

Hildersham Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

THE CAMBRIDGE EXPRESS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1895.

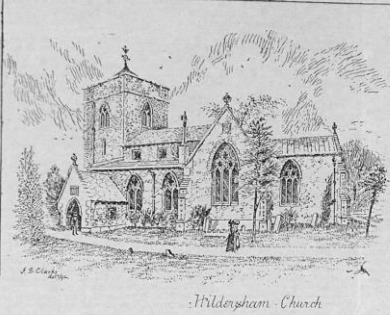
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AN ARTIST'S RAMBLES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.



Hildersham Church

CHERRYHINTON.

Presentations to Mrs. Beck—A short time ago a very handsome presentation was made to the Rev. Canon W. Beck on his vacating the living of Cherryhinton for that of Siston, near Lincoln. It was afterwards found that many of the parishioners, who were much attached to the Vicar, had not been asked to contribute, and so after consultation with the Vicar, they determined to make a presentation to Mrs. Beck and family. This consisted of a very handsome case of dessert knives and forks, purchased from Messrs. Hoed's, silver-smiths, Cambridge. The fine oak box had a brass plate on the top bearing the inscription, "Presented to Mrs. Beck and family by the Parishioners of Cherryhinton," and was much admired. The presentation was made by H. H. Benson, Esq., one of the diocesan representatives, in a very kind and touching speech. Mrs. Beck, in receiving the presentation, said she should not soon forget the happy days she had spent at Cherryhinton. These presentations very clearly prove how much the late Vicar and his family were beloved by the parishioners of Cherryhinton.

FEN DITTON.

Alfred Crispin's death—At a special sitting of the Botolph Claydon on Friday before Messrs. Joseph Clark and William Ambrose, Ernest Newman, of Fen Ditton, was brought up on remand charged with criminally assaulting a child aged four, named Ella Louise, daughter of an engine-driver, of Fen Ditton, in Ditton Meadows, on August 5th. Mr. O. Popperich appeared for the prisoner, who reserved his defence. Prisoner was committed for trial at the Assizes.

BASSINGBOURN.

Inquest—Mr. A. J. Lyon, County Coroner, held an inquest at the Red Lion, Basingbourne, on August 14th, upon the body of William Walker, 56, farm labourer. William Walker, Repton, miller's labourer, son of the deceased, said that his father was not at all feeble, although he had long been lame, but that the other, through its having been twice broken. Witness thought that if he fell down he could have got up again. At times the deceased took too much drink. Albert James Dalton, Basingbourne, deposed to finding the deceased smothered among a number of trusses of straw in a shed situated upon his farm. Deceased appeared to have been dead some days. The shed was some 400 yards from the high road, and he had reason to suspect that person had slept there sometimes. He moved twenty or thirty trusses before he found the deceased, who appeared to have struggled a great deal, and to have drawn some straw upon himself. His head was crushed against the wall. P. C. Wick gave corroborative evidence, and Mr. Rowan Mac Combe, surgeon, of Basingbourne, stated that he considered death to have been due to suffocation. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

FORDHAM.

A Fordham Labourer Drowned at March—An inquest was held at the Temperance Hotel, March, on Monday, before Mr. W. Welchman, Coroner for the life of Ely, on the body of William Fordham, aged 31, a native of Fordham, who was drowned on Saturday evening, whilst bathing in the river known in the district as the "Twenty-Foot." Charles Bates, labourer, said deceased said himself had been pecked together during the day on the farm of Mr. Aveling. Whilst returning from work, they stopped to have a bath.

HILDERSHAM.

Holy Trinity Church at Hildersham is a beautiful structure, and must rank as one of the best restored buildings in the county. The tower and steeple are of late 13th century work, as is also the octagonal font; the nave, two aisles, and chancel are chiefly of the date of the 14th century. The interior is richly decorated, both on the walls and roof. At the north side of the chancel is a canopy recess containing an altar tomb. The canopy is richly moulded and crocketed. The reredos is a magnificently carved piece of marble. The stained glass windows are beautiful, particularly those to the family of Goodwin. In the South Chapel, shown in sketch, is a recumbent statue of the one of Sir John De Freville at Little Shelford. The effigy is that of Sir Robert Bustler, and there are numerous brasses, memorials of the family of Paris, their descendants, Lords of the Manor and Patrons of the Rectory till the 17th century, which are to be found in the chancel. The vestry is, probably, the oldest part of the church buildings, and is situated on the north side of the chancel. It has an arched roof. The churchyard is beautifully kept. Hildersham is nine miles distant from Cambridge, to the south-east of the town, and its church well repays a visit.

[The subject of the next sketch will be Linton Church.]

SAWSTON

The "Express" Waygoose.—The annual routine of the staff of the "Express" Newspaper. *Outing*—On Wednesday last the members

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1904 02 11

Police told Linton magistrates that most public houses were satisfactorily conducted. But the landlord of the Swan, Linton had not exercised control over his guests, the publican of the Three Hills at Bartlow had been convicted of fighting with another publican from Brinkley outside the Montford Arms, Horseheath and the landlord of the Wheatsheaf beerhouse, Duxford had permitted people to remain in his house when drunk. The licence of the Pear Tree, Hildersham was transferred from Frederick Peters to George Gibson. c.27.4

1909 05 28

Mrs J. Wilson was born nearly 100 years ago at Hildersham where her father was schoolmaster. Books were very dear and it was a great event in a scholar's life to have one to write in. There were no steel pens, quills costing a penny each being used. She remembers church services at Babraham where there was a barrel organ worked by a village blacksmith, men and women sat on different sides and while singing turned round and faced the west gallery. 09 05 28

1911 03 03

Hildersham death Sarah Gibson – 11 03 03c

1911 07 28

During a heavy thunderstorm a very vivid flash of lightning set alight to a large barn at Cook's Fen Farm at Hildersham. Rain was falling in torrents at the time, but the flames gained ground rapidly and it quickly became apparent that it would be quite impossible to save it. The barn was destroyed together with the farm implements, some machinery and a number of fowls. Linton Fire Brigade arrived very promptly and prevented the fire spreading to the hay stacks and other buildings which literally surround the barn and the house. Mr G.H. Potter lent horses and carts to bring water from the village after the supply at the farm quickly gave out. 11 07 28k

1912 08 30

The school attendance officer gave evidence against a Hildersham mother who had not sent her child to school. Despite his objections the rector of Hildersham insisted on speaking on the woman's behalf. She had seven children and there had been no previous complaints. One girl had been sent home because of the verminous state of her head; she had also been taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital suffering from adenoids and was under the doctor some days. The attendance officer was wrong to attack a poor widow woman in this way Magistrates made an order for the child to be sent to school 12 08 30e & f

1912 09 20

A Hildersham miller and baker told the bankruptcy court he'd started in 1886 with a windmill at Ickleton, then worked as a baker in London. In 1904 he bought Hildersham mill with two cottages from Mr French for £150 and built a bakehouse. He'd ground and sold the new Standard bread, advertising a great deal and got special vans and extra horses. But his attempts to sell in Cambridge had failed. So he started a shop in Linton for a few months but could not make it pay 12 09 20a & b

1914 03 06

Hildersham gun accident – man's fingers blown off – 14 03 06b

1914 09 04

Hildersham soldier kia

1914 10 09

Military roads - Stretham to Soham, one of four to allow different armies to move from west to east at same time without going through Cambridge. The first from Potton though Harston to Whittlesford and Pampisford and on to London Road near Hildersham.

1914 10 30

Horses for army, Hildersham

1920 01 07 Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631). Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186). Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236). Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422). Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313). Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105) Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1925 09 03

Linton Rural District Council congratulated themselves on the latest movement in their house building campaign. Houses are to be built at Balsham at £400 or less apiece – assuming free sites can be obtained. On these conditions rents of 4s 6d a week are to be charged and the cost to the rates is only a farthing in the £. They were also likely to be able to build houses at West Wickham and Carlton and there were vacant sites at Sawston & Hildersham. The Government would give £12.10s a year for 40 years for every cottage built.

1926 02 19

Linton RDC received an application on behalf of Clare College to a subsidy for the erection of a pair of cottages at Ickleton. Mr Brocklebank said the grant was to enable cottages to be built which could not be built if the grant were not given. He could not conceive that the Mater, Fellows and Scholars of Clare College were unable to afford to build these cottages. The council applied for permission to borrow money for the erection of 12 cottages in the parishes of Carlton, West Wickham and Hildersham.

1926 12 29

A pleasing little ceremony took place at Hildersham when the Mayor of Cambridge (Ald J.S. Conder), who is a native of the village, was presented with an address. Though the population has decreased somewhat of recent years, the inhabitants make up by enthusiasm what they lack in numbers and the mayor received a very hearty welcome back to his old village. The rector said that if anybody had attempted 25 years ago to predict that the Mayor of Cambridge would be a native of Hildersham they would have been disposed to ask in wonder: “can so great an honour belong to so small, so poor and so unknown a place?” They believed that the honour which had been conferred upon him would live in the annals of the village

1927 01 08

At Hildersham dances play an important part in the evening’s entertainment. The foxtrot, which is universally accepted as the most popular present-day dance, has to bow its head to the valeta and the lancers, both of which appear to be great favourites with the inhabitants. One seldom hears of these dances nowadays and few would believe that young people participated, and what is more, enjoyed them. It is a village not ashamed of indulging in what the inhabitants like – however old the dances may be.

1927 10 05

Hildersham inhabitants turned out in force to hear the Mayor of Cambridge, J.H. Conder, talk of the village as he remembered it 50 years ago. There used to be a parish herdsman as the cows belonging to various people all went into a common herd. A great fire had broken out in two places at once. The Rectory farm buildings, tithe barn and Manor Farm barn were burnt down. A large house called the “Rookery” was standing empty and was pulled down so the bricks could be taken to build a new barn. This was a great pity because the house was a very fine one.

1931 12 25

Fire broke out in some lean-to outbuildings at Hildersham Rectory, the residence of the Rev P.R. Phillips. It originated in the gas generator which supplies the house with light. There was one cwt of carbide and a considerable amount of coal in the outhouse but the house itself was not involved owing to the prompt action of firemen in pulling down the sheds and throwing water on the house. 31 12 25d

1936 10 09

South Cambs RDC's water scheme was inaugurated with the opening of the new pumping station between Linton and Hildersham. Previously water had to be carted to two parishes and it is hoped that every household within reasonable distance of the mains would take a supply. Councillors then visited the water tower on Rivey Hill where most climbed to the top and inspected the 87,000 gallon tank. 36 10 09 b & c

1937 01 28

A report from Linton parish council draws attention to the increased heavy traffic through the village and suggests that the old Roman Road from Cherry Hinton should be made up. But this would cost £6,000 a mile. An alternative scheme would be the classification of the existing road leading from the Cambridge-Haverhill road through Hildersham and the construction of a by-pass linking it with the Haverhill road south of Linton 37 01 28

1940 01 19

Treasure Trove. History made in Cambridgeshire on Saturday afternoon, when the County Coroner (Mr. Jasper Lyon) held the first treasure trove inquest of the century. Sitting at Hildersham with a jury of 12, the Coroner took formal evidence of the discovery of a hoard of silver, after the jury had duly recorded that the money did constitute treasure trove, he explained according to practice since 1925 it would probably be returned to the finders—a party of children for a Sunday walk.

1940 02 23

"May-Ladying" at Hildersham. In last week's "Passing Hour" (writes Watchman), Mr. Kidd, of Fen Drayton, gave some interesting extracts from a Histon school log book, one of which was: "1871, May 1st—It is the custom . . . for the girls to go May-ladying, i.e., they go to the principal houses carrying dolls and begging 'Please to 'stow a ha'penny on the poor old Maylady'. This event was common enough in many Cambridgeshire villages in bygone day (writes a correspondent), but the village of Hildersham was looked upon as being the headquarters of the movement. Here the girls, encouraged and helped by the aristocracy in the village, produced one of the finest Mayladies to be seen in the county, parading with it through their own and neighbouring villages. The parade was at its best in early Victorian days, but began to fade out about 70 years ago. There are many old inhabitants now living who can recall the dolls dressed and paraded by the Hildersham girls. The annual Cambridgeshire event became notable, and may be found briefly described in Brand's "Popular Antiquities", published in 1911.

1940 10 18

Golden wedding. — The golden wedding anniversary of Mr and Mrs Stephen George Day, of 29 Brick Row was celebrated on Wednesday. Mr Day who is 74, and Mrs Day who is 70, were married at Hildersham Church in 1890. Mr. Day has worked for the Lord Lieutenant and Mrs Adeane for 42 years. He retired at the beginning of the year but has begun light work again. Six children and are living. One son was killed during the last war

1954 01 21

Cambridgeshire is not a county where woodland areas predominate and the preservation of outstanding trees has long been the concern of the County Council. They have made a tree preservation order covering the double avenue of elms which runs for two miles south of Wimpole Park, one of the finest in England. In recent years some of the trees have been affected by disease but most are in good condition. An avenue of beech trees of great distinction at Hildersham Hall and a

line of horse chestnuts at Harston together with trees in the grounds of the Manor House are also covered.

1956 09 06

The old brick windmill in Hurst Park Avenue was built in 1855 by J.M. Mann and ended its working days some 60 years ago when the sails were removed. The mill was last operated by William French from Hildersham whose family have been millers for four generations. It is now used as storage by S.A. Rose, the butcher, whose slaughterhouse once stood close by. 56 09 06

1961 05 05

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They included Hildersham – 61 05 05 & a CIP

1972 07 08

Hildersham pub sale, p10

1972 07 28

Hildersham thrifty village, p4

1973 07 18

Hildersham pub, p8

1973 08 03

Restoration work on the Victorian murals which cover every inch of the chancel at Hildersham parish church has brought a startling change to the interior. They were commissioned in 1880 by the parish priest. The restoration started in February and took 10 weeks to accomplish including cleaning, repairing, regilding and repainting. The dingy state of the murals was not an effect of modern pollution but due to the fact that candles were used exclusively for the church lighting until the 1920s

1977 12 15

Two 600-year-old wooden effigies were stolen from Hildersham church. The eight-foot long effigies of a former lord and lady of the manor were the church's most treasured possessions and two of only 90 such monuments in the whole of the country. They were carved out of oak and carried in front of the funeral processions of the Bustlar family – lords of the manor in the early 14th century. "They were the most treasured of all the beautiful things we have in the church and we all feel absolutely shattered", said a parishioner.

1978 04 22

Hildersham parish church has been the target for thieves for the second time in five months. Church officials unlocked the vestry and walked into chaos. Church documents and stationery had been scattered around the room. But the only item missing was the Victorian desk in which all the church papers had been kept. Last December two valuable 600-year-old wooden effigies were stolen when the church was forced into, but this time there was no damage. Earlier this week thieves walked out of Linton church in full view of three parishioners carrying three antique chairs

1979 07 16

Hildersham watermill, p5

1982 08 06

Keen gardeners at Hildersham are keeping a nightly vigil at their allotments since some of their prize vegetables went missing. While one villager hides among his runner beans another peers from his shed. So far the culprits, who have taken choice onions, potatoes, cauliflowers and carrots, have not been spotted. 82 08 06

