

## EDITORIAL

‘The true meaning of life is to plant trees,  
under whose shade you do not expect to sit.’

*Nelson Henderson 1982*

In the last Journal we commented in the Editorial how lucky we are to have a shop, pub, school and church; the shop and pub especially supported by volunteers. The editors received a letter from Betty Parker pointing out that we had omitted to mention the Village Hall which is also run by volunteers. She is quite right and we certainly should have mentioned it. A short history was published in Vol 4/3 Spring 1996, but we have planned to write a fuller history in the near future. Any anecdotes or photos of the old village hall would be most welcome.

The exhibition at Daffodil Weekend this year will be a collection of paintings done by Society members of old buildings of Thriplow, many taken from old postcards and photos of houses that today are either demolished or enlarged beyond recognition. Such a pretty village attracts people many of whom work in Cambridge, with enough money to enlarge the original houses leaving fewer and fewer buildings available to people with less money. As the aim of the Thriplow Society is the keeping of past records we should record past times as witness for the future.

Bill's survey of the year's weather is included in this edition; his first weather report was published in the Thriplow Journal in 1996 so this is his twentieth report, well done Bill!

**Good Web Site:** <http://thriplow-farms.co.uk/category/wtfih/> well worth looking at.

This year's AGM is on Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>; unfortunately when we planned our year's programme we did not have the dates of this year's Daffodil Weekend so the meetings are rather close together. After the AGM we will be having a social with perhaps a quiz or two and refreshments. We would be grateful for a plate of goodies to go towards our supper. If you would like to nominate someone to join the Committee, please let the Chairman know by April 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Bernard Meggitt, Angela Rimmer, and Shirley Wittering, Journal production Team.*

### **Thriplow Society Reports on talks**

Our speaker in January was Mary Dicken from Sawston Local History Society. Her subject “The Suffragette Movement” was topical as it is 100 years since this powerful movement began. Their actions and sacrifices are remembered by all of us who now accept our right to vote as so much part of our culture. Mary presented an interesting talk with pictures of the main campaigners in the movement. The national movement started in 1872; most supporters were from well-to-do families who had the leisure and funds to do the campaigning.

In the late 1830s there was The Chartist Movement which wanted to legislate for all men to have the vote. Amongst this group there was some support for Votes for Women, but it was felt that this might have delayed getting the charter passed for all men to vote. During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century womens’ rights were becoming more prominent because women from higher social spheres began to seek freedom from the oppression of men – their fathers, husbands, and worst of all their employers; married women only gained the right to own property after 1882. With the coming of the Industrial revolution many poor women worked long hours in pitiful conditions and for very low pay.

Millicent Fawcett founded the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies in 1897 in order to join with other groups to put pressure on MPs to support their aims. At first campaigners were known as Suffragists; Suffragette was only used to describe those who practised violent protests. Another leader was Emily Davies, an editor in a feminist publication, good with words and a great supporter of education for all women. By 1906 support was increasing and the militant campaign began with the formation of The Womens’ Social and Political Union (WSPU). This was tightly controlled by the Pankhurst women – mother Emmeline and daughters Sylvia and Christabel. Some believed that their violence discredited and postponed the Vote for women. From 1909 they used the weapon of hunger strikes whilst in prison suffering the painful and degrading act of being force fed on repeated occasions which led to weakness and ill health for many suffragettes. Another passionate supporter – Emily Davison, an Oxford graduate, threw herself in front of the King’s horse at the Epsom Derby and sadly died of her injuries.

The campaign was laid aside during the 1914 – 1918 war when many women took on male roles in the work place. After the war the then coalition government passed the Representation of The People Act which meant women over 30 who met certain criteria could now vote and eventually in 1928 women over 21 in the UK were given the same right to vote as men.

*Angela Rimmer*

### **Thriplow Society Reports on Talks**

**‘The History of Hong Kong through its personalities’ by Kit Jackson OBE**

Kit Jackson worked for 30 years in Hong Kong and is therefore familiar with the history of the territory and indeed mainland China. He had prepared a varied and interesting talk for the Society, complete with slides which started with an early map of China (population 430 million in 1800).

Kit set out to show that British Hong Kong had exercised an influence on China's development way out of proportion with its much smaller size.

We heard about many personalities from Emperor Qianlong (1735 - 1796), Lord Macartney (who in 1792 led a delegation to China to try and set up a trade agreement), William Jardine (started East India Co.), James Matheson (tea/opium trade), Lin Zexu (First Opium war 1841-43), Lord Palmerston (Nanking Treaty 1843) to name but a few.

Kit explained how Hong Kong was seized in 1841 by Captain Charles Elliott RN (Trade Superintendent) who effectively became its first Governor. The island ('a barren rock with nary a house upon it') thrived under British administration and the Chinese thirst for trade. With its sheltered deep harbour it was the ideal place for trading ships and later for an airport.

In December 1984 the Sino British Declaration on the Future of Hong Kong was signed. It established 'one country, two systems' with Hong Kong's way of life to remain unchanged for 50 years after 1997. Chris Patten was the last Governor of Hong Kong and on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1997 successfully and peacefully handed over Hong Kong to the Chinese; but with its own flag, legal/financial systems, currency and border controls. Chris Patten's successor was C H Tung followed by Donald Tsang. Despite such male prevalence Kit reported that there is growing presences of women in Hong Kong's body politick.

Today Hong Kong is still a mixture of British infrastructure and Chinese entrepreneurship; it will be interesting to see what happens.

Kit was thanked for his extremely interesting talk which was clearly very much enjoyed by all who attended.

*Judy Murch*

## **HERBAL LEGACY IN THE HEDGEROWS OF THRIFLOW**

### *3. Burdock – *Arctium lappa**

This is the third short article in appreciation of a few of the many lowly herbal plants found in the hedgerows, verges, meadows and woods of our Thriflow Village.

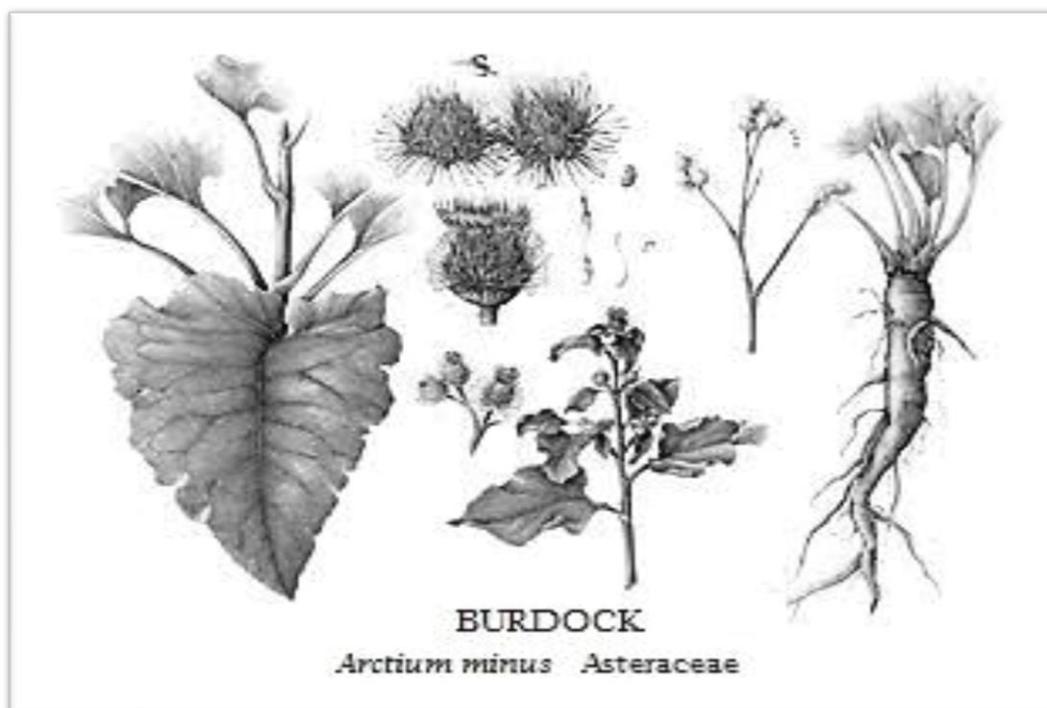
Burdock has a long history as a food and medicine appearing in many herbiva through the ages. In Ancient Western and Asian cultures it was grown for its nutritious roots and medicinal extracts for blood and skin cleansing and purifying actions.

**Name Origin:**

Burdock's genus name '*Arctium*' is derived from the Greek '*Arklos - a bear*' for the thick rough hairy fur likened to the ripe brown burrs. The species name for the Great Burdock '*lappa*' is from the Greek '*lappare - to seize*' or possibly the Celtic '*llapa - hand*' from the burrs prehensile action and '*minus*' - Lesser Burdock. '*Burr*' is from Old French '*bourre*' or Latin '*burra*' meaning '*lock of wool*' from sheep contact and '*dock(e)*' - large leaf'. A few of the many common names are: '*lappa, foxes clot, bandana, thorny burr, clot burr, gypsy rhubarb*' and interestingly '*cockle and beggar's buttons*' (see Velcro below) as well as '*lovers' leaves*' (aphrodesiac!).

### **Description:**

Burdock belongs to the thistle group in the Aster - Daisy (*Asteraceae*) Family with over 15 species world-wide. They are native to Europe and Asia, and taken to America, Australia and New Zealand by early settlers. Three species are native to the British Isles: Greater (*A. lappa*), Lesser or Common (*A. minus*) and the Wood (*A. minus nemorosum*) burdock. These are all sturdy biennials: from seed the first year, grow a basal rosette of large rhubarb-like leaves with a deepening tap root (1-3ft) and in the second year, the stem shoots up producing the thistle-like flowers or burrs. The Greater Burdock can reach 2m high with 50cm long green heart-shaped leaves and stems; the other two attain only half these sizes. They have many red purplish thistle-like flowers in June to August, ovoid with an outer shell of hooked bristly bracts (burrs) containing around 40 composite flowers (florets). Seed dispersal is by dropping locally, by wind and by sticking to passing animals with the plant then dying. Identification of the three species is by plant size, leaves and florets - protruding above the bracts (Lesser and Wood) or level with them (Greater Burdock).



### **Thriplow Burdock Sites:**

These can be variable with the biennial Burdock becoming dormant over the first winter and dying fully the second, being dependent on re-seeding for new plants. Now in early March there is little to show except a few dead stems but hopefully the sites identified last Summer will be fruitful: just inside the first Thriplow Meadow field, right, along School Lane hedge; in the verge-hedge of the lower Farm Lane; along the hedgerows of the first part of the farm track towards Brook Road and Foxton.

### **Medicinal History and Uses:**

Traditionally and in folklore, Burdock has been used as a *'blood purifier'* to clear the circulation of toxins; as a mild diuretic and purgative to eliminate metabolites and as a topical remedy for many skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, ulcers, wounds and burns.

When herbal medication was often the only disease or injury treatment available, burdock use is widely recorded throughout the ages and a few make interesting reading. In mid 1100AD the German Abess of Biden used Burdock treatment including for cancerous lesions (that is under new research today). During the Middle Ages, English Herbalists used boiled Burdock root for many ailments as boils, scurvy, diabetes and rheumatisms. Henry VIII had long Burdock juice treatments for poor health and leg ulcers. The Herbalist, Nicholas Culpeper in 1650's advised *'Burdock leaves with egg white for sores and ulcers, the juice of leaves and roots mixed with old wine for snake bites, and beaten root with salt to dog bites'*. In folk medicine, Burdock has been used as a detoxifier and mild laxative to relieve inflamed conditions such as arthritis and gout. It has been used for upper respiratory illnesses in Chinese medicine and assisting child-birth in N. American native Indians.

Despite this long term use for many ailments, there is little if any, scientific evidence for Burdock's successful or safe use. Still today many professional Herbalists find it helpful for skin and scalp conditions and inflammatory diseases.

Primary active constituents found in Burdock include actinogen, calcium, chlorogenic acid, essential oils, flavenoids, iron, inulin (sugar 50%), lactones, mucilage, polyacetylenes, potassium, resins, tannins, and taraxosterol, and also Vitamins A and B2 in the seeds. Actogen is under research for its anti-cancer action in animals, and the polyacetylenes for their anti-bacterial, -fungal and -yeast activities.

The Burdock herb has been grown for food in Europe and Asia long before potatoes having similar nutritional value. The roots are used as a vegetable and in soups, while the leaves make salads. The one year old herb is still grown and eaten as a main vegetable in China and Japan and more recently in New Zealand and USA.

### **Mistaken Identity:**

Burdock and Rhubarb have similar leaves but the rhubarb is poisonous containing oxalic acid. The Rhubarb leaf is smooth and shiny without the netted vein pattern of the Burdock that also has a rough wooly underside.

### **Burdock Bio-Mimicry – Velcro Story:**

In 1941 George de Mestral (1907-90), a Swiss engineer found Burdock burrs stuck to his socks and his dog's fur after a walk and on magnifying glass study, saw the small burr hooks catching the material and hairs. Hooks and loop fasteners had been used for hundreds of years but never on such a tiny scale as these burrs. He realised the potential especially with reference to the names: '*cockle and beggars buttons*' with burrs holding clothes together. After 10 years work, he replicated these tiny burr hooks and loops using heated nylon strands and made mass production weaving looms. His patent ran 1952–78 for 'Velcro' (from the French '*velour – velvet*' and '*crochet – hook*'). Velcro became and remains the most widely used fastening system worldwide from clothes and shoes, to disposable nappies, to NASA space craft and astronauts holding devices, to name but a few.

When you next come across this tall Thriplow Burdock or remove the burrs stuck to your clothes, you will know that this short-lived herb fed nations, healed ailments and templated modern fasteners for the world and space.

*Bernard Meggitt*

### **Further details of the evacuees to Thriplow;**

From Mike Pollard.

Although the School Log Book mentions several children staying in houses in Fowlmere Road, it does not mention the names of the Occupants of those houses; Mike Pollard has put names to places - thank you Mike.

1940

Fowlmere Road – 1 Council Cottages – Ted and Lucy Fuller and daughter Maisie, no evacuees  
2 Council Cottages – Lillian and Henry Bristo and son Rodney - 2 evacees  
3 Council Cottages – Louisa and Frederick Arbon – 2 evacuees  
4 Council Cottages – Mr and Mrs Neeves

## **Thriplow Weather in 2015**

### **Precipitation:**

July proved to be a very wet month with 12.86 mm (just over 5"). One day, the 17<sup>th</sup>, produced 44 mm (1.7") of rain.

The dry month was March with only 14.8 mm (0.58") of rain. Overall, the year's rainfall was 17.35mm (6.8") of rain. Snow fell on four days in January and February but didn't settle.

**Average temperature:**

The average maximum temperature for the year was 15.4C (59.8F) and the minimum was 2.4C (36.4F). Not a year of extremes.

**Frost:**

I see that I have recorded frost on 5.4 days in January and 3 in February. There was none at the other end of the year.

**Guy Fawkes Night:**

I was not aware of any fire work display in the village this year. Sadly, it seems to be due to the Council's (not the Parish Council) applying the relatively new safety regulations. This affected the nearby villages also; Newton with no bonfire for the second year in succession.

**Daffodil Weekend - 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.**

It has always been difficult for the organising committee to decide whether the weekend should be in March or April. Easter can be in either month and the weather can be warm and dry or cold and wet in March or April. How does one decide what to do? The temperature in 2015 was 9.4C (49F) on Saturday 12.7c (55F) on Sunday.

**Christmas Day:**

With December relatively mild, Christmas Day was quite warm and sunny going up to 13.9C (57F).

*Bill Wittering*

## **Thriplow & Fowlmere WI - farewell?**

In a previous article Shirley Wittering made a timely reference to the demise of the local Women's Institute with several personal memories of her own.\* Like Shirley I was grateful for the WI when I moved to Thriplow some 25 years ago. Working full-time with many evening meetings, there was little opportunity to meet local women. The WI provided an excellent way to get to know local residents and to participate in the many social events organised by this then vibrant organisation. This was also the case in Fowlmere which unfortunately closed some years ago. Fowlmere members then joined Thriplow WI and in later years we owe them a big thank you for being active Committee members - especially Dorothy Woods, erstwhile Chairman of Fowlmere Parish Council, who served as our last President for 15 years - which hugely prolonged the life of the Fowlmere & Thriplow WI. This article is written unashamedly from the perspective of a former Thriplow WI member. Before some of our village history is buried deep in the archives of the WI HQ at Girton I would like to remind readers of some of the characters associated with the WI over the years.

The Thriplow Institute was re-started in 1951, after a gap during the war, by the redoubtable Margaret Shaw OBE, and county councilor *par excellence*.<sup>1</sup> Many presidents came and went - Some readers will still remember the Presidents of the 70s and 80s - May Parker, Virginia (Girly) Baker, Mrs Burton, and Mrs Baker followed by Moira Percival, Shirley Wittering, Jill Rolfe, and Elizabeth Friling. The 90s saw the following Presidents - Rita Bond, Val Fisher, Mary Duff, Pat Flynn and finally Dorothy Woods.

Yes, 'Jam and Jerusalem' probably did apply to our WI but it was so much more than that. Back in the 80's members including Betty Parker and Shirley Wittering were gliding in the skies above Duxford as Dorothy Woods and Mary Duff did in the 90's. The local WI was congratulated for initiating aluminum tin recycling years before such projects became popular. Weekend breaks took off with an enthusiastic president, Rita Bond, at the helm and a group of WI members crossed the Channel to spend an hilarious weekend in Paris. We certainly knew how to enjoy ourselves with belly dancing in the 80's to the Cha Cha, Salsa and Circle Dancing in the 00's. Ruth Stone arranged theatre trips to London and in later years Dorothy arranged many a visit to plays, shows and even pantomimes (How can I not mention the

Illuminated 'Bunny' ears that Beryl May and the President wore all afternoon around Cambridge after a matinee of Aladdin! )

I should add that the WI has always supported a myriad of charities: Pets as Therapy, Guide Dogs for the Blind, EACH, Teenage Cancer Trust are just some of the organisations supported. Of course the WI also enjoyed arts and crafts. Here the multi-talented Lilian Turner excelled in all kinds of arts and crafts. Wednesday afternoons she hosted a fine embroidery group for many years at her home, as well as teaching us cake decoration and posy making - a charming tradition was to present a posy each month to those celebrating their birthdays. Val Fisher shared her expertise after attending a Quilting course at Denman College where Mary D also enjoyed a gold work course.

Moira Percival made sure that we had balanced programmes covering Geography - Oliver Walston was an occasional speaker, History - usually covered by Blue Badge guides like Honour Ridout, Science - often Dr Valerie Joysey who has a wealth of knowledge about a variety of subjects. In later years we enjoyed Nick Terry taking about his work at the Royal Opera House and Sir Graham Wynne telling us about the work of the RSPB. On another occasion local magistrate Mary Duff organised a visit to Cambridge Magistrates' Court where members observed a working court and then analysed the cases.

Refreshments were always at the top of the agenda whether it was providing tea and cakes to celebrate the Best Kept Village in 1997; after the unveiling of the new village hall sign; holding suppers to raise money for the proposed new village hall; entertaining pensioners (the Evergreens) from Hertfordshire to glorious cakes made by Penny and Billie Grant who also hosted in their

lovely garden a musical evening with an ensemble led by Peter Speak



Bill Wittering (tree warden), Betty Boothroyd (Speaker) and Mary Duff, JP, planting W I tree 1999

If you walk around the village you will see trees provided by the WI. (See article in this Journal). In October 1999 on behalf of the WI, Betty Boothroyd MP, then Speaker of the House of Commons planted an Oak Tree at the top of Middle Street, Thriplow. In October 2000 a WI Oak tree was planted in Fowlmere to mark the Millennium - again Betty Boothroyd did the honours on behalf of the WI. This tree also has a chequered history as it was right in the way of the builders who were keen to erect new houses nearby. However there is a tree flourishing again in Fowlmere and hopefully the plaque (the original one!) will be re-planted by the time you read this.

Sadly the local WI has run its course but let's hope that a phoenix will arise from the ashes. By the way, in Girton's WI HQ a start-up bag of money is awaiting that inspired person who will take on the challenge to fly again the WI flag in Thriplow.

*Mary Duff JP*

\* See Thriplow Journal Vol. 22.3 Spring 2014 and vol.14/1 2005

1. Thriplow W I was founded in 1923

### ***Bill Wittering Tree Warden***

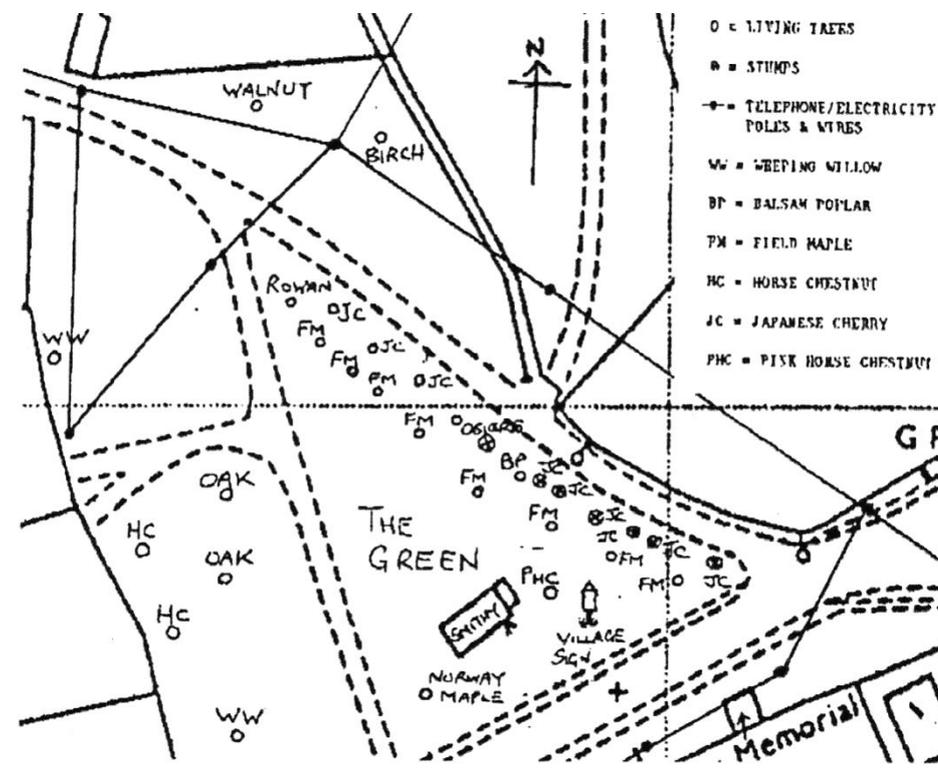
*Bill became the Tree Warden for Thriplow around 1990 when the office was first implemented. He retired in 2015 after twenty five years advising and helping people with their tree problems. He spent nearly all his working life (37 years) for the Forestry Commission, first of all at Alice Holt Research Station in Hampshire, then in the Scottish*

Headquarters in Edinburgh, the west coast of Scotland at Applecross, London HQ, back to Alice Holt and finally to Cambridge the office for the Eastern Region of the Forestry Commission. His knowledge of trees was extensive.

There seems to be a spate of people cutting their trees at the moment with little regard for the nature of tree growth, leaving mutilated stumps vainly endeavouring to grow a few twigs the following spring. There are at least 6 properties in Middle Street alone, which have had their trees cut with no regard to their characteristics, so we are re-printing an article Bill wrote about the trees on the Village Green as there seems to be little knowledge of which species are growing there or where.

### 'TREES ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

It does not require a long memory to recall the times when there were many more trees in Thriplow than there are now. The tall roadside hedges have gone as also have the big elms and oaks which once were a feature of the village. Therefore it is important to record what we still have before another gale or another disease comes along and wipes them out.



Human memory is however not all that good at remembering precisely when a tree was planted, why it was planted or who planted it. Was it to commemorate someone or some event, or did it replace a tree that died, or did the District Council give us some trees and it was thought that one would look nice just there by the village sign? I doubt if there is anyone in Thriplow who knows who planted our one remaining big oak, the one at 'Gowards' in Middle Street.

We can put informative plaques on our trees and hope that they will not be removed by vandals; we can record the plantings in the parish magazine or in the minutes of parish council meetings and hope that historians of the future will know where to look for the information we have salted away. I like to think that this short note and its accompanying map will in its way help.

Let us have a look specifically at the trees on the Village Green. Old postcards dating from the turn of the century show big trees (are they elms?) in the field to the right of the Green and also behind the houses on the northwest corner but, surprisingly, not many on the Green itself. Animals were however grazing there.



Sadly, we don't graze animals on the Green anymore and only rarely do we hear the sound of the smith's hammer on the anvil. Instead of the grass being kept short by grazing, we

nowadays use a ride-on mower. Mowers and strimmers in the wrong hands can spell mortal danger to small trees; thank goodness we have no problems in that respect.

The planting of trees, like any other decision taken by the Parish Council, rarely pleases everyone. There are the two extremes varying from the view that as many trees as possible should be planted, to the opposite view that the Green is not the place for trees at all. Somewhere between lies the decision that will have to be taken though it will not please those parishioners whose wishes have not been met. This is the price we all pay for democracy and the majority view will usually out.

I have recorded on the map the situation as it is now (1995). The earliest trees on the Green are those planted in 1953 to commemorate Her Majesty's Coronation. These are the Japanese flowering cherries along the northeast side and the two oaks to the north of the telephone box. The cherries were not suited to the conditions on the Green and now only three remain. I believe that some to the south of these three didn't like the wet patch opposite the entrance to the ex-farm manager's bungalow (No 4 The Green) and were replaced by two osiers planted by "persons unknown". These are ideal for the wet patch but not really "village green" species. Further south still, another six cherries died (in 1989) when their roots reached the chalk which lies at varying depths below the Green. Were there perhaps ten cherries in all planted? The three that remain may be on borrowed time as their leaves turn very yellow quite early in the summer most years. It was for this reason that the Parish Council, after consulting the District Council's Forestry Officer, decided to plan ahead and provide for the replacement of all the cherries with a species that would tolerate the prevailing soil conditions and eight field maples were planted a few yards further from the road than the cherries. Two were planted in 1989, five in 1991 and three in 1992. (Two of these latter replaced two of the earlier ones that did not survive the drought conditions of the summers of 1990 to 1992.) They were all given to the village by the County Council.

At the northern apex of the central part of the green, there is a rowan (also known as a mountain ash) planted in 1989 and given by the County Council.

To the left of the "Coronation Oaks" are two horse chestnuts which I understand were planted in 1966 by Ursula Larmuth who lived in the house behind them, "Merrythought Cottage", No 11.



*May Parker and Shirley Wittering, past Presidents of Thriplow W I with the Norway Maple to left of Smithy*

People who stand facing and admiring our smithy may notice the fine Norway Maple to the left of it. This commemorates the 40th Anniversary in 1965 of the Women's Institute. The commemorative plaque was not added until some twenty years later when Shirley Wittering was President.

To the right of the smithy stands the village sign made in 1977 by Harry Carter and restored in 1992 by his grandson David. To its right is a pink horse chestnut also planted in 1977. Both events commemorate Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee.

Also on the east side close to the entrance to No 4 The Green, a magnificent Balsam Poplar stands having been planted in 1980 by the WI to commemorate the 80th birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. It lost its top in a gale on 29th August 1992 but appears to have made up for its loss. The scent from its foliage wafts across the green on a spring evening mingling with that from its relative standing in the garden of No 7.



*Audrey Humphries, Shirley Wittering, May Parker, Jill Rolfe, Moira Percival and Liz Freling*

*With Balsam Poplar 1980*

On the west side of the Green outside No 13, John Augar has planted a beautiful weeping willow which he put there after a row of nine pollarded willows along the ditch in front of his house succumbed to gales and old age.

That leaves only two trees to be accounted for both of which are on the north west strip of the Green to the right of Stan Gillett's house, No 8. The more southerly of the two is a silver birch given to the village by Mr & Mrs Roy Elliott, brother and sister-in-law of Chris Storey of Sheraldscroft who died on 15th February 1992. The other tree, a walnut, was planted on 4th April 1993 by Ken Cramp, the well-known naturalist from Stapleford, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Thriplow Daffodil Weekend.

There is now very little space left on the Green to plant further trees largely because of the maze of overhead wires which cross it in all directions. I believe that we have planted a good mix of trees on the Green; let us hope that our children will agree when they sit under them on a balmy summer's evening celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Daffodil Weekend!

*BILL WITTERING'*

## GLEANINGS

**Thank you to Michael Pollard** for some documents relating to Friendly Societies; see more in the article of How the Poor were cared for.

**Thank you to Storm Bowden Nee Turner and her brother John Turner** for a copy of John's book on their Father's life. John Turner and his family lived in Sunny Peak cottage from 1949 to 1966 when he moved to Australia. Storm has also sent her memories, some of which will be published in this Journal.

**To add to this Geoff Axe** has found an e mail dated 2009 in which Cuth Wenham writes the following – 'My brother in-law, Herbert Parker,(see Vol. 3.3 1994) actually built Sunny Peak cottage in 1928 with second hand bricks that originally came from Orwell Brewery. He finished off the outside by having it pebble-dashed'.

**Thank you to Barbara Pointon** for a photograph of the Over Sixties Friendship Club taken in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. All the people on the picture have been named with their addresses with the help of Jenny and Nigel Bowes. This is a really useful addition to the archives. The picture was taken outside the old village hall and shows the shed where there was a loo. This shed was all that was left of the Red Lion Pub which burnt down in 1942. When the new village hall was being built for the Millennium some of the old timbers from this shed were rescued and are now in the Smithy, they probably date back to Tudor times.

**Don't forget your subs are due at the AGM** or shortly afterwards. Owing to the fact that our speakers cost us more than we take in subscriptions - The average cost of a speaker is £42 and the cost of the Journal is nearly £2 each. The committee has reluctantly had to raise the subscription by £1 to £8. This entitles members to seven talks, an outing and three Journals a year, good value we feel.

**Dastardly Theft!** Only two days after a microwave was given to the church for their new kitchen, it was stolen! If anybody saw someone carrying a black microwave on 25<sup>th</sup> February near the Church please let the church wardens know. The microwave was not new and worth very little in monetary terms; perhaps whoever 'Borrowed' it can return it.

**Daffodil Weekend.** If you can give an hour or two to help steward the Smithy at Daffodil Weekend, we would be very grateful. Please contact Shirley Wittering 01763 208269, [Shirley.wittering@gmail.com](mailto:Shirley.wittering@gmail.com)

