

# Green & Peaceful

It will be early summer when you receive this newsletter. Hopefully your lawns, flowers and fruit bushes will be looking healthy and productive. Members of The Glemsford Horticultural Society perhaps shared the same hope, with their eye on the trophy named after a Glemsford woman who deserved to be remembered, Susan Pearman. Read about her in the article by Richard Deeks, which first appeared in the Spring Newsletter of 1994.

On the subject of remembering, I bring the subject of the 1st World War to a close with the peace celebrations of 1919 held in Glemsford, while Mr Michael Copp gives his view on 'Remembrance' accompanied by some examples of WW1 verse.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had our summer outing, this year to Hadleigh, and have our summer function held at the home of Rowan, our chairman, and his wife Sally, to look forward to. The pre-function activity will be a tour of the historic home of Mr Tom Burt at Churchgate Barn. Meetings then resume after a summer break on 12 September when the horticultural theme continues with a talk on 'Historic Gardens of East Anglia'.

**Jenny Wears**, editor  
e: glhsnews1@hotmail.com



**President:**  
Sid Watkinson

**Chairman:**  
Rowan Cain

**Treasurer:**  
Patrick Currie

**Secretary:**  
Margaret King  
01787 280996



# Peace Celebrations of July 1919

Eight months after the signing of the Armistice and with the returning soldiers and sailors demobilised, some in varying states of health, it was time to celebrate.

A parade and dinner were planned. In the parade, banners were carried, one being of the Glemsford Lodge of Oddfellows, with members of the Lads Brigade playing cornets. Boys were dressed in



their Sunday best while the girls dressed in white, with the older ones carrying 'Peace lilies'. One of the girls, Vera Twinn, was crowned 'Queen of Peace' and attended by 24 maids and boys, the boys riding on decorated ponies.

The dinner, to be held in the School, was arranged for 1.30 for all the soldiers and sailors with their mothers, wives and sweethearts. Although about 180 attended, things did not go as planned; some of the men did not realise that anything was being organised for them so made their own plans for a dinner. Unfortunately their plans were too advanced to be cancelled so they enjoyed their celebrations at the Prince of Wales, with Mr Challis the landlord, as the host. The dinner at the school was well-attended by 180 but if all the men had been present 'there would have been a sense of completeness'.

*(from Glorious Glemsford, by Richard Deeks)*



# Glemsford Pleasure Gardens

It would be nice to imagine these as an area of colourful flower beds, interspersed with trees and benches; sadly there is nothing to backup such an image. Looking at several O/S maps for the period, only the 1904 one hints at the siting of any gardens, with a small square of four 'trees', behind where the War memorial stands. Of all the photographs in the various local history books showing the relevant area of Hunts' Hill, sadly none depict the Glemsford Gardens/Grounds. They did exist but for how long?

I first came across them when doing some research about the War Memorial. You may recall, from the last Newsletter, that a Mr W. G. Fenn gave a piece of land 'on the edge of the Pleasure Gardens'. That was in January 1923. A couple of weeks ago, browsing through the Foxearth History Society newspaper archive, I found the area mentioned but as the Public Pleasure Grounds. Some local lads in 1919 appeared at Melford Petty Sessions, having been entertaining themselves there. The following is from the Suffolk Free Press of 1st October 1919.

'George Sparkes 17, a bricklayer, Bertie Suttle 17 and Wilfred Golding 17, labourers of Glemsford were summoned for playing cards – Pontoon – in the public Pleasure Gardens.

PC Marsler and Inspector Goodchild were in the gardens at the time. They watched them for half an hour, then the PC ran across and seized 22 cards and 6d in coppers.'

Looking through the Glemsford Parish Council Minutes for any further information, I came across the following:

1914 2nd September 'That the surveyor be instructed to repair the seat in the Pleasure Ground which had been wantonly damaged.'

1920 2nd June Part of a letter '...the use of Tower Meadow as a Public Recreation Ground...'

So, Glemsford did have some Pleasure Grounds/Gardens but they were simply the plain grassed area, used until a few years ago, by a travelling fair.



# Glemsford Horticultural Society

The Glemsford Horticultural Society held an Annual Show and Parish Fete every August, except for the periods of both the 1st and 2nd World Wars. The show varied in its content over the years and was also known as the Horticultural and Flower Show, which included the Fete.

The Society's surviving records were lent to me by Sid Watkinson our President and

involved them running around the ring carrying their instruments! In the 1950s a number of Skiffle groups provided the musical entertainment. The focal point of the Show was of course the entries for various classes of vegetables, fruit and flowers.

Members paid to enter their exhibits and one year, 1953, there were 79 exhibitors with Mr E. Underwood entering 40 different groups. Another, undated year shows a similar number of entries by Mr E. Osborne and Mr E. Pawsey. Unfortunately the details of the winners and their classes are not included in the records, however, an article in the GLHS newsletter of Spring 1994, reveals that Mr E. Pawsey won the Susan Pearman Cup in 1936. (Details elsewhere in this newsletter).

Come the 1960s, support and/or interest in the show declined. The following is from the minute book Nov 1962.

'The Annual Show expenditure exceeded the income by £15 16s 3d. possibly this will be the last show although there is the balance of £131 in the Post Office and Bank, interest in the Show is waning. It was decided to defer the Flower Show for one year, until the public become more interested'.

'Glemsford, a story of Everyday People' by Mary Chappel, 1985, reveals the following. 'In 1985 the Horticultural Society was revived under the auspices of the WI and for a time run in conjunction with the Village Gala. The Horticultural Show is still going strong but the Gala was discontinued in 1989 due to lack of interest.' The Society ceased in the late 1980s but then a Gardening Club was started in the early 1990s and is still functioning.

include the cash book 1900-1962 and minute books February - November 1948. Possibly there may be others in the village.

The cash book details the subscribers and all the costs involved in the Society's shows, from prizes to the erection of marquees, advertising and preparation of the grounds. Many names are still

familiar in Glemsford for example, Byford, Pearson, Pettit, and Game.

The shows were held on Coldhams Meadow (adjacent to Coldhams, the old Rectory), Lion Meadow and Tower Meadow (part of which the library and playground are now on). Music was provided for many years by the Long Melford Brass Band.

In 1948 'It was agreed that the Band (Long Melford) be asked to play through the village commencing at Skates Hill as early as possible, after 2.p.m. The show starting at 2.30pm.' The band members must have been quite fit as one of the main events

| Income            |            | Expenditure        |            |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Brought Forward   |            | Printing           | 14. 4. 3   |
| Barclays Bank     |            | Advertisement      | 2. 14. 0   |
| £37. 10. 9        |            | Insurance          | 13. 6      |
| Post Office       |            | Entertainment      | 36. 0. 0   |
| £88. 8. 4         |            | Show ground Exp.   |            |
|                   | 125. 19. 1 | (Tents etc.        | 56. 18. 6  |
| Donations         | 22. 0. 6   | Fig for crew       | 4. 0. 0    |
| Show Entries      | 3. 19. 6   | Sideshow           | 5. 9. 0    |
| Gate              | 29. 18. 9  | Food               | 15. 18. 1  |
| Fees              | 16. 10. 0  | Fancy Dress Prizes | 1. 10. 0   |
| Fig Bowling       | 3. 0. 0    | Racing Prizes      | 7. 4. 0    |
| Side Shows        | 13. 7. 6   | Office expenses &  |            |
| Sale of Chocolate | 16. 0      | hire of rooms      | 6. 2. 1    |
| Draw              | 57. 0. 0   | Bouquet            | 15. 0      |
| Sale of Programs  | 1. 9. 5    | Show Prizes        | 38. 12. 6  |
| Auction           | 5. 6. 9    | Carry forward      |            |
| Racing Prizes     |            | F.O. Bank          | 88. 8. 4   |
| unused            | 7. 4. 0    | Bank               | 7. 13. 1   |
| Donation          | 3. 7       | Cash in hand       | 12. 2      |
|                   |            |                    | 96. 14. 2  |
| £ 286. 15. 1      |            |                    | 286. 15. 1 |
| =====             |            |                    | =====      |

I have checked these accounts and find them to be correct  
W.T. Mills 16th Aug 1956



# GLEMSFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

## THE ANNUAL SHOW & PARISH FETE

will be held on  
**The Glemsford Recreational Ground**  
**on Saturday, August 1st, 1959 at 2.30 p.m.**

President: Mr. S. A. Game. Vice-Presidents: Mr. A. W. Allen, Messrs. Stafford Allen & Sons, Ltd., Mr. R. Brett, Mr. Messrs. W. J. Cutting Ltd., Mr. A. C. Dacombe, Mr. R. Eve, Mrs. E. Fincham, Mr. R. H. Gould, J.P., Rev. A. C. Harpur, Major C. J. Henry, Mr. J. Kiddy, Mr. E. F. Long, Mr. H. S. Lee, Mrs. D. M. Meek, Major J. Weller Poley, Mr. F. J. Pearson, Mr. C. H. Pettit, Mr. W. W. Seabrook, Dr. J. M. M. Steven, Committee: Messrs. P. Dickinson, B. Hickford, H. E. Bullingham, A. Keyton, F. J. Mead, E. Miller, C. Mealham, E. Osborne, V. Richer, L. Seeley, C. Shinn, F. Shinn, S. Shinn, E. Starling, R. Twinn, K. Wilding, Secretary: Mr. C. E. McAndrew, School House, Glemsford, Sports & Entertainment Secretary: Mr. H. R. Bevis, Monks Hall, Glemsford.

### EXHIBITION RULES.

- Any Exhibitor showing as his own any production not grown by himself or using any unfair means to deceive the Judges will forfeit all claims to prizes. The Committee reserve to themselves the right to withhold any prize or prizes if they have reason to suspect any violation of this Rule. All prize winners in "Collection of Vegetables" may have their gardens inspected during Show week.
- Each Exhibitor will be charged an Entrance Fee of 3d for each exhibit. Exhibitor's Tickets must be purchased on or before 0 p.m. Wednesday, July 30th and entries declared. The Secretary will be in attendance at the Old Schools on Wednesday, July 30th from 6.30 to 9 p.m. to receive entries. Entries received after time stated will be charged at double the rate shown.
- Specimens will be received in the Show Grounds between the hours of 7 and 10 a.m. At 10 a.m. all but Judges and special officials must leave the ground. No specimens may be removed till after 7 p.m.
- Competent Judges will be engaged and their decision will be final in all cases.
- Each Exhibitor can make any number of entries in any section, but no three sets are exhibited, or if the exhibit is unworthy, any prize may be withheld at the discretion of the Judges.
- Unless there are at least three Exhibitors in each Section, no Second Prize will be given unless specially recommended by the Judges.
- The Prizes will be distributed at the Old Schools on Wednesday, August 6th between 7 and 9 p.m. All prizes not applied for will be forfeited.
- All Potatoes with the exception of Class 2 to be shown on plates, Beans, Peas and Fruits on plates. Other Vegetables to be laid on the table.
- All exhibits must be distinct varieties.
- The Society will not be responsible for loss or damage to any article exhibited.
- A Mock Auction will take place during the evening for any exhibits given to the Society.

### SCHEDULE OF PRIZES.

Inhabitants of Glemsford and the Parishes within a radius of Twenty miles.

| Class  | 1st  | 2nd  | 3rd |
|--|------|------|-----|
| 1 Collection of Vegetables, 6 sorts, distinct Tomatoes and Cucumbers excluded, Trays 24 x 2ft. (4th prize if 5 or more Exhibitors) | 15 0 | 11 6 | 7 6 |
| 2 Collection of Potatoes, 4 distinct sorts, 2 Coloured, 2 White, 4 of each in one tray   |      |      |     |
| 3 Peck of Potatoes, distinct   | 9 0  | 6 0  | 4 0 |
| 4 3 Heavy Potatoes   | 7 6  | 6 0  | 4 0 |
| 5 6 Round Coloured Potatoes  | 7 6  | 6 0  | 4 0 |
| 6 6 Kidney Coloured Potatoes   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 7 6 Round White Potatoes   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 8 6 Kidney White Potatoes  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 9 15 Pods of Peas  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 10 10 Pods of Dwarf Kidney Beans   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 11 10 Pods of Long Pod Beans   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 12 10 Pods of Windsor Beans  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 13 10 Pods of Runner Beans   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 14 6 Red Carrots (Long)  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 15 6 Red Carrots (Short)   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 16 Turnips   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 17 Beet (Globe)  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 18 6 Spring Onions with tops, grown from seed  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 19 9 Autumn Onions, to be shown in boxes   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 20 15 Shallots (single)  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 21 2 White Cabbages  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 22 2 Cauliflowers  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 23 2 Vegetable Marrows (Young)   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 24 2 Cos Lettuces  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 25 2 Cabbage Lettuces  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 26 2 Frame Cucumbers   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 27 2 Outdoor Cucumbers   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 28 5 Tomatoes  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 29 5 Dessert Apples  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 30 5 Cooking Apples  | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 31 6 Plums   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 32 12 Sprays of Red Currants   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 33 12 Sprays of White Currants   | 4 6  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 34 12 Sprays of Black Currants   | 4 6  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 35 12 Red Gooseberries   | 4 6  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 36 12 Gooseberries (not Red)   | 4 6  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 37 Mixed Salads  | 4 6  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 38 6 Zinnias, distinct, shown in one vase  | 7 6  | 4 6  | 3 0 |
| 39 6 Asters, ditto ditto   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 40 6 Dahlias, not Giant or Cactus, shown in one vase   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |
| 41 6 Dahlias, Giant or Cactus, shown in separate vases   | 5 0  | 3 0  | 2 0 |

### Three Challenge Cups and Diplomas.

Class

| Class   | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 42 6 Stems Gladioli, shown in one vase  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 43 3 Cut Roses, distinct, shown in separate vases   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 44 Sweet Peas, 4 distinct kinds, 5 stems of each  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 45 Bowl of Outdoor Carnations, 12 heads for decorative effect with any foliage                                  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 46 Bowl of Carnations ditto ditto   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 47 Bowl of Sweet Peas ditto ditto   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 48 Arrangement of Garden Flowers for decorative effect with any foliage   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 49 Vase of Flowers, judged 25 per cent on Rarity and 75 per cent Beauty   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 50 Herbaceous Perennials bulbous kinds included 4 distinct kinds  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 51 Annuals and Biennials, 4 distinct kinds  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 52 2 Window Plants grown in pots, distinct Begonias included  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 53 2 Begonias in pots   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 54 Geranium grown in pot  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 55 Any Pot Plant, Begonias & Geraniums excluded   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 56 Dinner Table Decorations & Geraniums excluded be grown by Exhibitor (Flowers need not be shown by Exhibitor) | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 57 Dinner Table Decorations (Flowers need not be shown by Exhibitor)  | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 58 Dinner Table Decorations (Flowers need not be shown by Exhibitor)  | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 59 Bunch of Wild Flowers, children under 14, to be arranged in tent   | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 60 6 Fowl's Eggs, Brown   | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 61 6 Fowl's Eggs, White   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 62 Home-made Jam, 1957-58   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 63 Home-made Jelly, 1957-58   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 64 Home-made Wine, 1957-58  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 65 Home Bottled Fruit   | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 66 Home-made, home-baked Fruit Cake approx. 2lbs  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 67 Home-made, home-baked Sponge Sandwich noticed  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 68 Dish of cooked Potatoes  | 5 0 | 3 0 | 2 0 |
| 69 Something New out of Something Old   | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 70 Miniatures Gardens, boxes 2ft square (a) 14 & under (b) 15 & over  | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 71 Article of Needlework, Girls made during school hours (a) 11 & under (b) 12 & over                           | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 72a Article of Metalwork or Woodwork made by boys 12 and over   | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |
| 72b Handicrafts, model kits, etc., boys 11 and under  | 6 0 | 4 0 | 2 6 |

6 p.m. FOR DANCE.  
 (KEEP OUT UNTIL SHOW OPENED.)  
 MORE SCHEDULES.

WARD PRINTER, CLARE

# Glemsford Local History Society News



IT WAS A COLD, DARK January evening in 1911 when Kitty and Tom Higdon arrived in Burston, Norfolk – she, the newly appointed head mistress, he, an assistant teacher; both committed socialists, politically aware and determined to improve the lot of the village community and the children in their care. So Bryan Thurlow, actor and raconteur, began the story of 'The Burston School Strike'.

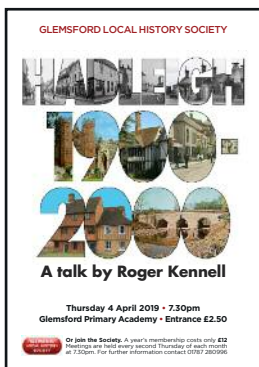
The Higdons had been sacked from a neighbouring school owing to 'on-going friction' and it soon became clear that, while the children adored these inspirational teachers, it was not the case with other more traditionally staid pillars of the community, the Burston rector in particular. However, the Higdons became very popular with the villagers, Tom started an Agricultural Farmers Union and joined the Parish Council; Kitty gave the pupils, mostly from poor backgrounds, special treats, many kindnesses and a love of learning.

When two Barnardo girls arrived in Burston the seed of dissent was sown. Kitty was

falsely accused of caning them on a completely fabricated story; the Rector and his cohorts took up the charge; Kitty involved the Unions; bribed witnesses testified against her and on 31st March 1914 she and Tom were told to go!

However, they reckoned without Pupil Power – the children mounted a strike! They and their mothers marched, supported by the villagers, Trade Unions, suffragettes, London journalists – all spread the publicity and so money donations flowed in from complete strangers. Parents were fined, but fines were paid by ever increasing funds; eventually, in 1917, a newly built strike school was opened subscribed to by Trade Unions, nationwide.

To the joy of the Burston villagers, Kitty and Tom taught there until 1939 when Tom died and Kitty retired. A much fuller account of the strike and its history can be found in Burston today; it is a truly fascinating and unique story.



A RETURN VISIT FROM Roger Kennell in April saw him speaking on the subject of his home town 'Hadleigh 1900- 2000'.

A settlement dating back to the Bronze Age, Hadleigh's long history includes a substantial period of great wealth due to its cloth production when rich merchants established many grand houses and places of worship such as a greatly improved parish church and the Little Chapel (dating from Medieval times).

While the 17th century saw a downturn in Hadleigh's fortunes, by the early 1900s it was once again thriving, boasting a huge market, many watermills, a busy rail station (until its closure in 1935), a Pretty's corset factory and other industries.

Roger's archive of photographs showed both the 1920s new build houses and the first cars heralding the gradual increase in vehicles, including a bus service to Ipswich. During both World Wars, men, women and children all pulled together to help the war effort, often congregating around the blacksmith in the High Street. The WWII army workshops, built in 1938, are now Morrisons and QD Stores, while the old police station houses the library.

In the 1960s the new industrial estate brought increased prosperity to the town alongside a great deal of new housing, swelling the current population to around 10,000. However, Hadleigh still has many local independent shops trading, thus retaining its traditional feel as a quintessential small English town.



SPEAKER MARK MITCHELS kept all enthralled with his engrossing talk on 'The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial' as he described East Anglia in the Dark Ages of the 6th and 7th centuries, invaded by the warlike Wuffings from Sweden and inhabited by an assortment of fighting pagan tribes.

Fast forward to 1938 when Sutton Hoo land owner, Mrs Edith Pretty, finally persuaded Ipswich Museum (less than keen due to the distinct possibility of an approaching war), to investigate the earth mounds which covered her land. She was sent an amateur archaeologist whom she hired for just £1.50 a week, one Basil Brown from Rickinghall, who proved to be the 'hero of the hour' as his knowledge and expertise was invaluable when, on 8th May 1939, Basil started, just with the help of the gardener and the gamekeeper, to dig on the largest mound.

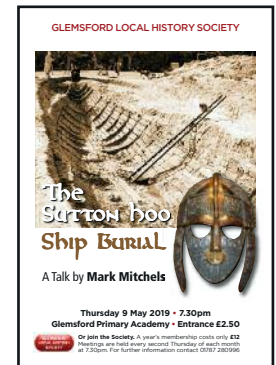
This was very dangerous work, the sandy soil posing a constant risk of collapse. As patterns of rusty bolts were unearthed, Basil replaced each one because intuition told him, that here was a clinker-built ship of huge proportions; subsequent photographs show us the site. Experts were brought in; a central burial chamber was

found and excavated in just 10 days. The war broke out and the rest is history!

Here was the greatest archaeological treasure ever found in the British Isles. Solid gold cloak holders and buckles, a purse, a helmet, shield, sword, bowls, coins – all exquisitely decorated and inlaid with silver, glass and bronze – showed not only that the makers possessed great craftsmanship, but also that such artefacts must have belonged to a man of wealth and power. Historians, consulting the writings of the Venerable Bede, amongst other sources, concluded that the most likely candidate for such a burial was Redwald, King of East Anglia who died in 624 AD and that the ship would have come from the king's palace in Rendlesham along the River Deben to the burial site.

Eventually Mrs. Pretty decided to give the treasure to the nation. Today, currently worth £35 million, it can be found, brilliantly displayed, in the British Museum; a reconstructed burial chamber together with replicas of much of the treasure can be seen at National Trust-owned Sutton Hoo. A visit to both venues is highly recommended.

**Margaret King**



ON THURSDAY, 13th June 2019 members of the GLHS enjoyed a fascinating and informative guided tour of the impressive Grade 1 listed Hadleigh Guildhall. The majority of this fine building has been standing since 1420 - 1440, and has been in continuous use for its original purpose – a meeting place for civic business, and continues as a working building today.

The land on which Hadleigh grew and developed was once in the ownership of Canterbury Priory Church, later to become the See of Canterbury. The town having few links with landed nobility, it prospered instead under trade, mainly in cloth and wool and by the 13th century, 47% of its people worked or were connected with the cloth industry. In fact it was so wealthy it became the 20th most heavily taxed town in England.

By the 16th century this mainly commercially-led town had become a strong supporter of the Puritan cause; indeed one of the town's

aldermen was a signatory to the beheading of Charles I in 1649.

On the guided tour we entered the Old Armoury complete with its musket stands still in situ, a rare sight. Now good use is made of this room as part of the Council offices.

Crown posts in the Clopton Rose Room along with some fine linen-fold panels were a delight to see, as was the old musicians' gallery opening onto the impressive Old Town Hall room, now used for social gatherings. In 1907 William Pretty set up his corset factory which remained in production in the Guildhall until 1927.

Standing in the church graveyard where Guthrum, King of the Danes is reputed to be buried, looking up at the double-jettied building one can only wish those brick and timber walls could talk!

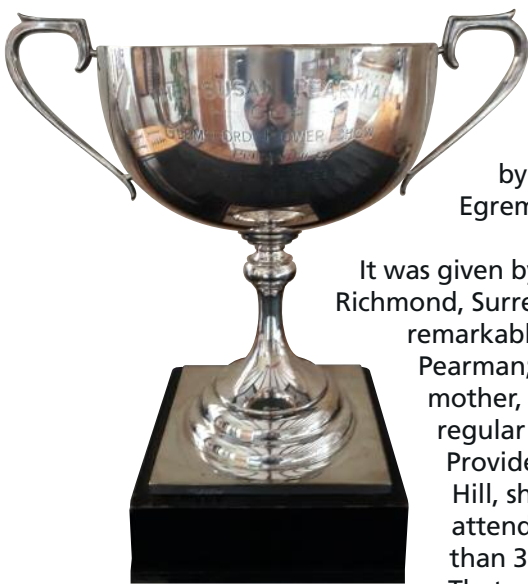
**Stephanie Hemphill**



# The History of the Susan Pearman Cup

This magnificent silver cup is unique, in particular in its history. It is elegantly shaped with a large bowl, mounted on a stem with a rounded foot and is double handed.

Made of pure silver, weighing 26 oz it is quite valuable. It is competed for annually by competitors entering garden produce in Glemsford Flower Show and won for the first time in 1936, by Mr Eric Pawsey of Egremont Street, Glemsford.



It was given by Mrs Sarah Ellie of Richmond, Surrey to commemorate her remarkable grandmother, Susan Pearman; not only was she a mother, housewife, etc. and a regular member of the Providence Chapel on Hunts Hill, she was a midwife attending in her lifetime more than 3000 births in the district. That must be a very good record for any individual during the last half of the 19th century.

Susan Pearman was born Susan Brown, 17th August 1817 in Glemsford. As a young woman she wove velvet by hand loom, she married William Hempstead Pearman on the 23rd November 1837 and had seven children, but one was illegitimate.

Her husband William was equally remarkable. He had two minor convictions for theft but, in 1841, he was convicted of stealing two

small pigs from Sudbury and sentenced to 14 years transportation to Australia. However, he returned to England after 12 years working at the gold fields of Ballarat and had become quite well off; he purchased land and a shop on Hunts Hill. When he learned of the birth of Ellen, the illegitimate daughter born when he was a convict, he said to his wife "Well Suki, you broke a saucer and I broke a plate, we'll call it quits". William and Susan continued to live and prosper in Glemsford, he became a blacksmith and she ran the pork butcher's shop, alongside her great work as a midwife; she well deserves having a silver cup given in her honour.

They are both buried in the east end of Glemsford Churchyard, where their memorial stone can be found; he was buried 18th February 1897 aged 80 years, Susan was buried 11th December 1903 aged 86 years.

So in this cup there is a continuous reminder of our social heritage and man's inhumanity to man, for a person to survive the rigours of transportation and tough times needed a resilient spirit. The descendant of both Susan and William still live in Glemsford, the Browns and the Pearmans.

The current holder of the Cup is Mr Peter Johnson.

This short story will illuminate just a corner of our heritage, much needs to be revealed so that we may live in a more considerate world.

**Richard Deeks 1994**



# Some Thoughts on Remembrance

*“At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.”*

The word “remember” in these famous lines from Laurence Binyon’s ‘For the Fallen’ is problematic. Strictly speaking, we cannot “remember” the men behind the names that we see on any war memorial, on the one in Glemsford or on the huge one at Thiepval in France. When this poem was first published in September 1914 it remained pertinent for many decades. But there is no one alive to “remember” these men, that is, in the sense of being able to claim to have known them intimately or even fleetingly. What we do is commemorate or memorialise them.

The rhetoric on public war memorials runs the risk of raising another problematic issue when the inscribed words can be seen to be hijacking the human impulse for grief at the loss of young life, with the result that the dead end up being ‘sanctified’ and ‘glorified’ in the name of grand abstracts such as ‘Liberty’, ‘Honour’ and ‘Peace’

(these loaded words do not appear on our Glemsford memorial). This rhetoric also runs the danger of reinforcing forgetting, in that it elicits a brief sentimental response, but doesn’t allow for a questioning of the values the monument represents. The danger is we end up with a generalised response of sadness which doesn’t connect to the reality of each life, and of each life lost.

We must turn to the war poets if we wish to think about the war without conferring dignity on it. Not the lyric or elegiac poems that provide a bearable way to recall, and a consoling way to commemorate, but those that attempt to find a way to speak of the battlefield’s dead as objects, often unburied. The soldiers encountered a multitude of decaying, eviscerated and shattered corpses in an environment where they might suddenly become one themselves. So, they are compelled to confront their own mortality. Here are three examples of soldier-poets grappling with such an experience:

From Ivor Gurney’s ‘To His Love’

*‘Cover him, cover him soon!  
Hide that red wet  
Thing I must somehow forget.’*

From Richard Aldington’s ‘Apathy’

*‘The way one corpse held its stiff yellow fingers  
And pointed, pointed to the huge dark hole  
Gouged between ear and jaw right to the skull.’*

From Henry-Jacques’ ‘Ecce Homo’  
(my translation)

*‘His pathetic offering to the glory of heaven  
Is the thousands of larvae that corrupt his face.  
Close to, its foul, seething dregs.  
The face is swollen by an invisible sap,  
Stinking slime, the most awful of stenches.’*

**Michael Copp**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, **Summer Function:** Commences with a visit  
July 11th to Churchgate Barn, to enjoy a guided tour of Tom  
Burt's Historic house. Meet 6.15pm at Churchgate  
Barn for the tour, then make your way to our  
Chairman's House at 3 Rectory Close.  
No earlier than 7.30 please.

Thursday, **Caroline Holmes:**  
September 12th Historic Gardens of East Anglia  
(Subscriptions due)

Thursday, **Ron Murrell:**  
October 10th The Black Death