.

The school Inspector's Report for 1905 is missing (they were kept loose in a cardboard folder); the nearest is for 1901, this states:

'The school is well taught and the results are very satisfactory and promise well for the future. The children are interested in their work. A good start has been made in the teaching of the infants. Singing is good. The school is reported very good.

G.H.D.Jones, Ely Diocesan Inspector.



Dec 15th Attendance slightly better this week though some of the Infants ~~are~~ have been absent through illness. Lessons as usual. Proficiency very fair —

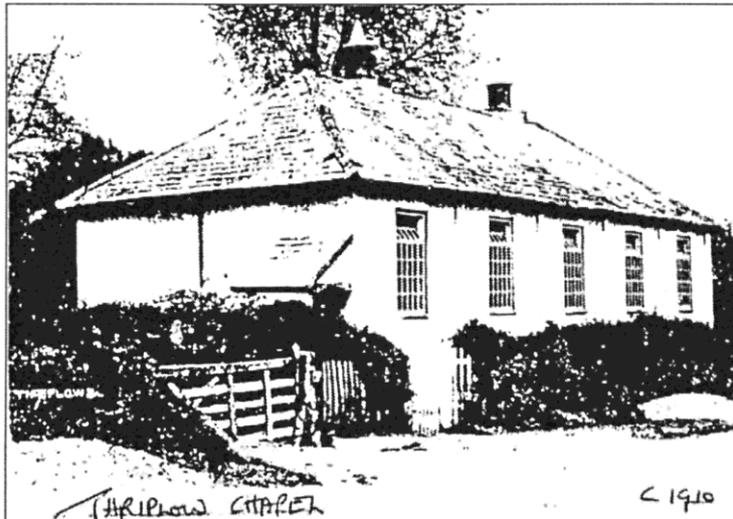
Dec 22nd Attendance very good this week. Lessons as usual. School closed for a week holiday —

Copy of School Log Book

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL



Sheila Andrews wrote this article for the Thriplow Journal of Winter 1992, Vol.I/2 and we thought it would be a fitting tribute to her constant support of the Society to reprint it in her memory.



My mother and father were caretakers of the Congregational Chapel, or Independent Meeting Place, for over 45 years, and my father's funeral service was held there. The chapel is sadly missed by the older residents and was a popular village landmark. We complain

sometimes today that the chairs we sit on at the various halls are uncomfortable, but the forms there - well one never bothered about the discomfort, or even the cold, because the only heating was a coke boiler or a small coal fire in the vestry.

There was a large stage or platform where the Reading Desk was placed and from there the Preacher could view his congregation. The chapel was very much the scene of life in the village between the two wars. Monday evening was the Band of Hope night. Lots of people attended of different religions. Hymns were sung - mostly 'Sankey', all with a swing, and usually a sketch, a reading, or a recitation was given. Tuesday evening was the Girls Guild - sewing, knitting, etc., and often a religious reading was offered. Most of the articles made were sold and the money provided for things for the Chapel, and even for a seat for the village green. The Women's Meeting on Thursday afternoon was taken by Miss Kate Ellis. Women would bring their sewing and after singing a hymn and offering a prayer, a few chapters of a book would be read, mostly by the preacher's wife. Everyone could hardly wait until the next instalment at the next meeting. Concerts and magic lantern shows were also given. These were all well attended.

Sunday Services

I think that I'll start with Sunday afternoon. Once a month it was Pleasant Sunday Afternoon or P S A as it was known. There was a lovely family service, well known hymns were sung accompanied by harmonium, violins and a cello. Sometimes a solo would be sung and one of the Sunday School scholars would give a sketch. Many of the villagers would attend, of every denomination. Other Sundays in the afternoon there would be the Sunday School taken by one of the deacons who also taught the children with the help of one of the ladies, and Miss Softly from the Post Office-cum-shop who taught the infants. Usually the senior pupils entered the Scripture Examination and collected for the Missionary Society. The last Sunday in May was the Sunday School Anniversary, when they all travelled to Fowlmere Chapel for the all-day service.

The Sunday School treat was held at Fowlmere and the pupils travelled there by horse and wagon. At Christmas all the children received a gift from Miss Ellis. The evening service was taken by the preacher. Perhaps it should be understood that Fowlmere Church was in conjunction with Thriplow, the morning service was observed at Fowlmere, the evening one at Thriplow, and the minister lived in the Fowlmere Manse.

There was a full choir - people had large families in those days, so almost all their sons and daughters were in the choir. There would be Harvest Festival when the chapel was decorated most beautifully. The choir's supper too was another highlight of the year. In the later years the chapel's congregation dwindled. People passed on and after World War II very few attended, and so the services were discontinued, but the chapel was used occasionally for the meetings of various village organisations and for a doctor's surgery twice each week. The chapel was demolished in 1976, and a house built on the site, now occupied by Geoffrey and Mary Axe.

Sheila Andrews

GLEANINGS

THANKS are due to Katherine Martin for a collection of historical bottles found in their garden at Cochrane's Farm, Lower Street. They will be housed in the Smithy when the repairs to the stable doors have been done.

THANKS also to Moira Percival for a cobbler's Last and a two-handed saw for the archives. We wish her a successful move and every happiness in her new home in Balsham.

SMITHY – The doors to the smithy shed are in need of repair and we hope to have this done soon, meanwhile our thanks must go to John Daniels who had lowered the soil level just outside the doors as it was impeding the opening of them and causing more damage every time they were forced over the raised grass.

THANKS to Joe Ramsey, Sheila Andrew's son for lending us pictures and writings from Sheila's papers which we have copied and will reproduce in future Journals. The first, a poem written by her grandmother Amelia is featured in this edition.

CALL FOR MEMORIES – We would very much like to print member's memories of their childhood in the village or of their first impressions of the village, however roughly it may be written, don't worry, for memories are important and need to be preserved.

Some of you may have noticed that the VILLAGE SIGN is missing; it has been taken away by David Carter of Whittlesford, for repainting. David is the Grandson of Harry Carter who made the first sign in 1977. He made the replacement in 2000 and it now needs some TLC. The old sign is now housed in the Smithy.

**Next meeting of the Society is a talk by Chloe Cockerell on 'Medieval Menagerie'
Monday September 26th at 8.0 pm in the Village Hall.**



Watermark from Thriplow Document - 1424



Drawing of South Transept of Thriplow Church by R R Rowe 1866