

## **Odds and Ends**

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## Doctor

Dr. W.M.Palmer bought the medical practice at Linton in 1900. This included Horseheath, The Camps, Bartlow, Ashdon, Hadstock, Hildersham and The Abingtons. The practice later took on 7 more villages from Babraham to Carlton. The surgeries in the villages were visited by the doctor or his assistants twice a week.

In May 1920 Dr.H.M.Wilson became a partner to Palmer and may have lived in Horseheath at The Surgery, which is now called Wig's Croft opposite Howards Lane. Palmer lived in Linton on the corner of Symonds Lane in a house called 'Richmonds' and was a keen local historian.

## Fair and feast

'A Topographical Dictionary of England', published in 1848 tells us that a fair was held, 'chiefly for pleasure', annually on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Later, 'The Victoria History of the County of Cambridgeshire' reports that a village feast was held on June 5-7<sup>th</sup>.

## Food Gift

In 1948 there was a gift of food from Australia, which was distributed to 25 families in Horseheath - tins of stew, beef dripping, honey and jam, along with bacon rashers and cheeses

## Home Guard

The Home Guard during World War 2 used the barn next to Norfolk House, opposite the Village Green, as their headquarters.

## Margaret Lockwood

Margaret Lockwood, CBE, film, stage and television actress, who became Britain's leading box-office star in the 1940s was a frequent visitor to Horseheath, staying at Limberhurst Thatch off the A1307 by the Withersfield turn, the home of Roy and Eda de Leon, presumably relations of her agent Herbert de Leon and /or her husband Rupert de Leon. She was often in the village at The Post Office and out on walks and struck up several local friendships.

She was born in 1916 and enrolled at RADA at 17, where she was seen by a leading agent, Herbert de Leon, which led to a part in the film, *Lorna Doone*. Several roles followed including a film with Maurice Chevalier before she married Rupert de Leon. In 1938, Lockwood's role in *Bank Holiday* established her as a star, and the enormous success of her next film, Alfred Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* gave her international status. She made two Hollywood films with Shirley Temple and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr but returned with relief to Britain to star in films with Michael Redgrave and Rex Harrison.



In 1941, she gave birth to a daughter, Julia Lockwood, who was also to become a successful actress. The turning point came in 1943, when she was cast opposite James Mason in *The Man in Grey*, which inaugurated a series of films that had cinema fans queuing all over Britain. *The Wicked Lady*, again opposite Mason, enjoyed worldwide success and put Lockwood at the top of Britain's cinema polls for the next five years.

An unpretentious woman, who disliked the trappings of stardom, continued film, stage and TV roles up to 1980. She died in 1993.

## May Day

The maypole was behind The Rectory (now Hartford House) roughly where a tennis court stands today.

## Rubbish Collection

In 1949 there was a rubbish tip at Town End, Horseheath, which near The Red Lion. The contractor was Tom Blackmore, who collected the rubbish once every 3 months. The public were given 7 days notice by the posting of notices in the village.

## St.Valentine's Day

On St.Valentine's Day in Horseheath, boys as well as girls went to as many houses as they could before school, sometimes even before breakfast, to sing this rhyme for pennies:

*"Good morning Valentine,  
Curl your locks as I do mine,  
One before and two behind,  
So good morning Valentine.*

Then came the post and there were not many houses where a Valentine was not delivered. Valentines were of all sorts from pieces of jewellery to pretty bows containing a

hoax and the postmen's call was eagerly awaited from the day before at four o'clock when his horn announced that he was off on his walk to Linton to collect the mail. Some early Valentines were hand-made with pleasant verses composed by the senders and are now prized as works of art.

At midnight on the eve of St. Valentine's Day sentimental girls put their shoes outside their bedroom door believing that their sweethearts would come to fetch them – this custom was followed at The Rectory and other houses.

Farmers used to say that it would be a good year for peas if the hedges dripped on St. Valentine's morn.

## **Wedding Gift**

In 1947 Horseheath contributed £1.7s.6d to the Cambridgeshire collection for a wedding gift to Princess Elizabeth