

# Musical notes

**It seems no time at all since the spring edition of the newsletter but summer should be here when you receive this. I hope the weather proves it!**

I wrote briefly about the church bells of St Mary's in the last edition and this time have included more detail taken from the church-warden's accounts, to show some of the work and expenses entailed.

Brian and Susan Smith have contributed an article about barrel organs/pianos and the Rector of Lawshall. To continue this musical theme, you can read a little about the Fire Brigade. (Glemsford's pump model may have had a simple bell!).

We have no more 'indoor' meetings now until September, but please think about a local history or family question you would like to have answered. I will try to answer each query by the following edition, so please let me have your problem, by hand, or email or simply drop it in to me. The same goes for any interesting local history tit-bits, or longer pieces, you would like to share with fellow members via your newsletter.

Enjoy the summer.

**Jenny Wears**, Editor  
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**In the continuing remembrance of those men listed on one or both of our War Memorials, one soldier is listed who died within the period June, July, August.**

Arthur Brown, Corporal 3rd Battalion Suffolk Regiment. Born in Glemsford, died Saturday 10th June 1916, in England, aged 31. He is buried in St Mary's Churchyard here in Glemsford. (I wonder if he died of his wounds having been returned to England.) His father was living in Kelvedon.

Thanks as usual to Steve Clarke and Martin Edwards.



# Canon Algernon Ogle Wintle

**Born Kensington 27th October 1881, died Sudbury 14th December 1959**

Some years ago at the end of our holiday in Devon, we stopped off for a break in Tiverton. I wanted to visit Tiverton Museum, in the hope of finding some family history of the Patey Family, who were the forebears of my 3 times Great Grandfather, Benjamin Patey, born 1782.

Having found no information on the Patey Family, we looked around at the many exhibits with interest. One of these caught my eye, as I saw the name 'Lawshall' on it. Brian and I both took a closer look and found that this was a barrel organ, which was made apparently by Canon Algernon Ogle Wintle, Rector of Lawshall, Suffolk. I took some photographs of the organ, so that I could research it later on.

I have recently been taking a look at just who Canon Wintle was. I found out that he was the son of William Samuel Wintle, Secretary of the Foundling Hospital, London, and Hannah Hasluck.

He was educated at Framlingham College, and was at Clare College, Cambridge, gaining a B.A. in 1903 and a M.A. 1909. Ordained Deacon Manchester in 1907; became a Priest 1908; Canon of Crumpsall, Lancashire 1907-8. Canon of St. John the Evangelist, Cheetham and Chaplain of Prestwich Union Workhouse 1908-10. He was Canon of Quidenham with Snetterton, Norfolk 1910-15; Diocese Organising Inspector of Religious Knowledge 1915-21; Rector of Nowton, Suffolk 1915-23, Rector of Shotley 1923, Rector of Lawshall 1923-51.

He married Catherine Maud Savell of Barley, Herts on 29th April 1905 and they had four children.

In 1923, Canon Wintle played street pianos for charity in Bury St. Edmunds

and became well known to shoppers in the town. A radio broadcast led to a succession of small barrel organs being sent to him for repair.

So Canon Algernon Ogle Wintle, the Rector of All Saints, Lawshall, set up a Piano Organ Works and provided employment to many local people in the village in during depression years of the 1930s.

The barrel pianos and organs represented a resourceful business for Canon Wintle who bought the used organs, renovated them and resold them under his name. He had a workshop full of barrel pianos and the ladies of the village used to trundle the organs up to his house, with the pins pulled out ready for him to put in the latest tunes.

He is remembered as a rotund, grumpy man with a workshop full of barrel pianos and organs. He apparently gave talks on BBC Radio and in 1954, he met the Queen and the Queen Mother at Sandringham.

The barrel organ in Tiverton Museum was in need of some repairs, but they were hopeful that they would be able to restore it and get it working again. Unfortunately, they couldn't tell us where they acquired it from or for how long they had had it.

**Sue and Brian Smith**





# The bells of St Mary's



## The six bells of St Mary's date from 1659–1830, as follows:

The smallest, (the treble) and the 5th were made by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel, 1830; the 2nd and 3rd by Miles Grey at Colchester foundry 1659, the 4th by Sudbury bell founder Thomas Gardiner in 1754 and the 6th and heaviest, the Tenor, by Charles Newman at either Colchester or Sudbury in 1686.

Thomas Gardiner was a very successful bell founder, running foundries at Sudbury and Norwich, casting bells for

churches across Bedfordshire and East Anglia, some 80 in total. He died in 1762, having cast his last bell in 1760 at Sudbury. Miles Grey was a bell maker of Colchester and Saffron Walden, one of three Colchester founders of that name.

In 1953 the headstock – beams from which bells are hung – was renewed by Horace Garwood, so that the bells could be safely rung for the Coronation.

## The following details, taken from the Churchwarden's accounts show some of the costs involved in the maintenance and hanging of the bells:

1679	June 14th	Laid out for a bell rope .....	2s.	2d.
	Aug 4th	paid to Daniel Root for mending the bells .....	2s.	
1680	June 9th	Laid out to the bell hanger .....	£5.	10s.
		for fetching the 2 great bell wheels from Bury .....		5s.
		for running the brasses .....		15s.
		for carrying the brasses & bidding the bellfounder drink .....		1s.
		for drink for the bellhanger and those that helped him .....		5s.
1686	Aug 1st	Paid to the bellfounder .....	£6.	5s. od.
		expenses with the bellfounder .....	£1.	1s. 8d.
(Was this the cost and fitting of the Tenor bell made by Charles Newman, dated 1686?)				

Jenny Wears

# Glemsford Fair

**June was the month in which Glemsford's Fair was held, so here is Gilman Game's article from the 1994 Autumn GLHS Newsletter:**

Glemsford Fair was held annually on the 24th June on Tilney Green (sometimes known as Tillets or Tilings Green). It gives some indication of the importance of the fair in the Glemsford calendar that the green eventually became known as Fair Green, or possibly the name was deliberately changed.

The bulk of the fair would be on the present green with various other stalls on the greensward leading up to the present bus shelter. A regular stall-holder was a respected lady known as the Rock Queen (nothing to do with music). She used to buy her sugar to make the rock at the Post Office and pay for it when she returned next year – not bad – a years credit. On one occasion there was a somewhat mangy lion or tiger in a cage.

Apparently one year the fair did not appear and so the right to hold it was lost. My grandfather, from whom my knowledge of the fair stems, maintained that if a single stall had been put on Fair Green the right to hold the fair would have

continued. Coupled to the fact that on 2nd June 1776 there was a meeting in the vestry to try and stop the fair leads me to wonder if there was even a charter authorising Glemsford Fair.

Cavendish Fair was held on the 11th June and at both Cavendish and Glemsford the Sunday before the fair was known as "The Key of the Fair". I have heard Glemsford people tell of going to Cavendish for the key of the fair. I imagine there was probably some ceremony but of what kind I have no idea. It was said that when walking home to Glemsford across the fields from Cavendish fair it was always possible to pick a freshly emerged ear of wheat. This was, of course, before the advent of the much earlier Winter barley.

I suspect that the final fair on Fair Green was probably held about 1910. If so I cannot think that there is anyone alive who would remember the fair, but there is probably some 'second hand knowledge' in the village and it would be interesting if it could be collected before it is all forgotten.

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The Fair was held on June 24th for toys, from 1759, and small general items for peddling were then included. The 1776 vestry meeting was definitely anti-fair.

"Vestry meeting called for the purpose of considering the utility and advantage of permitting the Fair which has been for some years held on a Green called Tilneys, on Midsummer Day at Glemsford, and likewise a Horse Fair at the same time at the 'Bells' in the said Town. We being convinced that the said Fairs are attended with great disadvantage to the Town of Glemsford and its neighbours, are requested to take all legal steps to suppress the same and to advocate that all people may take notice of the same." Robert Butts, Rector.

The Fairs Act of 1871 argued that they were "unnecessary, injurious and the cause of grievous immorality" and the number of

fairs was sharply reduced. Detail from *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk* by Dymond & Martin.

The Glemsford Fair did continue, however, as the following GUDC minutes reveal.

On 26th May 1898: Fair Green is a public highway and steps to be taken to stop any obstruction, "save and except on 24, 25, 26th June, the dates of the annual Fair on which dates the surveyor shall regulate the standing room and collect such tolls as may be instructed by the Highway Committee."

No further mention of the Fair in the minutes up to 1912. It appears that the Green became a highway about 1897 according to some other minutes.

1897 May 13th, it was recommended that Fair Green be leveled, metaled and graveled, the surplus earth being used for filling the ditches.



# Glemsford Fire Brigade

In 1910 there was a fire in a barn at Hungriff Hall – between Hawkedon and Thurston End. Glemsford fire brigade attended and the Hall was saved. On reading about this – in a magazine at the dentist's, I wondered where in the village the engine was kept and who were the firemen? A few weeks later I was reading some memoirs, dated 1923-39 and the author had written about the village fire 'engine'. It was horse-drawn, had two handles and was on a rocker. Two or three men were needed to pump each handle, the men were council workers but I found no details in council records.

The engine was kept in a building at the top of Hunts Hill, "just up from Johnny Edmund's", (possibly near the Old School Hall). In 1978 Ted Hartley recalled Glemsford of the 1920s, and also said the fire engine was kept in a building in this area. By looking at a few photographs in two books of Glemsford, the building would have been in the area of either 7-9 or 13-15 Hunts Hill and Kelly's Directory for 1937 states that the fire-brigade was at Hunts Hill. By 1940/50 the 'engine' was kept in a garage at the back of the Cock public house according to an elderly Glemsford born man of New Cut.

There was a severe fire on 25th April 1891 in New Cut, but the Bury Free Press made no mention of the fire brigade while the Haverhill Echo simply said that 'no fire engine was handy'!

A couple of entries from the Glemsford Urban District Council minute book, 1898: A letter from the captain of the Clare Fire

Brigade, dated 24th Sept. in which he offered the use of their fire brigade at the sum of £1 per annum. The same entry states that a letter was received from Long Melford Parish Council, on Sept.13th, enquiring if GUDC would subscribe to their fire brigade – no price given. A third letter dated Aug. 11th from Cavendish Parish Council, on the same subject, but asking £2 per annum. It was agreed that Clare Old Brigade should be paid £1 for the service of their brigade! No further mention of a fire brigade until the minutes of 2nd April 1907. "From Mr Morris & Son – Fire hose and appliance." No more entries in the records for 1904-1912, so was this 'appliance' the fire brigade used in the Hungriff Hall report of 1910?

The following newspaper report from Sept 4th 1897 (Bury Free Press), gives us the name of the brigade Captain, even if the subject was bad news for the village:

## A Bad Case for Glemsford

Wm. Chaplin a police pensioner summoned for stealing 2lbs of tea from Wm. Chas. Smith, draper of Glemsford. There had been a fire at the premises on 5th Aug and the captain of the Fire-brigade – Sergeant Reeve – employed Chaplin as night-watchman over goods saved from the fire. A packet of tea was seen protruding from his pocket. He dropped 1 and threw another over a wall. Sgt Reeve recovered these. Chaplin sentenced to 1 mths hard labour.

## Jenny Wears

# GLEMSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY News

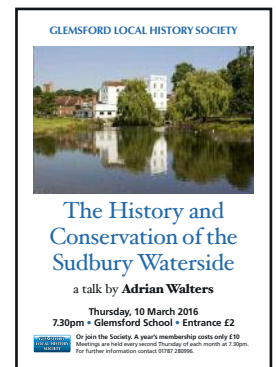
MEMBERS AND VISITORS who attended our March meeting were impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of our speaker Adrian Walters who spoke about the history and conservation of the Sudbury Riverside which is now managed by Sudbury Common Lands Charity. He told us briefly about the rights of the Freeman to graze two beasts (be they cattle or horse) and the Charter to which Richard De Clare fixed his seal in 1260 granting rights to the Burgesses of Sudbury at a cost of 100 shillings and annual rental of 40 shillings thereafter.

Adrian went to great lengths to explain how a flood plain works and the expertise and continuous work that is required to

maintain the area as grassland where birds, plants, fungi, insects and reptiles find suitable habitats. Every bit of work from the pollarding of trees, the draining of ponds, leaving trees to rot and assessing the number of cattle required, is designed to maintain the area as a thriving nature reserve.

This was a fascinating talk supported by beautiful pictures and one that will inspire many of us to visit the area more often, hopefully with a greater knowledge and understanding of the work being undertaken for the benefit of us all as well as the wildlife.

**Anne Edwards**



RON MURRELL'S TALK Brandy for the Parson, Baccy for the Clerk – the True Face of Smuggling in the Past, quickly dispelled the rosy glow myth of Kipling's poem and Falkner's *Moonfleet*. Smuggling was, is and has always been a highly organised trade; ruthlessly conducted and controlled by individuals who will stop at nothing to achieve their aims.

A plentiful supply of wool was one of the first smuggled goods from 13th century England to France and the Low Countries where it was woven and dyed more cheaply before being returned. However large scale smuggling really took off during the 18th century when luxury goods – tea, spirits, tobacco, precious metals, lace, – were highly taxed and very expensive.

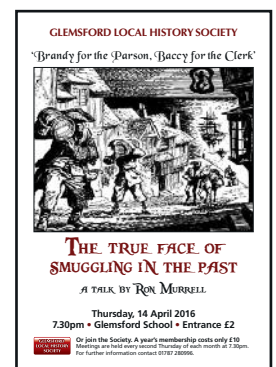
Large open topped rowing boats were used to cross the Channel, then luggers transported the goods further around the coasts, while many horses controlled by tub men and bat men went inland. If caught, penalties were harsh including jail, exportation, even death, but as many smugglers were fishermen already risking their lives at sea for unpredictable wages, most were willing to divert and

engage in the illegal trade for the huge increase in income it promised.

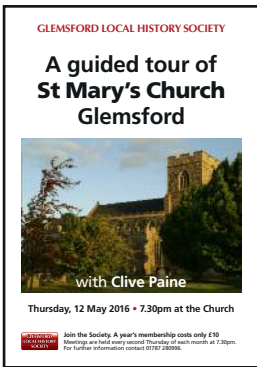
East Anglian coastal terrain, with its lonely swaths of beach and numerous creeks, proved ideal for relatively easy transportation of goods and this, combined with an organised network of land accomplices, ensured the trade flourished. Local communities certainly benefitted from smuggling activities, many colluded with the smugglers although they were also controlled by fear. Retribution for anyone silly enough to inform the authorities was swift and terrifying and many who refused to co-operate when asked to supply horses and the like later sadly regretted such a decision.

Government opposition took various forms but such was the scale of the operation it was all but impossible to police successfully. It was not until 1831 with the introduction of coastguards combined with improvements in law enforcement and communications that the death bell for smuggling was finally tolled.

**Margaret King**







THE MAY MEETING saw the welcome return of historian Clive Paine – as ebullient as ever – give an inspirational and very informative talk on St. Mary’s Church, Glemsford.

From as early as 1086, a Norman church existed on the present site, but by the 15th century Suffolk agriculture was truly thriving offering good employment and growth in villages such as Glemsford. With growth came ambition. Wealthy landowners and wool merchants vied with each other to build the biggest and best status symbols – churches – to serve the population and to ensure their own stairways to heaven.

Thus the 15th century saw St. Mary’s receive two substantial enlargements of north and south aisles, slight differences in arch construction dating them from 1430s or 1480s.

Also at this time, an exquisitely carved octagonal font was erected, resplendent with angels, apostles and intricate flowers. Unfortunately this is now in desperate need of professional and sympathetic restoration for which some fund-raising is currently on-going. As Clive agreed,

it would be very sad to see the church lose such an unique possession.

A walk around the outside reveals fascinating facts about the church’s development and alterations. The wealthy clothier, John Golding (now enshrined in village place names) added, on the south side, a beautiful chapel ornately covered in flint decoration and stone carvings. This left only the less worthy north side for another chapel to be added by a 16th century merchant, John Mundys. Each boasts its own entrance door.

Evidence of Reformation ‘vandalism’ is easily located. Empty niches and blank spaces show where images, inscriptions and carvings have been obliterated in accordance with the religious whims of the time.

Finally, the tower, rebuilt after 1860 having been declared unsafe, but now appearing somewhat stunted. Maybe the Victorian funds ran out! Many thanks Clive for both the talk and tour.

**Margaret King**



FOLLOWING ON from the inspiring talk by Adrian Walters in March, 27 members of the society were given a splendid two hour talk and walk over part of Sudbury Common Lands.

We were blessed by superb weather and splendid sights and sounds of wildlife, including the placid South Devon Cattle grazing and drinking, swans flying and wagtails feeding. The water voles were more elusive but droppings confirmed their presence.

We were again provided with a wonderful mixture of history, wildlife and conservation. Adrian was able to explain how the land is managed, which include the grazing cattle, ditch management and maintaining a diversity of habitats to encourage a wide variety of wildlife.

Members were again enthralled by Adrian’s enthusiasm and knowledge, and so appreciative of the work being done to maintain this rare and truly exceptional space.

**Anne Edwards**



# Some snippets from The Suffolk Free Press 150 years ago

**May 3rd 1866.**

**Glemsford.** The new station on the Cambridge Line operated for the first time on Tuesday last, a considerable number of inhabitants of this village availed themselves of the opportunity to travel between the neighbouring towns of Cavendish, Clare and Melford.

**August 30th.** For sale at the Tye Beerhouse, Glemsford. The Patches Farm, situated abutting the village, good residence and four labourers' cottages. 50 acres.

**Sept 20th.** Murder by a Cavendish man. A few weeks ago an atrocious murder was committed at the Seven Dials, London, by a tailor named John Richard Jeffrey who killed his 8-year-old son. The murderer is well known in Glemsford and Sudbury, we are informed he was a native of Cavendish. On Monday, Jeffrey who is also known as "Mad Mick" gave himself up to police in Halifax. Committed to the Central Criminal Court.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, **Summer Function.**

July 7th Commences with a 'scatter' (quiz) walk. Meet 6.15 for 6.30 start, near Dr's surgery, corner of Lion Road. To finish at Melton House 7.30.  
Non-members/visitors £5

Thursday, **Mark Mitchels:** The Bayeux Tapestry, 1066  
September 8th and the Year of the Three Kings

Thursday, **Peter Thoroughgood:** The Earl, the Rector  
October 13th and the Rogue – How a Sudbury Bank Manager absconded with the town's money

Thursday, **Annual General Meeting.**  
November 10th Followed by cheese and wine, and members' talks



*Some images from our tour of the Sudbury Common Lands  
with Adrian Walters*

GLEMSFORD  
LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY

## Newsletter | Summer 2016 edition

**Annual Subscription:** £10.00 **Visitors:** £2.00 per time

We meet on every 2nd Thursday of the month in Glemsford School at 7.30pm.

We welcome your continued support and that of others. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join us.