



IN TIME

Ely U3A History Group Members'
Newsletter



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In this week's edition we read how a simple item can generate a lot of history, We learn about early postcards of Ely, how the new king, Charles 11 was welcomed to Cambridge and find out about the chequered history of Whitby Abbey

It is amazing that we have been producing IN TIME for 15 weeks, we want to keep on doing so while we still have no 'live' lectures so please keep your articles coming – we need more.. Send your articles to Maggie Haverson (email address supplied in the email containing this newsletter)

[Ely Cathedral from the Cricket Field - Peter Lee](#)



This is an 'Oilette' post card, produced by Raphael Tuck & Sons Ltd to appear like an oil painting, published in the 'GER series of Picture Post Cards' with a Great Eastern Railway badge in the top-right corner. The scene is from the cricket ground on Barton Road, now part of King's School, which was just a field (on Goal Road) on the 1901 25" OS map, but a 'Sports Ground' (on Barton Road) by the time of the 1925 revision.

The post card was not sent (so there is no date of franking), but because the GER ceased to exist in 1923 (when it became part of the LNER), the scene is from before that date and actually pre-WWI (see the ladies' dresses). The buildings on the right are part of the theological college, and those on the left appear to be the Militia Barracks. You may recall that Kate Cann gave us a fascinating talk on Ely's Militia in November 2018.

A bit of research online shows that the colour post card appeared in the 1911/12 Tuck catalogue, but without the GER badge. There were several other scenes of Ely in this catalogue including another of 'Ely Cathedral from the Cricket Field'; this time as a 'Silverette' photo focussed on the cathedral. Does anyone have any of these Ely postcards? They are not expensive, if you can find them.



History in a Needlecase – Cassandra Rogers



This needle case came down to me from one of my Grannies who must have enjoyed all sorts of sewing if indeed she used all the sewing items in the case. The needles are rusty and discoloured but still intact.

The needlecase must be as old as the mid C19 if not older as Granny had been married twice, my mother being one of the second marriage. Granny came from a large family called Platt who were well known in Oldham, Lancs as part of the firm Mather and Platt for inventing machinery for the cotton industry and a firm known to be very good to their employees. Mather and Platt exhibited at the Great Exhibition where they took textile finishing equipment including an eight-colour roller printer for calico.

The name on the needle case which we can just see is Abel Morrall Co.Ltd, the British Needle Co. Founded in 1700. They also made bone and steel crochet hooks (I have some) needles for tapestries, sail makers, packers and mattress makers. They owned 60 factories in Redditch. At one point they were making 2.5 million needles a week, including “superior steel knitting pins”.

Some Snippets from 1660’s Cambridge – Clinton Tweed

As recorded by Alderman Nerwton in his diary

May, 1660 – The Monarchy Restored



“On Fryday the 11th May 1660 King Charles the Second was proclaimed King by John Edwin Chandler then Maior of Cambridge. The Maior himselfe read the Proclamacion, the Towne Clerke more audibly spoke it after him.....They proclaimed twice in the great Markett Place, once on Pease hill, and against St Buttolphs Church and beyond the Great Bridge and against Jesus Lane and against Trinity Church

.....at night many bonfires in Towne 4 on the great Market Hill great expressions and acclamations of Joy from all sorts.”

“On Thirsday the 10th May, 1660 the King was proclaimed by the University about 3 of the clock in the afternoon 1st on the Crosse in the Great Market place, and then in the middle of the Market place against the Rose.”

“On Saturday the 12th May 1660 the King was proclaimed at Kings College; all the souldiers were placed round on top of their chappell from whence they gave a volley of shott.”

Note - In the 1660's the centre of the current Market Square was occupied by back to back shops with living accommodation above. The market stalls were set up between Market Street and Petty Cury and on Pease Hill and under the arches of the Guildhall. Pease Hill was the area currently between St Edwards Passage and Benet Street. The Market Cross was between the corner of the current Guildhall and St Marys Passage. The Rose was the pub standing where Rose Crescent now is.

Whitby Abbey – Maggie Haverson



I first climbed the 199 steps up to Whitby Abbey as a child when I was on holiday in the town. The ruins are among the most celebrated and certainly one of the most spectacular sights of North Yorkshire situated high on a headland looking out to sea.

The first monastery was founded in 657 by Hilda the Abbess of Hartepool , grand-niece of Edwin the first Christian king of Northumbria, with the support of Oswiu the then Northumbrian king.

The monastery became one of the most important religious centres in the Anglo-Saxon world. In 664 it was the setting for the Synod of Whitby a landmark in the history of the Church of England.

Here, the rivalry between the two strands of Christianity in England, the Celtic and the Roman,

came to a head. Christianity had been brought to Northumbria not only by missionaries from Rome but by Celtic missionaries from Iona in Scotland. The two traditions differed over such issues as how priests and monks should dress and wear their hair, and, most notably, how the date of Easter should be calculated. Eventually King Oswiu decided that the Roman side should prevail, and the Pope's authority was gradually established over the Church in the British Isles.

By the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 the abbey had been abandoned, although there was a substantial town called Whitby down by the harbour. In about 1078 a monk called Reinfrid founded a new monastic community at Whitby. This Benedictine monastery initially probably had timber buildings, but in about 1100 a stone church and buildings were erected as well as a large parish church close by. In the 13th century rebuilding of the monastery church began but was not finished until the 15th century. It is thought that lack of funds were the cause of this prolonged building period.

The monastery was destroyed in 1540 during the Dissolution of the Monasteries and bought by Sir Richard Cholmley who adapted part of the abbot's lodgings into a house. After the Civil War of 1642- 51 Sir Hugh Cholmley did much to restore the family estates and added a grand new wing known locally as the Banqueting House, to the Abbey House.



In the 18th century the Cholmleys moved away, abandoning the Abbey House. The shell of the abbey church was substantially complete until the 18th century. It was weakened, however, by erosion from wind and rain. The south transept collapsed in 1736, much of the nave in 1763, the central tower in 1830 and the south side of the presbytery in 1839.

Ownership of the abbey ruins passed to the Strickland family, who were descendants of the Cholmleys. and in about 1880 Charles Strickland added a wing to the surviving part of the Abbey House, to adapt it for occasional use as a holiday residence

From the early 19th century Whitby became a popular seaside resort, with new terraces laid out on the West Cliff. The abbey ruins became a tourist destination, and rising interest in the site was recorded in numerous engravings and paintings. The publication of Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* in 1897 gave Whitby a major literary association, ensuring that the sinister count would forever be associated with the town.

In December 1914 the battle cruisers *Von der Tann* and *Derfflinger* of German High Seas Fleet shelled Whitby. They were aiming for the Coastguard Station on the end of the headland but instead struck the abbey ruins, causing considerable damage to the west front.. In 1920 the Strickland family handed the abbey over to the Ministry of Works and the ruins are now owned and maintained by English Heritage

[Petty's Pick of the Week](#)

Every day Mike Petty posts on his Facebook group 'Fenland History on Facebook' a number of newspaper clips from his massive archive of local events reported 'on this day' <https://www.facebook.com/groups//102684982076955>

Brickwork closure - Burwell Past Snip July 6th 1971

One hundred years of production of Cambridgeshire White brick is to cease with the announcement that the Burwell Brick Company is to close having been trading at a loss for several years.

It produces 9½ million bricks a year and employs 50 men, 45, are production staff average wage about £20 pounds a week. All will be made redundant.

Since the factory first started production Burwell Whites have been a common feature on the Cambridge in landscape. They have proved popular with local authorities over the years and their light-reflecting qualities were once in demand for the interior walls of hospitals and factories.

For more than 50 years the tall chimneys have dominated the flat fenland landscape.

Now their use is coming to an end and with it a village industry, which grew from a local farmer's interest in coprolite mining in the 1860s.

Although Masters and Company set up in 1864 as coprolite merchants and artificial manure manufacturers, coprolite mining did not provide year-round work and the Company turned to brick making to pick up the slack. By 1888 under the ownership of Colchester and Ball, brick-making was fully established alongside chemical manure manufacture. In the early 1930s Fisons, Packard and Prentice took over the company and Fisons continued with an interest until 1966 when they were bought out by the Istock Brick and Tile Company Limited.

Now in a few more weeks, the brick company will disappear, as had coprolite mining and chemical manure manufacture before it.



This story appeared in a Cambridge newspaper on this date.

[Maps for Free](#)

We have been contacted by Steve Stocks of the U3A in East Suffolk, who is in the Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group which has a quantity of Ordnance Survey maps that had come from a long-established surveyors' office. The vast majority of these are 25" to the mile (1:2,500) maps, about half from the County Series (dated 1904 or 1926/27) and about half

| 20/06/20 | _map-no | 25" County | _county | _title or area covered | _size | _condition |
|----------|-------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| MAP107 | (BD) 26/ 4 | XXVI.4 | Bedfordshire | Upper Stondon (Beds) (1923) | A0 | excellent |
| MAP108 | TL3057-3157 | | Cambs | Bourn (Cambs) | A1 | excellent |
| MAP111 | TL4656NW (1:1250) | | Cambs | Cambridge Cattle Market | A2 | good |
| MAP118 | (CB) 21/13 | XXI.13 | Cambs | Chatteris Winny Farm East | A0 | excellent |
| MAP116 | (CB) 24/ 4 | XXIV.4 | Cambs | Ferryhill | A0 | excellent |
| MAP119 | TL5880-5980 | | Cambs | Fodder Fen (Cambs) | A1 | good |
| MAP117 | (CB) 21/14 | XXI.14 | Cambs | Langwood Welchesdam | A0 | excellent |
| MAP122 | (CB) 21/ 9 | XXI.9 | Cambs | Normoor Pumping Station | A0 | good |
| MAP114 | (CB) 25/ 5 | XXV.5 | Cambs | North Witchford | A0 | good |
| MAP115 | (CB) 24/ 8 | XXIV.8 | Cambs | North Witchford | A0 | excellent |
| MAP121 | (CB) 21/10 | XXI.10 | Cambs | North Witchford | A0 | good |
| MAP113 | (CB) 25/ 2 | XXV.2 | Cambs | North Witchford (1927) | A0 | excellent |
| MAP109 | TL5881-5981 | | Cambs | Prickwillow Swalesdale Farm | A1 | good |
| MAP112 | (CB) 25/ 1 | XXV.1 | Cambs | Wenny Severals | A0 | excellent |

from the subsequent National Grid Plan Series (mostly from the 1960's and 1970's). Many cover areas outside Suffolk and they are being offered to anyone with interest in these historical maps for just the cost of delivery.

The full list is available at <http://aldevalleyfamilyhistorygroup.onesuffolk.net/maps/spare/> and those for Cambridgeshire are shown in the segment here.

If you want to locate a map area you can click <https://maps.nls.uk/os/> and find either the relevant text list or navigate the zoomable layer. This really is an excellent resource exemplified by the screenshot here of part of the 1902 25" map of Ely. Unfortunately, this is not one of the paper maps on offer, but please contact [Steve](#) if you are interested in any of his spare maps (and not just of Cambridgeshire). Please pass this offer on to anyone you think would be interested as he is keen see the floor of his spare bedroom again!

