

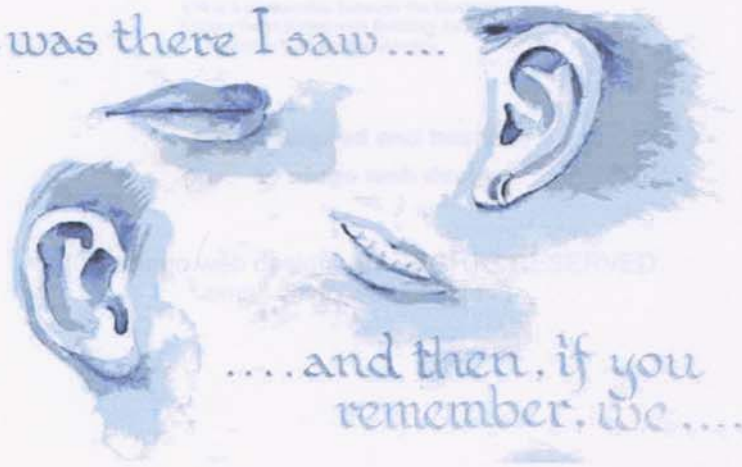
## Organisations and Leisure

Gathering people together for the purposes of education, mutual help or recreation is what builds community spirit. Fovant has been particularly rich in its organisations over time, and we are fortunate to have records for quite a few. They have covered all ages from infants to the elderly, both sexes and all strata of society.

- Parish Council
- Parochial Church Council
- Bell Ringers
- School - Rainbow Centre Nursery
- Youth groups - Scouts, Cubs, Youth Club
- Fovant Friendly Society - a Sick Benefit Scheme
- Fovant Provident Pig Insurance Society
- Fovant Silver Band
- Pembroke Arms Darts Team
- Women's groups - W.I., Mother's Union, Young Wives
- British Legion, Home Guard, Old Comrades Association, Fovant Badges Society
- Sports - Cricket, Football
- FAME - Fovant Arts and Musical Entertainers
- Dancing and Keep Fit Groups
- FHIG - Fovant History Interest Group
- Garden Club
- Fovant Art Society

M.A.M.

.... it was there I saw ....



.... and then, if you  
remember, we ....

### **Anecdotes and Reminiscences**

Although not a primary source of information, anecdotes and reminiscences are useful when building up a whole picture of the history of a village. They provide additional interest and a personal angle to our knowledge of people and of events. By their very nature, anecdotes and reminiscences are coloured by the perceptions of those who have recounted them, and may even be inaccurate as memory can so easily play tricks. However, as long as they are treated with the appropriate reservations, they certainly give life to what could otherwise be a series of flat factual accounts.

It is not often that present day historians are lucky enough to be able to track down records of verbal accounts of village life, but in Fovant the Clay papers contain not only a wealth of village historical information, but also records of conversations the late Doctor Richard Clay had with older villagers. In Doctor Clay's own words "as a small boy I travelled much with my father (Challoner Clay, also the village doctor)... and he used to tell me anecdotes of many old people we met on the road". As he took over his father's practice Richard Clay continued to collect, and record, the stories his patients told him. Some of these stretch back beyond the turn of the C19, giving us a glimpse of what the village life was like during this period.

History is always moving on - today will be history tomorrow. Our village is constantly changing as buildings are added, altered, renamed or demolished, and as people move in or move out. In order to capture some of Fovant's more recent history, we have talked to several people who have lived in the village all their lives, the latest in successive generations of their families to do so. Their reminiscences, transcribed from the spoken word, have given us much valuable knowledge of the characters who have gone before us, and whose activities shaped the village we know today.

M.K.K.



## **Fovant History Interest Group**

Our group, FHIG for short, while being interested in history generally, was specifically formed to research the history of Fovant. Members follow their own interest in a particular area of the village's history, and report their progress, or lack of it, at our bi-monthly meetings. The puzzle pieces of our logo represent the snippets of information we discover. Sometimes the pieces fit together, more often they don't, but they all add to the sum of our knowledge of the village. The format is circular because research, like history itself, never ends.

History, having no absolute beginning or ending, has, in the past, presented the problem of how it should be recorded. Some historians specialised in depth on a given subject, person or event, others researched more generally over a longer period of time. All had to be 'written up' - a daunting task for any one person. Today we are more fortunate, for in this age of information technology the problem can be ameliorated by the setting up of a web site. There are many advantages to such an approach, not the least of which is that it is open-ended. This means that all historical aspects can be covered without restriction of the time factor, or depth of research involved.

Our aim in setting up this web site is not only to interest the residents of Fovant in the history of the village, but also to encourage their active participation in researching its evolution. Anyone can contribute - members of the group or not, adult, child, villager or any interested member of the wider public. International as well as national - all can play a part in helping us to research the history of our village.

J.O.H.