

Duton Hill Fun Day -- May 6th 2012

The Group ran a successful stall at the Fun Day. We presented information about the Group and its activities, and also raised some money from a raffle. Darren Stone, Alf Wright and Tom Pedley created some great information boards. Alan Spinks (on behalf of the Community Association) thanked us for participating, and said that our display 'was outstanding and very informative'. Despite the dreadful weather – a typical '2012 Summer' day, i.e. with drizzling rain, and freezing cold – there was a reasonable turn-out during the afternoon, and much interest in the Group's stall.



So, many thanks to those hardy volunteers who manned the stall, as well as those who donated raffle prizes and created the display.

THE THEME FOR THE JUNE MEETING (on June 12th) was 'Tilty Memories'. The format was less formal than usual, to encourage the sharing of personal and local histories. Cecile Down led the proceedings, with an extremely well judged account which included stories of her father's life and work at Tilty. Cec's father, the Rev. Hugh Cuthbertson, moved into the vicarage in 1940; he worked so late at night at first, preparing the house for his family, that his parishioners thought he might be a German spy! As well as his religious duties, he was involved in the evacuee programme during the war, and also founded the Tilty Tobacco Centre. Cec spoke too of her own life, including her marriage to Richard Down at Tilty Church – in the snow – and bringing up her family in Tilty. Alf Wright read out some interesting contributions from Shirley Prail and Tom Cowell, including memories of Fred the Miller weighing the children on his scales, and of the water-carrier kept in the Boys' Cloakroom at Great Easton school. Alf finished with a song based on a John Pudney poem, which the writers of *Last of the Summer Wine* may or may not have stolen!

Cec brought along a fascinating collection of documents, photographs and other artefacts. Alf, Ben, Terry and George also brought along items of interest, primarily relating to the Second World War – and Jane and Maggie were gramophone DJs for the evening, playing a rich and eclectic mix of '78s'. It was an extremely interesting and enjoyable evening; many thanks to everyone who contributed, but particularly to Cec for leading the session so well, and for providing such evocative depictions of life at Tilty.

Oral History is an area which the Group hopes to explore further, and the meeting provided an excellent example of the kind of stories local people have to tell. The proceedings were recorded, and we hope to make the sound files available at some stage, preferably via a web site; it would be great to set up some form of electronic archive, which would allow us to share such interesting resources. If anybody is working on an Oral History project, or has ideas for research in this area – involving interviews with local residents, for example – then please get in touch with the Committee at: Tilty.Archaeology@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday July 10th
 Alf Wright
Pillboxes and Scars of the Second World War

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<p>Saturday 4th August Tilty Church Cistercian Talk Rev. Kenneth Carveley Details to follow – tickets on sale soon</p>	<p>October -- Date to be confirmed Visit to Saffron Walden Library – looking at research material and information, much of it from the Victorian collection.</p>
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The Pathé news clip mentioned at the meeting can be found at: <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/wot-no-cigarettes>
 It can also be accessed via the Group's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/294395137275350/>
 which has links to several other interesting sites – join and explore!