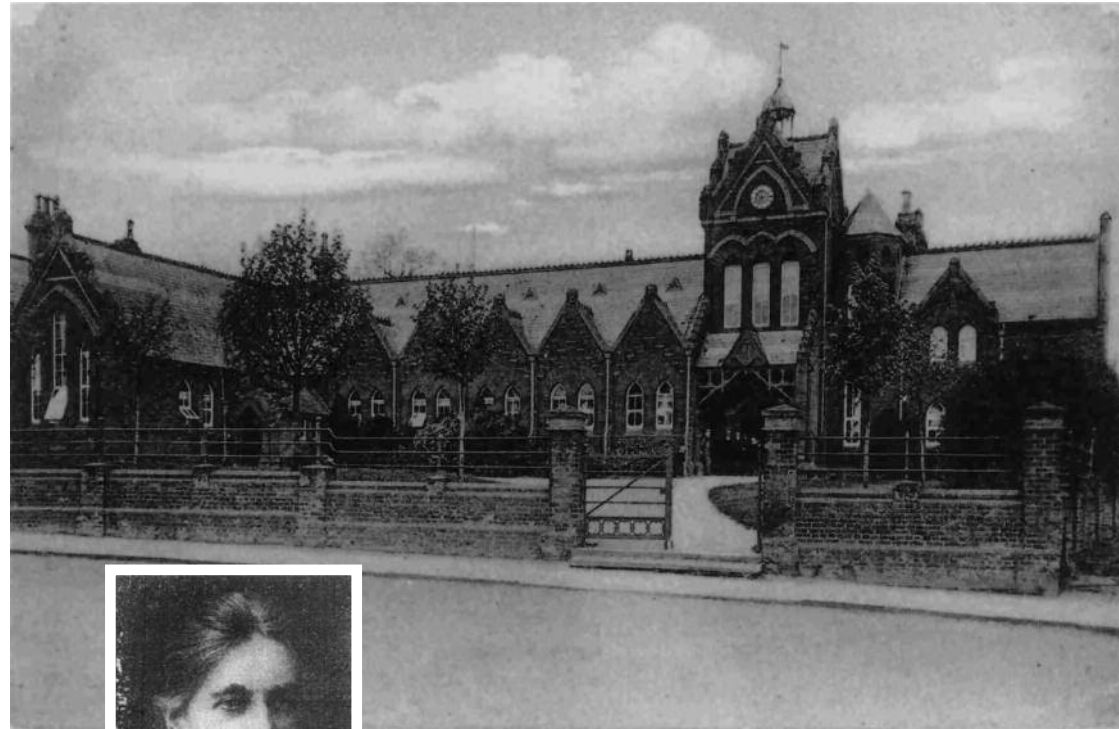


GLHS, 25 years on



Mary Holmes,
School Mistress at
Glensford School,
April 1900 –
August 1901

As the GLHS approaches its 25th anniversary, I was asked to mark the occasion by being the guest editor of this edition of the newsletter. When we formed the Society back in 1990 under the chairmanship of Richard Deeks we could not have foreseen how successful it would become.

We soon realised what a wealth of local knowledge about Glensford's past there was, and if not recorded, much of the history of the village and its people would be lost forever, to the detriment of future generations.

In a way we were fortunate that the early committee and other society members were able to talk to many of the older residents who gave us fascinating accounts of their lives in Glensford. Their employment, houses, leisure, customs and traditions, especially details of the industries and trades which have long since vanished, eg horsehair, mat-making, the silk mill and flax factory, as well as agriculture.

Old photographs were collected and new ones taken before buildings were demolished or altered. Old invoices and other literature were saved from long defunct businesses and tradesmen.

There have been several booklets published over the years relating to Glensford and I'm sure that we are all grateful to those who have continued to do so.

Much reference has been made to the records in the Suffolk Record Office also to the records of the Church, Chapels and Military organisations, my contribution being the compilation of the Roll of Honour, of Glensford's War Dead including photographs of the various memorials in France and Belgium.

For many society members however, the most popular aspect is the monthly meetings where a variety of speakers talk on a wide range of local and national, historical subjects, and of course the social events.

It is very gratifying to see the Society go from strength to strength due in no small part to the efforts of our enthusiastic committee and as we approach our next 25-year period, I would encourage members to record any aspects of Glensford history before memories fade and the landscape changes forever.

Sid Watkinson, Guest Editor

(The Roll of Honour detailing the men of Glensford who lost their lives in the 1st World War was compiled by Steve Clarke and Martin Edwards. Sid, our guest editor, then created a paper copy of the details, and included photographs of the War Memorials in French and Belgian cemeteries. If you don't have access to the internet, this folder could be a useful source of information. Jenny Wears, Editor)



Remember those who lost their lives in the 1st World War.

Autumn 1915:

The village War Memorials have only one name that might relate to this period of remembrance: S. Downes.

This could be Sidney Downes, a private with the 1st Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He died Monday 9th August 1915 and is commemorated on the Ypres Memorial (Menin Gate), Belgium.

Alternatively it could be Samuel Downes, also a private, but with the 1st Royal Marine Battalion, who died 22nd August 1918.

The Roll of Honour site was updated last November, but there is no further evidence to clarify which S. Downes died when.

Thanks to Sid Watkinson, Steve Clarke and Martin Edwards.

The Founding of Glemsford Local History Society

25 years ago – entries from the *Suffolk Free Press*, November 1990

Thurs. 8th Nov. Mrs Mary Chapple – Glemsford Correspondent:

“Over 50 walkers took part in a walk along Glemsford’s footpaths – recommended by R. Deeks – along the Causeway and the Danes – across Lower Rd into Essex, where they paused to hear some snippets of local history, including details of a murder that had taken place nearby. They continued through Pentlow, Cavendish and back to Glemsford via footpaths. A welcome cup of tea was served in the Church Hall by Shelia Hill, Betty Blackmore and Mary Browne. The walk had been led by Norman Hill and Tony Schaffer. A most enjoyable afternoon.”

“Glemsford History Society – on Nov 15th at 7.30 in the Church Hall the inaugural meeting will take place and will be chaired by Richard Deeks at the invitation of Chris Britton the village recorder.”

Thurs. 15th Nov. “Postcards from nearly 30 towns and villages will go on show at Glemsford Village Hall on Sunday 9th

December – to raise cash for the Sports Pavilion Fund. The display has been agreed by Glemsford Parish Local History Recorder C. Britton who recently exhibited his own collection at The Black Lion Pub in the village.”

Thurs. 22nd Nov. “On Thursday evening last (15th) the first meeting of Glemsford Local History Society took place. 45 people met in the Church Hall for a talk by R. Deeks, ‘Glemsford and the Australian Connection’ Suffolk convicts transported to Australia – particular emphasis on those from Glemsford during the period 1787 to 1868. The talk was introduced by Mrs Joan Schaffer, all proceeds donated to the Pavilion Fund.”

Mary Chapple the village correspondent, was also editor of our first newsletter, the 1st edition being produced in Spring 1993, a copy of which has been included in this newsletter. (See overleaf.)

Jenny Wears

Glensford Local History Society

NEWSLETTER

Secretary: S. Clarke (Tel. 280595)

Chairman: R. Deeks

Editor: M. Chapple

Issue No. 1

Spring 1993

From the Chairman

What is the definition of "Local History", and what is its purpose? To many, perhaps, it is just another academic exercise, and to others a mild interest in the past of the immediate area, or maybe an excuse to get away from the domestic scene. I believe the study of a parish or a district's history, carefully researched, has a profound influence on how we arrive at decisions that effect the way we live now and in the future.

One must be familiar with national history and how it effected the immediate locality; it then begins to give greater understanding of just what went on: in essence, it makes history live.

I am convinced that if all our legislators had some grounding in local history, they would have gained some respect for the past, and we would now live in a much better environment.

I whole-heartedly recommend anyone to widen their understanding of this locality by making contact with Local History.

Richard Deeks

From the Editor

Since the inception of the History Society, we have had some notable and interesting speakers who have included Dr Pat Murrells - Crime in Suffolk in the 18th Century (nothing changes); Elizabeth Wigmore - Pubs in Long Melford and two talks by Fred Pawsey on such diverse subjects as Suffolk Dialect and Wartime Flying. One particularly memorable occasion was the visit of Roy Tricker to speak on his favourite subject of 'Enjoying Churches'. Unfortunately, his projector could not stand the strain and broke down frequently; undeterred, Roy continued regardless and to great effect. In February, Michael Hills spoke on 'A Family Tree', giving an enthralling account of his family's life and watchmaking business in Sudbury. We have been privileged to spend two delightful evenings in members' houses - one at 'Chequers', the home of our President, in September, when we were shown a video, made by David Ruddock and Chris Britton, of the demolition and restoration of the cottages opposite 'Chequers', and now known as 'Chequers Cottages' - the other evening was spent at Monks Hall in January, the home of Mr and Mrs Bob Farmer. This lovely old



house which has, and still is, being faithfully restored by its owners, is a joy to be in, and we are fortunate to have been given such high level hospitality.

We have toured Long Melford Church, and the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Glensford. In May 1992, a visit was arranged to Bulmer Brick Works, where we

were shown round by the owner, Peter Minter, and his son. Bulmer bricks, which have assisted in the restoration of so many ancient buildings, is a fascinating subject in itself, and to stand in the pit where the clay has been dug for centuries, and to see the strata of clay which was old in Roman times, is most impressive. We have also spent some enjoyable and informative evenings, known as members' evenings, when our Chairman, Vice Chairman and members have given papers.

We are now planning next year's programme, which we hope will include more meetings - meanwhile, we are trying to arrange some summer outings and tours, and hope to see you then.

Glensford: a connection with Windsor Castle

The following brief reference appears in the printed Calendar of Patent Rolls: "1352: May 9th: John de Glemesford & two others are appointed to select from Berkshire, Bucks., and Wiltshire, carpenters and sawyers to work on Windsor Castle". If any are "rebellious", they have power to arrest them and put them in gaol.

This led me to look in the "History of the Kings' Works" for more details. This 7 volume work gives details of all work carried out on royal castles over many centuries. There I found the information I was seeking. Work from 1350 was mainly on St George's Chapel and its surrounds. Work on the stalls was carried out, the roof was completed and a pew made for the queen. Lodgings for 25 clergy were constructed to the south of the chapel and at right-angles thereto, beginning in 1352, and being contracted to 3 carpenters, John de Glemysford, Simon Hurlle and John Dunstaple, at a total cost of £107 6s 8d. These houses were plastered in 1354, so appear to have neared completion by then.

Another interesting point to come to light was that there had been a former royal residence about 5 miles south of the present castle, built in 1244 when the park was created - this being the nucleus of the present Great Park. A survey of 1329 lists the many defects in the building, and between 1394 and 1396 a total of £1,164 was spent on repairs. A new drawbridge was constructed by one Robert de Glensford, carpenter. Was he a relation, or descendant, of John one wonders? Another employee was John Goldyng, a master carpenter. He was employed from 1426 to his death in 1451.

The accounts of the Clerk of the Works from 1351 to 1356 have been transcribed in full in Hope's "Architectural History of Windsor Castle" and if and when I obtain this, perhaps I will be able to give more details of the work carried out by our men of Glensford. Do these houses still exist? A visit to Windsor would obviously be profitable!

Eileen Lynch

Town and Country: from the Vice Chairman

Like many newcomers, I came to Suffolk with my family to escape from the 'rat race' of the big city, to find the peace and tranquillity that country life had always seemed to offer in those monthly glossy magazines. I wonder how many of us wish that we had made that move earlier.

In the city there is Vandalism, Violence and Victims whereas on offer in Suffolk there were Villagers, Vergers and Visions.

Villagers: with their open greens and village signs, each depicting the various facets of life that are special to that one only; Vergers: with their flint-covered churches that have stood for hundreds of years, casting a giant protective shadow over all its children; Visions: of a future full of hope and unfulfilled ideals that only the countryside seemed to offer.

It is here that many of us found our true selves, for there is not the competition that exists in the towns and cities and when not having to compete all of the time, then we have the time to compose, be it book, poem or ourselves.

In some respects it is a time-warp, for there are still traditions that exist here and nowhere else, e.g. Glensford United Charities, whose annual distribution of monies at Christmas from rents collected from land left by faceless but not forgotten names who even then cared for their villagers; the Horticultural Show, recently revived, where young and old alike for that coveted cup, rosette or certificate; the Friendship Club - surely the very name says it all; the Gardening and Arts Clubs; the newly-formed team of Morris Men,

made up of all shapes and sizes, ready to perform at any local function.

At one end of the village we have the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, which is strictly for men, with their secret rituals, whilst in another part of the village we have the Women's Institute where no man dare enter without invitation, after careful vetting - and even then probably only as guest speaker. This is village life at its best, with old and new traditions that must not be allowed to fade into oblivion.

This village is steeped in a history that we can associate, not with dates learned parrot fashion at school, concerning far away places with strange sounding names, which many of us will never have the opportunity to visit, but local history that you can see, feel and recognise. It is here that Glensfordians, whose roots go deep into the soil, rub shoulders with incomers who want to learn of Glensford's history and feel, too, that they have something to offer.

While there are organisations similar to the Local History Society which seek to rekindle and keep the interest in village life, past and present, alive, then this light will never go out, thus leaving us hope for future generations, hope for happiness and contentment, not hatred and constraint.

Chris Britton

From the Secretary

In the past few months, I have received three requests from "searchers after family history", from places as far flung as Norwich and New South Wales. They are interesting but difficult to reply to, partly because, at present, I have nothing other than a letter to send them, even with the Chairman's help! Now, I can send them this bulletin, at least, and, I hope, in the not too distant future to be able to send other publications, too. Look out for the arrival of "A Walk Through Glensford" which we are producing in cooperation with the Conservation Project. We are also aiming to produce a fuller booklet on our village's history, to add to the literature which is in such short supply. This is to be a Society production and if you would like to contribute a section, or otherwise participate, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other committee member. Equally, if you have any thoughts about future newsletters, let us know, particularly if you have articles to be published - we intend to publish quarterly.

Produced by the Glensford Local History Society, March 1993

Edited by Mary Chapple

All views expressed are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the views of the society as a whole.

Mary Holmes, School Mistress at Glemsford School, April 1900 – August 1901



In April 2015, Glemsford Local History Society was given for safe keeping, a beautiful hide leather writing case. The escutcheon on the writing case tells us that it was presented to a Mary Holmes on the occasion of her leaving Glemsford Board School on 2nd August 1901.

Fascinated as I am by family history and early years education and armed with the few facts given to us by the donor of the case, Mr Townson, a great nephew of Mary Holmes, I took to the internet and thence to Settle Library and Bury St Edmunds record office, in search of information about Mary Holmes.



I was able to ascertain that Mary was born in Bentham in February 1872, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, very near the border with Lancashire. She was the second daughter of Francis and Margaret Holmes who lived all their lives in Bentham and produced several children. Margaret; Bryan (died young); Mary; Ann; William; Bryan; Kate; Edward. Francis was a plumber and painter employing two or three boys at various times.

In 1881, Mary is a nine year old scholar and by 1891, at the age of nineteen, she is a boarding student at teacher training college in Ripon. Mary taught for some time at St Thomas' School in Lancaster from whence she came to Glemsford.

Glemsford Board School was some time in the planning and the opening entry in the school log book on March 2nd 1874 reads as follows. "...enrolling 39 children in the morning and 33 in the afternoon ... I found them dreadfully backward, not any child

able to do a simple addition sum. A vast number could not make a stroke." Oh dear!

The minutes of the Board meeting on 3rd day of April 1900 record that, with four votes in favour and one against, it was agreed that Miss Mary Holmes of St Thomas' Girls' School, Lancaster, 28 years of age, be appointed Mistress of the Girls' School at a salary of £85 per annum rising to £95 by annual increases of £5. Duties to commence on 24th April.

Miss Holmes makes regular entries in the school log book, throughout her time in charge. She starts with a criticism of staffing levels. "At the close of the first week's work in school the mistress considers the present staff inadequate for the proper working of the school. Sts; V, V1, V11 with 54 scholars are left to the entire charge of the mistress in the principal room. As they cannot be left to work by themselves and a young PT (pupil teacher) has very little control over them, it is impossible for the mistress to superintend the other classes properly or to give the necessary attention to the training of pupil teachers."

Further entries make fascinating reading. Dec 1st 1900, "School closed this morning for Christmas vacation of a fortnight. Mistress left school at 9.45 in order to catch train for the north."

"1/2 day holiday in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday and the relief of Mafeking."

Jan 23rd "A special hymn was sung and a conversation had on the death of our

late beloved Queen Victoria."

Jan 24th "National Anthem was sung today in honour of accession of King Edward VII."

Jan 29th "School closed by medical authority - diphtheria prevalent."

When Her Majesty's Inspectors reported on the school, Miss Holmes was able to record the following comment. "The efficiency of the Girls' School is highly creditable to the mistress and her staff."

In the 1901 census, Mary is residing in one of the two houses attached to Glemsford School, probably the one on the left. In one house lived Mr Paynton, elementary school teacher, his wife and children and in the other, Eleanor Boverly, age 39, school mistress and Mary Holmes, age 29 years. I imagine Mary resided in the school house throughout her time in Glemsford.

An entry in the board meeting minutes record a salary paid to Mary Holmes of £7.1s.8d

Mary, as we know left Glemsford on 2nd August 1901 and her final entry on that date, reads "Resigned charge of this school. Mary Holmes."

Mary Holmes took up the post of head mistress of the infant department, in her home village of Bentham. She lived in the village and had a younger sister living with her in 1911 as her housekeeper. After many years as head of the Infant School she became head of the Girls' School for a few years before her retirement in 1930.

Mary's obituary in the local paper details the career of a life-long dedicated teacher who was heavily involved in her local Church, Sunday School, Church Missionary Society, Parochial Church Council, The League of Nations and the Women's Institute.



A comment made on her death, at the age of 61, only three years after her retirement, was that her chief ambition was the training of children and young people, in the best sense of the term, and her influence played an important part in the many lives of a past and the present generation. The funeral and burial took place at St Margaret's Church in High Bentham on 4th August 1933.

It would seem from the quality writing case, given to Miss Mary Holmes on her leaving Glemsford, that the school community also thought highly of this dedicated school mistress who obviously ran an efficient Girls' School here, albeit for only a short period of time.



Anne Edwards



GLEMSFORD STATION 1943-1951

A 'VICTORIAN' HOME IN THE 1940s

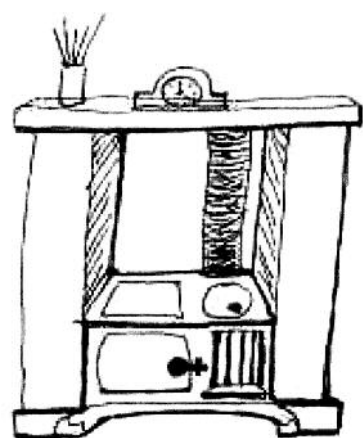
Some time ago, Steve Clarke received this material from one **Celia Hall**. It has not been published until now, so with thanks and acknowledgement to Celia, we will be serialising her reminiscences over four editions of the newsletter. Should anyone wish to use the articles for research or a project, please mention both the title and author's name.

THE HOUSE THAT WE CAME TO IN 1943 WAS NOT AS WE EXPECTED.

There was no piped water, no sanitation, no gas or electricity.

We knew that living there was going to be difficult, particularly for my mother. She would have to go back to Victorian ways of running a home.

THE HEATING AND COOKING



In the living room there was a cast-iron range that my mother had to learn to control and maintain. Since it was made of cast iron and would rust easily, it had to be black-leaded and polished often, taking up a lot of time and energy.

The range was our only source of heat (except for a log fire in

the front room on Christmas Day) and means of cooking. The ash from the fire had to be removed each morning and the fire re-lit. My father got up very early to do this so that by my breakfast time the fire was going well and the room was warming up. It was my brother's weekly job to chop firewood into sticks small enough to fit the grate, which he did reluctantly.

One advantage of the range was the delicious toast we could make by holding slices of bread in front of the fire. It cooked very quickly and tasted much

better than the toast I ate in later years. No doubt the bread we used contributed to this. It came from a baker in the village who used a wood-burning oven. My father advocated that only a woodburning oven could bake good breads, so he was delighted to find one close by.

Every day cooking took up much of my mother's time as she tried to stretch our wartime rations as far as possible. We were fortunate, of course, that we had a large vegetable garden and so much fruit that my mother could preserve it for the winter by bottling it and making jam.

LIGHTING

Our only way to light the house was by paraffin lamps, which involved another time-consuming routine for my mother. The lamps had to be looked after in a precise way if they were to burn with a flame that gave good light and did not fill the room with smoke.

Avoiding the latter was largely due to the correct trimming of the wick (a strip of cotton that went from the oil in the bottom of the lamp and up the glass chimney).

The oil soaked all the way up the cotton and the end was ignited with a match. A small wheel at the side allowed the wick to be raised or lowered according to how much light was needed.

The glass chimney had to be cleaned thoroughly, and finally the brass base of the lamp had to be

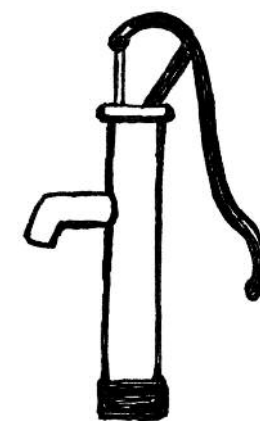


polished. I looked forward to lamp-cleaning day a lot more than my mother did!

Also, I liked the warm yellow glow that the lamps gave off. Sitting reading under one of these was a huge pleasure. Later, when we lived in a house with electric light, I found it too harsh and cold and the room suddenly vast because all the corners were illuminated.

WATER

Finding a hand pump over the kitchen sink instead of a tap was quite a shock for us all. And trying to get water from it was another.



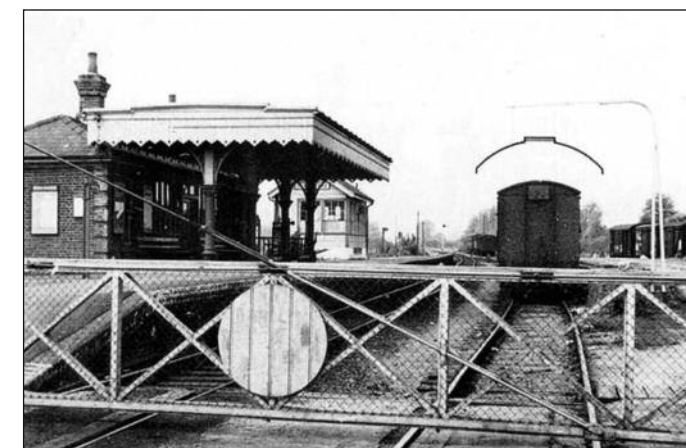
First attempts by my father and brother led only to a spluttering and a trickle of water. My mother despaired of ever having water again.

By experimentation and determination my father eventually developed the action needed to make it work effectively. It was necessary to pull up the pump handle sharply, as far as it would go, then push it down hard but very slowly and the water would gush out.

Much amusement was gained from encouraging unsuspecting relatives to use it and watch their expressions of bewilderment when their efforts yielded only a few drops.

It was only when I was older that I fully realised how much strenuous pumping must have been involved to provide the amount of water that four people needed for drinking, cooking, house cleaning, washing ourselves and our clothes and linen.

The water that the pump drew up came from a well just outside the kitchen window. The shaft was covered by a wooden trap door and I was terrified that if I stood on it accidentally it would break and I would drop to the bottom of the well.



GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY News



FOR OUR JUNE EVENING VISIT, a large group of 32 members joined local guide, Trudi, in Long Melford as she led a most interesting walk from the Village Hall up to the Green, returning via the Mill bridge over the Chadbrook stream, while regaling us with numerous facts about the historic buildings along the way.

Melford was originally called Millford – note the Mill House near the ford over the bridge – the Long being added as it is one of the longest villages in the country! It has a very rich heritage, evident in the many splendid houses some of which date back to the days of the wealthy wool merchants.

We noted a former public house called the Harte, the statuesque sight of Melford Hall dating back to pre-Tudor times, the old Victorian school built in its

mirror image and the former courthouse and police station.

Here in the 19th century a band of Glemsford men, bent on mutinous action against the voting laws, were tried for drunken, disorderly behaviour following their rioting in the village when they left just one window unbroken deterred by the butcher owner, Mr. Ruse, who saw them off by brandishing a double-barrelled shotgun!

Trudi also showed us where the stocks and pillory stood, entertaining us with a number of stories including one of an infamous murder, before we visited the beautifully presented Heritage Centre.

Many thanks to Long Melford History Society for providing us with such an informative evening.



THE END OF SEASON summer function in July saw a large number gather in the Methodist Church to hear Peter Chubb give a lively and humorous account of the church's one hundred year history.

Referring to some archival research carried out by fellow church member Marilyn Nash, and showing some photographic illustrations, Peter spoke of a number of well-known stalwart Methodist individuals who helped the church flourish.

The most recent of these was Bessie Maxim who played the organ for 75 years! Nigel Sandford, her nephew, keeps the flag flying and is now the current organist.

After we had admired the recent renovations and many photographs of this year's Flower Festival, Peter concluded his talk by explaining the origins and beliefs of Methodism within the Christian faith. A very interesting talk much appreciated by all.

The subsequent annual buffet was once again held at Melton House where members and friends enjoyed tasty food, wine, a raffle – and for the first time in many a year – a really brilliant evening, weather-wise! We thank Pauline and Patrick Currie for their hard work in organising this event and for their hospitality.

Margaret King

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, **Anne Grimshaw**
September 10th A Weaver at Waterloo

Saturday, Marriage of **Patrick Hemphill** to **Stephanie Prythergch** – St. Mary's Church, Glemsford
October 3rd

Thursday, **Sarah Doig & Tony Scheuregger**
October 8th (Ancestral Voices) Kemp's Jig – the Shakespearean actors dance from London to Norwich

Thursday, **The 25th Anniversary of the Society. AGM,**
November 12th followed by cheese and wine, then Members' talks

Saturday, **President's Evening**
December 12th at 'Chequers'. (Members only)