



Our thanks to Julie Johnson for her very interesting and informative talk on the history of Stow Lodge Workhouse and the lives of some of the Paupers who called it home. It was lovely to welcome so many visitors. We do have some information on our website about local 19<sup>th</sup> century families who had a family member buried in the Paupers Grave. Jerry will of course write a brief overview of Julie's talk with an audio version on Jerry's Jabbas.

**Our next meeting is on Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>** when we will welcome Dr Shalena Klazow to share her research on **Medieval Pilgrimages to Woolpit**. Then on June 3<sup>rd</sup> a couple of our trustees will be delving into the history Stowupland's council and our Green and if this seems a curious juxtaposition come along to find out what the connection is.

### **Here's Jerry's take on Tales of Education as presented by Sandra Walker and Neil Langridge**

The March meeting bought us a look at education in the village, both past and present. The



Freemans Primary school is the older of our two schools, but we also have Stowupland High School which was completed in 1978. This image from a local paper shows the first head of the High School explaining the planned layout for the new school.

Some parents may remember children travelling to Bacton Middle School before returning to Stowupland to complete their education at the High School. The free school bus used to go from the Fish and Chip shop in those days. Prior

to the building of Stowupland High in the late 1970s children had had to travel to Stowmarket for secondary schooling.

Neil started the talk by locating an early Dame school in Stowupland and Sandra told us that as early as 1818 concerns were being raised about the lack of available schooling in Stowupland, ***'The poor though desirous, are without the means of instruction'***. If parents wanted their children to be educated, they had to go to Stowmarket. Prior to compulsory schooling many people, adults as well as children, gained some learning at Sunday Schools. These schools taught literacy alongside scriptures.

Boys were taught to read and whilst girls might learn to read, needlework was an important skill to be mastered. It was clear from their research that the school timetable did not cover the variety that children of today take for granted. But as Leslie Brame reminds us, in his

Gently, gently touch a nettle,  
It will sting you for your pains!  
Grasp it like a man of mettle,  
And it soft as silk remains!

autobiography, lessons are not just learnt in school, they are also taught us by the adults we come into contact with. Even in his 70's he still remembered this rhyme his mother had taught him as a toddler, although he did add he never managed to avoid being stung.

In 1838 the Rev Hollingsworth advertised in the Ipswich Journal for a 'qualified schoolmaster' for the Stowmarket and Stowupland National School. The advert stipulated that the applicant '*must be a member of the Established Church, and be well recommended to the Committee, for seriousness, sobriety, and qualifications adapted to the situation*'.

By the 1860's plans for a Parish school in Stowupland were spoken about. The location chosen was a field known as Pitman's Field, adjacent to Holy Trinity Church. Members of the Freeman family were involved in the initial planning for this new building. At the time they lived in Stowupland Hall, and they farmed the land where the school was to be built. It was completed in 1865 and over the years it has had many names but finally its name reflects those first benefactors. In its early years it was supposed to have space for just 64 children but by 1871 it had 41 boys and 47 girls. Over the years it has been extended many times to accommodate an increasing population. It still serves the village today.

Neil spoke about some developments of schools into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Early schools followed wither the British, Board or National models. National schools were a feature of the early part of the new century, though as time moved on it was agreed to move with the times and the National schools were merged with the British schools as early as 1901 and around 1902 Board schools were phased out. *(NB Please note one of the first Jerrys Jabba's that I did was on a talk we had about the National and British Schools in Stowmarket, and this is still available if you would like further information on this subject.)*

But names stuck and it is not always easy to determine in the historical record whether a school was British, Board or National. Parents were expected to pay 1d (old penny) a week. In 1870 education for all children between the ages of 5 and 11 was made compulsory. By the 1960s Local Education Authorities took on responsibility for schooling,

It was interesting to note that research showed that Empire Day was celebrated by pupils at Freemans Primary School in 1908. A Union Jack was displayed in the playground, the National Anthem was played on the day and games were played in the afternoon. It is also worth noting that at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war evacuees arrived and the primary school staff had to make provision for their education. That is a talk for another day.



Sandra and Neil had done a lot of work on this subject, and it is worth noting that Sandra has a lot of information in the village archives. Our audience asked questions at the end of the session, and we had had a welcome cup of tea at half time thanks to Annie and Liz.

**On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1937**, celebration events for the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were held in the village. Six ladies had raised £29 10s 2d from 'house to house' collections to fund a children's party. This was to be an afternoon of sports followed by tea in the school and presentation of souvenir beakers. Due to rain the sports had to be delayed until the following week. Children

received money as prizes: 1/-, 9d, 6d or 3 d for children under school age, and 2/-, 1/6, 1/- 6d for those of school age.

A Coronation dinner was organised for the grownups. A fine dinner was served *'in the beautifully decorated barn of Stowupland Hall... 140 diners with soft light of petrol lamps kindly lent by Mr Chas Gyford.'* (In the 1930s Chas Gyford owned a shop in Saxham Street which although called *The Tailors* seemed to sell a variety of goods.) I assume the ladies paid less for their Coronation Tea as they had done most of the hard work. I doubt everything was ordered in from a catering company.

After the event it was realised that the Coronation Fund had a surplus of £9 10s 2d. This was deposited in a Post Office Savings account to start a fund for the Village Hall.

Did you attend the parish meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. These annual meetings have for many years provided an opportunity for local people to meet their parish councillors and find out what activities have been happening in the village in the last year. The minutes from the parish meeting of 35 years ago, that is May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1991, shows there were 6 parish councillors and 20 members of the public present. In the chair was Councillor Lake, there were 8 apologies for absence.

The evening commenced with a talk by a Mr Ron Bailey from the Suffolk Accident Recue Service. He mentioned that *'more and more doctors in the area were now members, supplied with equipment raised with money from donation.'* He thanked Stowupland Parish Council for support over the years and hoped it would continue.

The meeting then heard a report from Mr Farthing of the Suffolk County Council, in his absence this was read by Mr Lake. Amongst other things mention was made of local government reorganisation (some things never change). Mr Lake mentioned that the High School hoped to take **'on the pond on the green by the Retreat as an environment project'** which would improve the area. Does anyone know if this happened, and do they have any photos or notes about what was done.?

Mrs J. Jones, a governor of the Freeman County Primary School read a few sentences including that that there were 173 pupils on the school roll, and that children on leaving the primary school were now bused to Bacton Middle School.

The minutes included notes on the activities of 11 groups. Less than 1/3 are still active today. Don't forget if you want to know more about the history of your local council come along to SLHG's meeting on Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## MEMORY LANE

We often cite memories from Leslie Brame, who lived in the village from his birth in 1914 to when he left for the Far East in 1939. A few years back a relative of his shared a typed



document of his memories of his life, at home and away. We are extremely happy to say that the URC trustees have agreed that SLHG should look after it on our archives.

As was written in an earlier issue of Telstar, Judy Clarke was instrumental in many areas of village life, one of her projects was setting up the Half-a-Mow area of the Green. The Stowupland Biodiversity Group are keen this should be commemorated with a change of



name to Judy's Half-a-Mow.

They are organising for a sign to be erected near the area and planning to hold an afternoon tea party on the Green on June 21<sup>st</sup> to unveil the sign and to give local people a chance to recall many of the projects Judy took responsibilities for.

Can you share any memories and/or photos of how areas of the

Green have changed over the years? We are unsure of the date for this photo, but can you recognise where it was taken from, or even know the name of the cow?

**Enjoy reading about our talks and what is in our archives then come along to our meetings.**

**If you have any queries about joining us or hearing about Stowupland's past:**

**Please contact Jerry Voden on 01449 703717 or  
[secretary@stowuplandlocalhistorygroup.org](mailto:secretary@stowuplandlocalhistorygroup.org)**

**Visitors to our meetings are always welcome. Just turn up and pay £5.00 at the door.**