

Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust



NEWSLETTER

Autumn / Winter 2020



James Stevens No.14 under cover

Photograph by Martin Leech

Contents

Working Towards the Trust's Future.....	3
Diary of Trust Events.....	4
Annual Report to Members.....	5
Chairman's Notes.....	6
Frinton Crossing Cottage Garden.....	7
Frinton Football Club: "The Lilywhites".....	8
From the Editor.....	12
Annual Accounts.....	13
The Early Years of <i>Lyndhurst</i> ,.....	17
Heather McGrigor: 1926 - 2020.....	21
The Name of the 'Road'.....	22
<i>James Stevens No.14</i>	28

Disclaimer

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or any persons other than the named author.

Working Towards the Trust's Future

John Barter

Your Executive Committee, Officers and Trustees, all volunteers, have been working on a plan for the long-term future of Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust, led by our chairman, Tony Barrett. It has been noted many times in previous newsletters, and in our reports to the last few AGMs, that the Trust has been managing a huge portfolio of projects for a long time with relative success, despite the 'brickbats' of building rent increases, loss of some key volunteers and now COVID-19 thrown at us. We are still in operation and planning for the future!

You will see from the enclosed accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (in the centrefold of this newsletter) that our current financial position is healthy, so we can ride out the current COVID-19 storm and its long-term after-effects. Please bring the accounts with you to the planned AGM on Tuesday, 1 December, together with the agenda that was included in the last newsletter, as the running order still stands. Please also keep an eye on our website (fwheritage.co.uk) and Facebook page, together with posters in the Trust's noticeboard outside the Crossing Cottage, for any updates to our future programme.

It has been agreed by the Officers and Committee that this year's membership will be extended to 2022. We hope this will encourage you to keep up your membership and interest in the Trust. Please encourage others to renew or join the Trust; we need your continuing membership and support.

As the COVID-19 lockdown begins to ease, we must remain vigilant and alert so that our own members and their families, and any visitors we entertain, remain safe. Therefore, as we begin to run events and activities in the autumn and winter months, you will see that we have insisted on keeping up the required social distancing and protection that we believe is necessary.

The working party formed to help the Trust become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), chaired by Tony Barrett, will report on progress at the AGM and the timetable for the rest of the process during 2021 and 2022.

As the publication on *Frinton's Front*, using postcard images to illustrate the history of this fascinating part of our coastline, is nearing completion, the History Group is researching other aspects of our history which are of particular interest to me and the rest of the team. We also helped *Frinton Summer Theatre* research their history through our archive for their book celebrating 80 seasons of the Theatre. As a result, the Theatre's research team have taken digital images that can be used to form part of the digitisation of our Trust's archive, a project we hope to see progress during 2021.

During lockdown, members of the History Group have been working on finding out about the shops and businesses that lined Connaught Avenue and other parts of Frinton, Walton's High Street, Upper & Lower Kirby and Great Holland. Shops and businesses come and go so regularly that it is difficult to remember when and even where they were. It will become even more important to record all this for posterity, especially as we may lose even more shops after the COVID-19 lockdown eases. I am reminded of my own researches into our district for the period after the Second World War when businesses gradually recovered and people returned to live and holiday on this coast following enforced evacuation to other parts of the country. It is surprising that many houses still had multiple occupancy until the early 1960s because of the lack of housing stock following extensive war damage. Many properties changed hands as new families discovered this area.

We look forward to sharing our plans for the future at the AGM in December and subsequently in the next Winter / Spring Newsletter, due January / February 2021. Thank you for your continued interest and support of the Trust.

Diary of Trust Events

Due to COVID-19, we have had to cancel all activities for the time being. However, we do have three dates for your diary.

Saturday, 10 October: Garden Sale at *Frinton Crossing Cottage Garden*

We will be selling fruit from the trees in the Cottage Garden together with homemade preserves and some plants from 11am to 12.30pm. So, if you have been having withdrawal symptoms from lack of Rachel's delicious marmalade, you will be able to stock up. There will be a one-way route through the garden, entering by the usual gate and exiting at the top end of the garden by the railway crossing. There will be no entry charge this time. If there is another spike of COVID-19 and we have to cancel, this will be posted on the website and Facebook.

Tuesday, 1 December: Annual General Meeting at *McGrigor Hall*, 7.30pm

Postponed from May, it is intended to hold the AGM on what would have been our Christmas Social evening at the *McGrigor Hall*. We believe that the hall is large enough to enable us to social distance, if required. The AGM papers were sent out with the Spring / Summer Newsletter; please bring them with you to the meeting, together with the accounts in the centrefold of this newsletter.

Friday, 1 January, 2021: New Year's Day Walk led by Mike Talbot. Meet at Frinton Crossing Cottage at 11am as usual. The walk will be followed by mulled wine, sausage rolls & mince pies provided by the Trust. Please do not bring food to share. Donation of £3 towards wine and food would be welcome. Please ring 01255 852993 if you are coming, so we know the number of walkers taking part.

If we are able to hold any other events, they will be publicised on our website (fwheritage.co.uk) and Facebook. Also look out for posters around the towns and in the Trust's noticeboard at the Cottage. We hope to be able to hold an indoor bric-a-brac fair in the New Year and to resume the social evenings in February 2021. Details will be in the Winter/Spring Newsletter.

Annual Report to Members for the year ending 31 March 2020

Tony Barrett

These notes should be discussed and agreed by the Executive Committee before publication even though they are prepared by the Chairman. That still remains the intention but it has not proved to be practicable for 2019/20, this report being written in June 2020. Therefore the notes are, of necessity, my interpretation of what has occurred; I fully accept that some members will disagree with the content but the report generally contains known facts and not opinions.

It is not disputed that we need more volunteers at all levels and it is to be hoped that as membership grows, workers will come forward; at 31 March, membership stood at 334. If we are able to find a new venue in Walton after we leave the *Old Lifeboat House* next April, we will want to open any new museum more often, so more help will be needed. Another particular area of concern is the need for competent volunteers to assist with renovations and repairs at all of our sites. Poor publicity remains a problem for the Trust; it is generally agreed that if we are to grow, we need to look beyond our area for visitors and to reconsider the opening hours at our various sites. We need to improve the publicity of the Trust and its events.

Our storage problems have been eased by the use of a garage at Branscombe Close and a successful bric-a-brac sale in February. Your Trust supported Frinton in Bloom; the excellent results were detailed in our last newsletter. *Resorting to the Coast* finished in great style including a splendid open day for local organizations in the Cottage Garden. The *Tendring Heritage Cultural Group* has already started work on spreading the need for conservation and preservation of our unique heritage in the area.

All three museums enjoyed many visitors (but would have liked more) and *James Stevens No.14* had a particularly good summer because of the weather. The extension of the Railway Museum into the waiting room at Frinton-on-Sea station was officially opened on 26 November. New displays have been arranged, in particular on the iconic '309' class train, in part in the waiting room and with more detail in the Museum itself. Also in the waiting room is a bench, at least 100 years old, donated and restored by our colleagues at the Essex & Suffolk Community Rail Partnership. A suitable plaque will be fitted in due course.

At the Walton museum, exhibitions arranged by Liz Bruce and Josie Close were appreciated. Josie left us in September and our thanks must go to her for all her efforts. At Frinton, Liz worked so very hard despite her own poor health and the sad loss of both Mary Dean, her friend and colleague, and then early this year Liz's mother, Joan Warner. Their deaths cast a shadow over this year and beyond.

Both the Spring Fayre and Apple Day struggled in dreadful weather but our volunteers kept going (but were rarely dry!) And, whilst income was down, it could have been so much worse. 75 members and guests enjoyed the Trust's 35th Anniversary Dinner at the Frinton Golf Club. The *James Stevens No.14* fundraising suppers were well supported and our winter socials were well attended. The Cottage Garden has looked lovely for most of the year (despite alternatively being damaged by drought and rain) which is a great tribute to our gardening team.

Our financial position is healthy, as the enclosed accounts show, so we can look back on a good year's work with much enjoyment had by all and the work of the Trust enhanced.

Chairman's Notes

Tony Barrett

When I wrote my notes for the newsletter published in March, I assumed that my responsibilities as your chairman would end in May. You don't need me to tell you, however, that we are living in unprecedented times. You will appreciate that virtually all of our events and outings planned for 2020 have been cancelled, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) arranged for May. Thanks go to all my colleagues on your Executive Committee who, with one exception, have agreed to carry on in their current posts until such time as an AGM can be held. A provisional date of 1 December has been set, but in the current circumstances looking ahead beyond 24 hours is difficult enough; five-and-a-half months into the future is a "lifetime"!

It is very unlikely that any of our museums will open this year and, whilst no final decision can be made regarding the *James Stevens No. 14* suppers, there are obvious difficulties bearing in mind government policy as regards social distancing, etc. All of that which I have written so far paints a gloomy picture, but plans are already being prepared to enhance membership experience in 2021. It has been decided that members who pay their subscription for 2020/21 will not need to pay any fee for the year 2021/22. Our financial position remains healthy, enhanced by a grant of £20,000 from the government via Tendring District Council, to alleviate any additional expenditure or loss of revenue resulting from COVID-19.

The first opportunity for members to gather is likely to be the AGM on 1 December and it is hoped to organise the usual New Year Day walk, albeit with substantial changes. The Cottage Garden will not be open for winter coffee mornings this year. Work is still proceeding on the postcard book on the seafront at Frinton. Work on revising our constitution is continuing and it is hoped to have this moved substantially forward during the next six months.

Digressing, wearing ‘my other hat’ as Railway Archivist, I can report that, though the museum is closed, the new displays in the waiting-room at Frinton Railway Station can be viewed when the fencing presently around the buildings on the platform is removed. Stay safe, stay well and plan for the better times ahead.

Frinton Crossing Cottage Garden

Marion Mear

As I march around on my daily walk, you can see how much pleasure and solace people have got from their gardens during lockdown. Lawns are neatly trimmed, borders are well weeded and hedges cut. One place where most of this is not true, sadly, is the Cottage Garden. While we were in the depths of lockdown and our Tuesday morning sessions couldn’t take place, nature rapidly took over.

We did our best: Martin cut the grass, and what a difference that made. Sue watered all our potted-up plants, thus keeping them alive, if not for a Spring Fair or an Apple Day this year, possibly for a Garden Sale. Many of the rest of us popped in for half-an-hour to pull out goose grass and other things that were making a takeover bid. So we did our best, even though we never met! Mind you, we could glimpse the results of other people’s efforts as the compost bags got fuller and fuller.

Now the worst of the lockdown seems to be over and we are working hard trying to restore the Trust’s flagship garden to something like its best. As groups of a maximum of six socially-distanced people can now meet, we have split our gardeners into two groups: one group of six is there on a Tuesday morning and the other on Wednesday. What a difference this is making!

The beds and woodland are getting back under control, the roses look glorious and, by the time you read this, we hope we will have tackled the long border too. There is, though, still a lot to do, including sorting the compost situation and the outside beds, so it would be really good to have a few extra hands to help, even if only for a week or two. Knowing the difference between a daisy and dandelion would be a good idea, as would having your own gardening gloves, but everything else can be supplied. So think about it; the coffee and cake served every Tuesday at 11am will be waiting for you!

Frinton Football Club: "The Lilywhites"

Linda Ellis

Can you help identify any of these players from Frinton Football Club, winners of the Essex & Suffolk Border League, Division II, 1924-25 Season? From research into *The Clacton News* of 1925 we have the surnames of players in various matches as follows:

W. Shaw, T. Austin & Archie Pink

J. Cross, O. Gentle & W. Parmenter

H. Sparling, ? Buckley, ? Britton, ? Hooker & W. Kerridge

In their last match of the season, Buckley was replaced by T. Mann and Britton by Weston. Also there seems to be a second player from the Mann family.



We have no record of when the Shield shown in this postcard was presented, but the picture was taken in front of the goal on Frinton's Greensward. The mascot, dressed as a *Pierrot*, would appear to go by the name of Banks as he is mentioned in the newspaper.

If you have any information to share, please contact John Barter on 01255 852993.

We thought you might be entertained to read reports on local ‘*derby*’ matches held over the Easter Weekend in 1925 between Frinton and Walton that appeared in *The Clacton News*.

On Saturday, 11 April 1925 this heading appeared:

Frinton v. Walton
Record Crowd on Greensward
No Bones Broken in Local Derby

“A visit to the towns of Walton and Frinton on Saturday afternoon last would have seemed to reveal to the stranger what deserted places such towns were on so brilliant an afternoon. One would naturally ask where were all the towns folk? Such a question would have been fully justified and the reply would instinctively have come ‘Why, on the Frinton Greensward to witness the local ‘*derby*’ between the two towns of these near neighbours. There one could see Waltonians, Frintonians (in the majority) and villagers from the surrounding district, there assembled to urge their respective team to victory, the odds seeming to be three to one on Frinton, for their premier position in the League naturally made them favourites.

“To revert to the game, it was apparent that strict supervision was necessary to keep the play well under control, for there was undoubtedly a strong inward feeling between the rival teams and it is with credit that Mr. D. B. Wright of Clacton, handled matters.

“However, in a word, the play was full of incident, vigorous and exciting, and above all, sporting, for both sets of players did themselves great credit in a contest that bore not little importance in that Frinton had all to gain, whilst a debt account to Walton would not have varied their position in the League very materially. Frinton turned out eleven good men and a mascot, in the person of Banks, who patrolled the field attired in a glaring costume of white with a blue round patch at the back bearing the initials ‘F.F.C.’ and also wore a top hat, which itself was gaily adorned.

“At the interval it was observed that not only was he there as a mascot, but for testing the generous and sporting spirit of the enthusiastic crowd by making a collection and we should imagine he did noble work for the F.F.C., judging by the weight of the box he carried. No doubt linesman West could vouch for this when he received a nasty jab in the lower regions whilst running down the line.

“The spin of the coin favoured Frinton and, without hesitating, the house skipper no doubt did right when he chose to kick downhill and with a strong wind but perhaps with a slight disadvantage in having to face dear old ‘King Sol’. At the

outset the homesters' right got away and 'middling' things looked early dangerous for the 'C. and B.s' but the wind carried the ball to safety. From the resulting goal-kick Walton crossed the half-way line, only to have their attack repulsed by Austin (Frinton), who, with a mighty 'boot' set his quintet on the run, but his forward' shooting when near was lamentably weak. A series of corners to Frinton followed and had it not been for the sterling work of Cole and Co. (Walton), the 'Lilywhites' must have scored. Hereabouts Frinton did find the net and but for one of their men being in an offside position and impeding the vision of the goalie a second or two before the ball was shot, a deserving goal would have been registered.

"No, Walton were not entirely eliminated from the play, for their outside left did good solo work and, resulting from one of his centres, a fruitless corner was secured. To the extent of relieving pressure, the wind was certainly an advantage but as regards ball control it seemed a little too strong. A neat movement, instigated by Britton (Frinton), deserved better fate than consecutive corners and shots over and to the side of the 'target'. The League leaders should certainly have secured a substantial lead in this half, for they had three-parts of the play and were far superior to their opponents.

"Just prior to the 'lemons', the Walton goalie emerged triumphant from a series of onslaughts and with a blank score sheet the curtain was dropped.

"The second act commenced with a determined rush by the 'homesters' and how Walton's custodian saved his side still remains a mystery for Frinton put up a heavy barrage for quite fifteen minutes. Little can be recorded of this half, as it was 'all' Frinton with the exception of an isolated attack here and there by the 'Claret and Blues' and in one of these their centre-forward had a golden opportunity to give his team the lead, when, with only the goalie to beat, he failed. At the other end it was nothing but corners and goal-kicks and yet Frinton could not score, for the man between the 'sticks' for Walton seemed almost impregnable and to him the game owes its fate in a goalless draw."

In a separate section of the same edition of the newspaper, there are additional comments under the heading *MULTUM IN PARVO* (Latin for 'Much in Little'):

"Whilst Frinton should have won on Saturday, credit must be given to the spoiling tactics of the visitors, for their bustling methods considerably hampered the 'Lilywhites' more scientific play. The hero of the game on Saturday was Walton's custodian, he most cleverly negotiating shots with great skill and precision. His cool and collected manner was amazing, for at times he had to save four or five shots in as many minutes. Congratulation, goalie!"

“The fact that Frinton were as good against as with the wind in this all-important match only goes to prove their marked superiority over their neighbours, and in the replay on Easter Monday should, with fortune, emerge triumphant.

“Fortunately there were no bones broken in the local ‘*derby*’ and although the game was of a vigorous character, we have seen these ‘footer’ rivals put in a far more gruelling show. The ‘Lilywhites’ did not even draw ‘claret’”.

Two days later, on Easter Monday, 13 April, the return match was held in Walton with the report of the match in *The Clacton News* of Saturday, 18 April:

Honours Even at The Ashes

Walton v Frinton

By Junior

“Walton Town and Frinton Town met on the Ashes ground on Easter Monday afternoon for the return local ‘*derby*’ during which each side scored four goals. There was a large crowd present notwithstanding the drizzling rain that commenced when Mr. C. Wringe lined the towns up. The ‘C. and B.s’ had two changes from the side that defeated West Mersea: A. Strutt being between the sticks vice W. Drabble, while E. Smith, one of the old faces, came in *vice* Jones. Frinton made one change from their usual combination, Mann coming in for Britton. The ‘C. and B.s’ were first prominent, R. Smith and C. Hills coming close until Austin relieved. E. Smith robbed Kerridge when the winger was getting dangerous, Gentle then set his forwards going and Sparling was well away but his final centre was cleared by Clarke.

“Walton came again and there was a scrummage in the ‘Whites’ goalmouth but eventually the ball was cleared. Frinton now played up better and after having the best of the play, Cross, with a fast drive, found the net to the excitement of their supporters. Play now travelled from end to end. Pink conceded a corner which Shaw scrambled away and then C. Hills hit the upright. A huge clearance by Austin put Kerridge in possession who passed to Hooker. The latter crashed a fast shot against the crossbar with the goalie beaten. Two minutes later the ‘Whites’ netted a second.

“The ‘C. and B.s’ were now nettled by this reverse and from a free kick near the corner flag E. Smith scored a fine goal. Hardly had the cheering abated when Bates equalised for Walton after a bad mistake by the ‘Lilywhites’ defence. Cole, the home left back, was injured and left the field for a time. Both sides attacked in turn but it was Frinton who took the lead again but R. Smith soon equalised and Frinton forced several corners which were successfully cleared.

“The interval arrived with the score 3 - 3.

“The visitors were dangerous from the resumption but Cole relieved. A free against Cross looked dangerous for Frinton but from Kerridge’s drive, Norman sent into Shaw’s hands. Play was transferred to the other end and Strutt was well tested. After some good attempts the ‘Whites’ regained the lead, Mann scoring with a lovely shot. Walton were aggressive now, Pink and Austin being none too safe under pressure. After R. Smith and Bates had made some good attempts, ‘Bunker’ Cook put over a nice centre and C. Hills, slipped around Pink, equalised once more for Walton. With both sides again on level terms both goals had narrow escapes. Cross came close with two powerful drives and Shaw cleared some good shots from C. Hills, R. Smith and Kerridge. Eventually the whistle blew which concluded a game with honours even.

“The teams were:

Walton Town: A. Strutt, A. Clarke and A. Cole;
S. Smith, W. Kerridge and S. Sore
A. Norman, C. Hills, R. Smith, A. Bates and A.E. Cook

Frinton Town: H. Shaw, A. Pink and T. Austin,
W. Parmenter, O. Gentle and J. Cross
H. Sparling, T. Mann, Mann, Hooker and Kerridge

“The match was a good one considering the greasy state of the ground which made ball control difficult and which caused many passes to go astray. It was a better one than on the Greensward and those gallant ones who braved the elements had plenty of excitement and goals. Perhaps on the run of the play a draw was a fitting result although on a dry ground there would have been less goals. Considering it was a local ‘*derby*’ it was a remarkable clean game which is creditable to both sides. Thus another local struggle is over with two points each, the same as last season.”

From the Editor

David Wicks

Items for inclusion in the Winter 2020 / Spring 2021 edition of this newsletter should be sent directly to me or to secretary@fwheritage.co.uk. Please ensure that such material is submitted no later than **Saturday, 14 November 2020**.

Material received after this deadline will NOT BE INCLUDED. Information to be included in the ‘*Diary of Trust Events*’ should also be sent, preferably by email, to Brian Jennings (address above) by **Saturday, 31 October**.

The annual accounts on the next four pages can easily be removed and brought to the AGM on **Tuesday, 1 December**.

Annual Accounts

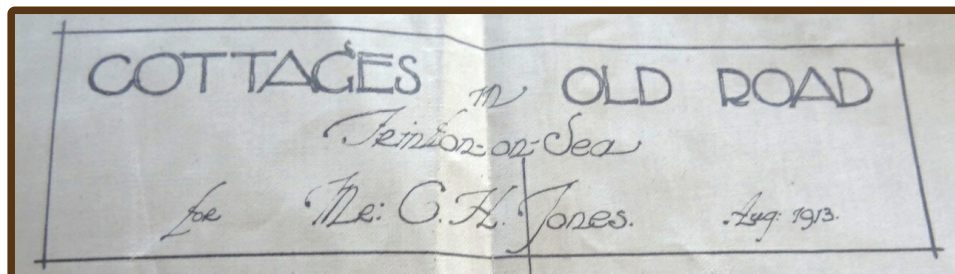
The Early Years of *Lyndhurst*, Old Road, Frinton and the Herbert Family

Anne Flavell

My grandparents, Albert Herbert, aged 28, a grocer's assistant, and Ethel Appleby, aged 26, a dressmaker, were married on 6 October 1909 in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Dedham, Essex. They both came from local families of modest means. Albert James Herbert (1881-1964) was the third of six children and the eldest son of William Herbert (1853-1934), a farm worker from Thorpe-le-Soken, and his wife, Sarah Ann, née Gass (1853-1934). Albert had been brought up in the family home in Landermere Road, Thorpe. Ethel Beatrice Appleby (1883-1969) was the fifth of six daughters of a gardener, Thomas Appleby (1846-1920), and his wife Elizabeth, née Wagstaff, both originally from Colchester. Thomas's work took the family to live in a range of local villages including Great Bromley, Thorpe (where Ethel must have met her future husband), Ramsey, and eventually Kirby.

Albert and Ethel began their married life at 11 Victoria Terrace, Old Kirby Road (now Witton Wood Road), Frinton-on-Sea. There they took in a lodger to help with the rent. At the time of the 1911 census, a stationer's assistant, Benjamin Cranmer Haynes, was boarding with them. (Note 1 below.) But Albert's younger brother William, who was a witness at their wedding, subsequently lodged with them, when he, like his brother, was working as a grocer's assistant in Frinton.

Victoria Terrace, in the 1891 census when Thomas W. Womack, Frinton's first stationmaster, was one of its earliest occupants, was described as "recently built", and it would have been less than 20 years old when Albert and Ethel settled there. But just over four years after they married, Albert and Ethel moved to a brand-new house which would be their home until my grandfather died in 1964. This was *Lyndhurst* in Old Road, Frinton.



Note 1: Benjamin Cranmer Haynes (1873-1960) was a stationer's assistant, originally from Brighton. The 1901 census shows him living in Station Road (now Connaught Avenue) above a shop, before he lodged with Ethel and Albert in Victoria Terrace. In 1915 he married May Louise Mackie (1872-1960). By 1939 they were living just round the corner from Victoria Terrace at 2 Ashburn Villas, School Road, which was his home until his death, just a few weeks before that of his wife.

The plans for two “cottages”, *Spencers* and *Lyndhurst*, were drawn up in August 1913 by Tomkins, Homer & Ley, architects, for the builder Mr C H Jones. These plans, now held in the Essex Record Office, show a pair of semi-detached houses with an attractive Arts and Crafts feel to them. There were already houses in Old Road, dotted in groups with fields in between. The location of *Lyndhurst* would have given my grandfather a very short walk to work, down the footpath that led alongside the new “cottages” from Old Road, past Old Way to Connaught Avenue where Albert worked, firstly at Taylor’s, the grocers, and subsequently at Oliver Parker’s. The plans for *Spencers* and *Lyndhurst* also show, behind the new pair of cottages, and with access from Old Way, a “Proposed Warehouse for Messrs Oliver Parker & Co.”

My grandparents’ next door neighbours at *Spencers* were the Wardley family. James Spencer Wardley, a joiner, originally from Suffolk, had been living in Hadleigh Road with his wife, Ellen, and son, Spencer John. The first occupants of this pair of cottages had presumably chosen the names of their properties when the plans were being drawn up: *Spencers*, from a Wardley family name, and *Lyndhurst* from the village in the New Forest in Hampshire that my grandparents had enjoyed visiting on holiday. Albert Herbert and James Wardley were next-door neighbours for 46 years, James Wardley dying in 1960, four years before my grandfather.

Herbert A. J.		
in account with the Eastern Counties' Building Society Feb 1914		
for an advance of £275.0.0		
Feb 18 th 14	Cash	2 1 3
March 13. 14	Cheque	5 0 0
April 11 14	Cash	3 0 0
May 7 14	Cash	2 10 0
June 11 14	Cash	2 10 0
July 6 14	Cash No 10923	5 0 0
July 16 14	Cheque	5 0 0
Aug 7 14	Cash	2 10 0
Sept 15 14	Cash	3 0 0
Oct 7 14	Cash	3 0 0
Nov 12 14	Cash	3 0 0
Dec 11 14	Cash	3 10 0
		<u>£ 40.1.3</u>
	over	

In order to purchase the property from Charles Henry Jones, at a cost of £380, my grandfather had an advance of £275 from the Eastern Counties’ Building Society. His monthly repayments of £2. 1s. 3d. began on Friday, 13 February 1914. After the first payment, and until September 1916, he regularly paid above the monthly minimum, but from October 1916 until July 1919 the payments were the standard amount. This was the period when my grandfather was away from Frinton during the First World War. He served in the 234th Field Company of the Royal Engineers where “Driver Herbert ... has shewn himself efficient in the care of horses and stable routine duties generally”. During this period the payments were made by my grandmother’s unmarried older sister, Alice Gertrude (Gertie) Appleby (1875-1960), who had a regular income as a housemaid, eventually becoming a lady’s companion. The agreement was that my grandparents would “settle with her later”. A card from the Eastern Counties’ Building Society “With the

Manager's Compliments" dated 8 July 1921 has the handwritten note showing that "The amount now to redeem is £71. 19s. 6d." The mortgage seems finally to have been paid off in 1923, two years after the arrival of Ethel and Albert's only son, Mervyn William, who was born on 19 March 1921. My grandfather's notebook, in which he recorded his repayments, also notes his outgoings for house insurance, furniture insurance and fire insurance, in addition to payments for "aircraft and bombardment insurance".

The early years of *Lyndhurst* can be documented not only by the notebooks and papers kept by my grandfather and preserved by my father, but by the photographs taken by my grandmother's cousin, Annie Southgate. Emily Annie Southgate (1892-1974) and her older sister Elsie Hannah (1886-1970) had both been engaged to young men who had lost their lives in the First World War. Elsie's fiancée had been Albert's brother William. (Note 2 below.) The two spinster sisters lived together in Colchester for the rest of their lives, where they both worked as shop assistants. On days off and on holidays they would travel by train from Colchester to Frinton to visit my grandparents. Annie would carry her Brownie box camera with her. *Lyndhurst*, particularly its facade and front



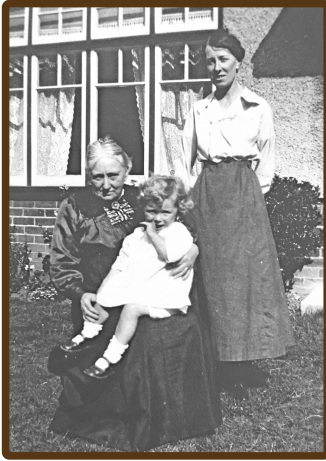
garden, featured in many of her photographs. A photograph taken from outside the front wall shows the open gate bearing the name *Lyndhurst*, and, in the shadowy doorway of the house, Ethel holding in her arms her baby son. Another photo shows Mervyn in his pram on the front path.



Around the same time a family group posed on the front lawn.

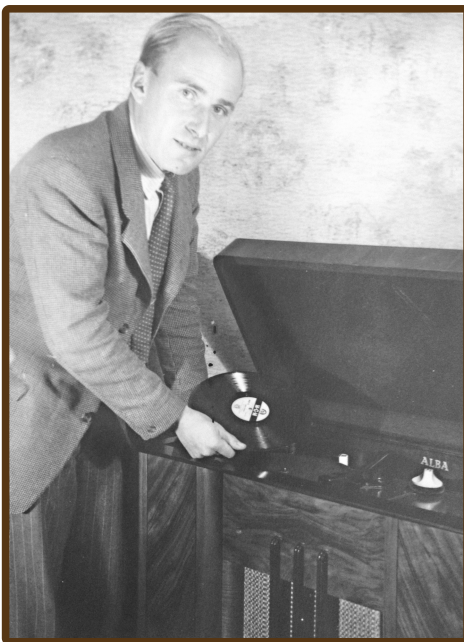
Albert is on the right, cigarette in hand, and to his left his parents, William and Sarah. Behind them is Elsie Southgate standing next to her widowed mother, Emily. All three generations of the family posed together in around 1922, Sarah,

Note 2: William Robert Herbert (1887-1916) was a rifleman in the 16th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme on 15 July 1916, aged 28. He was buried in *Delville Wood Cemetery*, Longueval, France. His name appears amongst the 24 names "of the Frinton men who fell in the Great War 1914-1918" on the plaque on the wall of Frinton War Memorial Club in Fourth Avenue. His name also appears on the war memorial in the centre of Thorpe-le-Soken, below that of his cousin, Maurice Herbert, who died in action the following year, as well as on the memorial plaque in St Michael's Church in Thorpe.



her daughter-in-law, Ethel, and her grandson, Mervyn. A few years later Annie, usually the camerawoman, is photographed mowing the front lawn, while Albert is cutting the hedge between the two houses. Mervyn is looking distinctly more boyish by now!

Mervyn attended *Sterndale High School* in Frinton and then *Clacton County High*, after which he became a pupil in the drawing office of the Engineers' and



Surveyors' Department at Clacton Town Hall (where he worked until local government reorganisation in 1971). He was still living at home at *Lyndhurst* when war broke out in 1939. Having served in the Royal Engineers, he returned to Frinton in 1947. With his war gratuity he bought, from Mann's music shop in Connaught Avenue, an *Alba* radiogram which was installed in the front room at *Lyndhurst*. He had by now assumed from Annie the mantle of family photographer and took this "selfie" featuring his prized possession. My long-suffering grandparents had to take refuge in the back room while my father played his American jazz records in the front.

In 1950 Mervyn married Louise Alice Marriage (1920-2015), the daughter of an Essex policeman. They settled in Holland-on-Sea and subsequently in Clacton.

As their only child and Ethel and Albert's only grandchild, I was fortunate during the 1950s to spend my childhood holidays at *Lyndhurst*. My father's photographs now featured sandcastles on the beach and games on the greensward rather than his childhood home. One photo of this period, taken in 1955, does depict the facade of *Lyndhurst* but only, apparently, as an incidental background to a large black car parked outside!



After Albert's death in 1964 *Lyndhurst* was sold. Ethel went to Clacton to spend her final years living with Mervyn and his family until her death in 1969. Mervyn himself died in 2015. Today *Lyndhurst*, now no. 54 Old Road and named *Friars*, still looks remarkably like its original self.

Heather McGrigor: 1926 - 2020

Rachel Baldwin

There will be some Trust members who still have fond memories of Heather Macgregor McGrigor who died in April aged 94. Following a severe stroke in May 2011, she left her beloved Frinton and was moved to a nursing home in Gloucestershire to be near her six nieces and nephews. The youngest of three children born to Brigadier Dalziel Buchanan McGrigor and his wife, Dorothy, Heather started her life in Fourth Avenue, Frinton. The family built a house, *Ardchoille*, in First Avenue in 1930 and lived there until her father died in 1959 when Heather and her mother moved round the corner into Ashlyns Road.

Heather attended the famous Wycombe Abbey School, then gained a BSc at London University. She worked for some time at Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) before spending some years travelling. She spent 26 years working for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), becoming its General Secretary, organising its conferences worldwide. Her mother died in 1980 and Heather's retirement brought her back to a full life in Frinton where she was involved in the Heritage's activities from its earliest days.

She was able to indulge her passion for gardening with like-minded souls at our Frinton Crossing Cottage Garden, where she was the team leader. She is responsible for the layout and design we still have today. She also was an avid supporter of Frinton in Bloom and was both Chairman and President of Frinton & District Horticultural Society. She would recount a memorable story of a huge marquee collapsing on the Greensward during a Summer Show before the Second



World War. She was a member of the Trust's Executive for many years and was also heavily involved in Frinton Residents' Association, being Chairman and later President.

In 2006 she opened what had been known as the WI Hall in Fourth Avenue. Her mother had been the instigator of its building and so it was renamed The McGrigor Hall which is a lasting memory to the family name in the town.

There will be a brief service at Frinton Old Church in April 2021 to remember a unique and valued friend who contributed much to the life of Frinton-on-Sea.

The Name of the 'Road'

John Barter

This is the first of an occasional series about the roads in our patch and the origins of their names. To start I will describe the original principal roads and names that formed the backbone of our towns and villages. Locations in the text **in bold** can be found on the map overleaf.

The main road from Thorpe-le-Soken to Walton-on-the-Naze ran from the cross at **Abbey House** in Thorpe near the church, down **Landermere Road**, along the Lower Road towards Kirby-le-Soken and **The Street**, then via **Kirby Road** to Walton's Parish Church of All Saints. A subsidiary road, **Thorpe Road**, followed what is now the main road through Upper Kirby to Kirby Cross and then onwards to Frinton-on-Sea. This last stretch was known as Old Kirby Road where it crossed the railway line by **Meer's Farm** and what is now the Esso filling station. The present road, from the level crossing to Walton, was not built until 1926.

Within Frinton, the main lane was the Parish Road that led from the railway gates (by our *Crossing Cottage*) down to the sea passing the **Wick Farmhouse** (now the Library), and **Frinton Hall** (demolished in 1928) to the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, that we now normally refer to as the **Old Church**. The lane would then have meandered across what is now the Greensward to **Frinton Gap Landing Beach** opposite what is now Third Avenue.

From the junction by Frinton's railway gates, the lane going north was Stewart's (or sometimes Stuart's) Lane, now called **Elm Tree Avenue** to Ashes Corner by **Ashes Farmhouse** and the junction with **Kirby Road** which connects Kirby-le-Soken to Walton-on-the-Naze. I am old enough to remember **Elm Tree**



Avenue lined with elm trees forming a tunnel in places. In 1920 this road still only had **six farm cottages** backing onto **Ashes Farm** at the far end. They are still there, a reminder of the lane's agricultural past. The lane was originally named for the Steward's Courts held by local landowners within the Sokens.

On either side of the Old Kirby Road junction with

the Parish Road were ancient farm lanes. To the left was **Witton Wood Lane** (sometimes spelt Whitton) which led to the Cooper Estate's brickworks and field



(now part of and beyond the allotments) and **Whitton Wood Farm** buildings in the fields near Frinton Cricket Club. **Witton Wood Lane** peters out into a footpath to what is now **Kirby Cemetery**; the further end of the footpath was known as

Dead Lane and had farm cottages along it until the end of the 19th century.

Opposite **Witton Wood Lane** is **Pole Barn Lane**, which formed the boundary between the parishes, and later the Urban District Councils, of Frinton and Walton. The **Pole Barn**, an agricultural structure without foundations, is marked on early ordnance survey maps as being on the left-hand side of the lane, opposite the end of what is now **Hadleigh Road**, although a little nearer the sea. Pole barns are now quite rare in the UK, but Tony Barrett has provided a picture of a small reproduction pole barn to illustrate this article. Other farm buildings lined this lane. The railway line, laid out in 1867, followed the side of **Pole Barn Lane** towards the cliff top and then along the cliff to Walton. The railway line was relocated away from the cliff top in 1929.



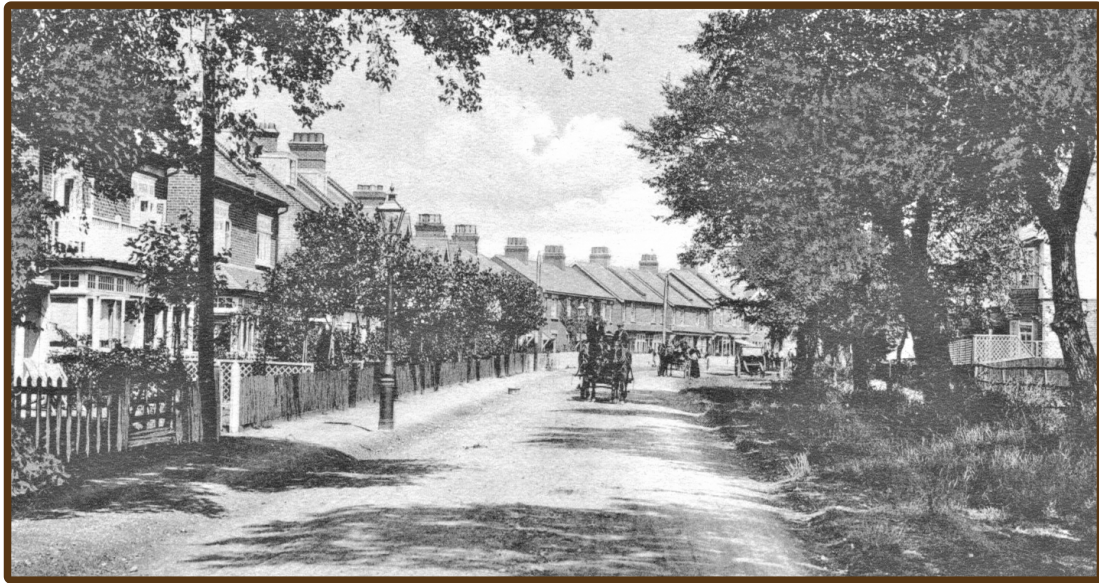
Pole Barn Lane did not end at *Sandy Hook* but travelled north-east along the cliff top towards **Burnt House Farm** which was lost in cliff falls in the earliest years of the 20th century. This end of the lane, shown on early postcards, must have gone by 1919 when Ursula Bloom walked back after the Peace Celebrations Dance at Walton Town Hall in the middle of the night. She writes that she had to walk down the sleepers on the railway tracks back to Frinton as she had no transport to bring her home.





Both **Pole Barn Lane** and **Witton Wood Lane** were lined with trees. **Pole Barn Lane** was not made up until about 1903 when Walton passed this thoroughfare over to the control of the new Frinton Urban District Council, so that Frinton residents could get to the railway station dry-shod! In my childhood, during the 1950s and 1960s, parts of **Witton Wood Lane** remained unmetalled until Branscombe Close and Cranford Close were built.

Once Frinton began to be developed in 1885, Frinton's Parish Road was split becoming Station Road and **Old Road**. An extension to Station Road was cut



straight down to the cliff top from the junction with **Old Road**. Intended as the shopping centre for the new development, it was renamed **Connaught Avenue** by HRH the Duchess of Connaught on 16 September 1904.



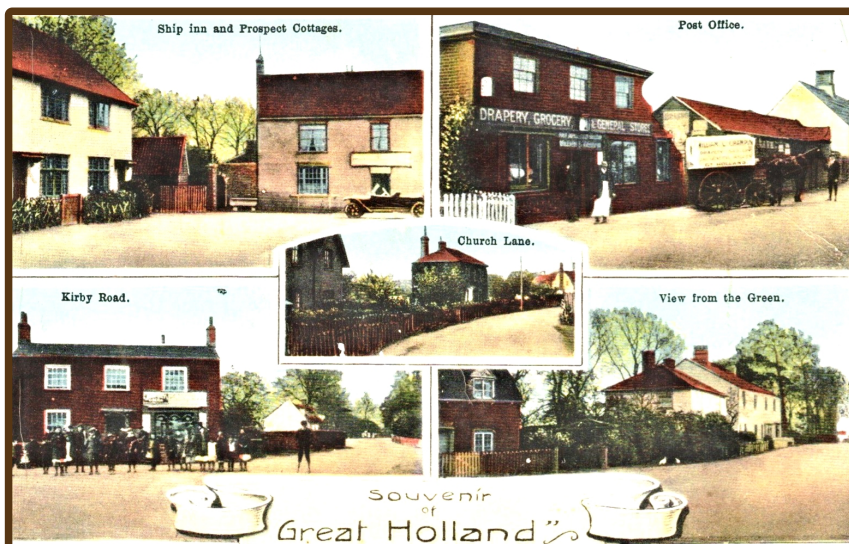
Walton's older roads followed the **High Street** to the original parish church and then the lane struck north becoming **Hall Lane** to **Walton Hall** and the Naze. As the lane along the shore, along with the old church, disappeared into the sea in about 1798 as a result of coastal erosion, a new lane formed a sort of causeway known as Shore

Road, renamed Princes Esplanade by HRH Prince George, Duke of Kent on 25 July 1930. This stretch became the centre of beach entertainment facilities with the **Bath House Hotel**, built by 1818, and Central Beach. Roads off the **High Street**, Shore Road and **Hall Lane** formed the backbone of Walton's residential and commercial facilities. We describe much of the development of Walton in our book *'Postcards from ... Walton-on-the-Naze'*.



Likewise the old village of Kirby-le-Soken was centred on what we now call Lower Kirby and **The Street** with **Kirby Hall** and the parish church of St Michael. Upper Kirby developed along the road from Thorpe to Kirby Cross. Agriculture and the many small farms that lined the lanes formed the basis of Kirby's success in maintaining a high population during the 18th and 19th centuries. Various lanes connected farms with Horsey Island and the quays, landing places in the Backwaters. Kirby Cross was connected to the parallel access roads by **Sneating Hall Lane** and what is now **Halstead Road**, passing **Willow Farm** and **Hill House**.

Great Holland retained its agricultural road layout. From Kirby Cross, **Main Road** crossed farmland to Great Holland Green and then round the corner to what is now **Rectory Road**, past **The Old Rectory**, to the former Ship public house (now called **The Manor**) with **Church Lane** to All Saints' Church and **Great Holland Hall** farm. **Manor Road** passed **Manor Farm** and then dog-legged back to the **Lion's Den** public house where an old lane crossed



farmland to the **Fan Bridge** over Holland Brook. Now called **Common Road**, it heads for Little Clacton and joins **Sladburys Lane** to Great Clacton. Another lane from the **Lion's Den** crossed the marshes to **Little Holland Hall** and has now become the main road from this point on towards Holland-on-Sea.

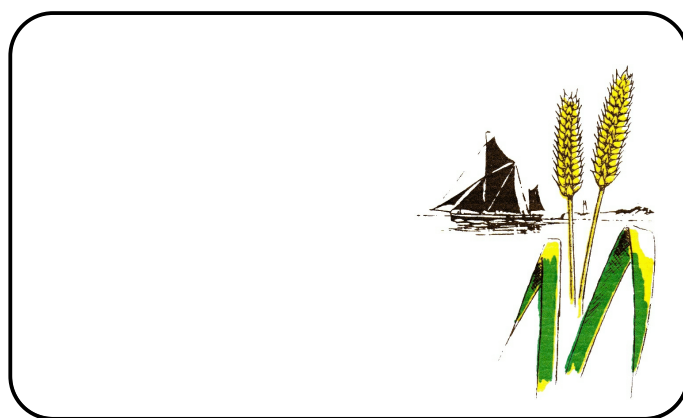
Liz Bruce, the Trust's archivist, has previously written about the origin of **Pork Lane** from Great Holland Green up to **Thorpe Road**, Kirby Cross by *The Firs*, crossing the 1866 railway track on its way.

Now that the bare bones have been discussed, we will look in future articles at the different areas of the district and the origins of the name of those roads in each subsequent development as our towns and villages became larger and more successful in attracting residents through the twentieth century. Road names have been sourced from field names, locally famous people or from obscure decisions by developers and council officers. I remain fascinated by this project and hope you will find it interesting too.

James Stevens No.14

Brian Jennings

COVID-19 and lockdown is much like her restoration some 10 years ago. She spent eight years under canvas; in the nesting season swallows and blackbirds considered her to be their home. Now the boat stays afloat during winter, duly covered up. This year we couldn't lift her out of the water and get ready for the season and visits to festivals and trips. As the covers stayed on, the swallows soon returned to their old nesting grounds! Now it's late summer and Titchmarsh Marina is opening up. Regrettably it has become apparent that we will not be operational this year and will spend our time during the summer and autumn undertaking much-needed maintenance work. We hope 2021 brings better news.



Ask your friends to join the Trust!

For further information about the Trust, contact the Secretary,
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Visit our website fwheritage.co.uk

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