

Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke Newsletter Number Ten August 2003

Introducing Naomi Brookes, our new Green Belt Officer

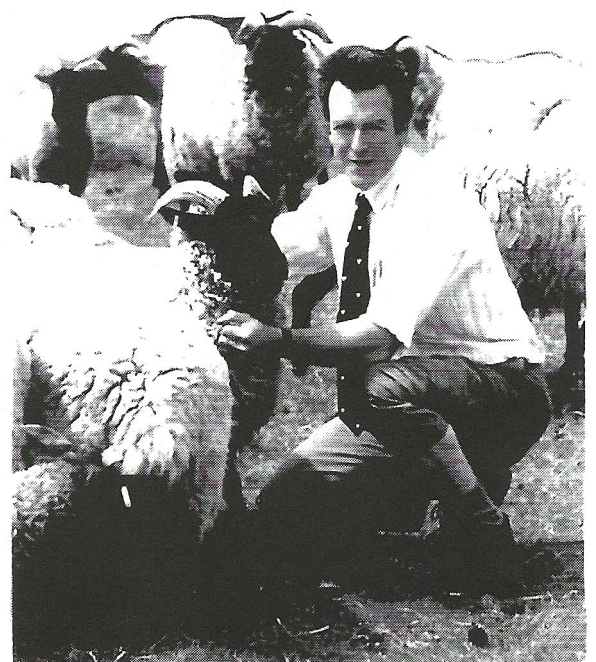
Naomi has taken over much of the Green Belt Project work that Iain has been covering in the last year, which allows him to devote more time to the Cambridge City Greenways Project and develop his existing projects there. Iain will still have an active role in the Green Belt project, as his local knowledge and interest is far too valuable to lose! He will continue to lead the practical Mid-week teams and therefore will continue to be active in the management of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke.

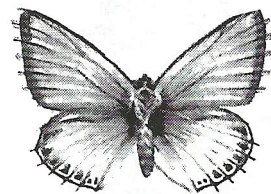
Naomi is now responsible for the administrative side of the Green Belt Project as well as for the practical work on the other wildlife sites managed by this Project, which will include helping with the work on both Fleam Dyke and the Roman Road. As Green Belt Project Officer, her work includes giving conservation advice, fund raising, publicity and helping local community groups with their wildlife sites. In general, Naomi and Iain are working closely together, as there is an overlap in what they do and the projects they work on. Naomi says, "I am excited to be working for the Green Belt Project and its diverse range of projects and partners. I am particularly looking forward to working with the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke in the future on these wonderful sites".

Naomi Brookes comes from Oxfordshire, from Middle Barton, to be precise. (Credit where credit is due.) She took a degree in Environmental Science at Plymouth University, followed by a year of voluntary work with the Scottish Wildlife Trust as a Countryside Ranger in Dumfries, where she worked on the conservation of a variety of habitats, including wet woodland and heathland, with, as always, plenty of scrub clearance included. She was involved in educational work with school parties: organising pond-dipping, mini-beast hunts, looking at wildflowers and similar activities. She then spent six months with the Forestry Commission as a Recreation Ranger, before moving to Cheshire to work for the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Council. There, she was mostly dealing with livestock farmers, and her job was to devise conservation plans for individual farms. She moved on to Derbyshire as a Biodiversity Action Officer. In this capacity she wrote Action Plans for district authorities, giving them specific things that they could do, such as managing the roadside verges to conserve the remaining limestone flora. Naomi also co-ordinated surveys of some species which are, if not in acute danger, in obvious and worrying decline: the black poplar, many reptiles, song thrushes and the brown hare.

Here at last!

On 19th September, Ted Clover brought three dozen Norfolk Horn Sheep to graze on the Fleam Dyke, between the A11 and Dungate Farm. They are this year's lambs, born on Ted's farm in Willingham. He would be grateful if we helped to keep an eye on them. If you see a sheep in distress, **please phone 01954 261949, or 07941 871530**, and, of course, if you see a dog running free, please ask the owner to put it on the lead in that section of the dyke.





Chalkhill Blue

Hold the Front Page, again!

More hot news from the Fleam Dyke. Iain Webb was working with the Mid-week Conservation Volunteers, when he saw not one, or two, or three Juniper seedlings, but five little dears sprouting beside one of the fallen Junipers. On a subsequent search, he found three more seedlings. Three of the six Millennium Seedlings found by Sharon Hearle are doing well, so the future of the Fleam Dyke junipers begins to look rather more hopeful. Meanwhile, the juniper cuttings on either side of the dyke at the A11 have grown so big, some reaching five foot, that it was time to remove their plastic guards and let them establish a proper shape. There are still about thirty of them, half on each side. Significantly, the recent drought does not seem to have bothered them at all. In addition, Christine Newell has three small cuttings from the tall juniper which snapped in half during a gale in 2001 and never recovered. Sharon Hearle also has two cuttings of an earlier date growing in her garden. Just before Iain found the seedlings, I had asked whether it was time to plant these cuttings on the dyke. Iain had said it would be better to see if we could find some more seedlings!

A Chalk Hill Blue and Purple Milk Vetch

In mid-August, Paul Stebbings saw a battered male Chalk Hill Blue on the Fleam Dyke near the Bedford Gap. This is the first sighting for many years. The invertebrate records at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at Monkswood give the last sighting as 1954, but these records are very limited. Val Perrin, the Butterfly Recorder for Cambridge Vice-County 29, 'Old Cambridge', does not know of any later sightings. **If anyone knows of a more recent record, please tell us.** The great question is: did it arrive with a lady companion, as the gossip columnists used to say? The food plant of the caterpillar is Horseshoe Vetch, which is now present at that end of the Fleam Dyke though not yet in quantity.

In the same area, Paul Stebbings also spotted a plant of Purple Milk Vetch. Since it was thought that there was none left on the Fleam Dyke, this is more good news.



Purple Milk Vetch

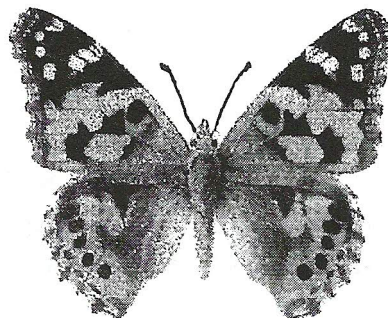
All this, and a Marbled White too

On July 7th, Naomi and I walked along part of the Fleam Dyke from Mutlow Hill to the disused railway, and back. When I had made notes about her previous jobs, see above, and we had had a little hunt for the Bastard Toadflax, which is doing remarkably well, she went back to her hot office, and I decided to do a quick butterfly count. But a cloud had come over the sun, and all the butterflies seemed to be having a sit-down strike. Then half way back towards Mutlow Hill, I found myself looking at a Marbled White nectaring on Small Scabious. I had seen them a few days earlier on another disused railway line, and even if I had not done so,

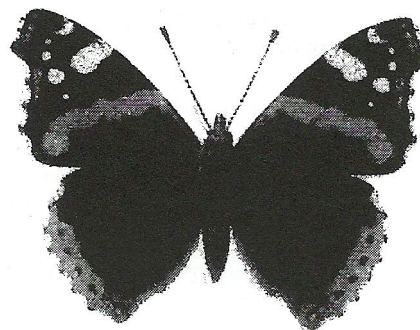
there is no mistaking a Marbled White. Luckily, Jo Darlington was on one of her invertebrate survey days, so I could drag her along to witness this first sighting of a Marbled White on the Fleam Dyke. Naomi and Iain were there two days later with the Midweek Conservation group, but they did not see it. I went back again the following day and I thought I saw a black and white butterfly flying strongly along the dyke, over the ditch, but maybe it was wishful thinking! Val Perrin and other experts seem confident that this is a significant sighting because records show that the Marbled White is spreading into East Anglia. That one of them should call in on the Fleam Dyke is not surprising as there is an abundance of suitable food plants and nectar sources. In the spring, the caterpillar of the Marbled White feeds on Red fescue, Yorkshire Fog, Tor Grass and other grasses, having over-wintered as a very small larva at the base of its food plant. The butterfly prefers blue or purple flowers such as Small Scabious, thistles and Greater Knapweed. The systematic programme of scrub clearing, mowing and raking done by the Green Belt Project under Sharon Hearle, and more recently Iain Webb, has greatly increased the area of flowery grassland which attracted both the Marbled White and the Chalk Hill Blue. Cross your fingers for 2004!



Marbled White



Painted Lady



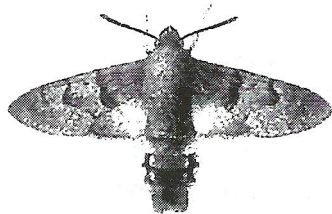
Red Admiral

2003 - A Vintage Butterfly Year

This summer everyone has seen Painted Ladies and Red Admirals in their gardens. The Small Tortoiseshell is back in reasonable numbers and many other species have benefited from the hot summer, though you may have noticed that the silvery Holly Blue is in the downward part of its cycle. In a recent press release, Butterfly Conservation reported that species which have declined dramatically in the last century, such as the Adonis Blue, the Wood White, the High Brown Fritillary and the Silver-studded Blue, have done very well, and some, like the Silver-spotted Skipper, have recolonised reserves where they had not been seen for decades. As their Conservation Officer pointed out, these butterflies can only spread to places where the habitat is suitable. The sighting of a Chalkhill Blue and a Marbled White on the Fleam Dyke is part of this pattern, and an incentive to keep the working going forward.

And a Hummingbird Hawkmoth Year

At the Fenland Country Fair, people visiting my Butterfly Conservation stand were saying either, "What was that thing we saw that looked like a Humming Bird?" or "We had a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in the garden last week." Hummingbird Hawkmoths are seen in Britain in most years, but usually only in the south and west. They occasionally breed in the south of Britain, feeding on Lady's Bedstraw, and sometimes hibernate like Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks. (They also migrate southwards at the end of summer, as the Red Admirals do.) But this year will surely break all records. There must have been thousands in East Anglia. John Dawson, the Cambridge Vice-County moth recorder, found caterpillars feeding on Lady's Bedstraw on the Devil's Dyke, so some of the moths that people have been seeing in Cambridgeshire will have hatched here, which explains why there have been quite so many around. Once they find a nice flowery garden, they will return regularly for several days. So far my list of sightings shows:



Anglesey Abbey, where the gardeners frequently saw several on the Phlox in the herbaceous border, Bottisham, Chesterton, Cheveley, Clare, Cottenham, Dunmow, Elton, Fen Drayton, Fulbourn, Grantchester, Great Shelford, Little Shelford, Isleham, Lode, March, Newmarket, Newnham, Oakington, Sawston, Sawtry, Stilton, Stowmarket, Teversham, Waterbeach, and on Bill Clarke's honeysuckle in the courtyard at Wandlebury Ring. Just as I was feeling neglected, one arrived in my garden in Hinton Avenue, Cambridge, to nectar on the Verbena Bonariensis. Also seen in Hills Avenue and Lovell Road, Cambridge.

Folklore

In Paul Waring's excellent new book on the Moths of the British Isles, he says that in Italy and Malta, the Humming Bird Hawk moth is considered a messenger of good tidings. On D Day 1944, "A small swarm was reported flying over the water in the English Channel, headed to England from France."

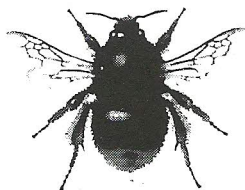
In the spring, I asked **Bill Clark, the former Warden at Wandlebury Ring**, and an expert on all types of wildlife, if he could do a basic bumblebee survey for us. He sent me the following details, together with a characteristic introductory story.

Bumblebees on the Fleam Dyke Compared with Wandlebury Ring Nature Reserve

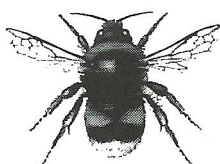
by **Bill Clark**

I am still noticing a year on year exceedingly early start for the queens - there used to be a few in March, and then through into May, but now it is not unusual to see one or two in January, which means that I am often seeing new queens emerging in the first week of July, and even the last week of June, and mating.

As I arrived at the Fleam Dyke on 17th June, the farmer was about to spray the field of peas alongside. When I asked him if it was alright to park in the field, as I was in a hurry to do a bumble bee survey before the forecast rain arrived, he immediately said, "Arr, I recognise your voice from Radio Cambridge. It's Bill Clark, isn't it?" Upon my affirmative, he said, "I was going to spray insecticide against pea moth, but I have just noticed that the peas are in flower, and there are bees on them" And with that, he folded up his spray book and left the field, saying that he would return in late evening. Do you think I saved some bumblebees?



B. ruderarius ♀



B. terrestris ♀



B. lapidarius ♂

Bumble Bees on the Fleam Dyke. 17th June, 2003

Warm and cloudy, heavy shower just as I finished.

11.0 am. By a ruined agricultural building, before stepping on to the Fulbourn end of the Fleam Dyke.

In a patch of Horehound, *Ballota nigra*

One Leaf Cutter bee, *Megachile* species

Three White Tail, *Bombus terrestris*

On Common Mallow, *Malva sylvestris*

One Red Tail, *Bombus ruderarius*

One Red Tail, *Bombus pratorum*

In the crop of field peas in full flower:

One Common Carder bee, *Bombus muscorum*

One Red Tail, *Bombus lapidarius*

One Buff Tail, *Bombus terrestris* - Queen

Two flying: possibly another queen and a worker of *Bombus terrestris*

Fleam Dyke proper

One Red Tail, *Bombus lapidarius*. Dead on path

One Red Tail, *Bombus ruderarius*. Queen, flying towards the peas

Near the Pumping Station

On Musk Thistle, *Carduus nutans*

Ten Buff Tail, *Bombus terrestris*

Two flying - unidentified, probably Buff Tail

On White Bryony, *Bryonia dioica*

One Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*,

One Wasp, *Vespula Vulgaris*

On Common Comfrey, *Symphytum officinalis*

Five Common Carder bees, *Bombus pascuorum*

Sunning themselves

Five Buff Tail mimics, *Pocota personata*

Four Red Tail mimics, *Volucella bombylans*

On the chalk grassland fenced off for sheep

On Dropwort, *Filipendula vulgaris*

One Red Tail mimic, *Volucella bombylans*
One Solitary bee, *Halictus* species
And half a dozen holes, in bare soil of *Halictus* species

Near the A11

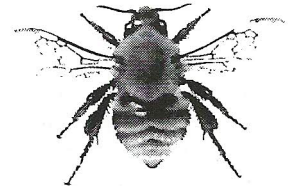
On Common Gromwell, *Lithospermum officinale* One Buff Tail, *Bombus terrestris*

Total: 44

June 17th, 2003. In mid-afternoon when the sun came out again, I traversed a similar length of the Wandlebury paths.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 3 <i>Bombus hortorum</i> | 7 <i>B. lucorum</i> |
| 6 <i>B. terrestris</i> | 9 <i>B. pascuorum</i> |
| 1 <i>B. humilis</i> | 20 <i>B. lapidarius</i> |
| 5 <i>B. ruderarius</i> | 1 <i>B. pratorum</i> |
| 1 <i>Halictus</i> species | 100+ Honey bees |
| 5 <i>Melinus arvensis</i> | 10 <i>Philanthus triangulum</i> |
| 1 Ruby Tailed Wasp, <i>Chrysis</i> species | 2 <i>V. Vespula vulgaris</i> |
| 3 <i>Vespula germanica</i> | 1 <i>Vespa crabro</i> |

Total: 75 plus 100 or more Honey bees.



B. pascuorum ♀

* * *

In his covering letter, Bill Clark added, "Oliver Prŷs-Jones, the well known bumble bee expert, used to come to Wandlebury for early bees back in the 70's, and even then he used to say it was as good as anywhere in East Anglia". If readers would like to know more about the subject, may I recommend Bumblebees by Oliver Prŷs-Jones and Sarah Corbet in the Naturalists' Handbook series, No. 6. Available at £8 95 from Heffers. You may not become an expert, but you will find your garden bees much more interesting!

The Roman Road and the Fleam Dyke both suffer from pesticide spray drift. Some local landowners have joined the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which compensates farmers for leaving field edges as uncultivated buffer strips. For example, you may have noticed that the Roman Road near the A11 and the Fleam Dyke at Mutlow Hill are bordered by wide margins of uncultivated land. Ian Johnson explains how the scheme works.

Julia Napier

Countryside Stewardship by Ian Johnson, Senior Ecologist, DEFRA

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is one of a number of agri-environment schemes run by Defra. The scheme offers payments to farmers and land managers to improve the natural beauty and diversity of the countryside.

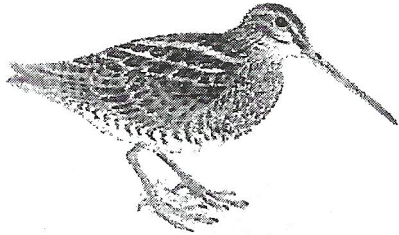
Farmers enter into a ten-year agreement, with payments ranging from £20 to £555 per hectare depending on the type of land management agreed. Popular options within Countryside Stewardship include hedge planting or restoration of existing hedges, management of grassland, arable reversion to grassland (including grass strips around field margins) and various options on arable land including leaving stubbles over winter, which is of great benefit to cornfield birds.

Within Cambridgeshire, the chalk lands in the south of the county, including linear features such as Roman Road, have been identified as a target area for Countryside Stewardship. In this area, key objectives for the scheme include sympathetic management and buffering of historic linear features and the creation of chalk grassland in suitable locations adjacent to existing chalk grassland.

Countryside Stewardship has been running for over 10 years. Two new agri-environment schemes will be introduced in 2005 (though details of these schemes are not yet available), so 2004 will be the last opportunity to apply for Countryside Stewardship. If you are interested in finding out more about this scheme, please contact the Rural Development Service (Defra) on 01223 533454.

Great Wilbraham and the Fleam Dyke **by Alec Sadler, for many years a Parish Councillor.**

I was born within sight of Fleam Dyke, at Hall Farm, Great Wilbraham, so the Dyke was part of my playground, a place where a child could spend hours in complete safety. Later, I left for the wider world, but Fleam Dyke had an impact on me both for its ancient past and for its very evident natural life.



There were hundreds of snipe at the Shardelowes Well end, (then marshland), owls, thousands of sparrows and pigeons, a corn crake or two, and thousands of rabbits, which were an important source of meat for local people. And that was only part of the dyke's natural history.

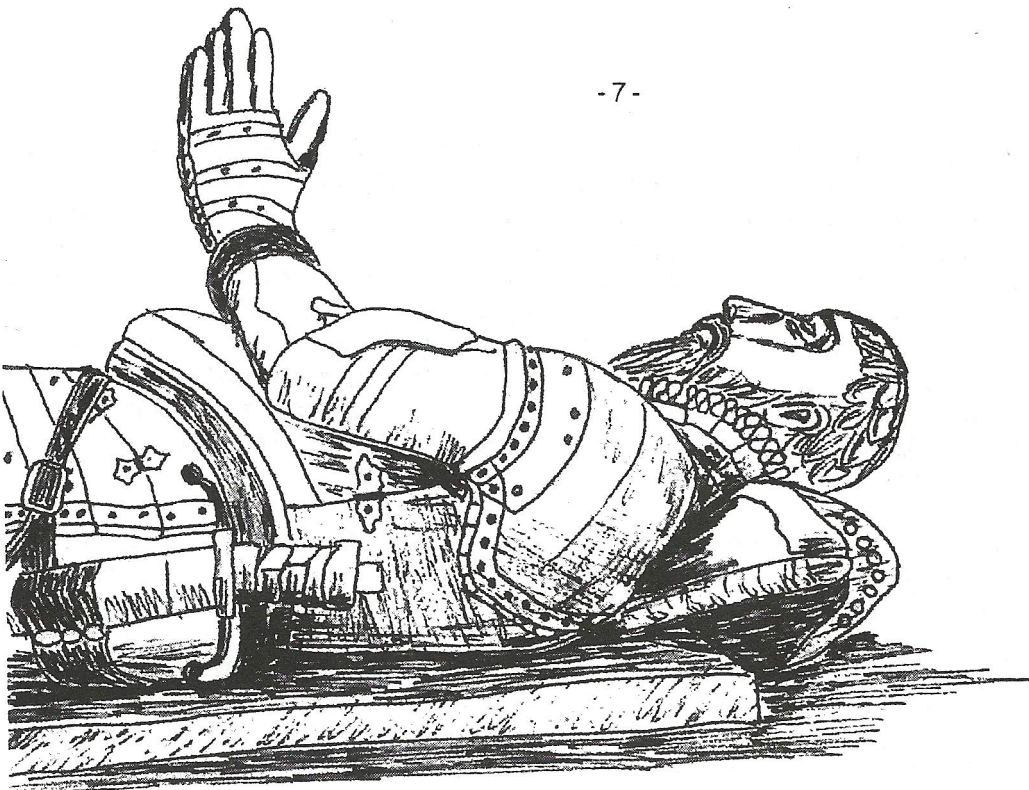
On my return to the Wilbrahams, my curiosity led me to discover more of Fleam Dyke's history and association with my village. I was reminded of hearing as a boy, the story of a golden chariot buried somewhere on Fleam Dyke! In fact, there is positive evidence of settlements before and during Roman times. Many of the books say that the Fleam Dyke was built during the sixth century by the East Angles, but when the A11 was widened in 1991, the archaeologists were able to show that this great defensive earth work was raised higher and higher over a period of nearly three hundred years, from AD 330 until AD 620. The strange name may come from the words Fleming-Dic, or Dyke of the Fugitives. Why did work come to an end on the dyke? In AD 653, King Anna of the East Angles, whose capital was at Exning, was killed in battle by King Penda of Mercia. In order to establish his control of the conquered area, King Penda put his daughter, Wilburh, in charge of the nearby settlement and the surrounding countryside, calling it Wilburga-ham, now, of course, Wilbraham.

Pre-War Memories of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke **by Michael H Arnold**

Born into a long-standing farming family in Whittlesford, I first visited Fleam Dyke as a child in the 1930's when we were fascinated by stories of the Icknield Way and the defensive importance of the various earthworks across it. I was introduced to chalk grassland ecology by William Palmer, who taught at the Cambridgeshire High School. He had a great interest in the local ecology and was a good taxonomist. He organised trips to both the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke for sixth-formers. Later on, I revisited both sites as an undergraduate in 1951. There was then a gap of 35 years when I saw neither the Roman Road nor Fleam Dyke. When I eventually drove along the A11 again, I could not find Fleam Dyke at first, and was amazed by the extent to which it had become overgrown by scrub.

While rabbits played their part in keeping back scrub encroachment, I think sheep were very important in this respect, at least until the Second World War. Although the bottom had fallen out of the wool market long before that, there was a steady demand for lamb and mutton for local consumption. This was before the days of refrigerators, and most villages had their own butcher's shop with its associated slaughter house. Meat was stored in a cellar, which was often accessed through a trap door in the shop floor.

Even though most of the downland had been ploughed up in Victorian times, there was still plenty of grazing available for sheep, up to the beginning of the war. Itinerant flocks of sheep were common. Fencing was no problem as hurdles were available in plenty and served the same function as the electric fences that eventually replaced them. Shepherds often lived "rough" in their characteristic horse-drawn huts, and moved around with the sheep.



The tomb of Elizabeth's host, Sir Giles Alington, in Horseheath Church

Drawing by Amy Morris

Along the Roman Road in the footsteps of Elizabeth I... **by Janet Morris**

Well, perhaps not in her footsteps but possibly in her horse's hoof prints!

Beyond Mark's Grave, the Roman Road may well be 'little more than a farm track' and therefore not very exciting ecologically speaking (Roger Lemon Feb 2003 issue) but there are beautiful views and it does pass through a landscape with an interesting history - you simply need to employ a little imagination. As you walk along the Roman Road from Horseheath to Withersfield you have to picture the surrounding countryside, not as you see it today as cultivated arable fields, but how it was at any time from about the middle of the fifteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century - as an enclosed grass park land with trees and grazing deer. For you are crossing the site of Horseheath Park, the domain of the Alington family and their successors, the Bromleys, of Horseheath Hall.

The Alingtons first appear in Horseheath records in the late fourteenth century and were obviously a family on the up. They had already acquired, through marriage, the hereditary office of cup-bearer at the monarch's Coronation when William Alington obtained a licence from Henry VI in 1448 to enclose 320 acres of arable, meadow and woodland in Horseheath and West Wickham for a park in which to keep and kill deer. Venison was the food of the high table and a deer park was a status symbol which was apparently somewhat superior to having a moat around your manor house.

The family seem to have been adept survivors. Having found favour with Henry VI, they supported the opposing Yorkist side in the Wars of the Roses. An Alington died fighting for Richard III at Bosworth while his son was cup-bearer at the Coronation of Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon and again at the Coronation of Anne Boleyn. During the Civil War, the Alingtons favoured the Royalist cause but do not appear to have been penalised under the Commonwealth and once again provided a cup-bearer at the restoration of Charles II. However, surely their most gratifying (and nerve-wracking) moment of royal approval must have been the visit of Elizabeth I to Horseheath Hall in 1578.

In September of that year, Elizabeth was on her way back to London from a royal progress to Norwich. It was usual for monarchs to leave London in the warmer months to avoid the plague; but Elizabeth, always politically astute, was also particularly well aware of the value of keeping a personal eye on her subjects and being seen as the people's queen. Her hosts on the journey were expected to entertain her handsomely, although not necessarily to bankrupt themselves. Whilst the wealthiest and more ambitious put on lavish and extravagant entertainments or even built grandiose houses especially, this was not expected of those of more modest means such as Sir Giles Alington. Suitable accommodation was required for the Queen and her immediate staff and the rest of her large retinue were boarded out in the surrounding villages. Elizabeth was accompanied on her progress by her Council who regularly met to discuss affairs of state. They did so at Horseheath but the Queen is unlikely to have attended, probably preferring to go hunting instead - a pastime of which she was particularly fond (hence the hoof prints on the Roman Road!).

But where did Elizabeth actually stay? Where was Horseheath Hall? Unfortunately, that remains a mystery for the time being. It has been suggested that it was on top of the hill to the right of the Roman Road opposite Hare Wood, the site of a later Hall, but the consensus of opinion seems to be that it was most likely to have been nearer the village and church (where the Alington family tombs inside are well worth a detour). However, we do know something about the Hall from family papers. It seems to have been quite modest with a hall, parlour, bedrooms, a chapel, kitchens and a dairy. Outside there were stables, coach house, kennels, dove house and other farm buildings. Some indication can be had of the pride which the Alingtons had in their ancestry from the fact that the Hall was decorated with some 40 heraldic shields displaying family connections. So, what happened to the Hall? Did it fall into decay, was it demolished or is it still there in some re-modelled form and as yet unidentified? What we do know is that some 85 years after Elizabeth's visit, Sir Giles's descendent, William, 3rd Lord Alington, decided to build a prestigious new Hall in Horseheath Park - but that is a tale for another time.

Further reading

- Catherine E Parsons 'Horseheath Hall and its owners' *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* XLI 1948 pp1-50
Zillah Dovey *An Elizabethan Progress: The Queen's Journey into East Anglia 1578* Alan Sutton, Stroud 1996
Both of these can be found in the Cambridgeshire Collection, Central Library

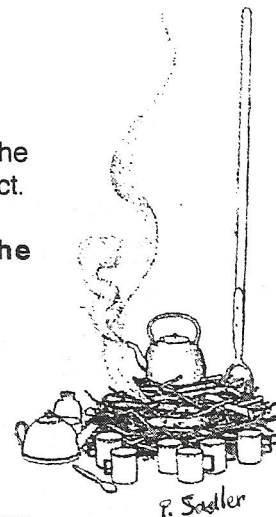


April 13th Friends' Work Party on the Fleam Dyke - neither windy, cold, or wet, but just right! Many thanks to John Dawson and his daughter, Lisa, Chris Michel, Richard Fowler and Helen Chubb, (in photo), and off stage, Rachel Gray, Norman Gutteridge, David Seilly

The Mid-Week Conservation Programme/Green Gym

The Mid-Week Conservation Volunteers will be working on the Fleam Dyke and the Roman Road this autumn, as well as on other areas managed by the Green Belt Project. Good exercise in the fresh air/rain, and pleasant company over a picnic lunch.

Please ring 01223 712410 if you intend to come, in order to check the meeting place.



Work Parties and Events of interest to Friends

Wednesday, 1st October Fulbourn's Manors and Moats

An illustrated talk by Aileen Connor of the Cambridge Archaeological Field Group, 7.30 pm at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Downing Street, Cambridge.

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Sunday, 5th October Helpers Wanted for Fulbourn Nature Reserve

This beautiful, varied reserve, with woodland, cowslip meadow, water meadows, lots of orchids, and the remains of a mediaeval fortified farm, needs help with mowing and raking up. 10.0 am to 12.30 or so. Meet at Stonebridge Lane, which is off the road running past Fulbourn Manor.

Contact: Nigel Copeman, e-mail: ncopeman@tinyworld.co.uk or phone Julia Napier.

Autumn Work Party for Friends

Sunday, 19th October, for a change, Scrub Clearing, Mowing and Raking

We shall return to the Fleam Dyke, Fulbourn end, to cut and rake up the regrowth of grass and scrub at the areas on which we worked in October 2001 and April this year. Old clothes, tough shoes and thick gardening gloves. Scrub can be very prickly! We shall meet at 10.0 am, at the entrance to Fulbourn Nature Reserve, Stonebridge Lane, and walk up to the Fleam Dyke from there. Come for an hour or two, or bring a picnic lunch and work a bit longer. Ring Julia Napier for confirmation nearer the time. 01223 213152

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Talks Organised by the Cambridge Group of the Wildlife Trust

These talks are held in the Gilmour Building of Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Please note that the entrance is via the drive beside 47 Bateman Street, **NOT** at the Bateman Street gate of the Botanic Garden. All talks are at 7.30pm. Entry: £1.50 for members of the Wildlife Trust, £2.50 for non-members

Thurs 30th October, "Flies Midges and Gnats"

An illustrated talk by **Dr Henry Disney**, who is the Senior Research Associate of the Zoology Department of Cambridge University. He will give us an introduction to this vast and fascinating order of insects. Dr Disney was to have given us this talk on 31st January, the day of the Great Blizzard.

Thurs 27th November "The Cambridge Preservation Society - Past, Present and Future". An illustrated talk by the Director, **Barry Pearce**, whose plans to protect the Cambridge countryside include the development of their Cotton land as a wildlife friendly farm.

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Mystery Photograph



Brian Perkins

GOG MAGOG HILLS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
The downland turf has long been ploughed except on the golf course and the broad verges by this ancient track. August

Michael Arnold has just sent me this copy of a photograph in Wildflowers of Chalk and Limestone, by J.E. Lousley in the Collins New Naturalist series, first published in 1950 by William Collins, Sons & Co. Ltd. The photographer was Brian Perkins. It seems very likely that it is the Roman Road. Can anyone confirm this?

The caption reads:

Gog Magog Hills, Cambridgeshire

The downland turf has long been ploughed, except on the golf course and the broad verges by this ancient track. August