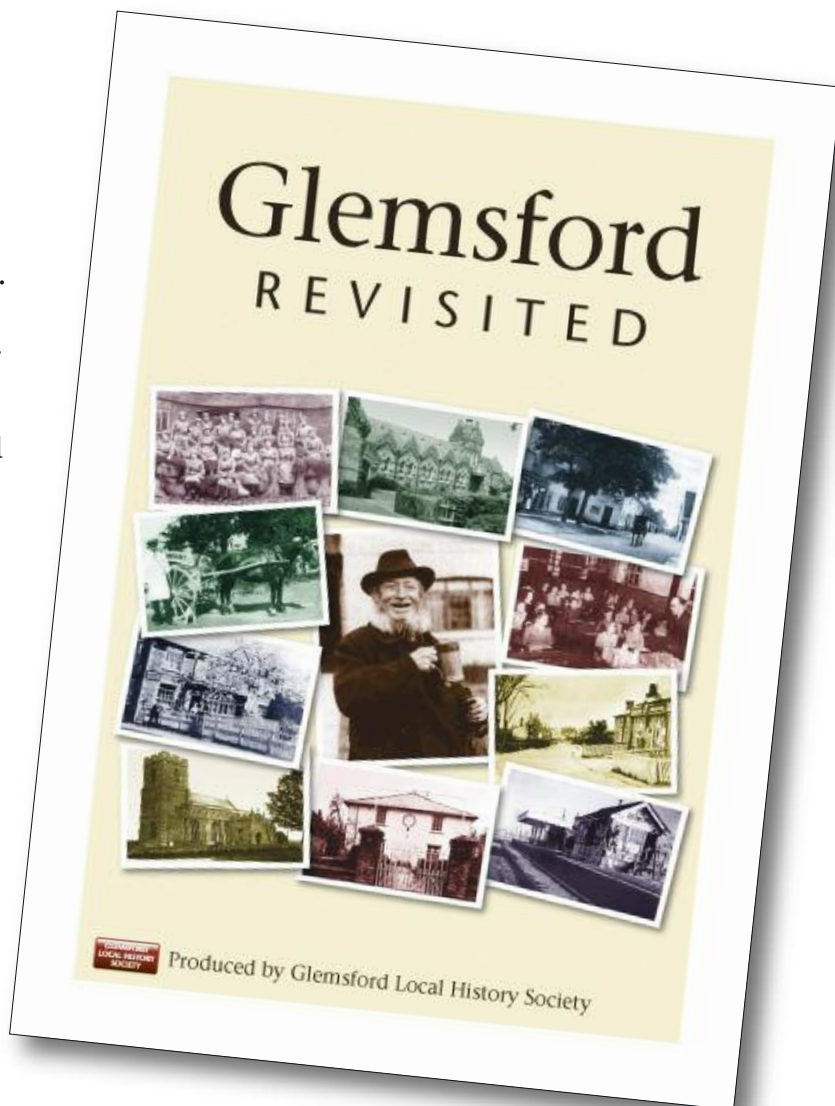


I hope that by now you have read or bought a copy of the Society's recent publication, *Glemsford Revisited*, and have enjoyed delving through the images and facts contained within.

I am a relative newcomer to the village, having moved here from Hadleigh in 1983. Even newcomers to a village can form a memory bank, quickly forgotten by others. Shortly after my move, my next door neighbours from Hadleigh, Mr and Mrs Weeks, bought the property once occupied by W.J. Cutting (see photo on page 24 of *Glemsford Revisited*) and opened it as a gourmet restaurant. Mr Weeks did the cooking and Mrs Weeks did everything else. Their reputation for fine cuisine soon spread throughout the county and tables needed to be reserved weeks in advance! Eventually, they sold the business to Barrett's and acquired a cottage in Long Melford. I believe Mrs Weeks still lives locally and teaches at a primary school in Sudbury.

To return to the subject of Henbane *Hyoscyamus niger*, there have still been no reports of sightings of this plant within the village boundaries. However, from the Tweed at Dalcove Braes in Berwickshire, a large colony of the plant was discovered by the county recorder, Michael Braithwaite*.

He believes the plants, growing on a sandstone outcrop near the site of a



hospital "destroyed by the English in 1544", may be relics of herbal cultivation and thus form a "link between botany and human history".

Robin Ford, Editor

* Reference: *British Wildlife*, Volume 23, Number 4, April 2012, page 289



President:
George Grover

Chairman:
Patrick Currie

Treasurer:
Rowland Hill

Secretary:
Margaret King
01787 280996

Eileen Lynch 1920-2012

It was with great sadness that the Glemsford Local History Society heard of the recent death of Miss Eileen Lynch at the grand age of 92.

Following a long career as an archivist in Hertfordshire, Eileen retired, eventually settling in Glemsford during the mid-1980s when she quickly became involved in many aspects of village life. A founder member of the Local History Society in 1990 and an active contributor, Eileen sat for many years on the committee where her help and advice were invaluable. Her interests included classical and choral music, sport (in particular cricket and tennis) and all things historical.

Eileen's interest in and understanding of ancient maps, documents and medieval script led her to engage in much research of the local area – the churches and the old buildings plus the uses that streets, fields and waterways had been put to in times long past. While she could talk

knowledgeably about an array of subjects, she was a fund of factual information regarding not just the history of Glemsford but also much further afield not forgetting, of course, her own special area of Hertfordshire.

It seems fitting that this year's coach outing taken by the Society was to St. Albans at the suggestion of Eileen who, although she was unable to join us, provided us with a long list of recommendations and 'must' places to visit. Afterwards she wanted to hear all about it and was really pleased that it had been a great success, enjoyed by all!

Eileen was a lady who most definitely knew her own mind: she will be remembered for her feisty conversation, her marked sense of humour and her ability to make decisions and stick with them! She lived a very busy life indeed and one which will be greatly missed in the village.

Margaret King

Glemsford Street Names

Old and New



- Angel Lane Named after Angel House, which stands on the corner, and the croft or field, that lay behind it.
- Bells Lane Probably from the 18thc. public house, called The Six Bells, after the six bells of St.Mary's church. However, a *Mr Sam Bell* owned Park Farm in 1841.
- Although no structural evidence remains, the 'Six Bells' crops up in various parish records and papers. The following is from the Ipswich Journal 1770 September 29th: 'Notice of shew [sic] of sheep and lambs at Six Bells Glemsford on 13th Oct. by your humble servant Samuel Johnson – dinner at 1 o'clock'.*
- Brices Way Bryces field was part of farmland between Park Lane and the Causeway.
- Bray Close Have not been able to discover the derivation of this, does anyone know?
- Brook Street Because of the brook that has crossed the street for centuries.
- Causeway Close This runs almost parallel to part of the old causeway.
- Cavendish Lane The lane to Cavendish.
- Chestnut Road A large chestnut tree once stood by the junction with Lion Road, near the doctors' surgery.
- Chequers Lane Named after the 14thc. house and cottages.
- Churchgate The road alongside the church gate.
- The Croft This lane leads to an area once known as Catts Croft.
- Crownfield The road cuts through the area that was Crown field – a field opposite the Crown public house.
- Drapery Common Possibly because of the weavers cottages across the road. Called Riding Way (early 1800s) it was a route across to Park Lane.
- Duffs Hill Named after Alexander Duff who built the silk mill in 1824, and also houses for the workers.
- Egremont Street The only explanation for this unusual name has proved impossible to verify, but this is it. After one John de Moulton of Egremont (died c.1334), who was said to have land in this area and Hawkedon.
- Fern Hill From its earlier names (pre-18thc.) of Farnell/Farenhell/Fernill Street.
- George Lane Public house called 'The George' c.1750/86, stood on the corner of this lane with Egremont Street.

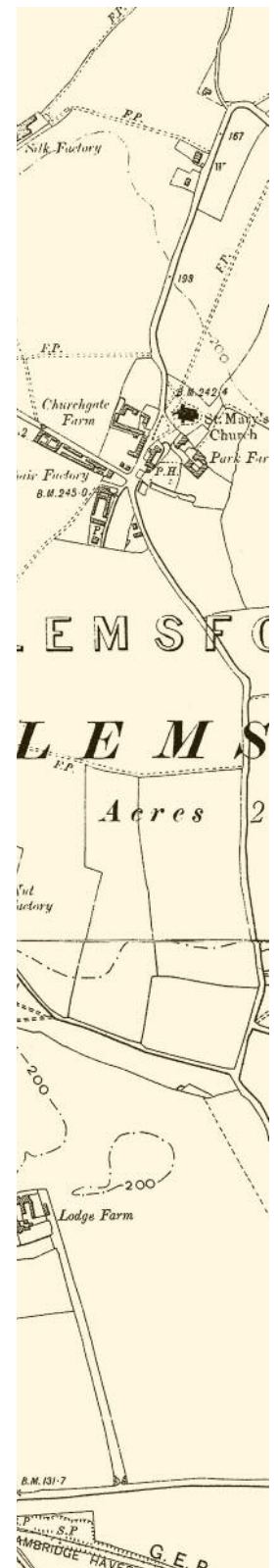
- Golding Way** John Golding was a wealthy Glemsford clothier of the 15thc. He left a number of bequests for the poor of the village.
- Gowers End** After one Sarah Gowers who is listed in the Manor Rentals of 1729; two old fieldnames being upper and lower Gowers.
- Greyhound Road** The Greyhound was a 15thc. public house that closed some sixty years (1910) before the area opposite took its name.
- Harpurs Road** The Rev. Alexander Harpur was a vicar in Glemsford (1937-1950) and taught boxing to local boys. An old row of houses called Box Iron Row, demolished in the early 1960s, once stood here.
- Hobbs Lane** This is possibly a derivation of Hop Lane; there being a long field called Hop Field just to the south of the Flax Lane junction with Park Lane, on the 1839 Tithe map.
- Holdsworth Close** In the late 1800s, Holdsworth & Coe had a large matting factory, sited approximately where Glemsford Tyres and Holdsworth Close are now.
- Hunts Hill** The Manor Rentals for 1628 refer to a property 'Hunts', was this the origin and was there a Mr.Hunt?

A couple of 'lost' names:

- Crekestrete** Mentioned in the transcription of a 15thc. will, possibly refers to Brook Street.
- Freeman Street** Listed in Manor Rentals of 1628 and then in the Manor Court Rolls for 1880. 'A Close called Whitelands abuts Freeman Street. Formerly belonged to Mr Thos. Pung, abutting on the road now called New Street – it is far from the principle streets.'

See your next newsletter for 'J' onwards.

Jenny Wears



A trip to Abney Park Cemetery

I discovered some time ago that my great, great grandfather and his wife were buried in Abney Park Cemetery in Stoke Newington. Abney Park is now a Nature Reserve and is run by the Abney Park Trust. Abney Park Victorian Garden Cemetery is a 32-acre site which opened in 1840 as a non-conformist garden cemetery and planned as a landmark to religious toleration and a showcase for

I decided to go there with my friend who also had great great grandparents there. We went on a really sunny September morning when the visitor centre is open, so that we could get help if necessary. They gave us rough maps showing us where the graves were, with the grave number for each, but it proved more difficult for us to find the respective graves than we anticipated.



*Abney Park Cemetery
main gate in Stoke
Newington High Street*

botanical education. The site was never consecrated and a huge variety of people (more than 200,000) were interred in its grounds from music hall stars to the founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth. (See *below*.)

To find an actual grave is quite difficult, as there is so much vegetation and many of the graves have become eroded so you can't read the inscription. I had been in touch with a volunteer at the visitor centre, and so had the grave number of my great, great grandfather. This grave contains seven people, four adults and three small children. I was told that the headstone was so eroded that I wouldn't be able to read the names, but undeterred, I still wanted to find it and photograph it.

We discovered my friend's one first, and set about clearing away some of the vegetation and cleaning the headstone with a soft brush. Half of the inscription was readable and the other, rather flakey, but we could make out the words, so took a photograph of that. Then it was off to find my relation's grave.

We walked up and down the paths which criss-cross the cemetery. I was in the right area, but I was having no luck in identifying the grave. It was apparently a little way from the boundary path, but I still couldn't find it. Luckily, we came across some volunteers who knew exactly where my grave was. It was situated about five feet from the main

path, in a very overgrown part among several other graves.

We got out our secateurs and began clearing around the grave. There is only on average about a foot between one grave and its neighbour, which makes clearing it difficult. There was ivy and brambles all over it, and even a small oak tree growing out of the bottom of the grave. We were allowed to remove the ivy and brambles but not the oak, since this was now a nature reserve.

I was disappointed to find that I couldn't make out the lettering on the headstone, but as I cleared the mud and ivy from the base, I made a discovery which I hadn't been expecting. At the base of the grave, lying horizontally against ►

the headstone was a large plaque and when the mud was brushed away, it revealed my great grandfather's name, Henry Arthur Robinson, 1843-1906 and his wife, Henrietta Elizabeth Robinson, 1846-1923.

This was definitely the right grave. As the sun moved round, and I stood back to admire our handywork, I was really pleased to see that I could actually make out part of the other names. My great, great grandfather Henry Charles Robinson, 1807-1872, his wife, Matilda Eliza Hatful Robinson c1806-1870, and their three small grandchildren, Charles Bethel Robinson 1872-1872, Robert Arthur Robinson, 1874-1877 and Catherine Frederica Robinson, 1876-1881. So that was all seven of them lying buried in front of me.

The grave was once rather a grand one, Henry Charles Robinson having been a surgeon and apothecary, and had previously had metal railings around it. I could still see a metal finial on the bottom left side of the headstone, and metal studs down along the edge of the grave. There was also a circular indentation at the top of the headstone, which I unfortunately couldn't make out, but I think it might have been a symbol of his medical profession (see *below*).

So as we left Abney Park, both of us very pleased to have found the graves we were looking for, I wonder if anyone else who may have family buried there, might consider making the trip. We went on a beautifully sunny day, and the place was quite mysterious and magical.

Susan Smith



William Booth's grave



The Robinson Family's grave

GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY News



FOR OUR MAY MEETING, members enjoyed a most rewarding and informative guided tour around Hawstead church given by local historian, Clive Paine. The church, one of the very few 'Westminster Abbeys' of Suffolk owing to the vast array of marble, monuments, memorials and effigies (plus an original rood screen) it contains, stands in the oldest area of this former manorial village next to the guildhall, the ancient 'camping ground' and the sites of two grand houses.

The early Norman chancel remains the oldest part of the building, while the nave was mostly rebuilt and widened during medieval times. Throughout its history, dating from the Norman lords, the church has enjoyed the patronage of a number of wealthy and influential families who owned the village – primarily amongst them the Drurys and the Cullums.

In the 16th century the Drury family – with its links to Prince Henry (the original heir to King James I), to London's Drury Lane and to the

metaphysical poet and Dean of St. Paul's, John Donne – has practically filled the sanctuary with huge marble tombs, memorial inscriptions and carvings.

They were succeeded by the Cullums who from 1656-1921 continued to inter generation after generation of their family within the walls. The most notable memorial, standing in the chancel is something of an enormous late 17th century Italian-built monstrosity resplendent in its indulgent show of wealth and riches. There is still evidence in the nave where the Cullums built a private boxed pew containing its own fireplace, chimney and even a place for the odd nip of brandy on cold Sunday mornings!

The Metcalfe family, who while not manor lords, displayed their wealth by filling the nave with carved memorial urns and weeping allegorical women. Their legacy extends to a splendid row of alms houses and a public house which still bears their name.

Margaret King





The Metcalfe Connection

Thanks to the eagle eyes of Pauline Currie, our spring outings to St. Albans (21st April) and Hawstead (10th May) threw up a surprising link between the abbey (now cathedral) of St. Albans and the village church near Glemsford. Standing in the north transept of the cathedral, listening to our guide, Pauline glanced at a monument on the east wall. She was astonished to see, as part of the inscription, a reference to Hawstead, the village we were shortly due to visit. A closer inspection of the monument to Mrs Frederica Muir, died 1832, revealed that she was the daughter of Christopher Metcalfe of Hawstead esquire.



On the evening of 10th May, our lecturer, Clive Paine, introduced us to the magnificent collection of memorials housed in the church of All Saints, Hawstead. The monuments to the Metcalfe family are all to be found in the nave, including that of Christopher, died 1794. Over the chancel arch, the hatchment to the Metcalfe family is prominently displayed next to other influential Hawstead dynasties.

Robin Ford



OUR JUNE SUMMER OUTING took place on a cold grey evening in Sudbury. Because of the threat of imminent rain in the forecast, we went without the promised tea and cake welcome in the Christopher Centre, and met up directly with Barry Wall, Chairman of the Sudbury History Society.

considerable gradient of Mill Hill was originally so much steeper than it is now. We continued along the edge of the meadows where the line of an assumed traditional mill race was exposed as actually a thousand year old defensive realignment of the river itself. The strategic position of the Walnut Tree site was illustrated, and one can only surmise just how many layers of Sudbury history must lie beneath it.

However, all thoughts of the weather were quickly banished as he set about transporting us back more than a thousand years to the time when the Saxons were establishing the layout of Sudbury as we know it today. He did this by expertly defining the placement of the great ditch and rampart and its main gate by referencing them clearly against the existing road layout visible now.

With this wealth of fascinating information being clearly referenced all the time against modern Sudbury, we arrived back at our starting point all too soon. So now the placement of all these well known roads and lesser lanes in Sudbury have a new significance for us.

We then set out as he guided us the entire length of this massive defensive wall of earth which completely surrounded the Sudbury encampment, by following roads which even now faithfully follow the line of the ancient tracks on the inside of that rampart.

For just one example, would you not think that Friar Street is surely one of the major ancient roads of Sudbury? But in fact it is the opposite, it lies directly along the line of the great ditch itself, and was created piecemeal by opportunistic developers later filling in the ditch and then building on it (plus ca change!).

He made frequent stops along the way to point out relevant features, such as how it was the topographical contours that came to define the separate parishes of St Gregory with the later All Saints, and how and why the

We can't wait to go back again to hear the next instalment in the fascinating history and development of our nearest market town.

Patrick Currie



OUR FINAL SUMMER MEETING, on July the 12th, was held in the comfortable surroundings of our chairman's house and garden. Despite a gloomy weather forecast, members turned out in force to enjoy the hospitality provided by Patrick and Pauline.

The rain held off for a good couple of hours allowing everyone the time to tuck in to the delicious buffet and meet new friends.

Our thanks go to Patrick and Pauline for organising this excellent function.

Robin Ford



DURING AUGUST a number of our members and some friends took a coach trip to Otley Hall, near Woodbridge for a private tour of the house.

Otley Hall occupies an enviable position in the Suffolk countryside surrounded by a tranquil moat and splendid gardens. According to the records the present hall was built on an earlier site by John Gosnold in 1440 although at least two further building phases took place during the late 15th and 16th centuries.

Now privately owned and lived in by Ian and Catherine Beaumont and their family, the house retains its Elizabethan architecture and distinctive Tudor atmosphere in a setting much as it would have been when in 1602 owner Bartholomew Gosnold planned two voyages that would result in the founding of the United States.

Nowadays the hall is a typical family home, well lived in, comfortable and, as Catherine told us, sometimes untidy – not at all like some large mansions open for visits! During a most informative tour our guide took us around many beautifully presented panelled rooms including the Great Hall, the Parlour, the Minstrels' Gallery, most of the bedrooms and the kitchen areas.

The Tudor Playhouse occupying a downstairs wing is still evident and both fact and speculation attest to the possibility that Shakespeare and his troupe of players from the Globe could have performed there.

Tea and cakes completed our visit along with time to explore the various gardens all resplendent in the August sunshine.

Margaret King

PROGRAMME 2012-2013

Thursday, **Annual General Meeting** followed by
November 8th Members' Talks and a Cheese and Wine evening

Saturday, **President's Evening** –
December 8th hosted by George Grover at 'Chequers'
(Members only)

Thursday, **William Tyler:**
January 10th Lost Voices from the Titanic

Thursday, **Tom Hodgson:**
February 14th Colchester Castle Past, Present and Future

Thursday, **Pip Wright:**
March 14th It Happened Here in Suffolk

Thursday, **Donald Hill:**
April 11th Caister Men Never Turn Back:
A History of the Caister Lifeboat

Thursday, **Anne Grimshaw:**
May 9th The Last Flight of Lancaster LL919

Thursday, **A Summer Outing** –
June 13th to be arranged

Thursday, **A Summer's Evening Function** –
July 11th to be arranged