

DONT FORGET TO VISIT OUR EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING
THE GREAT WAR



Royal Anglian Regiment Association

Finedon Branch

*Chairman: John Behan
Secretary: Jean Ogle
Treasurer: Pauline Hale
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Mr Malcolm Peat
Chairman
Finedon Historical Society
Finedon

5th August 2014

Dear Malcolm

I am writing on behalf of the above Association, to express our sincere thank you for the excellent Exhibition that you have provided for the people of Finedon.

Our members were very impressed both with the detail and the sheer amount of information that you have all collated for the event. I am sure that your Exhibition will be visited by many in the local areal especially those families who had relatives in the war.

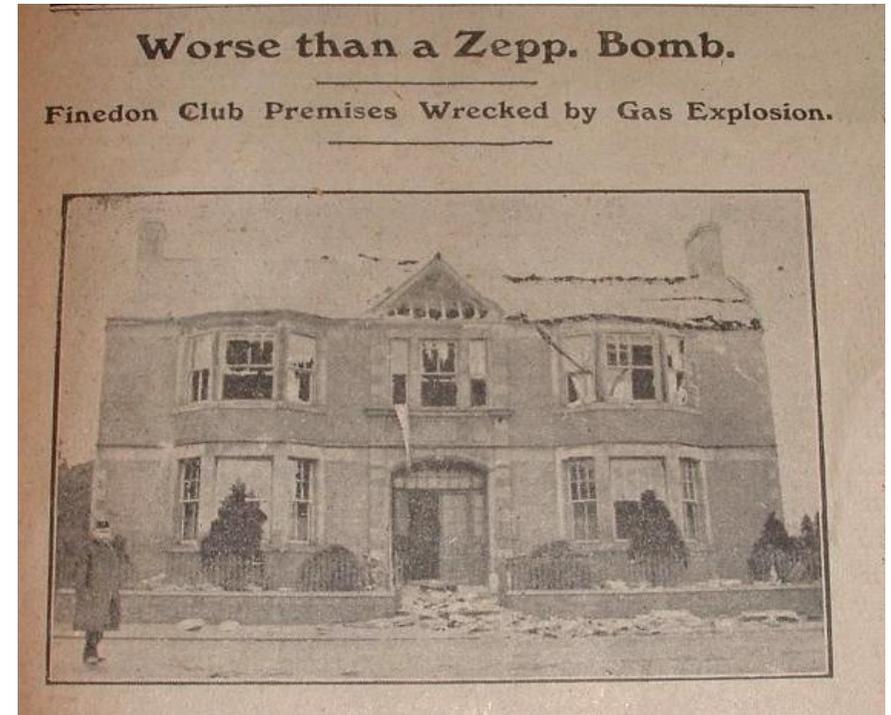
Your organisation's help in promoting our Commemorations in Finedon has gone a long way to ensure that the main event in November will be promoted and I am sure, very well attended

Once again, please pass our sincere thanks to your Committee and members who worked so hard to make it such an enjoyable visit.

Yours sincerely

Jean Ogle
Secretary

FINEDON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



The Gladstone Club after a Gas Explosion in 1917 (SEE PAGE 4)

NEWSLETTER

August 2014

COMMITTEE FOR 2014

The officers and committee members re-elected at the Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2013 are:-

President	Jacqui Minchinton
Chairman	Malcolm Peet
Vice Chairman	Michael Shipton
Secretary	Jeremy Millington
Treasurer	Rachel Terry
Minute Secretary	Brenda Beck

Committee Members

David Bailey Michael Britton Pat Curtis

Subscriptions

The annual subscription for 2014 has been retained at £5 and was due on 1 January 2014. Members who wish to renew their membership should submit their payment to the treasurer Mrs Rachel Terry, Mill Cottage, Finedon Road, FINEDON, Northants, NN9 5NQ or any member of the committee.



C. 1967 Scouts laying a wreath at their war memorial in the cemetery.



Cromer Road children in fancy dress part of the 1953 celebrations for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.



C. 1930 - A Coles family outing , The driver is the grandfather of Brian Coles whose family kept the Drapery shop now occupied by Alicia



A Wesleyan Church celebration c.1950. Can anyone name the event ? The young boy is John Munns.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Our first exhibition of 2014 "A Finedon Timeline" opened in May. In the first 5 weeks the number of visitors was slightly disappointing, but all of our visitors have been very complimentary. The exhibition identified many of the important historical events in Finedon over 1000 years . The exhibition closed on 20 July, in order that our second exhibition for 2014 " Finedon at War", commemorating the Great War of 1914–1918, could be opened on Saturday 2 August, the nearest weekend to the date that war was declared. As well as reviewing the factors leading to war, the exhibition concentrates on the men who served in the military with specific emphasis on the 133 who paid the ultimate sacrifice and the impact on those left behind. The committee are very grateful to members who have loaned photographs, service records, artefacts or have recorded their memories.

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW SECRETARY?

After several years in the role of secretary Jeremy feels the need to resign. He will however continue to serve on the committee. Whilst we have managed to fill in during Jeremy's illness we do need someone to take on the job. If you could be interested please have a word with a member of the committee.

2014 Meetings

September 22nd The Volta Tower Ron Clayton

October 27th The Life of John Clare David Dykes

November 24th The A.G .M.
Followed by 'Centenary' by Duo

December 22nd Carol Singing

2015 Meetings

January 26th WW1 Finedon Men and Medals David Folwell

February 23rd Wicksteed Park and Lake Project Charlotte
Widgery

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The Gladstone Club was wrecked by a gas explosion when Mrs West, the stewardess, went into the reading room to light a fire. Noticing a smell of gas, she endeavoured to find it with a lighted match. When the match was brought near to a gas bracket there was a terrific explosion. Annie Brown a friend from Leicester who was visiting was blown out of the room enveloped in flames, which Mrs West extinguished. Both ladies were severely burnt.

The club roof was blown off in places and the windows blown out by the force of the explosion. The interior of the reading room was completely wrecked. Fortunately the many members in the lower part of the club escaped injury.



Pancake race in Well Street outside the Mission Room. C.1955



19th century Cottages in Ivy Lane These cottages which stood at the top of Albion Yard were demolished c.1960

FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVE



Having performed on the Music Hall circuit, Cyril and Connie Stevens lived in Millers Close for a number of years. Sadly they both died 2 or 3 years ago.

Steve Sabre & Connie



A view of Whitsundale Farmhouse which is now obscured by trees and bushes

Reports of Meetings

Visit to Lyveden New Bield

26 May

On an afternoon of inclement weather, 20 members assembled at Lyveden New Bield where we were met by Barbara, our excellent and very knowledgeable guide.

After being given an introduction concerning Sir Thomas Tresham and his family, the first stop on the tour was at the newly planted orchard. Thanks to the Luftwaffe, who took many photographs of the site, this orchard had been planted to replicate the original. The varieties planted were as near to the originals as possible. At this point Barbara pointed out the former location of small hamlets in the valley below which became deserted after Tresham took over the land. From there



we took the circular path up the Snail Mount to overlook the newly restored lakes. Then over to the New Bield itself, although it is over 400 years old it remains in remarkably good condition.



The Bield was built in the shape of a Grecian Cross and is completely symmetrical, everything is in sevens for the days of the week. Inside the building you can see the layout of an ornate and functional building, with intended kitchens, bakehouse, parlour, and space for entertaining guests.

On the outside is an elaborate Frieze telling the story of the crucifixion of Christ and Scriptures written in Latin. The building was to be built as a summer retreat from the main home of Rushton Hall, unfortunately due to the early death of Sir Thomas and subsequent loss of funds this did not come to pass.

A very enjoyable afternoon ended with a visit to the tea room.

The History of Victorian Workhouses 26 April

The Society was pleased to welcome Daniel Williams from Northampton Record Office to give a presentation on the history of Workhouses from 1834. He explained that their introduction came about as a result of the Poor Law Act of 1834 that attempted, amongst other matters, to reduce the spiralling cost of outdoor poor relief, in part due to the impact of homelessness and unemployment following the Napoleonic Wars. Poor relief was becoming crippling for the individual parishes.

From 1834 15 to 20 parishes were grouped to form a Poor Law Union each with their own Workhouse, managed by a board of Guardians. Finedon became part of the Wellingborough Poor Law Union. From the late 1930s hundreds of new Workhouses were set up. At this time the perception and attitude of society was that "if you were poor it was your own fault" and therefore a stay in a workhouse was deliberately harsh to act as a deterrent to the able bodied pauper. If an able bodied man entered his whole family had to enter with him.

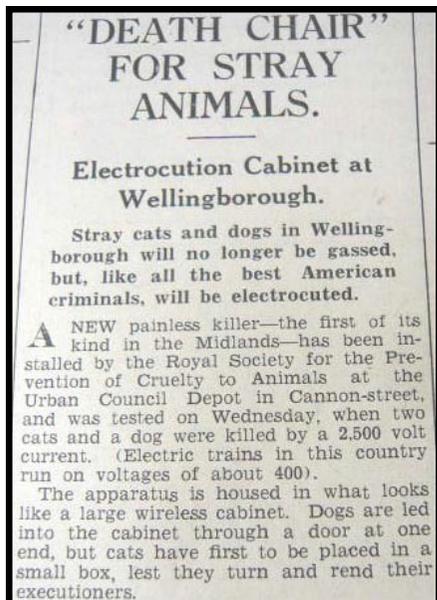
Life inside the workhouse was intended to be as repellent as possible. Men, women, children, the infirm and the able bodied were housed separately and given very basic and monotonous food. Contact between individual family members was severely restricted too. Discipline was harsh, spending on the "inmates" particularly on food was very parsimonious with the diet and quantity of food received dependant upon the sex and health of the inmate. The Times newspaper of the day reported that. "..... meals were less than a half of a person in prison..."

Despite the harsh and desperate conditions within the Workhouse there was one element of Victorian enlightenment. Well before the Education Act in 1870, children were given a compulsory three hours a day of formal and structured schooling to help them break from the cycle of poverty. From the early 1900s attitudes began to change. Children born in the workhouse no longer had "The Workhouse" written on their birth certificate. Some children were moved to Cottage or Scattered Homes to provide them with apprenticeships, training and schooling to prepare them for

Fun at the "Bell."
UNTIL this week I confess that I had never heard of a "Brush Dance." This, I am told, is a dance of half a century ago. It was therefore fitting that one should take place at the old-time Bell Inn last Saturday evening. Quite a number of the older people took part with our versatile Coun. Bailey as judge. His award was to Mr. F. Cuthbert with "Pinkie" Nicholls second. Jack Martin provided appropriate music on his trombone. A concert followed but whether Mr. Bailey followed a recent precedent at the same hostelry by a song is not told.

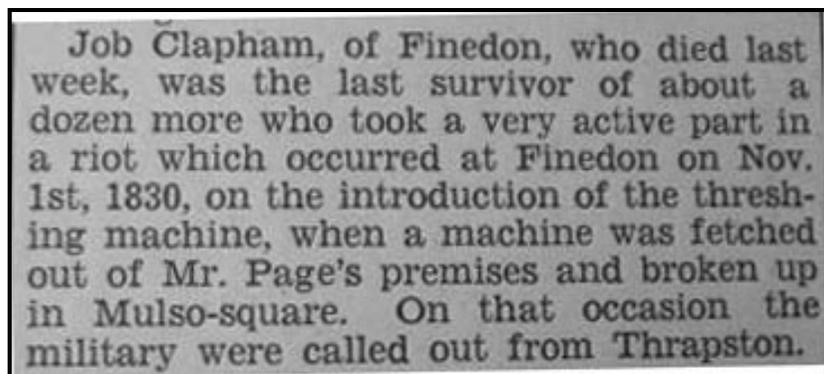
Does anyone know what a Brush dance is?

Canon Paul Story.
MR. REGINALD UNDERWOOD'S excellent article on the late Canon G. W. Paul last week has recalled several anecdotes of Finedon's old Vicar. One relates to his visit to an eccentric character known as "Bum" Bailey, who kept a grindery shop near the Waterlow Bridge about 40 years ago. Entering the shop one morning, Mr. Paul austerey said: "Good morning, Bailey." Back came the gruff retort: "Good morning, Paul." Taken aback at this unexpected rejoinder in those obsequious times, Mr. Paul said sharply: "Do you know who you are talking to?" Snapped back Mr. Bailey: "Yes, I do! And do you know whose house you are in?" This duel of wits between the rough and ready Bum Bailey and the aristocratic vicar was Finedon's best joke for many days.



A reporter who watched a 15 year old dog killed, (there is a glass panel in one side of the cabinet), saw that death was instantaneous. There was a small blue flash as the dog jumped up in its death spasm.

I don't think the RSPCA would endorse the use of this method today.



working life. The end of the Workhouse system came about in 1930 with the Board of Guardians abolished and responsibility transferred to County and Borough.

The Isebrook hospital now occupies the site and some of the buildings of the Wellingborough Workhouse. The reputation of the workhouse was such that even in the 1950s many elderly people were very reluctant to be sent to the hospital.

Finedon 1875 Slide/Film Show

23 JUNE

A new talk by John Bailey attracted a large audience. Although it was entitled as relating to 1875, other periods were covered by John. There was an interesting short film of Bob Donald, who farmed from Whitsundale Farm, and his workers harvesting in fields to the south of Wellingborough Road. Filmed before the second world war a reaper binder and an elevator for stacking the sheaves were in use.

There was also a short film showing the Free French at the Hall during the war, including the visit of General de Gaulle. The introduction to this film showed one of the soldiers trying to catch a monkey climbing on the outside of the building!! John also showed a number of other slides of the Hall and Finedon not previously seen.

The show also featured John Hawkes and his family at Carol Spring farm in 1861. Later photographs showed the Hawkes' family at Elm Grange farm (later the Mulso Arms), in 1875.



Carol Spring farm today.

Situated to the northeast of Sidegate Lane, many residents will not have seen this building.

Finedon Personalities

John Hamilton



John, who was married to Sheila, lived in Tenter Lane until his death in 2009 at 91. He was taken prisoner in the war with Japan. John spent 1,277 days inside Second World War camps. As a medical orderly John witnessed up to 10 men die each night from malaria, cholera, and other diseases and he assisted holding men down who could only be saved by having their leg removed. He also witnessed a friend being beheaded for stealing a chicken.

His story, told in the book “Lest we Forgot”, and some of his papers are held at the War Museum.

Billy Bartley– Newsboy



Billy lived in a one-roomed cottage in Sligo Yard in the Victorian era. He derived his living from making and selling shoe-makers ink and being a newsboy for the Wellingborough Post.

Apparently he loved a tune and would scrape away on a one-stringed fiddle.

From the Wellingborough News



Left to Right: Mr F. E. Gadd (clerk), Mrs Bailey, Coun. F.W. Bailey, J.P. (Chairman). Miss Phyllis Bailey and Coun. R. Montford, C.C.

A happy tradition was for the chairman of Wellingborough Urban Council to plant a tree to mark his year of office. Many trees were planted around Wellingborough according to this custom and as the first Finedon chairman of Wellingborough Urban Council, Coun. Bailey felt it was appropriate to plant a tree in Banks park. He commented “....that the park was one of the first gifts of Wellingborough to Finedon. I must give Wellingborough credit that they conceived the idea of beautifying this spot.....”