

**THE** October 2005  
**HILDERSHAM**  
Issue IX **EXPRESS**

**2 OF HILDERSHAM'S YOUNG SUPER STARS**



**Cross Country Runner - Amy Rouse**



**Gardener & Fund Raiser - Barnaby Palmer**

## A VERY BUSY FEW WEEKS

Since the last Hildersham Express, there has been a whirlwind of activity and events in the village, all with their own unique special moments to remember and cherish.

We started off on **Sunday 28th August**, with a special outdoor service to dedicate the beautiful new sign in the 'Old School Wood', it was a lovely morning, the dazzling shafts of brilliant sunlight, both illuminated and warmed our so aptly described 'open air cathedral'.



As well as the new sign, we learned about all the money the village children had raised and especially with Barnaby Palmer and his garden produce and fair trade stall for the '**Kids for Kids**' charity, which helps deprived children in Sudan, working to provide long term, self-sustainable projects in remote North Darfur. With all the money raised the children of Hildersham have provided several sets of goats, donkeys and a donkey drawn ambulance.



The beautiful new sign has been made for us by the '**Rowan Foundation**'. This Cambridge based group was set up in 1984 to provide high quality training and work experience for adults with learning disabilities. Right from the original conception they have successfully challenged the mistaken view that a learning disability automatically precludes people contributing work of a high standard and our sign is clearly a beacon of this achievement. The group have established a fine reputation for unique wood and ceramic art. Can you identify all the 'natural' jigsaw pieces that make up this new Hildersham treasure?

After the service we all enjoyed refreshments, including the first helping of 'Phil's BBQ talents'.

Later in the day on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August, we all gathered at Chime Cottage for a second helping 'Phil & Barnaby's BBQ talents' and a chance to bid a sad farewell to the McKee family, who have all thrilled and entertained the village over the years with their great musical prowess; just how Brid could play all the organ music for the Christmas carols and popular songs at the Pear Tree, without a scrap of sheet music insight, I shall never know; however on a more positive note – with David gone, at least we might stand a chance of winning in the Village Quiz !!! – Humour aside though, we shall greatly miss their talents and



friendship and wish them every success in their new village.



Over the next few weekends, much preparation was going on behind the scenes for the forth coming period of sponsored rides. The first of these events took place on a very wet Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> September, with the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust - Sponsored Cycle ride, despite the appalling weather, we did have a few intrepid visitors and mother and I managed to visit by car, 16 of the Linton Deaneries 21 churches, which stretch from

Cheveley in the north to Shudy Camps in the south, this raised about £40 to be split between the Trust and Hildersham Church.

Then the main event arrived over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September, with the Hildersham & Balsham Churches Sponsored Cross-Country 'Horse' ride. This year was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. There is a tremendous amount of hard work that goes into this event, with a great deal of work being carried out behind the scenes right across the two villages, there are far too many people to mention by name, however I would like to highlight just a few of the Hildersham people who have put in many hours work behind the scenes right through the year, they are Hildersham Ride Committee members, Gerald Franklin for course building and for the use of his land, Robin Meikle, Neil Morton and Phil Wise for jump and course building a lot of which took place in torrential rain and Gerald's daughter Rachel for all her organisational skills.

We had a very successful year, the day traditionally started at 8.00am with Holy Communion out on the field. Shortly after, with minutes to spare, with their usual dexterity and skill the Course Management team, redesigned the course to avoid Borley Wood at Linton as the ride marshals carrying out their last minute checks, had stumbled across in full swing, a 500 strong illegal Rave. However, the ride began on time and was officially started by Anne and Chris Whitworth, who along with Diane Arkwright had come up with the initial idea for the charity ride back in 1981. 264 riders were counted through the start gate and the overcast weather was apparently the perfect riding conditions, all the riders reported that it had been a truly wonderful ride..



A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made this day such a resounding success, it would appear that we will finally have approximately £5600 to distribute between the two churches and our third nominated charity the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

However, if you thought that this weekend had been busy, it was just the warm up event for the marathon weekend that was coming next.

## THE HISTORY OF HILDERSHAM CHURCH BELLS

According to an account of Hildersham Church by Canon Phillips dated 1914: -

"There is accommodation for five Bells, although there seem never to have been more than three. Three beautiful Bells hung in the Tower in 1581, & the smallest weighed 7cwt. 16 lbs. Here they remained unmolested for two hundred & twenty two years, but on September 12th 1803, two of them were taken away & sold, in order to assist the Churchwardens with repairs of the Church; the buyer, however, absconded without paying for them"

The following entries in an old Churchwardens' Account Book will give some indication of how the Church Officers discharged their duties here 112 years ago: -

OCTOBER 9 <sup>TH</sup> 1802	BOUGHT A NEW LOCK FOR THE BELLFRY PREVENTING BOYS GOEING IN 1s. Od.
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This outlay would perhaps have been a more profitable one, if it had kept out the **CHURCHWARDENS** as well as the **BOYS**, as will be seen by the following entries: -

JULY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 1803	PAID FOR VICTUALS & BEER TWO CARPENTERS FOR PULLING THE LEAD OFF THE CHURCH <b>2s. 0d.</b>
JULY 19 <sup>TH</sup> 1803	(i) CARRIAGE OF 44 CWT. 20 LBS. LEAD TO LINTON <b>10s. 0d.</b> (ii) FOR LOADING THE BELLS <b>2s. 6d.</b> (iii) PAID MR. CHAPPELL LEAD OF DO..... <b>4s. 0d.</b>
SEPT. 12 <sup>TH</sup> 1803	A JOURNEY WITH WAGON & FOUR HORSES TO HERTFORD TO CARRY THE BELLS & BROUGHT A LOAD OF SLATE BACK <b>£2 12s. 6d.</b>

This is the finale of a period of work, as between **24th June & 16th July 1803**, the **SOUTH BUSTELER CHAPEL** had been pulled down and the rubble sold. The men were paid 1s 9d per day and the total cost for **28 men days** was **£2. 9s 0d.** The carriage of materials to Linton probably used the wagon & horses belonging to **RICHARD MABBUTT** one of the village's farmers, he was a Churchwarden for 21 years from 1794 to 1815, during some of the poorest years of our Church. In 1801, the **REVD. JAMES GOODWIN** bought the 'Advowson' from **REVD THOMAS SALT** for **£1945** (c.£85,000 today), when he died in 1806; his brother the **REVD. CHARLES GOODWIN** started the recovery, in 1847 his son the **REVD ROBERT GOODWIN** succeeded him and by 1895 in less than 100 years had overseen the complete transformation & beautification of our Parish Church.

Bell ropes were a heavy item of cost between the years 1765 and 1797; it amounted to **£2 5s. 2d.** Antiquarian's record that the Worthy Man who served the Office of Churchwarden considered the Bell Ropes as the perquisite of that Office & acted accordingly, hence perhaps this extravagance. Other items refer to **"SHOOTING YE BELLROPS"** that is the splicing & mending of them in their weakest parts; a task all New Churchwardens have to learn to do!!

The three present Bells were cast at the foundry of **MESSRS. TAYLOR & CO OF LOUGHBOROUGH**, in the year 1880, the last remaining 1581 bell was used in casting the new ones. Their total weight is **24 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb.** & the cost **£223 13s. 9d.** – with **£28 6s. 8d.** allowed for the old Bell.

In an article written in the Cambridge Daily News on the 5th October 1927, entitled **HILDERSHAM FIFTY YEARS AGO - THE MAYOR AND HILDERSHAM AS HE KNEW IT.** It describes how the then Mayor of Cambridge **ALDERMAN JOHN SAMUEL CONDER** returned to Hildersham to talk to a packed Recreation Hut, as this is where he was born in 1865 in Pear Tree Cottage. His father **SAMUEL CONDER** ran a Carpentry & Building firm, in premises that stood next door to the Pear Tree; he also was a Beer Retailer at the Pear Tree Inn.

(See Gibson Article Earlier)

The article describes that John Samuel Conder recalls that in 1877 (50 years ago):-

**"ABOUT THE TIME ALSO THEY HAD ONLY ONE BELL IN THE CHURCH AND THAT ONE, FROM BEING CONTINUOUSLY RUNG IN THE SAME WAY, WAS CRACKED. NEW BELLS WERE PROVIDED BY THE RECTOR AND HIS SISTERS<sup>1</sup> AND THE SPEAKER<sup>2</sup> WORKED WITH THE MAN WHO FIXED THEM<sup>3</sup>. AFTER THEY WERE FIXED A MAN NAMED GEORGE DAVEY<sup>4</sup> COMPOSED A WONDERFUL PEAL WHICH THEY USED TO RING NEARLY EVERY NIGHT, CAUSING PEOPLE FROM LINTON & ABINGTON TO MAKE FUN AT THEM. ANYWAY IT WAS GOOD EXERCISE, CONCLUDED THE MAYOR".**

**1:** Revd. Robert Goodwin, Elizabeth Hemington-Goodwin, Sarah & Frances Goodwin **2:** Alderman John Samuel Conder

**3. John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough 4. Parish Sexton & Rectory Gardener**

The new 1880 bells are all dedicated to the Revd. Robert Goodwin's three sisters, **ELIZABETH** (10cwt 3qrs 4lbs), **SARAH** (7cwt 2qrs 16lbs) & **FRANCES** (6cwt 0qrs 9lbs). They all carry similar inscriptions:

**JOHN TAYLOR & C<sup>o</sup> FOUNDERS  
LOUGHBOROUGH 1880  
IN PIAM MEMORIAM ✱  
IN USUM ECCLESIAE ✱  
IN MAJOREM GLORIAM DEI  
✱ PATRIS ✱ FILII, ET ✱ SPIRITUS SANCTI ✱  
SARAH GOODWIN DEDIT A.D. 1880 ✱**

Roughly Translated as:

**JOHN TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1880  
IN PIOUS MEMORY ✱ ACCORDING TO THE ✱ GREATER GLORY OF GOD THE ✱  
FATHER ✱ SON AND ✱ HOLY GHOST ✱  
SARAH GOODWIN - LEFT THIS BELL - A.D. 1880 ✱**

The man who is still regarded as the leading authority on the History of Church Bells in East Anglia is the **REVD. JOHN RAVEN** (1833-1906), in 1869 he published the first edition of "**CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHURCH BELLS**", in this Hildersham is described as: -

**“having ‘Pits’ for three bells, but only one bell remained,  
dated 1581 and said to resemble the ‘Treble’ at Cotton”**

Raven, later returned just after the new bells were installed. It is recorded that our original 1581 Bells were founded by the Master Bell-Founder from Cotton and that they were cast on site in Hildersham in open bell-pits in Dovehouse Meadow, this must have made quite a scene and must have been the focal point of much village attention, noise and activity.

### **Diary For A Very Busy September of Education, Entertainment & Thanksgiving**

Well as the summer months draw to a close, it is the time of year for the meetings of the Linton and District Historical Society to recommence. The first meeting of the new season is on Tuesday, September 20th at 7.30pm in Linton Village Hall. Our first talk is by an old favourite of ours **BRIAN SUTTON**, telling us all about:

#### **“The Raising of the Mary Rose”**

The start of the new season, is an ideal opportunity to join the Linton and District Historical Society, meetings are held as described earlier in Linton Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from September to May. So why not come and join us, and have a great evening amongst friends, there is always lots of news of what is happening locally in the history world and a chance to discuss your project be it Family, House or Local History with the experts. Membership is still only a mere £8 per year and there is only a very small charge of just £2 for visitors.

Also starting on Tuesday the 20th September, at Linton Village Hall between 10am and 11.30am is the autumn term of the Linton Workers Educational Association (WEA). This term the course should appeal to a wide range of people including both people interested in history, as well as avid Gardeners. As our tutor, this term is **PETER WHITE** and his subject is: -

#### **🌿 “THE PLANT HUNTERS” 🌿**

An exploration of the story of the Plants that lend Interest and Beauty to our Gardens. The 10-week course describes the Contribution of the Plant Hunter,

Nurseries, Botanic Gardens & Botanic Artists to the story of the Garden Trees, Shrubs and Flowers of Today. Most of the flowers and plants that we all love, including the humble Tulip, have had such an adventurous journey on their way to our back gardens, and Peter White is one of the country's leading experts on this subject. This again is far more than just a morning learning about plants, it is a chance to turn off "Trisha" (perish the thought), throw the 'Sudoku' in the bin and come and meet a great bunch of neighbours and friends alike, in a very positive and caring environment. The full fees for 10 weeks are £33, with £25 for concessions. So Why not come along to the first few sessions to see how you get on, it is a step I can assure you, you will not regret.

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE CONTACT: LESLIE ALISON ON 01223 891 154.**

**OTHER SEPTEMBER DATES THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED BEFORE,  
BUT ARE TOO GOOD TO BE MISSED AND STILL NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED IN ARE: -  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH:**

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES BICYCLE RIDE:**

For this event, I have been asked to look after the Linton Deanery group of 21 churches covering an area from Castle Camps to Wood Ditton. As a sponsorship idea, I am going to see how many of the 21 Churches I can visit & Photograph one of their Stained Glass windows on the day. If anyone would like to Sponsor me, remember half the money comes back to Hildersham Church in any case. I will however, let you into a secret as the thought of me on a bicycle, would not be a pleasant sight to see, as Deanery Organiser I shall be going by car, as I have made a commitment to try and visit every church this year. For more details about entering yourself, give me a ring for a sponsorship form.

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH:**

**HILDERSHAM & BALSAM CHURCHES 25<sup>TH</sup> CROSS-COUNTRY RIDE:**

As detailed in last months "Parish Focus" we want to try and make this year's Ride the Best Yet. If you could possibly help on the day as a Marshall or help the two weekends before building jumps and the course, we could really do with your help to keep this vibrant and fun joint community fundraising day flourishing. Please Contact: **NEIL MORTON** (894739) for details.

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH**

**"THE BLOOMING HILDERSHAM BARN DANCE & HOG ROAST":**

with the group - 'Kelly's Eye' - 7.30pm 'till Midnight in the Old Barn, Manor Farm, Hildersham. Tickets £12.50 from the Diane Jamieson at the Pear Tree, Cheryl Wise, Chime Cottage (892088) or Jenny Logan, Mabbutts (891897)

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH:**

**HILDERSHAM HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Followed later in the day by a **BRING & SHARE SUPPER & AUCTION.**

To Celebrate and give Thanks to God and our Local Farmers for all their hard work in another Harvest Safely Gathered In.

***NB: A Pair of Expensive Gucci reading Glasses in a Black Leather cases have been left in the Church, if anyone has any idea of whom they might belong to, Please contact Ruth Moore.***

**Question: Has anyone any idea just How much the Hildersham Road Bridge cost when it was originally built in 1886?**

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