

Haddenham Local History Group

The first meeting of the History Group was held to fund CCAN, the Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network, which costs £100 per year to keep going. I was already involved with the library, where Freda's wonderful photo collection and archive had provided much material for CCAN, and as the archive grew it made sense to set up a more formal group, with a proper committee and financial structure, to bring the archive, CCAN and a yearly programme of meetings and events under one canopy. These days the committee is run on a co-operative basis, with only the Treasurer being an official position, and other roles being undertaken on an ad hoc basis by the rest of the committee members.

The archive at the library now holds over 500 items, as does CCAN, and the History Group currently has nearly 30 members. The growth of the archive is partly due to donations of photos and other items from the people of Haddenham, some of the most recent being a growing collection of programmes from the Steam Rally over the years, an archaeological report of fieldwork & excavation in the Fens. There are also the results of projects carried out by members of the Group, individually or as collaborations, which include various house histories, and the work done so far on some of the 196 men of Haddenham so far as serving in WW1. This is being undertaken as a tribute to their service to mark the centenary of the start of the war, and make as many of their stories as possible accessible to a new generation.

Another major project was a complete photo record of every building in Haddenham, Aldreth and Hillrow, undertaken by BC in 2011/2012, some of which he has reproduced in his Then and Now booklets which are on sale in the library.

The collection also holds all the census records for Haddenham from 1841 to 1911, most of them with complete transcriptions done by