



# IN TIME

Ely U3A History Group Members'  
Newsletter



Edition 2

9th April 2020

Here is the second edition of the U3A History Group newsletter - In Time. I have had a great response from members who have sent in a variety of interesting historical facts and information. Particularly popular was 'life before' and how times have changed. I am sure everyone has something that they could write about, so please keep your contributions coming and remember keep them to about 300 words so that we can have an interesting selection of topics in each newsletter. Please send them to me [REDACTED] Thank you so much

## Life Before -Wendy Rolph

In the early 1950's my parents moved into a two up two down mid terrace built of red brick. No washing machine but the scullery housed a large brick structure containing a copper wash boiler with a fire underneath to heat the water. Monday was wash day and I remember my mother starting early with the boil wash, the sheets and other robust fabrics. She had a stick she called a dolly posser with which she would stir the washing before lifting it out into a tin bath and thence to a green iron mangle. I helped turn the wooden rollers to squeeze out the water.

Our toilet was to one side of the back door. We had to go outside then turn into the unheated outbuilding. The plumbing was modern with a chain pull cistern that sometimes froze in the depths of winter. My father used to hang a lighted oil lamp near the cistern to try and prevent this. We didn't consider health and safety of course

There was no central heating or double glazing. I can remember family evenings in the living room huddled close to the coal fire. My face was burning from the heat and my back was cold from the draughts. When bed time arrived I used to dash upstairs with a hot water bottle get into bed, push the bottle down to get the sheets warm then pull off the three or four upper layers in one go, pull on a night gown and burrow under the blankets. No duvets in my childhood.



## The evolution of Football Clubs and their names -Heather Carruth

Researching questions for a family quiz began my interest in the evolution of football club names.

1863, began to see clubs forming and coming together in local leagues. Cars, phones and Sat Navs. had yet to be invented so clubs had to pin point where they were, not only to enable fans to find them, but also for them to find clubs to play in their local area. As the game quickly became more competitive, clubs which had initially called themselves strollers ( West Brom) and rambles (Stoke) upped their game. West Brom Albion defined the area in West Brom where the players lived and played. Stoke City clearly told fans where to find them. Around the same time, Plymouth Argyle and others added the name of the Tavern or street where they met to their name as a location marker. Clubs without a fixed ground chose to identify this fact by using words like Rovers, Rangers or Wanderers, initially they played at their opponents grounds or where ever possible.

Another group of clubs used "United" acknowledging that their players were drawn from a number of local smaller teams. Sheffield Wednesday appears to be the only survivor from a group that met and played on a fixed weekday. The football

club's ability to be flexible and move to a Saturday League undoubtedly saved it, whilst the term athletic used by some teams showed that survival solely as a football club had sometimes proved



difficult. Random names eg.” The Hotspurs” sounded very impressive, but probably proved problematical and in this instance, Tottenham was soon added.

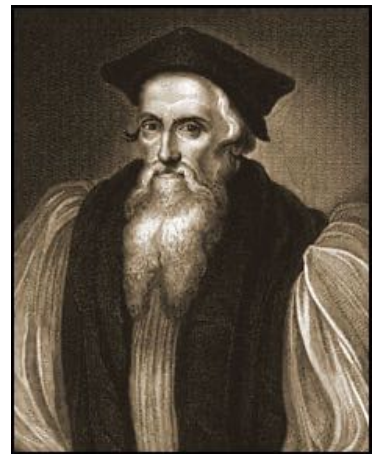
If you are thinking I never knew that; my job is done.

### Returning to our roots -Kate Cann

My cousin had her DNA done last year and sent me some interesting facts last week which I thought I would like to share with you. I have always believed our family on my father’s side originated from Normandy, even though as far back as the 16th century we are recorded (as smugglers) from Bilsington, Kingsnorth, Bletchingden and Dimchurch in the Romney Marshes. The DNA results raised some fascinating facts about my four times great grandmother on my father’s side showing that Bishop John Aylmer who was born in 1521 at Tivetshal St Mary in Norfolk was related to her.

Having a bishop in our family tree caused great amazement in my family. He was educated at Queens College Cambridge in history, Greek and Latin. Cambridge is a place close to my heart, having spent most of my life there, me working in St Johns College and my husband at Queens. It was also interesting to learn that John had been a tutor to Lady Jane Grey the nine day Queen. He married Judith Bures King of Audley End. The family resided at Aylmer Hall which was near Tilney St Laurence near Wisbech. They had ten children, their son John was knighted in the time of Elizabeth I, and it was their daughter Judith who married into my Bletchingden Kent family.

He was noted for being quarrelsome and was often fined for his Protestant beliefs being imprisoned for his non catholic beliefs in the time of Mary 1 but released when Elizabeth 1 came to the throne. John was consecrated Bishop in 1576. and in his later years he became Bishop of London although it is recorded that he would have liked the Bishopric of Ely. He died in 1598 and was interred in St Paul’s Cathedral. - So maybe we do return to our roots at some point in our lives



### Well, I never knew that ! A snippet of History I just found out. -Roger Haverson

In 2019 Britain had 40 million vehicles on the road, and 1870 deaths in road accidents. In 1940 there were 2.5 million vehicles on the road, and petrol rationing halted leisure motoring.

Yet there were 8,609 fatal road deaths, nearly 5 times as many. The majority of these were put down to the blackout.

More people were killed by wartime road accidents than by enemy bombers. Sometimes drastic preventative measures have unintended consequences.

### Fares please!-Maggie Haverson



I found this picture of bus drivers and conductors (clippies) in a lovely old book called The Changing Dales by W R Mitchell. It depicts the rural bus which ran from Hawes to Ripon in the 1940s and 50s. This made me think about the demise of the conductors who were a common feature of town and country bus services in the UK until the late 1970s and early 80s.

Conductors collected passengers' money in a leather pouch slung over their neck and shoulders. There were separate slots in these pouches for documents and different coin denominations while notes were often kept in their pockets. The conductors always seemed to know where passengers had got on and when told their destination always seemed to immediately know what the fare would be. It was of course the punching of the bus ticket (proof that you had paid your fare) with the clipping machine slung over the other shoulder that gave the conductors their nick name of clippie.

The main reason why both drivers and conductors were needed in towns and cities was because most used double decker buses like the Routemaster which had a layout which totally separated the driver in his cab from the passengers. This meant conductors were needed to take the fares,

supervise passenger loading and unloading and communicate with the driver using a series of bell codes, such as two bells to start (the well-known "ding-ding").

In rural areas such as the Yorkshire dales where the photo was taken the author describes how the conductors often needed to display great fortitude as on market days a passenger might board a bus with a basket of eggs, some large rounds of cheese or even on occasion a goat. Those were the days

### Lincoln and Kennedy some interesting facts -Clinton Tweed



Abraham Lincoln was elected to the U S Congress in 1846  
John F Kennedy was elected to the U S Congress in 1946  
Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States in 1860  
John F Kennedy was elected President of the United States in 1960  
Both had an interest in civil rights  
Both had wives who lost children while living in the White House  
Both Presidents were shot on a Friday  
Both Presidents were shot in the head  
Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy  
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln  
Both were assassinated by southerners  
Both were succeeded by southerners named Johnson  
Andrew Johnson who succeeded Lincoln was born in 1808  
Lyndon Johnson who succeeded Kennedy was born in 1908  
John Wilkes Booth who assassinated Lincoln was born in 1839  
Lee Harvey Oswald who assassinated Kennedy was born in 1939  
Both assassins were known by their three names  
Both names are composed of fifteen letters  
Lincoln was shot in the "Ford" Theatre  
Kennedy was shot in a Lincoln car manufactured by Ford  
Lincoln was shot in a theatre and Booth hid in a warehouse  
Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and Oswald hid in a theatre  
Booth and Oswald were both killed before they could stand trial  
A week before Lincoln was killed he was in Monroe, Maryland  
A week before Kennedy was killed he was said to have been with Marilyn  
Monroe

### 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/1026849820769556/>

### **Here's one from 2nd April 1964**

The Mayor of Cambridge fed a parking meter on Peas Hill with a shilling "to make them hungry and ready to bite" as one official put it, and set the new parking scheme in motion.

Long queues of traffic soon formed in streets leading to the Lion Yard car park and motorists had some acid remarks about the meters.

A moped rider complained about finding a ticket stuck to his bike with thirteen inches of sticky tape. From the number of excess charges shown on the meters the city coffers will soon begin to bulge.

