

Jan 2015 FOBM newsletter

As the next AGM is the 10th anniversary of buying the land and 20th anniversary of starting the Friends, we are going to have the AGM on the date that the land was bought, 28th April at 6.30 to be followed by a supper to share and celebration. Everyone is welcome; if you don't want to come to the AGM please do come to the supper and party so that we can have a full on celebration. Musicians, poets, storytellers - all are welcome.

For those who are interested in our exploration of the history of St. Brides Well and the original site of Brides Well, Philip Rahtz writes about the location of the Brides Well marker stone in his 1993 Glastonbury book. Philip Rahtz excavated Brides Mound in the 1967 - 8 on behalf of the Chalice Well Trust. He writes: "Another attraction of the area was a spring. Associated with this was St. Bride's Well. In the 1920s this was a shallow basin among brambles, marked by an inscribed stone. Unfortunately, the stone was later moved; it is now 100m (330ft) away, the original site is thus lost, but was presumably near the spring." Serena talked with Max King who worked the land in the late 1950's. He used to help his father with the hedging and ditching in the fields in the 1950's and the stone was still in its original place then, which he has identified in the middle of that field. Max said that Horace Mapston owned the whole of what is now Norman Parson's farm, which comprised our fields, the chapel field and present day sewerage site and the ones that Parson's still has. Max was married in 1960 and said that the stone was moved after that, so it must have been some time between 1960 and when Rahtz was doing his excavation in 1967. Max said that a man whose surname was Tremayne was in charge of the farm when the stone was moved. It therefore appears that the stone did not mark the place where the blue bowl was hidden, as shown in the photo of Tudor Pole's father, because that is an outlet to the river, not a "shallow basin." Therefore it seems that we are researching two different sites. Serena also visited the fields with Stan Honeybun who had done the ditching before Max and he only knows of the outlet at the corner of the southern field which does look very similar to the one by which Tudor Poles father is standing in the 1910 photo. The County archaeologists are going to be doing a dig on Bride's Mound in the spring and want to use geophysical measurements on the ridge field also, so we are planning on asking them if they could include the river bank so that we can see if there are any other large stone built outlets where the other ditches are that go to the river bank. And if possible also the area Max identified as being the original place for the marker stone in case the stone basin is still there. Watch this space for the next installment of this piece of historical research!