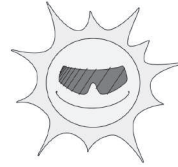




SUMMER 2015



Hello folks,

Summer's here and that means that my raised beds become a bit of a priority. I've planted everything out, now I just need to ensure that all the plants flourish to provide me with some nice salads throughout the summer.

One of the things I like about this time of year is taking an early evening stroll around the village. It's interesting to see the different plants as they come into bloom and the vibrancy of the wildlife as they enjoy a time of plenty. I particularly like to walk up the Avenue, take in the view of Quy Hall and then wander down Station Road to enjoy a pint in the Swan.

I've been receiving several messages from my neighbourhood watch guru (Bill) forwarded from E-cops. I think this is an excellent service; if you are not getting E-cops messages you should find out who your Neighbourhood Watch contact is, get onto their list and they will forward messages on to you. It's always worrying to hear about local crime but, thankfully, crime in our area remains very low. Neighbourhood Watch definitely helps to keep it that way.

Let's have a super summer.

All the best,

Nigel

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT JACKDAW CHATTER
IS AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY**

Bill's Bit

Here we are then with another summer together. That's been tidy decent weather so far but that ein't warmed up much yet. I have had my shorts out a day or two but that seems a bit chilly on the old legs. The sad thing is though that I ein't heard the old Cookoo this year, and April 19th is his day, so he's tidy late. He's been heard in Wilbraham, Horningsea, and Wicken but I ein't heard of any one hearing him in Quy.

I reckon Shirley Hurrell must have been the first to hear him this year though, in late February, but she was in Morocco so that don't count. There ein't nothing like so many swallows and martins about either. I do have swallows nesting again in my stables, but anyone got a house martin's nest on their house? We used to all have a couple or three didn't we? Swifts should have been well nesting by now, and filling the sky all around the Wheatsheaf area. Not one so far! So all our summer bird visitors from Africa and the East are letting us down, but their human counterparts are swarming in like flies. The only difference is the birds used to go away again in the autumn. Something gone wrong with the system somewhere.

Anyway we have had a few bird visitors from closer to hand. Paul Currington tells me that the Cranes are back nesting in Wilbraham Fen. Let's hope the buzzards and Harriers will let them breed this year. The Red Kites were about for a week or two but now seem to have moved on. There are also several Tawny owls around the Crickles area, but hardly any little owls, where as last year there were loads. I haven't seen any little owls in the Orchard, but earlier on we did hear owls calling several nights. (Sorry I don't know which owl makes which noise.)

Earlier this spring I kept hearing a bird making a sort of loud mewling noise down at the bottom of the Orchard. I asked Paul what it was and he said probably a Sparrow Hawk calling for a mate. Well apparently that found one 'cos he's nesting in the top end of Gayne's.

That was a lovely sound even though we don't want too many Sparrow Hawks about, but Paul reckons that as soon as there are chicks in the nest the buzzards will come and take them all. He also tells me the wild pheasants are breeding well. He watched a proud hen with several tiny chicks down Quy Fen. There are several sitting on eggs in Crickles area, and I've seen several single English Partridges where there was a pair earlier, so that probably means the female is sitting on eggs. All looks good for the future.

I also see that Paul has bought a new shoot vehicle. He's got himself a very smart Bentley, 'cos he said he always wanted one! Now that should do well bouncing around the mud and ruts next year with a few brace of dead pheasants in the back, especially as he often has Graham Lee with him with his big feet and muddy boots on.

Sadly the keepers found a young female Roe deer on the railway line that had been killed and mauled by dogs. Coarsers have been seen around the area several times, so if you see any lurchers or big greyhounds well off the beaten track please let Paul know straight away (or me if you don't know Paul's number). Not all bad things happen down the old railway line though. We all know that's a lovely place to walk or bike, especially on a nice sunny day, and Linda was biking down there with her granddaughter last week when a sky lark got up. Now I ein't seen a skylark soar up high while he sings his little heart out for several years, but that is a lovely sight and sound. Linda stood and watched this one for ages and she said that was so nice and brought back all them younger days when we took it all for granted. Her and Mal have also watched the kingfisher darting about over the Horsepond this last few weeks. A bit sad about the swan though, she has been sitting on a nest over on the island for several weeks and now she has left it but no cygnets. Don't know what happened to the eggs, but probably for some reason they weren't fertile. All ein't lost yet, they tell me there is now a swan nesting on the Cut. I've seen her swimming about there but someone said she's got

a nest and is sitting tidy well. You ought to have a wander down the Quy Fen - that's looking a treat. The Cut in all its usual splendour and two new ponds dug in recent years. One over towards Lode way is now established and a new one what they dug this Spring in a corner along Quy hedge. That's all bare and open at the minute but give it a year or two and that'll be as green as all the others. Hopefully that will grow a load of Kingcups as well.

Ein't the rabbit population got to be a nuisance this summer. They went down tidy with this old Pneumonia thing they had in the early part of the year, but since then they've been breeding, well like rabbits. There's a whole lot now in my Orchard, loads down the Fen and all around the Park and Quy estate. We shall have to get Windy busy in a few weeks to thin them out.

There's still a lot of ducks and geese down on the Horse pond, but I ein't seen no young'uns yet. There did seem to be more males than females about so praps the females are all sitting on eggs. I went up on my straw stack a couple of weeks ago and there sat a wild duck. She's been sitting there ever since and fluffs all up if you go near her, so I expect she will bring off a brood. I give her a bit of corn and water most days. Don't know what she will do with them, that's a tidy way from any water, but I suppose she will manage.

All the conker trees have looked a picture this year with their candles. I do hope they are getting over that old fungus thing they've had for a year or two, but I don't know. For the last 50 years, by the end of May the leaves were always so thick and dark you couldn't see no daylight thro the trees, but you can this last two or three years. I reckon that red one by the village sign has done well and looks a picture again. I went down Brittle Drove and was pleased to see all them oak trees what we set for the millennium are growing strong. They are still only small, about 10 or 12 foot though. Still a bit further down there are some Beech and Ash trees I remember a crowd of us helping Morris and Arthur Crisp set when I was about 18, and they are only about 30

to 40 foot tall. So how long have all them lovely grut big old trees we see about Quy been planted? We must say a big thank you to our predecessors, probably old Musgrave Francis for that.

The Ceanothus bushes (Jean told me what they're called) are growing well this year; ein't that a lovely shiny dark blue. I see alongside the road by the bus stop (the bus driver lady's garden) there's a lovely one peeping over the fence, and that's even popping thro the fence in one place.

Not a lot of gossip this time, all my reporters can't remember anything what's happened in the village. Old age I expect like me.

You must have seen the flag flying again on the church. We have had lots of comments on it, all good. Apparently someone saw it from Wilbraham and thought it was in honour of a new royal baby! No it was to honour the Queen's real birthday and St George's day.

Someone from Swaffham phoned me to say it was up a day or two early, but I told them we could only get staff to put it up at weekends so it had to be there for a week at a time. It will probably be up again by the time you read this for the Queen's official birthday. Richard Watts is in charge of hoisting it, but it is a two man job, and if anyone would like to help him, and look at Quy from the top of the church please let me know. The church stairs are very steep and the route from the top of them to the flag pole quite difficult so you would need to be very able bodied, and not scared of heights.

I see we have a new landlord in the Wheatsheaf, his name is James Clarke. They have made a good job of the alterations inside, very comfortable and spacious. I have had a couple of good meals there, so welcome James and good luck on your venture.

I still like the Swan though as a village pub. Gerry keeps it all very friendly and many of his ventures like the Quiz and others are well received by villagers.

Maureen tells me that she thought she had a special visit from the postman the other week. He came to her door and put in an official

form. All that said when she got there was "had something off your stall. No money on me will pay you tomorrow". Never the less her stall is doing brilliant. She raised over £1000 for the church last year, so keep sending her your spare fruit and veg, and any old Bric a Brac you don't want.

Oh well Nigel is back from his holiday now so I had better get this over to him. As usual that's a few days late.

I'm sure you have seen all the changes to the fields in Church Road. Don't they look smart now that Paula, Linda and Jane have put them down to grass and fenced them. I hope they will all be very happy up there. They were good tenants of mine and I shall miss their cheerful presence about the stables here. That does mean though that I've now got a couple of spaces to rent so if you know of anyone looking for stables and grazing perhaps you will let me know. (Nothing like sneaking in a free advert)

See you at the fete on July 18th, usual place. Don't forget to sort out your pictures and handicrafts for the Village Show in the church on September 26th. Don't worry you'll get a schedule thro your door detailing all the classes in the next few weeks. Hope we get a good selection of entries.

Cheers Bill Watts

PS Joan Froment says don't forget the Steam Rally in the Park 25th & 26th July.

Where's that?

If you are not really sure about where some of the places are that appear in Bill's jottings and you'd like to find out a bit more about other parts of the village you may like to know that there is a map on the village noticeboard by the village sign. The map is on the back of the noticeboard and shows where places like Quy Fen are and indicates the pathways that you can use to access them.

Parish Council Update

First off, I must apologise for the lack of a Parish Council Update in the last Jackdaw. On the up side, that means there's plenty to go in this edition.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Annual Parish meeting; it was very good to see so many people taking an interest.

There have been a couple of changes on the Parish Council since the last update. Very sadly we've said goodbye to Helen Devereux who had been a councillor for many years as she's moved out over the Parish boundary. Our loss is Wilbraham's gain and her contribution to the Council will be sorely missed. That left a vacancy on the Parish Council and I'm very pleased to be able to announce that we've co-opted David Kerney from Vicarage Meadow to take Helen's place. For the next year Bill has kindly agreed to take on the vice-chairmanship job that Helen had previously done.

We continue to take up issues with the Highways department at the County Council and the good news is that after a long time when communication seemed to be one way we've started to get some response to the problems we raise. Some of these have now been dealt with and others are unlikely to be addressed any time soon due to budgetary constraints. We will continue to raise these concerns, so please, if you spot problems, bring them to our attention and we'll push for them to be fixed.

In other highway news, we're finally making some progress towards getting the speed limit through the village reduced to 30mph. We've received an estimated bill for making the necessary changes, which comes in at just a shade over £3500, and the county council's 21 day consultation process has begun which includes press notices and notification of bodies such as the emergency services. So long as there are no objections (we had already approached the police about this and they did not intend to object) there will be an announcement in the local press that the change is going to happen followed by the work being carried out.

The cycle path to Lode along Colliers Lane also looks like it's going to go ahead. After a lot of very hard campaigning by Lode Parish Council, funding has been granted for the project and it looks like there are only a few details left to work out for the fiddly bits at either end.

The church green is looking quite a bit better now after the parking tape has controlled the parking somewhat and allowed the grass to recover.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue on Station Road, in particular, so the Parish Council is looking into providing an extra Dog Waste Bin at the end of Station Road nearest the crossroads to make sure that there is no excuse for dog owners not clearing up after their pets. Hopefully, once this is installed, there will be an improvement in the situation.

Finally, we have a fantastic resource in Stow-cum-Quy, in the Rec, but the shame is that this is very under used. To that end we would like to put a reminder out there that the Rec is an ideal location for children's summer parties, sporting fixtures, etc. and for such events the Pavilion can be hired for a very reasonable amount. For details, contact Martyn Livermore, who can schedule events in amongst the Cricket and Football fixtures. He can be contacted by facebook, he's a regular poster to the Stow-cum-Quy facebook page, or else by e-mail on mjl_chcc@tiscali.co.uk or by telephone on 07891234567 or 01487 740 453. Telephone Scams

New Arrivals

To Matt and Jo Eaton, now of Orchard Street, a baby girl Esther Ruth on 18th March.

To Adam and Katie Maguire and big brother Kit (Vicarage Meadow) a baby boy, Casper Charles Maguire on 1st April.

Neighbourhood Watch

Telephone Scams

Criminals today are often unseen, preferring to target their victims through telephone calls and the internet. We all need to be aware so that we do not become victims of scam telephone calls, which come in various guises. These include:-

1. Windows scam

This is a highly-reported scam where the caller says they are calling from Windows and tells you that you have a virus on your computer. The caller goes on to warn the customer that their computer will become unusable if the problem is not fixed and offers to guide you through steps to fixing the problem. Instead of helping you he directs you to download a program that asks you to pay a fee. Windows has warned that they never contact a customer unless you have reported and registered a problem yourself.

2. Microsoft technical department scam

This scam is very similar to the Windows phone scam. Cold callers target residents pretending to be from Microsoft and say something like "we have reason to believe there's a problem with your computer". They will then ask you to log into a website that will give the caller total control over your computer. This will allow them to obtain all sorts of personal financial details without your consent.

3. BT disconnecting phone scam

BT has warned their customers about scammers posing as BT staff. The so-called BT representative tricks customers into revealing their bank details by claiming that they have an overdue bill that needs paying immediately or else their phone service will be disconnected. If a customer refuses the scammers tells the customer to put down the phone and try to call someone. When the customer does this they are unable to use their phone as the fraudsters have not put down the phone on their side, which cons people into thinking that they are

being genuine. The scammers call back minutes later and attempt to collect personal details in order to fix the problem

4. Missed calls scam

When you receive a missed call from a number you don't recognize, do you call it back? Most people do but they are unaware that they may be redirected to a premium rate service. The scam is simple, scammers make 'ghost calls' to a list of numbers, but never complete the calls. You will then get a missed call on your phone and call it back and you will be charged for the cost of this call. Premium rate numbers usually start with 076, 090 and 190.

5. Telephone lottery scams

The telephone lottery scam tricks customers into thinking they've been entered into a prize draw. Later, they find out they've won a prize, but in order to claim it they must first send money to pay for admin fees etc. Obviously, the prize does not exist, but the scammer claims your money and your personal details.

6. HM Revenue & Customs recently warned customers about hoax calls from scammers pretending to be the taxman. The caller tells you that you're due a tax rebate and asks you for your bank details so the money can be paid into your account. Of course the reality is there is no money and the scammer obtains your bank details for personal use.

To avoid these scams you should:-

Join TPS (Telephone preference service), the free service enables you to opt out of unsolicited sales or marketing calls. Though this doesn't stop the Indians who phone at least once a week claiming to be calling on behalf of Microsoft!

Keep a close eye on your phone bill for any suspicious numbers

Never give out your bank details over the phone

Don't publish your mobile phone number online

Warn your elderly relatives, as scammers are more likely to target older or less tech-savvy households. Remain vigilant

Viv Fleet

Quy Fete Sat July 18th 2.00pm In The Orchard



Village Show & Exhibition

Sat Sept 26th in Quy Church

Also Harvest Festival 3.00pm Sun Sept 27th

The Village show on the Saturday will be open for entries in Cooking, Photography, Painting/Drawing, Flowers, Vegetables, & Handicrafts.

(a schedule detailing classes will fall thro your door shortly)

Certificates will be presented to class winners

There will also be an exhibition. Anyone wishing to display their hobbies or collectables see Bill Watts

Entries for the show and exhibition will need to be set up in the church between 9.00am & 12.00pm

**The show will
be open from
2.00pm till late**

Teas , refreshments, a Barbecue, and a Bar will be available

Also competitions on the day, especially for children.

A treasure hunt, brass rubbing, face painting .

If you would like to be involved in helping organise this event,
please ring Bill on 01223 811063

**Free entry to all villagers and visitors. All classes will be free to enter,
but donations to the church would be appreciated.**

Come along and join in the fun.

Picture Quiz

Several people enjoyed our picture quiz in the Spring issue, but only one family sent in a fully correct answer sheet: Richard Watts and family of 8 Orchard Street got them all right. See how well you can do with this set of photos. They were all taken in Quy. e:mail to jackdawchatter@stowcumquy.co.uk



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14

Jo's Allotment

So summer is here again, it really seems to have snuck up on me this year, even though I've had a lovely time introducing Etty to what spring is in the world. We have taken walks down the path in the trees by the edge of the park and seen the brown twigs become green and alive and somehow sharing it with someone to whom this wonder is all new had made me appreciate it so much more (even if she has been asleep most of the time). So with all this appreciation of nature (trees are the best baby entertainers as it turns out – stop and look at the leaves next time you're walking under them, it really is quite amazingly beautiful) the allotment is also a place of educational wonder.

We have had a couple of good days up there, but have to admit that due to other constraints this hasn't been as much as it should have been – sorry fellow allotmenters – but we are now starting to feel on top of things again. Pleasingly we got garlic and broad beans in much earlier in the year so they are already there doing well. Since Etty has come along we've put in lots of potatoes. My reasoning for this is twofold; firstly potatoes are good for the ground, so if we aren't going to have quite as much time as we really need at least they'll stop the weeds and break the soil up nicely and secondly that by the time they're grown Etty will be about ready to start eating solids and I'm sure home-grown mash is a good place to start. Actually, as a third reason, we will probably be able to supply the whole village by summer time... if potatoes just turn up on your doorstep... enjoy! The other allotments are looking wonderful. The rearrangement last year has done a great job. It's lovely to go up there and everything feels so organised. One of the really nice things to see are the little baby fruit trees which have been appearing. We put in two miniature apple trees last year, because fruit trees are one of the best celebrations of life and nature, and they seem to have multiplied over the winter. The blossom was lovely.

There are a few things to be harvested now as well. We've had leeks, spinach, rhubarb and celeriac already this year and the globe artichokes that are already formed are just waiting for my parents to come and eat them with us. The broad beans should be ready by the time this goes to print. Yum! We just need to make sure we get some courgettes in within the next couple of weeks. There's a job for Matt! Away from the allotment we have tomatoes, cucumbers and gherkins in a greenhouse at home. The greenhouse was a gift from Matt's parents for me to "enjoy whilst you're at home with Etty". This is a wonderful idea and I have enjoyed it, I've tried to side shoot the plants and water them with her, I've tried to tell her all about tomatoes and how plants grow from seeds, but feeding and changing get in the way but I shall certainly keep on trying as what could beat learning about the outside world?

The trees which were put up with the jubilee money are looking good as well, lots of blossom and leaves, so there should be fruit all around the village come autumn for us all to enjoy.

On a really rather unrelated note, I just want to take the opportunity to say how much I have appreciated the wonder of living in our village. I feel so lucky to live somewhere where when we go out for a walk there are always people who smile and say hello to us and stop for a chat. It's brilliant, so thanks for all being so friendly. Jo

A Magical Mystery Tour

On 14th May, several Quy residents and guests enjoyed a Mystery Outing with Jans Coaches, organised by Howard Dolby, assisted by Eric Theobald and Joan Froment to Foxton Lochs in Leicestershire. After a refreshment stop en-route at Ringstead Water Mill it was on to th Foxton Restaurant for lunch, followed by a boat trip on the Grand Union Canal. It certainly proved to be a day with a difference.

Interstreet Bowls

The Quay Interstreet Bowls match took place on 30th April, with a crowded Hall of players and watchers. In the heats Church Road just managed to beat Stow Road, while Minter Close comfortably beat Station Rd, Orchard Street were thrashed by Vicarage Meadow, and Albert Rd had a convincing win over Herrings Close. Matt Eaton was late so Kate Watts was substituting for him, and her talents were quickly noticed by David Hurrell, the Station Rd captain, who then commandeered her for his team which was one short.

The first semi-final was so close that at full time it was a draw and an extra end had to be played. Eventually Geoff Hall's Church Road team were victorious, thanks to Graham Beckett and Geoff's skilful bowling. The other semi-final resulted in Albert Road beating Vicarage Meadow six points to three, with David Cole's accurate bowling being negated by Ray Jake's controlled responses.

At the interval the two Shirleys, Hurrell and Thorby, plus Margaret Jakes and others had laid out a very nice table of food. Also beers and wines were offered to the hungry players. Kate had made a very appropriate cake iced to show a bowls carpet and bowls. This was enjoyed by all with Jasper and Scarlet Watts and Leo Foster naturally commandeering the sweet bowls.

Two more games established that Orchard St and Stow Rd would be joint last!

Many people had donated raffle prizes and Dianne Beckett had been selling tickets all evening, so after these two games the draw took place with too many winners to count.

Finally the last three games were played. In the first game Herrings Close just managed to beat Station Rd for 5th and 6th places respectively. In the next game Minter Close easily beat Vicarage Meadow to take 3rd and 4th places respectively. An exciting final of seven ends then took place to decide who won the tournament.

Despite Geoff Hall's Church Rd team (with Linda Garner, Graham Beckett and Sue Hall) playing some brilliant bowls, they were steadily overpowered by Ray Jake's Albert Rd team with Piers Emson, Gareth Price and Helen Jarvis. In this final Gareth played consistently good shots, while Piers' brilliance came out in many deciding throws which ended up alongside the Jack.

The judges decided that the best newcomers certificate would be shared jointly between Kate Watts and Gareth Price

A very good evening closed with thanks from David Hurrell to those who had joined in. He reminded them all that they would be welcome any Thursday evening 7.30 till 9.30. First two nights free and then £2.50 per session. Geoff Hall thanked David and Bill Watts for organising the tournament. and the ladies in the kitchen who had helped run it.

The coveted Quy bowls certificates were sent out the next day to the triumphant team members of Albert Rd.

www.whiteswanquy.com
info@whiteswanquy.co.uk

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at Quy*



News from Darwin Nurseries

Summer is always about good produce so it's nice to see the farm shop filling up with fresh vegetables and fruit.

We are currently harvesting artichokes and broad beans alongside some lovely bunches of Sweet William which we are cutting every day.

As well as harvesting we have been planting too, concentrating recently on the brassicas. These include chard, kale, rainbow kale, cabbages and broccoli which will be ready next year. We've also

got our root crops planted: beetroot, carrots and parsnips. These have all been put into our area of raised beds which you can find behind the main poly tunnels.

The raised beds have now been finished thanks to the help we received from John Lewis. The area offers full wheelchair access and has been topped off with a superb pergola.

We have also been helped by The Prince of Wales Trust in association with Cambridge Regional College which offers work experience to a number of 16-21 year olds.

There are still plenty of salad plants for sale including lettuces, tomatoes, cos and flat leaf lettuce and we are now cutting fresh lettuce leaves on a daily basis for the shop.

We will shortly be planting out all our pumpkins and squashes for harvesting in the autumn and making plenty of strawberry jam.

You are always welcome to come and wander round the whole site. Children love to come and see the animals: the chickens, goats, pigs and rabbits.

Finally we are soon going to have an Open Day in association with John Lewis to mark the completion of our raised beds area: as soon as we know the date we will promote it in the shop.

Have a happy summer.



A shooting record

A little while ago Ellen Francis unearthed the personal shoot diary of her great-grandfather John Francis which she lent to Trevor Linsey. Trevor and I went through some of the entries recently which make a fascinating record of shooting through the ages around this area. The initial page says: *Christmas 1904. John Clement Wolston Francis. From his Uncle Walter.*

The first entry comes just after that Christmas period and reads: *Jan 4th 1905. Madingley. 4 pheasants, 1 hare, 143 rabbits.*

He always listed the names of the other guns with whom he was shooting, which on this day included W.H.Hurrell and Robert Parker. The first entry of the next season covers a double day at Ditton on September 8th and 9th 1905 where he was shooting with just Colonel Ward. Between the two of them they got a few rabbits and pigeons.

After 1913 there are no more entries until 1935. He may have used another book during this period or his army duties gave him little time for shooting.

By the time 1935 came around the bags have a very different flavour, as partridges become the principal element.

September 30th 1935. Quy Hall. 1 pheasant, 385 partridges, 9 hares, 7 pigeons.

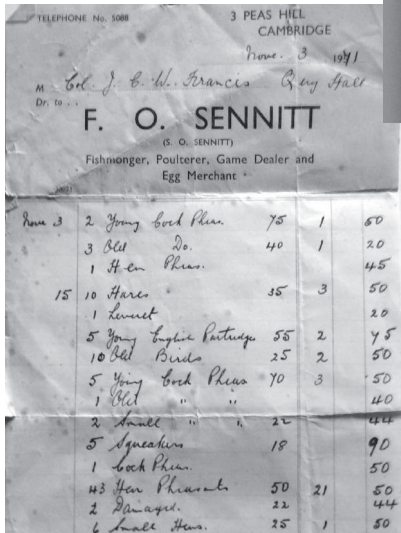
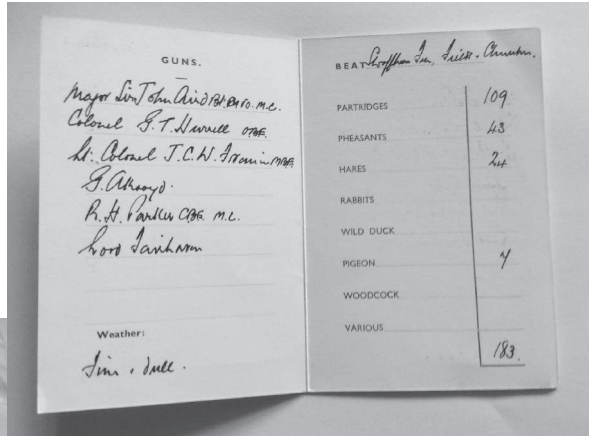
There is one entry for a day that took place towards the end of the war. *October 5th 1944. Quy Hall. 1 pheasant, 401 partridges, 17 hares, 4 pigeons.*

Pride of place goes to a day the following year which John Francis proudly describes as the 'Record for Quy'.

October 15th 1945. Quy Hall. 11 pheasants, 496 partridges, 7 hares.

The book describes all the shoots that he went on to other places like Anglesey Abbey, Elvedon, Ampton, Whittlesey, Stetchworth Park and Newton.

One of a number of Shoot Day cards given to members of the Francis family on their travels. This one was from Swaffham Prior on October 1st 1960.



This 1971 receipt from Sennitt, the game dealer, shows how the value of game has not kept up with inflation. In the middle you can see '5 Young English Partridge' 55p each, total £2.75. The price today, over 40 years on, is still only 50p for a partridge.

Help with the Fete

The fete this year will be held on July 18th in Bill's Orchard. Anyone who would like to help, on the day, or with setting up the day before, would be most welcome.

Any bric-a-brac items that will sell are needed, but no electrical goods, as we are not allowed to sell them. Cakes on the day, please. We would also be grateful for any cuddly toys in new or as new condition for the cuddly toy stall, please; this was a great success last year. All enquiries to Maureen, tel: 811942