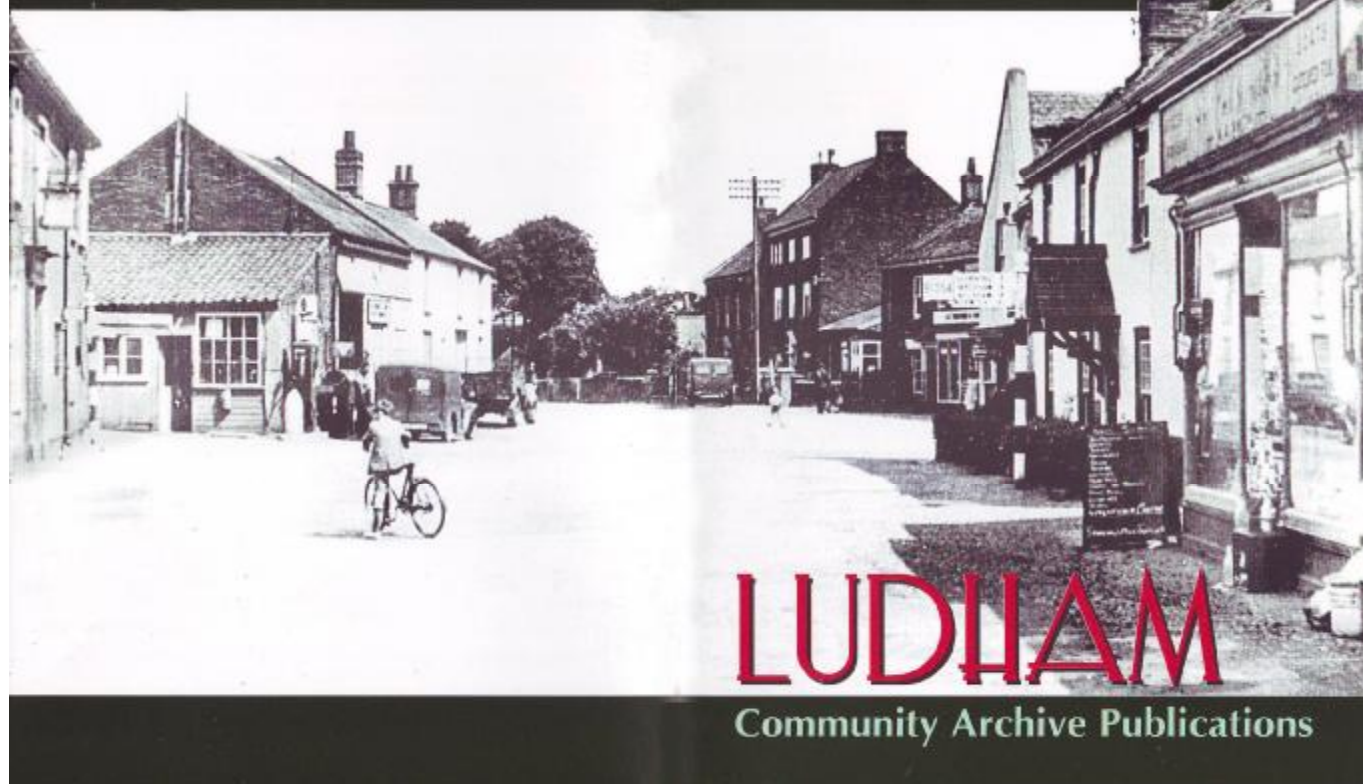


FRITTON ROAD LUDHAM

By
Mike Fuller



The Ludham Community Archive Group

The group came together during the Jubilee year of 2002 to celebrate it through a community event in the village. The result was a textile triptych, which was completed with the collaboration of over 100 residents of the village. It is now on show in the Parish Church of St. Catherine's. We were supported in this enterprise by the Arts Officer of North Norfolk District Council, Brenda Seymore, and by our Art Tutor, Nicky Maule.

While the project was in progress we introduced local walks, led by knowledgeable villagers, to learn more about the community in which we live. Winter walks also evolved from this. We were also introduced to a method of recording the information that we were acquiring during this process and it was at this point that the archive aspect of the project really began.

Ludham Archive is held on computer and continues to expand as further information comes to light. Photographic, pictorial and a variety of other images, supplemented by reminiscences form the basis of the archive. In addition, many people have been interviewed and the results recorded. All of this is seen as a beginning of what should become a continuing process to record the evolution of a changing community. Archive materials are open to access by villagers and can be seen at regular evening meetings. Dates of meetings can be found in the monthly parish newsletter.

The archive provides the source of material to make publications available as CD Rom and other visual media, as well as pamphlets and booklets.

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The hamlet of Fritton lies about a mile east of Ludham Village and is within Ludham Parish boundaries. Once a tiny farming community, Fritton has seen a lot of changes over the last hundred years.

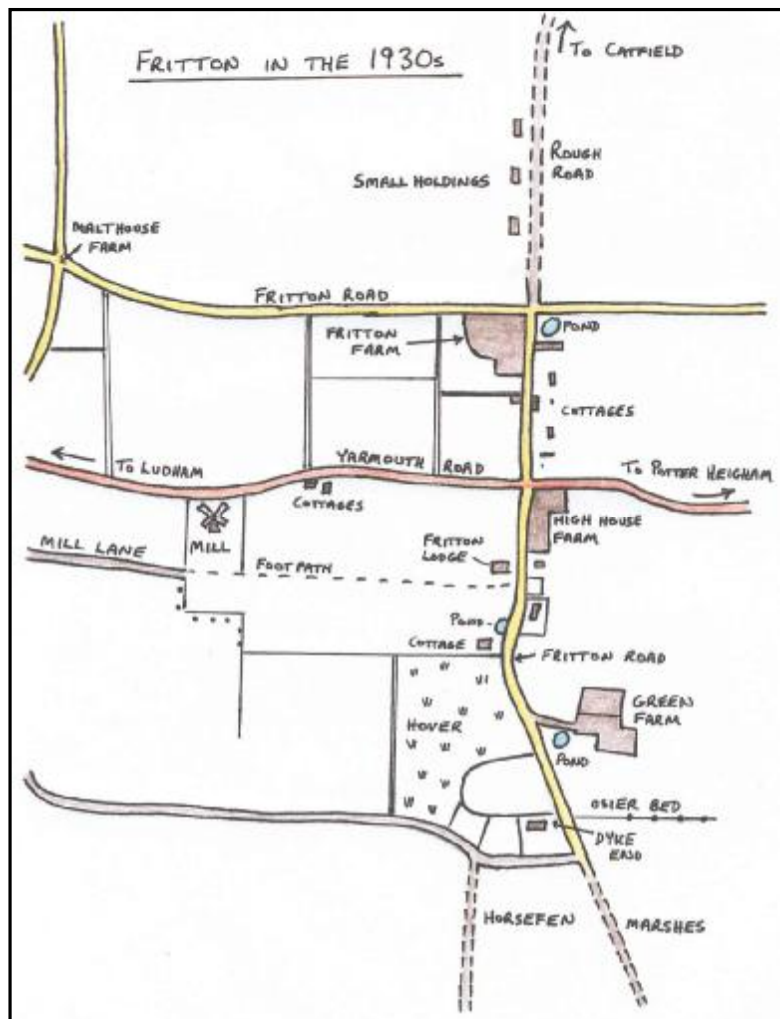
This booklet is by Mike Fuller, long time local resident and Chairman of the Ludham Community Archive Group. Mike grew up in Fritton and here he describes the Fritton of the 1930s and the many changes that have taken place. You are led on a walk along Fritton Road with Mike's memories as your guide. Enjoy the trip.



Mike Fuller on Albion



and Young Mike



Fritton Road forms part of the boundary between Potter Heigham and Ludham on either side of the cross road with the A1062.

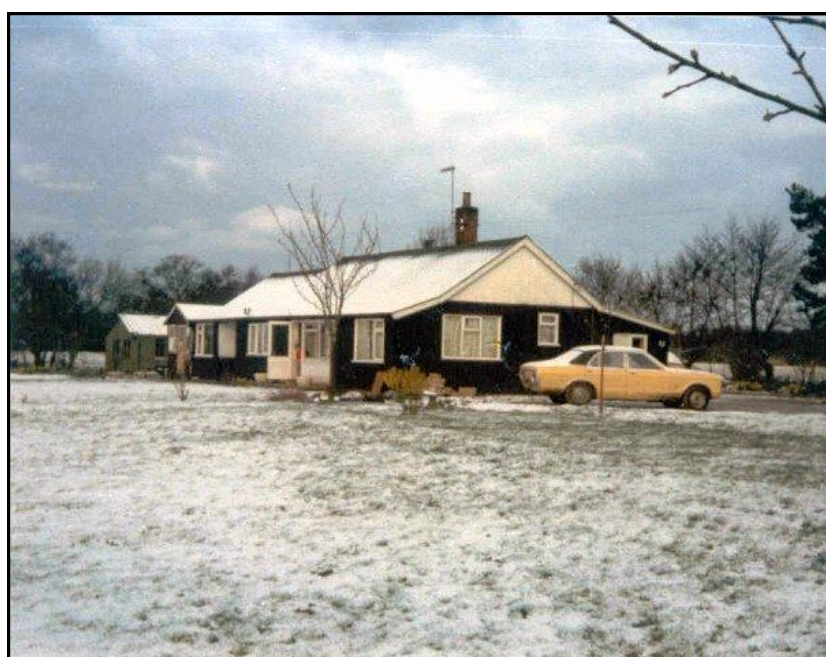
At the Southern end of the road are Horsefen Marshes. Standing at this end of the road and looking out over the marshes we see the site of Goodwin's Mill by the River Thurne. Now replaced by an electric pump, this mill once drained these marshes which were good grazing with the exception of an area near Horsefen Plantation which was wet marsh with ponds in the early 1900s. The dykes on the marsh were kept clean by the millman and were pumped out into the river to keep the grazing dry. This process could be reversed during high tides to control river flooding.



Mike with Horsefen Plantation in the background

Looking back at Fritton Road, we see Dyke End Bungalow. Built in wood by Boulton and Paul in the early 1920s, the house looked out over Horsefen with an orchard at the front. It was rebuilt in brick in the 1960-70s.

Opposite the house was one of Ludham's osier beds.



Dyke End

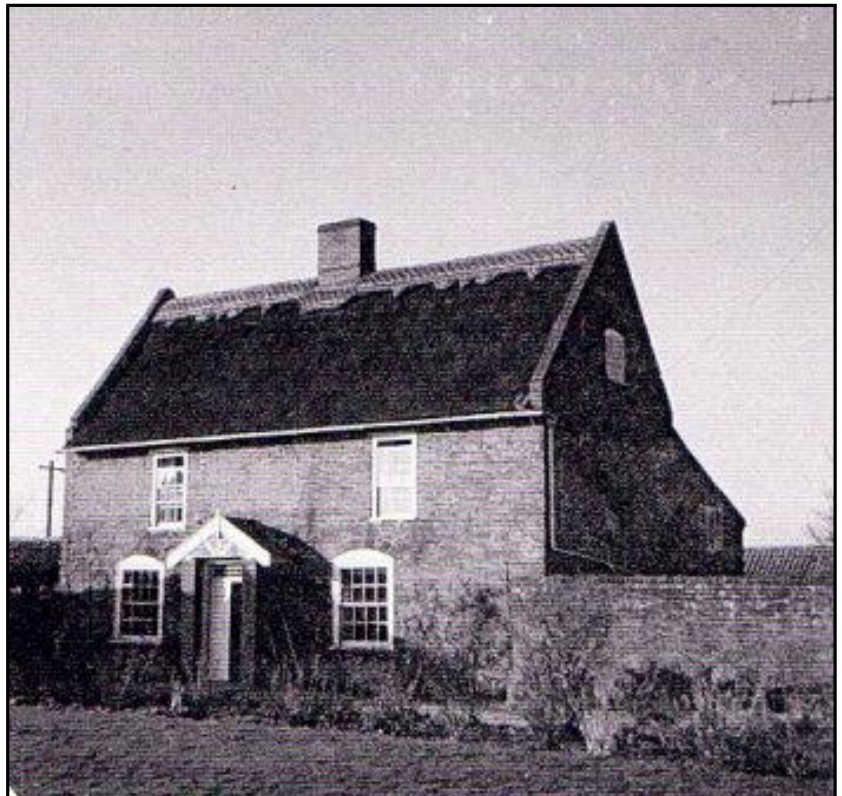


Fritton Road

Moving North along Fritton Road, Green Farm is our next port of call. This farm was mixed arable and cattle with a milking herd of 16 until after the War when it was enlarged. In the early 1900s, it was farmed by Reginald Bell and from 1935 was farmed by Clifford Kittle until he died. It is now owned by Clifford's daughter. The farm house has recently been demolished and a new house erected with landscaped gardens and pond.

Moving up Fritton Road, on the left is The Hover, a collection of small grazing marshes and wetlands which now has some trees growing. In years gone by, it was let to smallholding farmers and later it was sold to Green Farm and Beech Farm.

At the end of the Hover was a thatched farm cottage where William (Knutts) Cook, a well known Ludham man lived. Later, this cottage fell down and is now replaced by another house. Beyond this house is the pond and opposite is a small bungalow built in the 1960-70s replacing the previous cottage



Green Farm



Moving North from the pond, we come to a thatched house on the right with a workshop attached. This is where Cyril Bensley kept his threshing machines. Cyril had three complete sets including steam engines (later replaced by a diesel tractor).

Opposite is the end of the bridleway from Mill Lane, and then we come to another thatched cottage of the same type. This cottage was for the Teamster of High House Farm plus another occupant who had a small fish curing extension attached to the end. This is why there is a tall chimney. This is now Fritton Lodge.



Note that all these thatched cottages are of the same design except for size. There are seven of them in Ludham.

Moving on, we come to the site of a stone and brick cottage on the right in poor condition. It was occupied until the 1940s when it became our den until the roof fell in. It was later removed and there is a bungalow there now.

We are now at the bottom of High House Farm's garden. This farm is on the corner of Yarmouth Road and Fritton Road. It was a large farm with two cattle yards, a large barn, a stack yard, a blacksmith's shop and two entrances.



It was owned by Walter Barrett, a farmer from Potter Heigham who held all the land between there and Ludham.

However, as the taxes in Ludham were higher, he sold the Ludham part (High House Farm) to William Grimes who farmed there until 1935 when Buller Goodwin took over.



After the death of Buller Goodwin, the farm was sold to the Brooks family who still own it. It is said that the bricks used to build High House Farm came from a farm near High Mill Cottages which was there some 200 years ago.

Crossing the Yarmouth Road, we come to the other part of Fritton Road which has a long drainage dyke down the left hand side for most of the way. On the right was the farm's orchard and then a bungalow built for the farmer of Fritton Farm when he retired in the 1950s.

Next on the right were two cottages with two dwellings in each. They had red bricks and tiled roofs and were occupied by smallholders. Between these cottages was a small cottage in brick and thatch right on the road edge and a very small cottage with a tin shack attached off the road behind the other buildings.

The cottages on the right have all been renovated and added to since the 1980s and so now look entirely different. Opposite the last cottage is a World War II pill box, a large square unusual type. From here on, the rest of that side of the road was taken up with Fritton Farm. The buildings have at least two cattle yards and one large barn (in two parts), with a stable and boxes all the length of the road until the corner. The farm had three entrances: One for the stack yard, then next on the left, the entrance to the first cattle yard and the first part of the barn, then finally, next to the house, the entrance to the other cattle yard. The house also had a front entrance round the corner.

On the corner, on the right hand side, were more brick boxes for pigs and cattle and a pond for drainage and collecting water for the cattle.

Fritton Farm had a lot of land across the road (now the airfield). This land was owned by Thomas Slipper from the 1880s until the end of the First World War when the Government took the land to provide smallholdings for war veterans. They provided seven holdings of seven acres each, along the road which now leads from the farm to Catfield across the airfield. The remaining land was then split into four more holdings.

Three of the smallholders lived in the cottages on the right, mentioned earlier, and farmed the land left by the Government. This carried on until the 1980s when the cottages were sold and converted to the holiday homes which presently occupy the site.

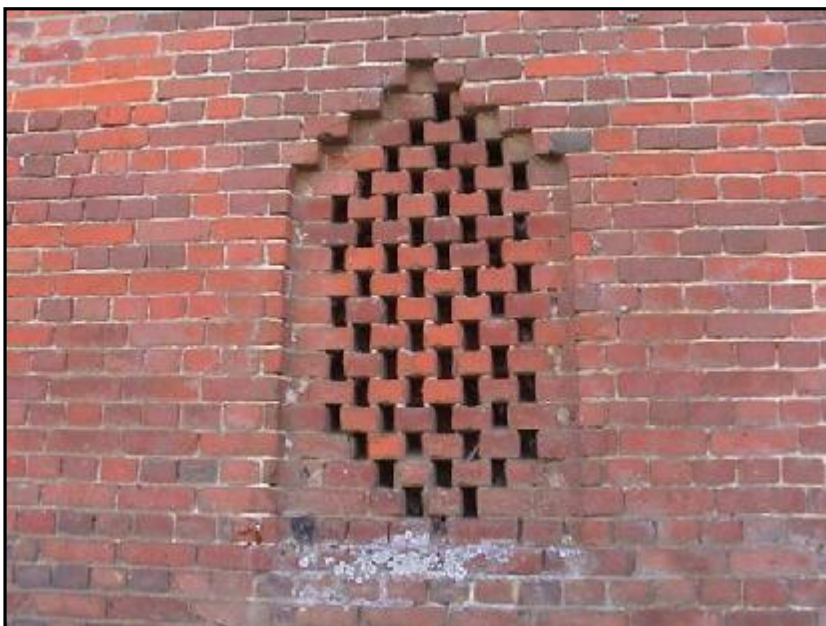
This part of Fritton Road was also known as Slipper's Loke in the early 1900s.



When Ludham Airfield was built during the Second World War, it occupied a large triangle of land on the right of Fritton Road, bounded by Malthouse Lane and Long Lane.

The house next to Fritton Farm is not as old as the farm itself, but it's exact age is not known.

To the North, Fritton Road meets a rough track, takes a sharp left turn and heads back towards Ludham village.



Fancy brickwork in a Fritton Barn

To the North of the road was the land belonging to Fritton and Malthouse Farms. To the south were smallholdings and some large allotments for villagers to rent. Here the land was arranged in strips running from Fritton Road to Yarmouth Road.

Beyond here, Fritton Road takes us to Malthouse Farm and Ludham Village.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported us in this project, particularly our local sponsors who are listed below.

Sponsors

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