



Civic Society of St Ives

Annual Report 2012

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THE CIVIC SOCIETY OF ST IVES

The Civic Society of St Ives was formed in 1968 to fight the proposed plans to route the St Ives Bypass down Ramsey Road, across The Waits, Holt Island and Hemingford Meadow.

The siting of the St Ives Bypass as it is today is a result of our early campaigns.

The Society continues to care for the beauty and character of the town, as well as working to stimulate public interest in civic matters and to provide an information service for those who wish to know more about the town's history and development, and of the surrounding area.

Its web-site can be found at:

www.stivescivic.org.uk

The society is a member of:

The Campaign to Protect Rural England

www.cpre.org.uk

and

The Cambridge Antiquarian Society

www.camantsoc.org

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This Report is always written in July to allow for total Report compilation, printing and distribution. It is therefore appropriate to start this year's report where we left off last year.

Last July we had just embarked on restoring the names on the War Memorial. We anticipated a lengthy fund raising campaign but thanks to the extraordinary generosity of both private donors and public donations the money was raised in no time at all. The restoration work was done superbly and once again the names stood out as they had in 1920 thanks to the lead given by Peter Plowman ably supported by Peggy Seamark. You may know that a representative of the Civic Society lays a wreath at the Memorial every Remembrance Sunday and so it will continue.

Conservation work throughout the year has continued apace apart from road surface re-instatement where we face bureaucracy, Corporate wrangling and unacceptable delays. That will not stop us from pressing hard for progress; indeed, it will be a major project for the coming year. On the brighter side another 16 arches on the New Bridges have been refurbished and the Bridge Chapel windows re-glazed. The interior of the Chapel is due to be re-rendered and repairs to the NW end of the Old Bridge have been carried out. Our thanks go to Cambridgeshire County Council Bridges Department for their efforts and co-operation in this project.

We also enjoy a close relationship with the District Council Conservation Team; their latest work has been to produce a book illustrating and defining the Conservation Areas within their area of responsibility. This work, combined with their Buildings at Risk book of last year, is the bedrock of conservation and preservation and a most valuable tool for any Civic Society.

2012 is an auspicious year and whilst the Civic Society was not involved with the Olympic Torch route it was an honour that it passed through our Historic Town. However, we were involved with HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. In conjunction with the Oliver Cromwell pub we offered Jubilee Beer for sale over the Jubilee weekend. All went very well on the Saturday but Sunday was a wash out (quite literally). Whatever the outcome, our thanks go to Bruce Luter for organising the Civic Society aspects. We also need to thank the Town Hall staff for all the hard work they put into the Jubilee events.

We continue to be heavily involved with the Town Plan and are making significant progress to try and turn the observations of Townsfolk into reality. This work has underlined the very positive results of Community and Local Government working closely together. It's early days yet but I strongly believe that much good will come from the teamwork.

The Annual Heritage Days (HOD's) which were a great success last year will be repeated this year from the 7th to the 9th of September so look out for leaflets and notices around Town advertising which venues will be open to the Public.

At the end of April we enjoyed a trip to Coventry organised by Barbara Richmond and hosted by the Coventry Civic Society. It was a cold day enlivened by us seeing some of the more unusual sites and sights of Coventry.

You will not have failed to notice that this year's Annual Report is a different size to its predecessors. We have done this so we can incorporate colour photographs (where the original is in colour) and keep the cost the same as before. We hope you like it but if you have strong views for or against then please let us know.

None of the foregoing would be possible without your support and that of your Committee. I recorded their names here last year and will do so again. They are;

Pat Allan

Basil Belcher

Tony Burgess

Helen Eveleigh

Diane Gough

Bruce Luter

Peter Plowman (until April)

Richard Probyn

Barbara Richmond

Peggy Seamark

Barry Wills

I must also thank Val Jones (Minute Taker) and Brian Richmond (Webmaster) for their work along with the Staff of the Free Church.

Finally, I think we all know that Bob Burn-Murdoch will be retiring at the end of the year. We owe him a great deal as he has compiled the Monthly Speakers' notes year after year and has been a stalwart supporter of our Society. We will mark his retirement in an appropriate way.

I hope to see you at our next Monthly Meeting in September.

With Best Wishes

Peter Baker

Chairman

Civic Society of St Ives Statement of Income & Expenditure
as at 30th April 2012

Income

Expenditure

| | | Year | | Year | | Year | | Year | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | | 2012 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2011 | |
| | | £ | | £ | | £ | | £ | |
| Subscriptions/ Donations | | 2,796 | | 2,350 | Hall Hire | 362 | | 392 | |
| Slepe Hall Old Girls | | | | 858 | Annual Report | 785 | | 1,017 | |
| Visitors | | 69 | | 54 | Speakers | 275 | | 285 | |
| Memorial Fund | | 4,064 | | | Memorial Fund | 3,905 | | | |
| Social Evenings | 325 | | 326 | | Social Evenings | 292 | | 182 | |
| Raffle | <u>115</u> | 440 | <u>154</u> | 480 | Raffle | <u>56</u> | 348 | <u>51</u> | 233 |
| Interest | | 7 | | 7 | Insurance | 200 | | 200 | |
| Gift Aid | | 340 | | 335 | Antiquarian Subs | 13 | | 13 | |
| Heritage Weekend | | 40 | | 29 | CPRE Subs | 34 | | 34 | |
| Trips | | 0 | | 1,122 | Trips | 100 | | 994 | |
| | | | | | Carnival Stall 2011 | 10 | | | |
| | | | | | Clock Repair | | | 63 | |
| | | | | | Donations/Gifts | 367 | | 316 | |
| | | | | | Administration | 351 | | 385 | |
| | | | | | Postage | 46 | | 60 | |
| | | | | | Phone | 32 | | 49 | |
| | | | | | Travel | | | 80 | |
| | | | | | Web Site | <u>40</u> | 469 | <u>84</u> | 658 |
| | | | | | Heritage Weekend | | <u>108</u> | | <u>146</u> |
| | | | | | | | <u>6,976</u> | | <u>4,351</u> |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>less</u> | | | | | Cheques yet to be presented | | <u>484</u> | | |
| 2011 Payments | | <u>626</u> | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| £ | | <u>9,946</u> | | | | | | | £ <u>9,946</u> |

Balances from 30 April 2011

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Current account | 3,090 |
| Deposit Account | <u>6,702</u> |
| Total | 9,792 |
| <u>add</u> | |
| Surplus for year | 780 |
| Deposit Account Interest | <u>0</u> |
| Total | 1 0,572 |
| <u>less</u> | |
| 2011 Payments | <u>626</u> |
| £ | 9,946 |

Balances at 30 April 2012

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Current account | 3,721 |
| Deposit Account | <u>6,709</u> |
| Total | 10,430 |
| <u>add</u> | |
| Receipts after Period end | 0 |
| <u>less</u> | |
| Cheques yet to be presented | <u>484</u> |
| £ | 9,946 |

Report to the Trustees & Members of The Civic Society of St Ives, Charity no 257286, on the Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2012 which are set out on the attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011(the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: D McGoff ACIB BSC(Open)

Date: July 2012

Name: Dianne McGoff BSc (Open)

4 Seathwaite, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 6NY

TREASURER'S REPORT 2012

The year's accounts have been independently examined and approved. The examiner's report and statement precedes this report.

Overall we have ended the year with a £780 surplus.

This year's income and expenditure is substantially up on last year's due to the War Memorial Refurbishment Project. The £4,064 income for this is made up from donations of £2,479, collections of £801 and concert receipts of £784. Income exceeded all the related costs by £159 and the Committee has assigned this remaining sum to the future maintenance of the memorial.

The £858 received from the Slepe Hall Old Girls Association last year has yet to be spent but has been allocated to the provision of a story board for Holt Island.

We hold reserves for future expenditure, but as a small charity, we have no reserves policy.

We have again, this year, sponsored one of the 'Music on the Waits' concerts with a £300 donation.

Gift Aid remains important to the finances of the Society, contributing £340 this year. Any member who pays income tax can have their subscription included in our future applications by completing the forms available from Helen Eveleigh or me.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are being maintained at the current level of £7 for single membership and £12 for household membership.

Subscriptions are due in September. Payment can be made at meetings, by standing order or left at the Norris Museum in a named envelope. Standing Orders are preferred and forms for this are available at any meeting from Helen Everleigh or me.

Basil Belcher

Treasurer
July 2012

MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 21st October 2011, at the Free Church, St Ives

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Pat Allan, Bruce Luter, Janet & Tony Barraclough, Evelyn & Ian Penfold, John & Veronica Smoothy, Bridget Smith, Carole Barker, Diane Gough, Sue & Julian Limentani, Ron & Kath Saunders, Julia Bruford.

2. **MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

The minutes had been published in the Annual Report. It was proposed by Ed Kelly and seconded by Nick Dibben, that the minutes were accurate and should be signed by the Chairman. Passed unanimously.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Volunteer for St Ives in Bloom Committee – place now filled.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- The longer I live in this beautiful old market town, the more I am gently surprised by its variety and contrasts. Who would have imagined having a nature reserve (Holt Island) so close to the town centre, let alone the imbedded green spaces of Slepe Hall Field, Warners Park and Nobles Field.
- We have the Burgess Hall and Indoor and Outdoor Centres on the edge of town and the Corn Exchange in the centre of town. As far as pubs are concerned the names vary from the Manchester Arms (named after the gentleman who used a lot of St Ives money to build Kimbolton Castle) to the Nelsons Head (no prizes for guessing the origin of that name); however, today is the anniversary of Lord Horatio Nelson's death at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.
- In our churches we have the Catholic Church transported all the way from Cambridge and the juxtaposition of this Free Church in the centre of town, with the Parish Church at the edge of town.
- All of these colourful contrasts form the reason for your Society existing to protect our rich heritage. But, and it is a big but, we have to move with the times, and this past year has brought its own challenges as no doubt will successive years.
- The St Ives West further development has exercised your Committee and we have commented formally to the District Council with our concerns on the ability of the infrastructure (roads, public transport, education, health, drainage and sewage) to cope with the proposed additional load of possibly

12% to 15% increase in population. Nor do we want to see Houghton and Wyton swallowed in the 200m – 300m strategic gap.

- Similarly we have been following the debate of the National Planning Policy Framework with considerable interest and have commented to Central Government.
- Closer to home we have taken steps to protect the Octagon and refurbish the War Memorial. This latter project has been spearheaded by Peter Plowman with Peggy Seamark also playing a major role (remember the Jazz night). A big thank you to all who supported this cause. You may have noticed that the refurbishment is currently underway. Only the supporting structure bearing the names will be reconditioned. The tall cross will be left alone.
- Whilst on the topic of refurbishment, 8 arches of the New Bridges or Causeway have been treated, despite Rattee and Kett (the Contractors) being taken into administration half way through the project. However, we still press for glazing repairs to the Old Bridge Chapel and re-instatement of the Old Bridges road surface.
- Once again we co-ordinated Heritage Open Days and some 1000 people visited the Bridge Chapel over that weekend.
- In addition we supported Music on the Waites and St Ives in Bloom. Incidentally this year's silver gilt award was only a smidgen away from a gold.
- However, not everything has been successful, and we still struggle with the town clock. We replaced components and bench tested it for weeks. It worked perfectly but in situ it continues to fail. We will not be beaten and keep trying.

That concludes my report

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Nothing to note.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Report and annual accounts for the year had been published in the Annual Report. They had been independently audited by Diane McGoff.

Proposed by Margaret King, seconded by Judith Costley.

7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:**

Chairman: Mr Peter Baker was re-elected as Chairman. Proposed by Graham Noyce and seconded by Bobby Hayden.

Hon Secretary: Mr Pat Allan – Proposed by Nick Dibben, seconded by Bridget Flanagan and elected.

Hon Treasurer: Mr Basil Belcher – Proposed by Peggy Seamark, seconded by Lorna Baker and elected

There were 6 nominations for Committee Members:

Diane Gough
Barbara Richmond
Bruce Luter
Helen Eveleigh
Peggy Seamark
Tony Burgess

3 New Committee Volunteers:

Peter Plowman (previously co-opted)
Richard Probyn
Barry Wills

Proposed by Margaret King and seconded by John Davies and elected *en bloc*.

Gilly Jackson was standing down from the Committee and the Chairman said he would like to formally record a vote of thanks for her hard work down the years especially for Heritage Open Days.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their hard work during the year.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Appointment of an Accounts Examiner for 2012 – 2013. Diane McGoff, proposed by Debbie Townsend, seconded by Margaret King and elected.

There being no further business, The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:50pm.

CIVIC SOCIETY of ST. IVES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19th October 2012

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Matters arising from the Chairman's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report and to accept the Accounts for the year to 30 April 2012.
7. Election of Officers and Committee.
8. Any Other Business, including:
 - a. Appointment of an accounts examiner for 2012-2013

Resolutions:

Accounts Examiner: To appoint Ms. D McGoff, BSc, ACIB as independent accounts examiner until the conclusion of the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

VISIT TO “HIDDEN COVENTRY” - 28th April, 2012

The day started with a coach trip along the A14 in the driving rain, which looked to have set in for the day, but just as we got to the outskirts of Coventry the rain stopped and we had a dry but very chilly day.

We were met by our guide David Tittle who firstly led us around Chapelfields and showed us the specialised houses with multi-windowed extensions that were used by the watchmakers who all produced various parts of watches for assembly elsewhere in the area. The watch business failed in the end because it could not compete with the mass-produced watches that were being shipped in from Switzerland and USA.

We then left the coach and went to see the Weaver's Cottage, part of Black Swan Terrace that is being sympathetically restored by the Spon End Building Preservation Trust. We were provided with some very welcome refreshments and met additional guides, Paul and John, and established that we weren't from the Cornwall St. Ives so hadn't been on the road since the early hours!

Black Swan Terrace is a row of six cottages built in 1454 and have been altered and added to ever since. The terrace has been restored to create an award-winning mixed-use development that tells the story of 550 years of Coventry life and work. Black Swan Terrace includes community facilities, offices, shops, apartments and the Weaver's House. It is called the Black Swan Terrace because at one time there was a public house on its corner called The Black Swan. The Weaver's House has been recreated as the home of John Croke, a weaver, as it might have been in 1540.

John Croke was born in 1502, he is 38 years old.

His wife, Sarah, died in childbirth 7 years ago. One of their children, a daughter - Joan - died aged four from diphtheria. John has one son, Thomas, aged 11 and a daughter, Agnes, aged 14.

John's father was a weaver, so he became one too; he started learning the trade around 5 years old. John uses a narrow loom, weaving cloth about 1 yard (less than a metre) wide, because there isn't room in the house for a broad loom.

John used to rent the house from the monks at the monastery and he had to go to church with his family twice every Sunday.



John can read – he was taught by the monks. But Coventry Priory was dissolved last year on the orders of the King (Henry VIII). The King now owns the house but everyone expects them to be sold off soon. His rent is one shilling and sixpence every half year (7.5 pence).

We then walked into the middle of Coventry, passing lovely old timber-framed buildings along Lower Spon Street, (many of them moved there in the 1970's from other parts of the city), and arrived outside St. John's Church in Fleet Street where Royalist prisoners of war were kept, from where the saying "Sent to Coventry" is said to have originated. Onward through a shopping precinct to reach the famous round indoor market, built in the 1960s and now a listed building, which was very interesting as it caters for all races and creeds. This led us out into the main pedestrianised Market Way and Pedestrian Precinct which was the first in the world, (part of the Phoenix Initiative regeneration of the centre of Coventry), on to Millennium Place with a statue of Lady Godiva, opened in Coventry in 2003. The Phoenix Initiative also included three new gardens, Priory Garden, Priory Cloister Garden and the Garden of International Friendship. We then went for lunch after being given a useful map of the area around the Priory Visitors' Centre showing places to eat and other places of interest.

We re-grouped after lunch at the Priory Visitors' Centre and were treated to a talk and slide show of the re-build of the Cathedral after its bombing during the blitz on the 14th November 1940. Outside we viewed the excavation of the Priory Undercroft. Excavated in the year 2000, the two undercrofts arranged around a courtyard are the best-preserved remains of the medieval priory. Moving on, we crossed Millennium Place, passing the Motor museum, to Lady Herbert's Garden and City Wall. This led us to the ring road and on to the Canal Basin with its many historic buildings and a $\frac{3}{4}$ life-size sculpture of the famous canal engineer James Brindley who was responsible for the initial planning of the canal navigation. One of the many pieces of interesting information given by our guide was that during flooding of the River Stour on 7 September 2008 a major breach occurred. This swept away a length of towpath and bank between Bellsmill and Stourton Locks, completely draining the pounds*, including the Stourbridge Town Arm. The problem was caused by the River Stour flooding the area around the Stourbridge terminus, resulting in water level surges further along the canal. The water emptied itself into the middle of Coventry and caused a lot of flooding and damage.

We then walked along the canal path to the Electric Wharf, which was Coventry's first ever power station and served the original Daimler vehicle factory next door. The Wharf is now part of a development of offices and apartments, reusing over 70% of the scrap materials on site. After looking around the site we rejoined the coach and were driven past Cash's Hundred Houses, developed by Joseph Cash who produced ribbons; this was an un-

usual building with dwellings below and workrooms for the looms above, now fully converted to living accommodation. Travelling on, we again left the coach for a short walk to a quaint public house on the canal called The Greyhound Inn at Hawkesbury Junction where we had a very pleasant drink before returning to the coach for our onward journey back home.

A special thanks goes out to David Tittle and his team for such a successful and entertaining trip and to the members of our Society for organising the day.

John Ralph

(* A canal pound or reach is the stretch of level water impounded between two canal locks).



Weavers Cottage (photo: Brian Richmond)



Lower Spon Street (photo: Brian Richmond)

SUMMARY OF TALKS 2011 - 2012

On the 16th September 2011 Bryan Howe opened the 2011-2012 Session of Talks with:

Sewerage, Stench and Steam: The King's Ditch, the Cheddars Lane Pumping Station and the Cambridge Museum of Technology

Byan prefaced his talk by expressing his pleasure in being able to address the Society in the Free Church as it was here in 1958 that he married.

The King's Ditch was one of the original defences of Cambridge, predating the Norman Conquest, forming the eastern/southern boundary to the city with the River Cam providing the western/northern boundary. In 1267 King Henry III upgraded the ditch's defensive potential by deepening and widening it. The ditch ran from the Cam, close to Magdalene Bridge, south along Park Street, across the back of Sidney Sussex, along Hobson Street, across Lion Yard, down Pembroke Street and Mill Lane back to the Cam. It was open to the river at each end but there was little flow due to the shallow fall throughout. Three gates at Magdalene Bridge, Barnwell Gate and Trumpington Street allowed crossing of the ditch and access to the city.

King's Ditch was hardly ever called upon to serve its defensive purpose but by restricting access to the city, traders wishing to attend the city's markets were required to pay a toll for the privilege. Its third, and certainly most enduring role, was as the medieval city's rubbish dump and receptacle for its night soil. Lack of flow, combined with accumulation of refuse, made it a hazardous and stinking open sewer running through the city. The state of the ditch is well recorded. A statute of 1388 ordered that it should be cleared of "dung and filth of garbage and entrails as well of beasts killed, as of other corruptions". In 1502 three heads of Colleges were fined by the Town Court for having "privies" overhanging the ditch. The late 17th century saw parts of the ditch filled in but proper drainage was still some time away. The city muddled on with cesspits and small sewers draining directly into the Cam.

The River Cam fared little better than the ditch, during Queen Victoria's visit to the city in 1890 she enquired of the Master of Trinity as to the nature of those pieces of paper floating in the river..."Those Ma'am" he replied, "are the notices prohibiting bathing!". Dysentery and typhoid were common and Bryan highlighted a possible less amusing link to Queen Victoria and the parlous state of the city's sanitation.

Prince Albert having contracted typhoid and died in 1861 shortly after visiting the Prince of Wales in Cambridge.

Significant improvement was clearly necessary. The solution adopted was innovative and in its day surprisingly 'green'. The existing sewers were widened and deepened and a pumping station was built to take the effluent discharged through them to a new sewage farm for treatment at Milton. This is a distance of 2 miles with the pumping mains crossing beneath the Cam and rising 50' to reach Milton. Two Hathorn Davey pumping engines were installed in the new pumping station building in 1894. Driven by steam provided by the burning of refuse in three 'destructor' furnaces and one coke fired boiler. Refuse for the furnaces was collected by municipal dust carts and sorted at the pumping station. Twenty-two tonnes of refuse was required each day to fire the furnaces. Thus the age old problems of both night soil and refuse on the street were resolved.

In 1906 two gas engines were installed to deal with storm water by pumping it into external holding tanks until the rain abated and the Hathorn Davey pumping engines could be redirected to pump the holding tanks' contents to Milton. In 1894 the population of Cambridge was 37,000 by 1937 with the increase in population and its associated housing the storm-water surges were so great that an electric pump was installed again to pump the storm water into holding tanks to be emptied later by the Hathorn engines. These steam engines continued to pump sewage until 1968 when the pumping station was finally decommissioned. They had therefore been in continuous service for 74 years.

Following decommissioning the original intention was to demolish the pumping station and clear the site. A group of far sighted individuals got together, however, galvanised public opinion and saved the whole of the site and equipment. A Charitable Trust was formed and following clearing and initial reinstatement works by volunteers the Cambridge Museum of Technology opened in 1971 to allow the public to view the buildings and machinery that had provided Cambridge with a modern sewerage system for 74 years. The aim of the museum "is to preserve and restore the machinery on site to its former glory and also to collect other artefacts of local interest".

Housed in and around the 1894 pumping station the museum is entirely run by volunteers and is regularly open to the public throughout the year.

In addition to the original steam and gas engines there is a working exhibition of letterpress-printing equipment ranging from early hand operated presses to power machinery, including hot metal casters.

Also in the electric room examples of radio sets made by Pye in Cambridge are displayed together with examples of instrumentation made by the Cambridge Instrument Company which has been supplying Cambridge University with scientific apparatus since the 1870s and was one of the first to develop and manufacture the scanning electron probe microscope.

www.museumoftechnology.com



Haythorne Davey steam pumping engine



Original boiler fired using town rubbish

JUBILEE BEER

Many Members will recall 2010 where we marked the 900th anniversary of St Ives with a limited edition bottled beer. This year the the Civic Society once more worked jointly with the Oliver Cromwell public house to bring a specially labelled beer to St Ives, this time to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Again we sourced the beer from the Pot Belly Brewery near Kettering and stuck with 'Pigs Do Fly' (4.4%) which was a popular beer last time.

1,000 individually numbered bottles have been produced. We sold many over the Diamond Jubilee weekend and will sell at other events during the remainder of the Jubilee Year.

Bruce Luter



Richard Probyn & Bruce Luter selling the beer! (photo: Brian Richmond)

PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2012 – 2013

All monthly talks are held in the Free Church, St Ives at 7.30 pm. Non-members are always welcome and a donation of £2 is requested to help cover costs.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 21 st September 2012 | Les Millgate – History of Duxford Airfield |
| 19 th October 2012 | Annual General Meeting followed by: Bridget Flanagan – The Changing Landscape above the Thicket Path between Houghton & St Ives |
| 23 rd November 2012 | Brian Kell – Whittlesey Straw Bear |
| 25 th January 2013 | SOCIAL EVENING |
| 15 th February 2013 | Trevor Gunton – Birds & Pits: Reclaimed Gravel Pits & their Wildlife |
| 22 nd March 2013 | Peter Carter – 3,000 years & nothing's changed. Boats & Eel Traps found at Whittlesey. |
| 19 th April 2013 | Veronica Bennett – Wimpole Hall: Appearances Can be Deceptive |
| 17 th May 2013 | Professor Michael Chisholm: St Ives River Traffic & Draining the Fens |

Please visit our website www.stivescivic.org.uk for programme changes.

CIVIC SOCIETY OF ST IVES



Application for Membership

If you would like to join the Civic Society of St Ives, please complete the form below and send it with your annual subscription to:

Civic Society of St Ives
88 Warren Road
St Ives
Cambridgeshire
PE27 5NN

Household Subscription: £12.00 per year

Individual Subscription: £7.00 per year

Please complete and return the attached Standing Order mandate
or
enclose a cheque made payable to **Civic Society of St Ives**

I/We would like to join the Civic Society of St Ives:

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ First Name(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Tel. No. _____

E-mail _____

Occupation/ _____

Interests/ _____

Comments _____

On the 18th November 2011 Keith Sisman talked about:

The Lost River Of Ramsey

This talk was skilfully told by Keith Sisman last November. It centred on the Great Whyte (not the shark “Jaws” of different spelling) but on the River running under Ramsey’s roads.

The history goes back a long way. After King Henry V111’s Dissolution of the Monasteries, Ramsey Abbey ceased to exist – its stones used elsewhere apart from the Gatehouse which still survives. Interestingly, this also seems to have had a knock-on affect on St Ives and its Priory controlled by the Ramsey Abbey monks. All that remains of our Priory are remnants of the Priory Barn Walls.

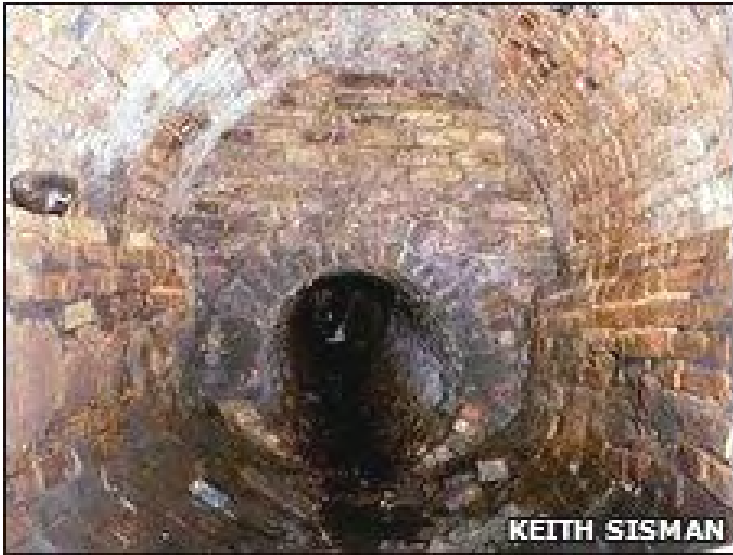
After the Dissolution Ramsey became a little forgotten town well away from any major transport links of the time. In those days the town was split in two by the River Great Whyte – a tributary of the River Nene. The Great Whyte was so called because of the white foam produced by water rushing through the town – not for Ramsey the limpid flow of the African Great Green Greasy Limpopo River!

The Great Whyte and the Little Whyte Rivers were originally used for trade , salted eels and Barnack stone being two commodities. However, the draining of the Fens brought another change and, as water levels fell it was decided to culvert the two Rivers. This allowed the Rivers to flow under the roads ; work was begun in 1852 and finished in 1854 – not bad for a major engineering project. Thus the tradition of Ramsey being a “boating town” was lost and agriculture took over exploiting the rich Fenland soil. But clues remained to its origins on the pub signs – the Ship Inn; The Boat and the Jolly Sailor. These were on the Embankment of the Great Whyte River and the Jolly Sailor is still there today (but landlocked).

In 1886 the Clock Tower known as “The Dummy” due to it not having a gong or bell was installed over the culvert. It was water-powered by the Great Whyte under the Street using a simple paddlewheel. In the1920’s electricity took over from water power and the uniqueness of the clock was lost to history.

In the 1930’s a bye-law was passed preventing the very light buses of the day parking on the road over the culvert in the very spot where our heavy buses of today routinely stop. A sensible bye-law, as below the road is no mini drain but a trench with the capacity to swallow a double-decker! Today’s subterranean Great Whyte is wide enough to take small boats but expeditions are not for the faint hearted and certainly need to be guided by experts such as Keith.

Photographs by kind permission of Keith Sisman



On 17th February 2012 Alan Eade told us about:

The History of the Mary Rose.

He began by pointing out that most of the things people think they know about the Mary Rose are wrong. She wasn't Henry VIII's flagship – that was the Henry Grace à Dieu, then the biggest ship in the world. She didn't sink on her maiden voyage - although another famously preserved shipwreck, the Swedish Vasa, did. And she wasn't sunk by the French but went down in a tragic accident.

The Tudors had no Royal Navy. Instead, two or three dozen “King's ships” were kept laid up at Portsmouth ready to be put into commission when they were needed. Henry VIII's father Henry VII had restored the crown's finances after the Wars of the Roses and among his careful provision for the future was the building of warships, one of government's most long-term and expensive commitments.

Soon after the young Henry VIII came to the throne in 1509 he saw the benefits of this when he went down to Portsmouth to witness the launch of two ships which had been built using a new piece of technology – a dry dock. Impressed by the spectacle and ambitious to make his mark on the world stage, Henry ordered two more ships to be laid down. The Peter Pomegranate was launched in 1510 and the Mary Rose the following year.

By the standards of the day her construction was a massive undertaking. A hundred feet long and with a capacity of 500 tons, she probably needed about 600 large oak trees from the New Forest to build her – 40 acres of woodland.

In 1511 she was floated out of her dry dock and towed along the south coast and up the Thames to London to be given her masts, riggings and guns. Like all the King's ships she saw only limited service over the next 30 years but was noted as a good sailor. By the standards of the day that meant she could sail closer to the wind than other ships.

The Mary Rose was a “carrack”, with high castles fore and aft and a single enormous mainsail that must have been very difficult to handle. Sailing at about a right angle to the wind was as close as any carrack could manage. She was rebuilt in 1536, enlarging her to about 750 tons and adding an extra tier of guns, which must have made her sailing qualities worse.

We can see a contemporary picture of the Mary Rose just down the Busway. The Pepys Library at Magdalene College contains the “Anthony Roll”, an illustrated list of the King's ships compiled in the 1540s by Anthony Anthony, the overseer of the Ordnance at the Tower of London. It shows the ship ready for battle, with a grapnel hanging from a spar over its bowsprit ready to be dropped

onto an enemy ship to haul it close enough to be boarded; and the ship's boat towing behind, so that cannonballs hitting it couldn't send lethal splinters flying across the decks.

But she never got that close to the enemy. In the summer of 1545 a French fleet of 130 ships (by coincidence, exactly the same number as in the Armada 40 years later) sailed to attack England and anchored in St Helen's roadstead, in the shelter of the Isle of Wight.

On 15th July four French galleys rowed into the Solent to reconnoitre the King's ships at anchor in Portsmouth harbour. The English ships (among them the Henry Grace à Dieu and the Mary Rose) sailed out to meet them, with Henry VIII himself watching from the shore.

Unluckily, the Mary Rose had on board an extremely unstable cargo – 300 extra troops, with their arms and equipment. This and a sudden squall capsized her. She went down in only 35 feet of water (her masts stayed poking out above the surface) but only 13 men survived.

The French galleys turned about and returned to their main fleet, which raided along the south coast for a few days and then went home. The sinking of the Mary Rose was the only significant event in the campaign. Lying on her starboard side, the Mary Rose was gradually sealed under deposits of silt washed over her by the tides of the Solent.

The wreck was undisturbed for 200 years until after the 1782 sinking of the Royal George. Heeled over onto her side for routine maintenance to her bottom, the Royal George went down as suddenly and unexpectedly as her predecessor with the loss of 800 lives. But this enormous wreck in the approaches to Portsmouth was too much of a hazard to shipping to be left there, so the Admiralty announced a competition for someone to blow her up.

It wasn't until 1834 that the brothers Charles and John Deane were able to get at the wreck using air-pumped diving helmets they'd invented themselves. They didn't manage to blow it up – that didn't happen until 1840 when the Royal Engineers destroyed it in a huge explosion that broke windows as far away as Portsmouth and Gosport. But they did salvage many of the guns and – more significantly for our story – they also investigated fishermen's tales of a nearby wreck that was snagging their nets. They brought up guns from the Mary Rose so that the exact location of the earlier wreck was now known and recorded.

The development of self-contained "scuba" diving equipment during the Second World War led to new exploration of the Mary Rose in the 1970s. Following the precedent of the Vasa the possibility of raising the wreck was now

considered – but the Vasa had sunk upright and relatively intact. The tilted and half-destroyed Mary Rose was a much more complicated project.

With a cradle inserted beneath the timbers, a lifting frame on top and a gigantic floating crane, the lift was managed successfully on 11th October 1982. The hull was moved to a Victorian dry dock only a short distance from the wreck site, where meticulous conservation of the ship and its contents has continued ever since. After 30 years the wreck should open to the public in a purpose-built display hall later this year.

Even at times when the Mary Rose itself hasn't been accessible to visitors, some of the 26,000 objects recovered from the wreck have been. They provide a fascinating snapshot into the lives of the sailors, officers and specialists – including the carpenter and barber surgeon, whose tools and instruments were found in their cabins. A vast amount of new information has been gleaned from the finds, many of them being items which had been guessed at but never before seen by present-day naval historians.

Alan Eade's talk whetted members' appetites for the moment when the new Mary Rose museum will open and the historic ship will enter yet another phase in its existence.

On 16th March 2012 Rev Ron Lancaster unburdened himself of his
Confessions of a Pyrotechnic Parson.

Rev Lancaster was born in Huddersfield, close to the village of Lepton where the northern branch of this country's fireworks industry was started in 1847. Former coal miner Allen Jessop turned his knowledge of shot firing in the mines to making fireworks. Using gunpowder confined his products to bangers, jumping jacks and the squibs that were used to blast the soot out of chimneys above coal-fired kitchen ranges.

By the time Rev Lancaster was growing up a large local industry had developed, but was confined to military purposes during the war. He and his fellow schoolboys made expeditions onto the moors to the firework companies' testing ranges. The flares being tried out there included a valuable treasure – parachutes made from silk, otherwise unobtainable.

Young Ronald was unusual among his fellow schoolboys in preferring to find unexploded flares that he could experiment with, rather than the parachutes. He also had two secret weapons: his friend Derek Ibbotson, later to run the first four-minute mile (Roger Bannister ran the first mile in under four minutes); and his mother's clothes line prop, giving him a longer reach.

His interest in fireworks, thus ignited, then took a back seat for a number of

years until he entered the Church and found himself curate at nearby Morley. The youth group he ran there couldn't afford to buy fireworks so he went back to experimenting and making his own. This enabled him to make professional contacts with the local firms of Standard and Lion Fireworks.

In 1963 he took up a new appointment as chaplain and assistant chemistry master at Kimbolton School, where he stayed for 25 years. The school gave him a walled garden to make his fireworks in, fitted out with purpose-made buildings picked up for fifteen pounds from a fireworks firm in Suffolk that went into administration. The buildings are still at Kimbolton now. His ecclesiastical insurers blithely added the enterprise to their regular policy for an additional ten pounds but later got cold feet and asked him to go elsewhere – hardly surprising as Kimbolton Fireworks currently pays premiums of £75,000 a year.

The firm's location at the school allowed Rev Lancaster and his fellow enthusiasts to fit in two jobs at once. Loading their van with fireworks on Friday evening, they would be ready to drive off to a display as soon as school finished at Saturday lunchtime. Returning in the small hours of Sunday morning they would unload the van again during the day and be all ready for chapel on Sunday evening and the start of the school week on Monday. Life was easier out of term-time and there was little demand for displays between New Year's Eve and the start of the summer holidays.

From the 1970s there has been a steady decline in the sale of fireworks to members of the public and a corresponding increase in organised displays. Another trend has been that fireworks are increasingly quiet, although occasional requests for completely silent displays so as not to disturb animals and wildlife are still impossible to meet.

The commercial manufacturers have gradually disappeared so that Kimbolton Fireworks are now the only makers left in the country, although there about 150 firms that offer displays. Kimbolton mostly use their own fireworks, topped up with imports from Europe and from China.

A younger generation is now taking over the enterprise, though Rev Lancaster is still involved in the chemistry and experimentation. He knows less about the latest trend – the use of computer technology to co-ordinate firework displays with music. He ended his talk with a spectacular video of the firm's display on New Year's Eve at the London Eye, where between 15 and 20 tons of fireworks were let off in a co-ordinated programme – and not one was lit by human hand.

On 20th April 2012 Richard Jones explored the mysteries of:
The Real King Arthur.

Dressed in 12th-century armour to take us back to the pre-microphone days of Geoffrey of Monmouth, he described the ways in which the legend we're all familiar with was built up bit by bit from many sources.

Writing in the first half of the 12th century, it was Geoffrey who first made the Arthurian legend popular and introduced many of the elements used by later writers – the relationship between King Arthur and Merlin, for example, and the final battle against Mordred.

As the Middle Ages progressed, so did the story. A generation after Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace added the Round Table and gave Arthur's sword the name Excalibur. (The word plainly includes the Latin word for steel, chalyb, or its Greek predecessor khalups, though its exact origin remains mysterious). Chrétien de Troyes added the romantic elements of Lancelot and Guinevere, and Robert de Boron contributed mystical religion in the shape of Joseph of Arimathea and the Holy Grail.

In the 15th century all these elements were wedded together by Sir Thomas Malory, whose glowing romance captivated later illustrators such as the Pre-Raphaelites, Aubrey Beardsley and Arthur Rackham. Malory's identity is a fascinating mystery as there were several knights of that name who could have been the author, and Caxton's printed edition of his work adds the intriguing detail that he wrote the *Morte d'Arthur* while he was in prison.

One possible Malory is local. A chancery petition drawn up by the parson of Papworth St Agnes complains that Sir Thomas ambushed him at Papworth on a November evening and took him to Huntingdon, threatening to kill him unless he gave him £100. Nothing more is known about the case but it would certainly explain why Malory found himself in jail.

But the most widely accepted candidate was a Warwickshire Sir Thomas Malory who was convicted at various times of being a thief, bandit, kidnapper and rapist, activities very much at variance with the high chivalric ideals described in his book. Some might say the same about the fact that he was also a Member of Parliament.

The medieval authors were writing romances with no serious claims to be history. Delving back into the period between the collapse of the Roman administration in Britain and the establishment of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, it is possible to discern traces of a real person who might have given rise to the legend of King Arthur.

He appears, or is hinted at, in the chronicles of Gildas, Nennius and Bede. The fact that all these writers were monks makes it difficult to separate truth from propaganda. But the steady westward progress of the Angles, Saxons and other newcomers against the declining power of the Romano-Britons may have been halted for a while by a briefly successful warlord fighting against the intruders.

Going even further back, elements of the Arthurian legend such as the Lady of the Lake and the Sword in the Stone may show a distant memory of pre-Roman rituals (depositing weapons in water, as at Flag Fen) and metal-working (casting sword blades in a mould, which is then broken).

But this is fragile speculation indeed. Like so much else in literature, the Arthurian legend's continuing importance in our culture – still shown by its appearance in cinema and television – transcends the question of whether a historical Arthur ever really existed.

On 18th May Hilary Ritchie described:

The History of Addenbrooke's Hospital, where she is the hospital archivist.

She explained that very few people know where the hospital gets its name from or how far that name goes back. John Addenbrooke, the son of a West Bromwich clergyman, came to Cambridge University to study medicine in 1697. After practising as a doctor in France and elsewhere he retired to Buntingford where he died in 1719 aged only 39.

Not much is known about him personally. He had his private papers burned before he died and his doctor's handwriting means that those few letters and papers that have survived are largely illegible. But in his will he left the colossal sum of £4500 (perhaps equivalent to £3 million today) to provide Cambridge with "a small physical hospital."

It took a while to establish and build the hospital – so long that the original bequest had to be supplemented by a public subscription, which needed the passing of an Act of Parliament to authorise it. But by the 1740s records survive in the archives to show how the money was being spent, culminating in the hospital's opening in October 1766, nearly 50 years after Dr Addenbrooke's death.

The original hospital had 20 beds with 11 patients, three surgeons and three physicians – an excellent ratio of staff to patients, although the early records show that some of the nurses, then recruited from some very poorly quali-

fied individuals, had their careers cut short for a variety of colourful reasons. The nurse who discharged a patient so that her gentleman friend could stay the night in his bed, for example.

The hospital grew steadily on its original site in Trumpington Street, thanks to several legacies and with the guidance in the 19th century of two long-serving doctors: George Paget, physician from 1839, and George Humphrey, surgeon from 1842. They specified the building of Florence Nightingale's "Nightingale wards", which were large, light and airy, staffed by highly professional nurses. The nurses began their working day at 7.30, after prayers and breakfast, and worked through until 10.00 at night.

Photographs in the archives illustrate the slow pace of progress in medical techniques – a surgeon in the operating theatre without mask or gloves for example – but information about breakthroughs sometimes comes from local newspapers rather than the hospital records. It was in January 1847 for example that anaesthetics make their first appearance, with the use of ether during the amputation of a finger.

The steady building up of the Trumpington Street site reached its limit in the 1950s and a new site was bought on the southern outskirts of the city. £4500, almost exactly the same sum Dr Addenbrooke left in 1719, paid for 66 acres. The first phase of the new hospital was opened by the Queen 50 years almost to the day before Hilary's talk, on 21st May 1962.

Building has been continuous ever since, with more projects planned for the future. The second phase was completed in 1972, topped by the famous chimney which represented a remarkable piece of engineering: casting its concrete took twelve days and nights in a single continuous pour. The Rosie Maternity Hospital, part-funded by a massive donation from self-made Cambridge businessman David Robinson, followed in 1983.

Today's hospital has 1160 beds and 7000 staff, with nearly half a million outpatient admissions each year. Technically it is the Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation Trust, but many still know it by its old name, a reflection of the fascinating story that Hilary Ritchie was able to tell us.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A BOYHOOD SPENT IN EAST STREET AND WEST STREET, ST.IVES. (AROUND MID 30's)

Starting from what is now a Chinese Restaurant I recall a grocers shop run by a Mr. Culpin and his daughter Ida. Opposite was the fire-station and next to that was a bakery owned and operated by the Churchyard family. A little further along stood Stapletons the fish and chip shop where I mostly had my Saturday lunch of fish and chips and a bottle of Vimto for the princely sum of 6p. Back on the other side stood Robbs rope walk, a very good friend of mine Philip Pratt used to work there, a little further along was Tyrells the music shop where piano lessons were given. you could nearly always hear a piano playing when passing. Another 50 yds and you come to a wooden structure which was a printing works run by the Wilson family where most of the local businesses had their letter heads etc printed. Almost next door was Culpins a sweet shop which always had large jars of boiled sweets in the window, a favorite place for 'gob- stoppers'. Right on the corner there was the stonemason, Mr Cutress with a display of gravestones to view, as boys we used to watch him at work on his current project. Just round the corner was Hodges another sweet shop, the place for liquorice sticks. This area flooded badly after heavy rains. Back on the North side there was Mr Skeeles music shop, the window display never ever changed, music lessons were given if you were brave enough to face the discipline.

Another 50 yds along was the blacksmiths which did a busy trade with heavy horses and purpose made ironwork. A little further along was the Three Tuns pub run by Jack Stocker, the longest serving landlord in the town and a well known local sportsman. Alongside the pub was access to Scotts scrapyard run by Walter Scott and his employee David Dellar, they used to work so hard breaking iron with 20lb sledgehammers and taking batteries to pieces to recover the lead. In the warehouse upstairs there were row after row of rabbit skins hungs up to dry, this was another source of income for us youngsters. In another part of the warehouse there was a huge heap of bones from the slaughterhouse, I think they were used for glue making. This was the place where you could buy a jam-jar of fat maggots for fishing.

Back on the other side which is now all car-park there was a small cobblers shop and next to that Eastgates a grocers shop, my memories are of a very large set of brass scales and a heap of well polished weights, butter-pats, and Mr Eastgate cutting cheese very skillfully with a wire to the exact weight required. Another 20yds and you came to a green-grocers shop run by Mrs Fountain but you could also buy rabbits, pheasants etc. You are now on the corner of Green Street consisting of two tightly packed

rows of terrace houses, a very close knit community always looking out for each other. One of my best friends lived there, 2 bedrooms, small living room and kitchen and he was one of eleven children, the room was always full of clothes and nappies drying by an open fire. Back on the North side just opposite Green St. was Mr. Wright the barber, the memories of Mr. Wright are a quivering bottom lip whilst cutting and the pulling on the short hairs on the back of the neck with ancient clippers.

Next door was another fish shop run by Mr Hare, not so popular as Stapletons. Back on the South side was the home of Mr Pratt the chimney sweep, always dressed in black, could have been soot and he travelled on his cycle to his various assignments with brushes and bags on the front carrier. Mr. Pratt was also a great one for rabbiting and kept a large number of ferrets in the back yard always very smelly. Back again on North side there was a building where Mr Golding ran a milling business, this was a favorite place for youngster to congregate to watch the corn being ground and the flour put in sacks. Next came the Queen Victoria pub run by Charlie Richards and right down the very end was Scotneys the timber works which at that time was one of the towns biggest employers. Opposite there is a terrace of four cottages, the end one was occupied by Nurse Heath a very small person with a very purposeful stride and Nurse Lowry, a very large lady. Nurse Heath brought me into the world as my parents lived next door but one in No.38.

This area was patrolled on foot by the local policeman who must be mentioned, his name was Mr. Newby but known by everyone as 'Mr', a large man with moustache who had his own way of dealing with unlawful activities, probably never arrested anyone, a man respected, loved and feared by all us youngsters.

Author: Ivor Stocker

With thanks to Julia Papworth for sending such a fine descriptive article to the Civic Society for publication.

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL

The hospital is named after its founder; John Addenbrooke who was born in 1680, the only son of the Vicar of West Bromwich. He came up to St Catharine's Hall (now college) to study in 1697. He went to France in 1711 where he obtained his Doctorate in Medicine. He returned here to practice before retiring and dying at Buntingford in 1719 at the age of 39. Regrettably we do not have very much original material from John Addenbrooke himself. The Hospital Archives does have a couple of letters written by him, one dated 1711 and one dated 1716. In fact he was supposed to have been able to foretell the exact date and time of his death and he burnt all his personal material including a portrait of himself.

By the terms of his will Addenbrooke's left about £4,500 to be held in trust for his widow (who survived him by only six months) and then (for they had no children) – 'to hire, fit up, purchase or erect a building for a small physical hospital in the town of Cambridge for poor people of any Parish or any county'.

This bequest gave John Addenbrooke the distinction of being the first Englishman to bequeath his private wealth to found a voluntary hospital.

Unfortunately it was not the first to be built. In 1728 land was purchased in Trumpington Street, but building did not start until 1740 and by early 1766 the Trustees found that they did not have enough money to complete and maintain the building. So the Trustees made a public appeal for support and as a result an Act of Parliament was obtained for 'establishing and well-governing a General Hospital to be called Addenbrooke's Hospital in the Town of Cambridge'. As a result of this Act the Hospital had to produce an Annual Report every September which we still do today.

A few weeks before the opening of the hospital in early Aug 1766 a Mrs Ann Perry approached the trustees offering her services as a Matron, and on the 18 Aug 1766 she was appointed Matron at a salary of '£10 per annum plus a gratuity of £5 if she behave well'.

When the hospital or Infirmary as it was called opened on 13 Oct 1766 it had 20 beds. To attend the hospital you had to present yourself at 11 o'clock on a Monday morning and admissions were made between 11 and noon. If you were late you had to wait until the next Monday to be admitted. During the first year it admitted 106 in-patients and 157 out-patients were seen.

When Addenbrooke's Hospital opened in 1766 there was no such profession as a trained nurse. Before Florence Nightingale, nursing was not an honourable profession they were classed as servants, and had no training and were often illiterate.

In the early days of Addenbrooke's, before universal elementary education or any system of nursing training the problem in recruiting women who would make satisfactory nurses led to the regular practice of engaging nurses 'on trial for a month'.

The first two nurses, Ann Abbs and Sarah Brown, were appointed on 29 September 1766 with the annual salary of £5. Sarah was discharged for ill behaviour on 17th November and Ann was replaced on 24th November.

There was no shortage of applicants for the posts, but the difficulty lay in recruiting satisfactory nurses who were frequently dismissed for being drunk or selling drinks to patients or other irregularities. Slowly things started to improve, but nurses rarely stayed very long - often leaving through ill health.

In 1814 John Bowtell a wealthy bookbinder of Cambridge bequeathed £7,000 to extend the hospital. As a result a colonnade and pediment was built at the front of the original building and two wings built at each side of the hospital to house additional patients.

In the middle of the 19th cent under direction of Sir George Humphry, (surgeon) and Sir George Paget (physician) the Board of Governors were persuaded to rebuild the whole hospital along the line advocated by Florence Nightingale – large airy wards with cross ventilation, high ceilings and a reasonable distance between beds



Typical Ward - Old Site c1899

The Influence of Florence Nightingale

In 1865 George Humphry suggested that employment of 'a better class of nurses' and later that year Paget announced the appointment of 'four nurses of a superior kind trained at St Thomas' Hospital under the regulations of the Nightingale Fund'. They were paid £25p.a. compared with £16-£18p.a. for existing or previous nurses. When in charge of a ward they were addressed as 'Sister'.

The developments in hospital treatments had come on in leaps and bounds during the second half of the 19th cent. e.g anaesthetics, Pasteur identifies that germs cause disease, Lister develops the use of antiseptic surgical methods and vaccines for cholera, anthrax, rabies, tetanus, diphtheria and typhoid fever are developed and Roentgen discovers X-rays.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries great changes were seen in the hospital with the basic ingredients of what we would expect in a general hospital today starting to happen.

A new Outpatients Department, casualty rooms, X-ray rooms, eye rooms and consulting rooms, a dispensary and outpatient's theatre and recovery room. A new boiler house was installed providing hot water and central heating and also an electric lift. Out Patients Department (now Browns Restaurant), was opened in 1911.

And in 1932 the Children's and Private Wards on the left of the Hospital were opened by the then Duke and Duchess of York, the future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

So on the 5th Jul 1948 over 1,100 voluntary hospitals were taken over by the National Health Service and Addenbrooke's became part of the United Cambridge Hospitals Training Hospital which included:

- Addenbrooke's Hospital
- The County Hospital (Maternity Hospital, Mill Road)
- The Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital (Brookfields Hospital)
- The Chesterton Hospital
- Addenbrooke's Home of Recovery and the Charlotte Rebecca Waley Home of Rest for Nurses, Hunstanton. (Home of Recovery)

Stage 1 opened in 1961 and consisted of an orthopaedics, neurosurgery, all services, 4 Wards, X-Ray department, out-patients department and Casualty department and 2 operating theatres. The Queen opened the site in May 1962. All Stage 1 buildings have the apex roof and are still visible and in use today. The future plan was to have a hospital of 1000 beds. Almost straight away plans started for Stage 2 and were completed in 1972.



Old Site c1980

Construction of the Chimney

The method used involved continuous pouring of cement into a mould which slowly moved upwards, the whole chimney was built in 12 days and nights.

In Jul 2004 Addenbrooke's and Rosie formed the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which was one of the first foundation trusts

The site today is spread over 70 acres.

Over 1,170 Beds

6,800 members of staff

A budget of £500m

c500,000 patient attendances a year.

5,000 births in the Rosie

24 operating theatres

5 intensive care units

14 clinics

42 wards

The strategy is to double the site to 140 acres – 2020 and for the planners to hold a further 20 acres for development beyond this date.

HOUGHTON GRANGE

As plans are put forward for the renovation of Houghton Grange and development within its grounds, it seems timely to write about this most interesting property on the edge of St Ives, but technically just over the border in the Parish of Houghton.

On 1st February, 1897, Harold Coote, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge, a man whose wealth derived from coal, and his wife, Edith, became the owners of a 39 acre estate to the west of St Ives. They commissioned a house to be called Houghton Grange; it had echoes of our Elizabethan architectural heritage and provided three reception rooms, a library, a billiard room, six main bedrooms and adequate domestic accommodation. The house was approached by a 300-yard avenue planted with lime trees, the road surface being most interesting. Twelve inches of soil was removed, coal laid down and the soil replaced and compacted. The coal was then set alight and the resulting brick-hard surface provided a maintenance-free road, still in good condition 50 years later.

A lodge was built, initially on the west side of the entrance, and another on the east side four years later. In 1902, and again in 1905, land south of the Thicket Path and fronting the river was purchased, bringing the estate to more than 48 acres.

Following Mr Coote's death the Grange was put on the market in 1920, when much was made of the full central heating and of the lighting by acetylene gas, generated on the property. Mr H Perkins, a market gardener, bought it, being responsible for the planting of many of specimen trees and shrubs.

In 1932 the Grange was on the market again, with a reserve price of £7,500. By now the acetylene gas plant had been replaced by a 16hp Ruston Hornsby engine to generate electricity for the house. One of the lodges was home to the chauffeur, and was connected by an internal telephone to the Grange itself.

The new owner was Mrs H H Gregory, whose husband Dr H A C Gregory already owned three adjacent properties – Hill Farm, Hiam Farm and Wigan Hill Farm; thus their total holdings were in excess of 1,000 acres. Dr & Mrs Gregory were both physicians, he practising in Harley Street, who subscribed to the benefits of the healthy life and proposed the development of a "treatment centre" or health farm at the Grange. Several grand schemes were prepared but circumstances changed with the result that only the swimming pool and squash court were completed. During this time well-known personalities visited from London for house-parties.

During World War II the grounds were turned over to food production, and several prisoners of war and a contingent of Women's Land Army were assigned to assist; the prisoners were housed in two huts while the Land Girls lived at Hiam Farm.

In 1947 the Grange was again for sale, together with Houghton Hill Farm, Hiam Farm and some other pieces of land, and at the end of the year it was announced that the Veterinary Educational Trust (later renamed the Animal Health Trust) had bought it and would establish a poultry research station. The price of the estate was £80,000 - £20,000 for the Grange and 40-acre field and £60,000 for the farms.

Work began there in March 1948 and in October The Farm Livestock Research Station came into being. Over the next few years the Grange itself provided living accommodation at different times for the Directors, library and office facilities, and some laboratories, and in 1982 the Grange and the two lodge cottages were listed as buildings of architectural interest.

The Veterinary Educational Trust was the inspiration of Dr W R Wooldridge, who was its guiding light from its founding in 1942 until his death in 1966. Until then there had been no fellowships in veterinary science to enable research scientists to continue their work on completion of their doctorates, and research facilities in some smaller countries abroad far exceeded those here.

Dr Robert Fraser Gordon was the Trust's first Director at Houghton Grange; on arrival in 1948 he had use of one room of the Grange, one of the two lodge cottages, two huts (which had housed the prisoners of war), a cow shed, a house, some garages and stables. Life was brightened only by the facilities of the swimming pool and squash court! The two huts were converted into laboratories, (after de-lousing), and a stable became an incubation unit. Dr Gordon was particularly active in touring the country to give talks, the publicity slowly raising both awareness of the work being done and thus money to improve the facilities. There was a constant flow of visitors and the research gradually bore fruit providing much needed help to farmers against poultry diseases and in artificial insemination, but funding was always a problem.

The 1950s saw a much needed financial boost which led to increased staff numbers and facilities for more birds, and the appointment of Dr Peter Biggs to lead a team, while new concepts led to changes and developments throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The staff rose from four scientists and nine other staff in 1948 to 23 scientists and 205 other staff in 1973.

In the 1980s Dr Biggs was awarded a CBE and was elected a fellow of The Royal Society, and in 1986 he was appointed Director of the Institute

for Animal Health. This was formed by merging the three research sites of Houghton, Compton in Berkshire and Pirbright in Surrey into one, based on the two sites at Compton and Pirbright. In 1988 the closure of Houghton was announced, and many of its staff transferred to Compton, Houghton Grange finally shutting its doors in the early 1990s, since when it has lain empty.

Initial plans are for the various ugly, haphazard additions to the Grange to be demolished and the house to be restored and converted into apartments, with further housing to be added within the grounds. I would like to be able to suggest a stroll in the grounds to see what was a lovely building and gardens, but as the site is used for the training of guard dogs I think we will have to await that pleasure.

With grateful thanks to Ian Flack for his help, and extracts from 'A Short History of the Houghton Poultry Research Station' by B M Freeman & J F Tucker

Barbara Richmond



Photo by Steven via flickr



Houghton Grange (Norris Museum, St Ives)



Photo by Steven via flickr

Front cover photo: St Ives by William Fraser (The Burgess Collection)

William Fraser Garden (1856-1921)

The painting shows St Ives looking west from the Bridge with the Old Brewery on the right; Hemingford Meadows on the left. In the distance can be seen the Parish Church and Ingle Holt (Holt Island) with the reed cutters house.

Garden William Fraser was born in 1856, and exhibited under the name of William Fraser Garden.(Often referred to as WF Garden Fraser).

He was the fourth, and most celebrated, of seven artistic Scottish brothers. The brothers were educated at Bedford School, where they were taught by Bedford schoolmaster, Bradford Rudge (1805-1885) who was a distinguished landscape artist in both oils and watercolours. Rudge exhibited at the Royal Academy, taught at the school and also took private pupils until his death, and both Garden and his brother, George Gordon Fraser, were his star pupils. William Fraser Garden loved the River Ouse in all its moods, particularly the stretch between Bedford and St Ives. His paintings have an almost photographic quality in both the fineness of his work and the tranquillity that he achieves in his landscapes. He painted Britain's oldest inn, The Ferry Boat at Holywell, several times along with other buildings on the course of the Ouse. His brother Arthur Anderson Fraser founded the White Cockade Jacobite Club there. Garden exhibited at the Royal Academy several times but did not achieve the success in his lifetime that he so longed for, and richly deserved. His home was The House in the Fields, in the beautiful village of Hemingford Abbots, Cambridgeshire, until sadly he died in poverty in 1921.

WF Garden Fraser has a number celebrity collectors, including the comedian John Cleese, who recently sold 12 of his paintings to help pay off a divorce settlement.

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