

FINEDON
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Lieutenant
Commander
William Digby
Mackworth Dolben
in whose memory
the Volta Tower was
built.

News Letter

JUNE 2015

COMMITTEE FOR 2015

The officers and committee members re-elected at the Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2014 are:-

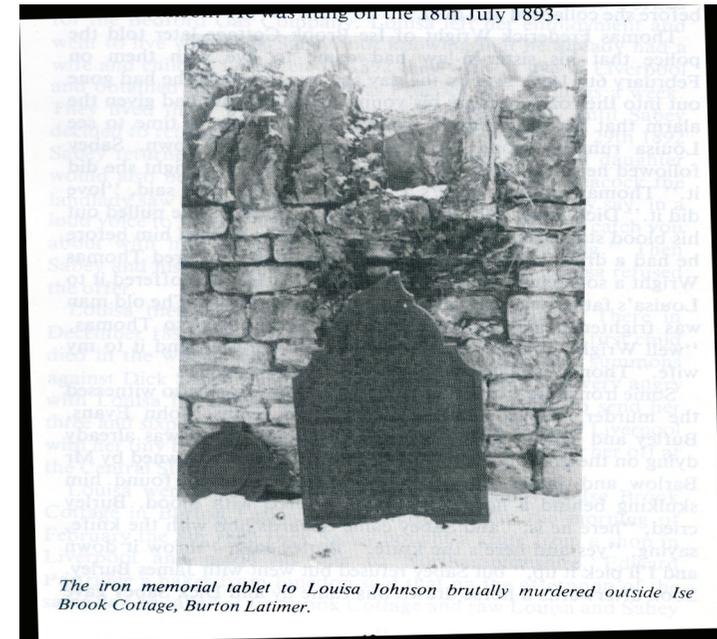
President	Jacqui Minchinton
Chairman	Malcolm Peet
Vice Chairman	Michael Shipton
Secretary	Michael Britton
Treasurer	Rachel Terry
Minute Secretary	Brenda Beck

Committee Members

David Bailey Pat Curtis

Subscriptions

The annual subscription for 2015 of £5 was due on 1 January 2015. 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.



The iron memorial tablet to Louisa Johnson brutally murdered outside Ise Brook Cottage, Burton Latimer.

This memorial to Louisa Johnson, who was murdered outside Ise Brook Cottage, stood on the right as one entered the old cemetery off Wold Road Burton Latimer.



A pipe band marches up Mulso Road in Finedon carnival c.1955. The large building is the old CWS shoe factory (later Leather Dressers) which stood at the bottom of Obelisk Road prior to its demolition.



A group of customers outside the Dolben Arms c.1950. Is the person on the left Joe Bonham? A prize will be awarded to the person who can name the most people.



The Bell as it may have looked in Saxon times. A typical English Inn being a large wooden building with people, dogs, open fire, dining tables and sleeping cubicles.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

2015 has started very well and in the first 5 months significant activities have come to fruition. The only negative aspect was a speaker not turning up. This was most unfortunate particularly as the speaker had to take her daughter to A and E as an emergency. In the event, Jacqui our president, kindly stepped in and spoke about her life as an archivist.

- Firstly Ron Clayton's project on the Volta Tower was entered for the Wendy Golland "Award for Quality Research" in the East Midlands Heritage Awards, organised by the East Midlands Museum Service. We have been informed that this project has been shortlisted and the winner will be announced on 9th June.
- Secondly we have also entered our last exhibition "FINEDON AT WAR" in the NALH Heritage awards.
- Thanks to the work of Mick Britton we now have our own website which can be accessed at www.finedonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk.
- The research recently undertaken by Carolyn Smith also needs to be recognised. She has provided a detailed report on three Finedon men transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and a comprehensive report on Finedon Dried Apples.
- Finally, it's pleasing to report that our exhibition, "Slate to Whiteboard", reviewing the history of education in Finedon is now open.

ITEMS FROM THE GIRL'S SCHOOL LOG BOOKS

The records make very interesting reading, Not only do they illustrate some of the many problems faced by teachers, they also reveal the attitudes of some parents to education as a result of the everyday pressures under which they lived. Would teachers want, or be allowed to describe pupils in the way that was accepted in the 1800s?

March 1872. Miss x succeeds very little better in the management of her class than she did in the first week; she has improved somewhat in her own lessons but is still a terrible dunce.

November 1872. A very ignorant girl who came to school for a few weeks three years ago returned this morning as a half timer. Though 10 years old she can scarcely read at all and has no idea of writing or working sums.

March 1886. The teachers are to go to Wellingborough tomorrow morning for their annual Examination in Religious Knowledge.

April 1868. Today I have found that two children in the 3rd Class cannot continue coming to school because their mother wants them to learn shoe work, so as to be able to contribute towards their own support.

November 1872. Another stupid little girl admitted to school this morning who is more than 8 years old, cannot make either letters or figures properly on her slate.



Members of the Finedon Women's Co-operative Guild outside Westminster Abbey on the occasion of the Centenary of the formation of the national guild. Left to Right: ?, Mrs Marion Scott, Mrs Marion Guest.

Note the white poppy worn by Mrs Scott. The poppy was used as a symbol of peace, worn as an alternative to, or complement to, the red poppy for Remembrance Day or Anzac Day. In 1926 the idea of pacifists making their own poppies was put forward by a member of the No More War Movement, but they did not pursue the idea. The first white poppies were sold by the Co-operative Women's Guild in 1933.

FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVE



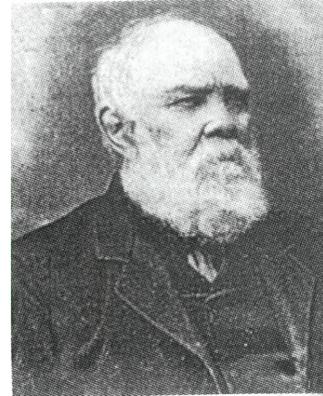
David Watts painting the entrance to the Meeting House



An early view of the Volta Tower Taken from the West.

FINEDON PEOPLE

JOHN PARKER 1817–1900



John Parker was another of John Bailey's relatives being his great, great, grandfather. He was one of Finedon's early shoemakers occupying the factory that at one time belonged to Roy Bailey. He was responsible for building many houses most of which carried his name. These included, Parker's Row in the High Street, Parker's Yard off Church Street and Parker's Terrace. Sadly, save Parkers Yard all have been demolished. As an ardent teetotaler he was a supporter of the National Temperance League. He was one of the Octogenarian Teetotalers who

attended a meeting in the town hall, St. Martins in the Fields, London on 21st May 1896 hosted by the League in their honour.

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT STUART DUNCAN

In the September 2013 Newsletter we published a photograph of Stuart with his parents and wife outside Buckingham Palace having been awarded the AIR FORCE CROSS (AFC). He was a test pilot flying aircraft such as the lightning from Boscombe Down experimental establishment. Sadly Stuart was killed in November 1960 when flying a Meteor jet that exploded in mid air.

FLYING OFFICER LESLIE WALTERS



Leslie was an old boy of the Junior Boy's School and gained a scholarship to the Wellingborough Grammar School. He was one of the few old boys to gain commissions in the R.A.F. after the war ended. Sadly he died in a flying accident in Jordan c.1950. There is no doubt that his death brought to end what would have been a very successful career.

FINEDON DRIED APPLES

The following two adverts were published in the Northampton Mercury newspaper in 1773 and 1829. As Thomas Smith claims to have provided dried apples for 40 years, they must have been produced as early as 1735. Genuine Finedon Dried apples were also supplied by several other agents including J Abel of Northampton, an ancestor of the Abel with the music business in Northampton. The apples used were Norfolk pippins, Meltons and Beaufins. A tough skin was an essential property to prevent splitting when pressed.

Finedon, March 22, 1773.
THOMAS SMITH begs Leave to acquaint the Public, that he sells, Wholesale and Retail, right good Bottled CYDER, both Quarts and Pints; and six Months Credit given, if required. Likewise the Nobility, Gentry, and Others may be supplied with excellent fine Dried APPLES (such as scarcely can be had elsewhere :) And, at the Seasons of the Year, with the finest APPLES and PEARS of all Kinds, and other Fruit. Those Gentlemen and Ladies, who please to favour him with their Custom, may depend upon the best Usage, and their Orders faithfully and punctually obeyed by
 Their most obedient, humble Servant,
THOMAS SMITH.
 N. B. The said Thomas Smith has dealt in the above Articles for near forty Years past.

FINEDON DRIED APPLES.
WM. BUTLIN, BAKER, FINEDON, Northamptonshire, begs Leave to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and Public in general, that he has FOR SALE DRIED APPLES and PEARS of the very best Quality, which will retain their true Flavour during the Whole of the Season. W. B. flatters himself the above Articles need no further Recommendation than the Trial which has been given them during the last 30 Years.
 N. B. Shops served upon liberal Terms; and Boxes of all Sizes conveyed to all Parts of the Kingdom.
Finedon, Oct. 23d, 1829.



Opening of the fountain at the Mulso school. Date unknown, but by the look of the car it may be the 1930s. Can anyone supply any information about this?. The boy on the far right is Ron Horn, the girl in the centre is Margery Webb and the boy on her left is Ron Sculthorpe.



John Clare's cottage at Helpston visited by 20 members 19 May. A report on the visit will be given in the next issue.

FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVE



Sue Nicholl's mother and her brother at Wicksteed Park on a Sunday School outing from Northampton in 1933.

At this time there was a very large number of slides, roundabouts and various swings in the area which is still occupied by similar attractions. Unlike today's attractions they tended to be of heavy metal constructions. They would not pass current health and safety requirements, for example there were no safety surfaces under the apparatus. The machine that Sue's mother and her brother are sitting on was responsible for many visits to the General Hospital. A favourite activity of youths demonstrating their bravado was for a person to stand on each end of the swing and work the seat up until it impacted the top frame. On a similar piece of equipment, designed for one person, the aim was to try and make the swing complete a circle. With both, it was necessary for the riders to step/jump off when the swing was at its lowest point and quickly move to the side before it returned on its next cycle. Inevitably this led to falls and broken bones and impact injuries if struck by the returning swing.

EARLY ADVERTISING

BARBERS

One of Finedon's early hairdressers advertised his business with the following verse.

Come in ye stubby bearded souls.

Be clean shaved both cheeks and jowls.

Another, Albert by name, enticed customers with this invitation.

Razer, lather box and soap.

Though I am just an Abbot

I'll shave you just like a pope

More recently, Stuart, who had the business on Irthlingborough road, could only use the well known appeal

Haircut while you wait Sir

PRETTY GIRLS

Another verse, one of several claiming superiority over our near neighbours, and which was well used in Finedon was;

Irthlingborough shick shacks

Burton grumps

Finedon pretty girls

And Wellingborough frumps.

In one year, three Finedon girls were finalists in the competition for the Irthlingborough carnival queen. Some people saw this as support for the rhyme.

FROM THE WELLINGBOROUGH NEWS

Emergency Calls

FINEDON will shortly have the distinction of being the first place in the district from which the 999 emergency telephone calls can be made. From the first day of July a caller will be able to dial 999 and secure the special attention of the exchange operator for emergency calls to the fire, police and ambulance services.

For this purpose special equipment has been installed at the Finedon exchange, so that when 999 is dialled an emergency lamp and loud buzzer will indicate to the operator that the call is specially urgent. The Post Office emphasise that the number 999 should be dialled only in circumstances of real emergency and not for any other purpose. Incidentally Finedon is in the Leicester telephone exchange district, although Wellingborough, of which it is a ward, comes under the control of Coventry.

Jan 15 1924

The whip and top season is in full swing; and boys, who will be boys, are in consequence very busy. There is, however, a limit to even this health-giving game—in the matter of a place to spin the tops. In the narrow part of High-street, one day last week, a passing motor came in contact with a boy and his top, ending in the latter being sent spinning towards the large pane of a tradesman's window. Things turned out safely for the car and the lad, but the opposite for the shopkeeper, who suffered a badly cracked window.

Jan 1924 100 years ago

Finedon Ghost.—We are authorised to state that this awful personage is no other than the contrivance of the Charity Girls, whose tricks have been encouraged by the multitudes who went to see or hear a wonder; and have been detected by the few who sought to expose an imposture.

IRONSTONE WALK

Mr Francis Terry has kindly agreed to lead a walk to talk about and show evidence of ironstone quarrying and mining in and around Finedon on Monday 20th July. The walk will start at the cemetery in Finedon Station Road at 6pm. It will take 1.5 to 2 hours and will be a maximum of 2 miles.

The charge will be £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

A new FINEDON publication

Charles Needle an old Finedon resident, now living in Barnstaple, who was born in Eady's Yard at the start of the 20th century, has produced a book recording recollections of time and events in his early family life.

The book is entitled "My Early Years in FINEDON".

Charged at £5.50, copies can be purchased from the History Society.

CAN YOU NAME THEM?

We try to name everyone who is shown on our photographs. This is getting more difficult as time moves on and we need to enlist the help of all our members. As an incentive, a prize will be awarded to the person who names the most people on the selected photograph.

See the photograph on page 14 for the first opportunity to win a prize.