

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS 1939-1948 of

HOLTON BECKERING and surrounding area, Lincolnshire,

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Chapters:-

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1. A. ABBREVIATIONS - ORGANISATIONS.

CBCO - Central Board for Conscientious Objectors.

CFS - Community Farming Society.

CLTA - Community Land Training Association.

CPFLU - Christian Pacifist Forestry & Land Units.

FTS - Farm Training Scheme.

MPF - Methodist Peace Fellowship.

PPU - Peace Pledge Union.

PSU - Pacifist Services Bureau.

RAMC - Royal Army Medical Corps.

B. ABBREVIATIONS - SOURCES. For full details see SOURCES.

BROOM - John Broom.

JH - Jim Harper

JMM - John Middleton Murry

SF - Sarah Farley interviews

SF2 - Second series of Sarah Farley interviews.

2. DEFINITIONS.

The role of local TRIBUNALS and APPELLATE TRIBUNALS was to establish the validity or otherwise of conscientious objection to the war.

"All men had to register for military service at a local employment exchange, and at that point they had the option to be officially registered as a CO. All registrations took place on a Saturday, and men (and later, women) were allocated a date to attend based on their date of birth. If they did register as objectors, they would be called before a local tribunal to state their case.

There were four possible outcomes the tribunal could decide: firstly to give the objector complete exemption from any compulsion to serve in any capacity; secondly to grant an exemption from military service, but to order work of national importance on the land or elsewhere; thirdly to grant exemption from combatant duties within the military, through service in a non-fighting service such as the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) or the Non-Combatant Corps; and lastly, the objection could be overruled, and the individual left liable for any military against his or her will.

The local tribunals were chaired by a judge, rather than a military officer, to ensure adherence to the law, and 2.2% of the first wartime batch of conscripts availed themselves of the conscience clause. This number fell over the course of the war to 1.2% of those called up. In 1941, conscription was extended to single women aged from 19 to 31, with the option for them to choose industrial or civil work if they so desired. Around 1,000 women became COs. [See Hazel Nicholson "A disputed identity: Women Conscientious Objectors in Second World War Britain", *Twentieth Century British History*, 2007, pp1-20]. The range of reasons given for a conscientious objection fell into 3 main areas, although they often overlapped each other. They were religious convictions, political beliefs and outlook, and moral and humanitarian reasoning.

Sixteen regional tribunals were set up across the UK, based in county courts in major cities under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour. Initially a tribunal panel consisted of a chairman and four other people. The chairman was always a county court judge, or a sheriff in Scotland. The four other members had to include a trade unionist and a woman if a female objection case was being heard. The average age for a panel member was 65, far removed from the 20-somethings who made up the bulk of objectors. If an objector's case was rejected, he or she had recourse to an Appellate Tribunal." [Broom, pp90-91]

3. ORGANISATIONS.

A. The "**Farm Training Scheme**" (FTS) was set up and paid for by Roy L. Broadbent and Richard K. Cornwallis in late 1939, opening for trainees in Spring 1940, and based initially at Collow Abbey Farm, then Bleasby Grange Farm and Floral Farm, near Legsby, Market Rasen, Lincs.

See "Farm Training Scheme: Register of Trainees, Collow Abbey, Wragby, Lincs", a file kept by R. K. Cornwallis, April 1940 and May 1942.

B. The "**Central Board for Conscientious Objectors**" (CBCO).

"The CBCO was formed in the summer of 1939 to serve as an organisation *for* objectors, but not an organisation *of* conscientious objectors. Its role was [to act as] a co-ordinating body linking with existing bodies to provide a specialised service to their CO members.

One function was to provide advice and guidance to those facing a Tribunal through one of its several hundred local advisory committees and advisors...an objection could lead to prison so the purpose of the CBCO was not to create an objection but to clarify it.

The Board also established a maintenance fund for families of men and women in prison but in most cases this help was declined. They also established an employment agency for objectors who found it difficult to get work on their discharge from prison." Anderson, pp205 & 206.

C. The "**Community Land Training Association**" (CLTA) was set up and funded by public appeal via "Peace News" and the Peace Pledge Union in 1941 and based at Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering, near Wragby and Holton Grange Farm, between Holton and Legsby (becoming later the "Community Farming Society", and later still "Holton Beckering Estates"). "The CFS purchased the Laurels Farm, Holton cum Beckering to train COs ". [FJE].

CFS was reconstituted as Holton Beckering Estates Ltd, "To take over Ivy Lodge Farm, Glebe Farm and Johnson's Land, all at Holton Beckering to establish approved cooperative groups in agriculture etc. Directors R L Broadbent, V Farley...and R K Cornwallis, all directors Community Farming Society Ltd." *Skegness Standard*, May 2nd 1945.

"... [in 1941] I was helping to launch the Community Land Training Association: whose object was to give pacifists who believed they had a vocation for community farming an opportunity of being trained under an experienced farmer. The association had been able to buy a good farm in Lincolnshire and engage a good farmer, who was a pacifist [John Brocklesby], to run it". John Middleton Murry, "Community Farm", p66.

D. The "**Christian Pacifist Forestry and Land Units**" (CPFLU).

Founded by Rev Henry Carter in January 1940 to employ unemployed COs. Nearest units were based at Chambers Farm Wood, Bardney, Hatton Sykes near Lissington, and Willingham Forest near Market Rasen. The Bardney group published a magazine called the "Unit Outlook".

By 1942 CPFLU had 50 Units and 600 members, with an office at Kingsway Hall, London HQ of the Methodist Church. Over the whole war period 1,400 men were selected from 3,000 candidates. It published a quarterly "News Letter" from March 1941. Each Unit was not only "...a centre of Christian fellowship" but "...in the nature of a new religious movement." "In addition to a hard day of unaccustomed manual labour, the men often had to make their own meals, do their own housework, and sometimes to do their own shopping in remote villages." Workers in Units were initially paid agricultural workers' rate of 38 shillings per week; 2 years later this became £3, roughly the same as for serving soldiers. Members paid 1 shilling per week towards the cost of CPFLU; in 1942 this rose to 1/6d. "Every Unit was visited, living accommodation acquired and hostel equipment of the plainest and most serviceable type installed." In September 1942 CPFLU was registered under the Industrial and Providential Societies Acts. Quotes: Maclachlan, pp 27-29, 33 and 35.

"Quite a number [of COs] were there [at farm training centres] for religious reasons via CPFLU, Methodists mostly...John Brocklesby roped me in for his Sacred Concerts...on Sunday afternoons". [JH.]

E. The "**Methodist Peace Fellowship**" (MPF) was founded in 1933 by Rev Henry Carter to inform and unite Methodists who covenanted together "...to renounce war and all its works and ways". It is part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and of the Methodist Conference. Wikipedia [MPF pages on Wikipedia, seen March 2021].

4. LOCATIONS.

Adelphi Centre, Langham, Essex.

An early farming community, based on a farm and house, "The Oaks", set up by John Middleton Murry in 1934. There was a Summer School with well-known speakers in 1936. The community collapsed in 1937. "The Oaks" took in 60 Basque children after the attack on Guernica and lasted till 1939. [J. M. Murry pages in Wikipedia, seen March 2021]

"Throughout that summer [1941] I found new scope for practical service at an old Essex manor house known as Langham Oaks, where some personal friends had founded a community centre. Its warden was Max Plowman, the author of *A Subaltern on the Somme*, whose death that summer [June 3rd 1941] added another member to the communion of saints... The community managed a co-operative farm where COs could obtain the agricultural work now legally permitted as alternative service, and the large house sheltered a number of aged evacuees bombed out of the East End.

Here I stayed for long periods, caring for the evacuees and tending the garden, and found a healing contentment in the open country, reminiscent of Holland... The nights were less happy: lying awake in semi-darkness I listened to heavy British bombers flying out to sea, and wondered how many German children would die before the morning." Vera Brittain *Testament of Experience*, 1957, p286.

Frating Hall Farm, near Colchester, Essex.

Run as a Christian pacifist farming community between March 1943 and 1956. Managed by Joe Watson "...at any one time there may have been more than fifty people living at Frating Hall Farm", Worpole, p67.

"With most of the year to fill in [1948] before starting at university in October, I decided to work on a farm. I had spent several of my holidays at a community farm in Frating, Essex, established during the war by COs and supported by my mother [Vera Brittain] among others". Shirley Williams, "Climbing the Bookshelves", Virago, 2020, p72]

Lodge Farm, Thelnetham, Suffolk.

In October 1942 John Middleton Murry bought Lodge Farm and set up a new farming community. He recruited fellow COs to run it. His book "*Community Farm*", 1952, is his account of this venture.

Collow Abbey Farm, West Torrington, Lincs.

First location of Roy Broadbent and Dick Cornwallis' "Farm Training

Scheme" for COs, opening in Spring 1940. "What they wanted was a large building, capable of accommodating up to 20 people, with several acres of land attached. It was needed, the apprehensive neighbours noted, to house an agricultural training scheme for conscientious objectors. Although not ideal, Collow Abbey Farm seemed the best they were likely to be offered... Collow amounted to roughly 200 acres". [Sarah Farley 2, p2].

"Soldier Saw Flashing Light at Collow. R. K. Cornwallis summonsed and fined £2 plus £1 and 4 shillings costs for breaking blackout regulations. Offence was admitted at Wragby Police Court at hearing chaired by Lord Heneage." Headline and report in *Lincolnshire Echo*, July 6th 1940.

"Farmer's Experience". Mr William Brocklesby of Ings Farm, West Torrington, near Market Rasen gives his account of the double raid on Ings and Collow Abbey Farms by Home Guard soldiers. "...a thrilling experience he will never forget." *Louth Standard*, June 22nd 1940, p4.

"The cooking and cleaning all had to be done at Collow without the aid of electricity, mains water or even mains sewerage (The emptying of the Elsans was a particularly despised job). Water was pumped up from the well outside the back door and carried in for washing and cooking. Washing for fifteen or so men was an exhausting occupation, especially with no modern detergents to assist in washing garments that had been worn to muck out the pig sty or for slaughtering sheep...Even when the rest of the household had finished their day's work and could relax Dee, Jean and Phyl continued their work trying to keep up with the endless supply of socks to be darned." [SF2, p9].

"Most of the men who came as trainees left when their time was up, supposedly to work on farms with their new-found skills. But many found other occupations or lost any enthusiasm they ever had for the exhausting life of a farm labourer. Those who did want to continue with farm work found their three months' training was not enough and often had great difficulty finding a permanent job.

It was not only the difficulty of the time-scale of the farming year that posed problems for the Farm Training Scheme. What emerged during the year were the complications involved in a group of people living and working together. The main difficulty was the very equality and democracy of the community. The division of money-work-food had all been worked out as fairly as possible, responsibility for every task had been delegated so that everyone shared the burden of running the house and farm. But very few of the trainees had experience of taking responsibility, either because of their youth or the nature of their

former jobs. So what was at the root of many of the upsets and friction was simply the lack of a boss to grumble at and blame". [SF2, p11].

"Monday next September 1st at 2.15 at Collow Abbey Farm (for Messrs Brocklesby Bros. who have sold the farm) 5 tractor trailers, 6 ton Fordson lorry, tractor implements, elevator, 30 pigs, 4 cattle."
Lincolnshire Echo, August 30th 1947.

"Tuesday November 11th at 3pm at the Corn Exchange, Market Rasen, for Messrs Brocklesby Bros.- letting auction of 10 acres of brussels sprouts as growing at Collow Abbey Farm, Legsby". *Lincolnshire Echo, October 25th 1947.*

Same announcement as above, plus the detail "Labour for picking should be easily available from the P.O.W. [prisoners of war] camp at Holton Beckering". *Louth Standard, November 8th 1947.*

Bleasby Grange Farm, Legsby, Lincs.

"The work on the farm was much the same as at Collow, although greater emphasis was placed on milking. There was also the routine hoeing and the never-ending beet singling. Ploughing and other heavy work was done using the two tractors and horses. One of the machines was a curious single cylinder tractor [a Field Marshall] which was started by putting a cartridge into it and pulling a trigger. Muck spreading was one of the jobs when a horse was used to pull the cart. The horse was pointed in the right direction and the worker followed behind forking out and spreading the pungent substance." [SF2, p12].

"Bleasby Farm had been very rundown by the previous owner and the fertility was very low so it was decided we should practice ley-farming which was a new system being pioneered at the time by Stapledon [See "Ley Farming" by R. G. Stapledon & W. Davies, Faber & Faber, rev. ed. 1948]. The idea was 3 years grass and 3 years arable which would build up the fertility. We had started to get the system underway when the War Agricultural Committee heard about us and sent a delegation of farmers to inspect the farm and I think they came along with very mixed feelings about us. However, Dick and Roy and myself showed them round and they went away quite satisfied and congratulated us." [Howard Crapp].

"I think that Bleasby worked better [than the Laurels Farm PPU backed plan as a training project for unemployed COs] because it was smaller and because it was more structured; that is to say that Roy [Broadbent] and Dick [Cornwallis] still took a leading role, although quite often it was exceedingly unobtrusive. And it's easier with fewer people and some sort of structure than it was over here [at Laurels and Ivy

Lodge Farms] ... I seem to remember so many people coming and so few leaving that it was rather unwieldy...But had it been smaller it could have worked but any community, I now think, must give a period of...a sort of apprenticeship; you're on trial for say a year to see if you can fit in. And a lot of them were far too prickly and edgy to get into a community and there ought to have been some way of persuading such people to leave for the good of the rest." [Noel Makin interviewed by Sarah Farley].

"In the community it was hoped that everyone would pull their weight carrying out their own special responsibilities while also contributing to the general running of the house and farm. Part of this was accepting decisions such as the rationing of food, but another aspect was making sure that one was not unpleasant to live with in the sense of tidiness and cleanliness. Bathing was quite a performance. Those who had friends or relatives living nearby could snatch a bath while visiting them. For the rest it was a Sunday morning routine to go down to the cottage annexes where some trainees slept, heat up enough water in the copper, and wait in a queue to use the old zinc bath". [SF2, p9].

Floral Farm, West Torrington, Lincs.

Bought with Bleasby Farm by Jean Cornwallis to extend out from Collow Abbey Farm. From evidence to the Lincoln CO Tribunal by Dick Cornwallis. *Lincolnshire Echo*, July 30th 1941.

Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering, Lincs. LN8 5NG.

Sale by George Strawson (who had sold the farm to PPU) of farm stock - 14 horses, 50 beasts, 24 sheep, poultry and farm machinery (including tractors and a caterpillar) and 3 cars. *Louth Standard*, March 29th 1941, p4.

"During this year [1941] the PPU and J. M. Murry with other prominent people in the movement raised enough money to buy 2 farms at Holton Beckering and set up the Community Farming Society under the rules of Friendly Societies whereby all the members held shares and had one vote each. John Brocklesby was appointed manager and Bernard and Lilly Woolcock were in charge at the Laurels. A hostel was established at Holton Hall" [HC].

"At this time [early 1941] the training scheme at Collow had folded, but there remained a demand from COs to be trained in agriculture. John Brocklesby was still keen to help and met the Rev Henry Carter, who was also involved in the PPU with Murry, through a Methodist peace

organisation [the Methodist Peace Foundation]. They discussed starting another training scheme, this time at Holton Beckering. It was announced in Peace News and people were invited to subscribe either by gift, low-interest or interest-free loans.

The response to such a scheme was good and Ruth Baker, Murry's secretary, collected in all the subscriptions. But she was not keen to undertake buying and equipping a farm in Lincolnshire. Consequently, when Laurels Farm was bought in April 1941 as a base for the scheme, Victor Farley was asked to handle the accounts for that as well as Langham. He was given a bed at The Laurels and regularly commuted between Langham and Holton on his bicycle. It was a 130mile day-long trip, with the account books fastened in the saddle bag.

Holton [i.e. Laurels Farm] differed fundamentally from Collow, Bleasby and Langham in that it was funded not by one man or a partnership but by public money. This meant that auditors had to be appointed. They required properly presented accounts of how the money was spent, and the organisers had little idea of what was involved in handling large sums of money. Vic undertook his first major accounting project in helping establishing the Community Land Training Centre... Vic found he was spending more and more time at Holton...it was decided that Vic and Phyl should move up to Holton Beckering full time, which they did in May 1941.

Another major difference in the Holton scheme was that trainees would be taken on for a year so that they could experience working through each season. Farming about 300 acres, there were 4 permanent farm workers and about 14 trainees. The livestock consisted of a dairy herd, a flock of sheep, pigs and some poultry. As was usual, much of the work was with horses, backed up by a couple of tractors.

"The Mill Field, Holton Beckering. A very valuable PASTURE FIELD of about 65 acres adjoining the village. Immediate Possession." Advert in *Boston Guardian*, September 10th 1941. Probably bought by CFS.

Same advert in *Louth Standard*, Sept 6th and 13th 1941 with the note "This is recognised as one of the best grass fields in a good grass district and whatever the season it carries a big head of stock."

By October 1941, the scheme looked as though it would be a success. Many more applications were coming in for training and annexes were arranged to house the men. To cope with the increased demand the community bought Holton Grange Farm with money lent by a Cornish pacifist Gerald Vaughan.

Even with more accommodation, The Laurels was overcrowded. Early in

1942 Phyl and Vic moved to Mid Farm, Lissington, which the community rented. One of the rooms became Vic's office where he dealt with the community's paperwork and financial business, with the help of Alma Heasman, his secretary. They were often approached by local farmers and neighbours to assist with official letters and documents, a service which helped dispel some of the remnants of suspicion about the pacifist communities." [SF2, pp 14-15].

"The organisation of this community was more complex than that of Collow or Bleasby. One of the principal aims, as important as that of training, had been to explore the practice of communal living. But, as at the other communities, the combination of the pressures of work and the forceful personalities involved in the scheme, led to an emotionally intense atmosphere. After the trainees had settled in, some individuals became particularly interested in the 'community' side. At their instigation, committees were set up to deal with various aspects of the farm and hostel - a milk committee, a pig committee, a poultry committee, a farm organisation committee, a domestic committee and a coordinating executive committee. The working week was 56 hours which left little time for discussions but the committees had to meet in the evenings and went on late into the night. (They were frequently badly organised, with a tacit feeling that to have a strong chairman would have been undemocratic.) Inevitably people tired and tempers frayed, the atmosphere sometimes becoming uncomfortably abrasive." [SF2, pp15-16].

"A means of communication was established in the form of a wall newspaper based in the Laurels. Anyone could pin up items of news, or poems, letters from old friends, suggested constitutions, a rota of duties, and one trainee even put up the pages of a novel as he wrote it. One particular debate was concerned with instituting a system of bartering goods rather than using money but the idea never caught general appeal." [SF2, p17].

Sale at auction by CFS of 5 horses, 20 cattle and 90 pigs. Advert in *Lincolnshire Echo*, October 27th 1943.

"Meanwhile the group at Bleasby Grange was going through an unsettled period (summer/autumn 1943), the outcome of which was Roy and Dee leaving and buying Ivy Lodge Farm and the Rectory [at Holton Beckering]. Roy ...rented Ivy Lodge Farm to CFS and moved into the Rectory which he and Dee renamed The Glebe... In November 1943 Noel and Vicki Makin moved into the Glebe with the Broadbents...Vic and Phyl also took up residence in the Glebe. Soon after the Makins went to live in

half of Ivy Lodge, the other half being occupied by Helen and Fred Willis. Holton Hall, purchased by CFS in 1943, had been occupied by the military who had been running a searchlight on Wickenby aerodrome. Several of the married couples now had children and wanted a little more privacy ...so the cottages and farm houses were converted for them while the single men lived at the Hall.

A slow metamorphosis was taking place in the community possibly because the individuals were growing older, acquiring family responsibilities, or perhaps because they were disillusioned with the emotional and chaotic atmosphere that had arisen from communal living. There was a move away from the 7s a week pocket money arrangement and the community looked for ways in which it might make itself more profitable. The name of the scheme was changed to Community Farming Society and it was made a Limited Company under the Industrial and Providence Societies Act. On the farm side, directed by John Brocklesby the methods used were very traditional. They grew sugar beet, potatoes, wheat and barley, while mangles, swedes and turnips were grown for fodder. Then there were grass fields for sheep and milking cows. Hay was made in large quantities and one innovation was making silage to feed the cattle in winter. Each morning the workers would gather in the Laurels' barn to receive their day's instructions from Charlie Clark then each would go to his specific duties. (p16 of SF2).

"Wragby Farming Society Fined" CFS taken to court for breaking the Wheat Order, 1943. *Lincolnshire Echo*, September 8th 1944.

CFS selling by auction Essex pedigree pigs, from the "Holbeck Herd" including 25 gilts, 2 boars and 30 stores. *Louth Standard*, Oct 7th 1944.

CFS selling sheep at auction. *Lincolnshire Echo*, September 22nd 1945.

Asked by Sarah Farley whether he thought the PPU project at Laurels Farm "...worked as a way of finding a way round the difficulties of being a pacifist..." Noel Makin replied "No I don't think it did. I think it could have been what I believe it was meant to be and that is a training scheme with people staying. Other people coming in, receiving the training and moving on. But unfortunately ... it seems to me, too many people stayed on. They came here, often I suppose, from quite hostile surroundings, and found themselves among other pacifists and it all seemed rather marvellous, so people tended to stay [and] to try not to leave". [SF].

"...of course going to Holton Beckering it was like a cocoon, you know... well it gradually got less tranquil...one or two firebrands came along...they were a bit anti-Roy because obviously he had money...a sort of little clique

got together...and said...we're not having this". [JH].

Holton Hall, Holton Beckering, Market Rasen, Lincs. LN8 5NG.

Hostel for single men working at Laurels Farm and Ivy Lodge Farm. "Another of Noel's jobs was to clean the paraffin lamps and put out the candles in the Hall. There was still no [mains] electricity so the Hall was rather a dim, flickering place at night. In the evenings those who were not exhausted from the day's labours visited each others' houses to chat and occasionally a lively party would develop in somebody's kitchen. There was a slight division between those who wanted seriously to discuss politics and pacifism and the great issues of life and those who, while happy to have the occasional thought-provoking session, also wanted to let off steam. There was one group who visited the pub [the White Hart, Lissington] most Saturday nights. They competed with airmen from Wickenby [RAF] Camp for the occupancy of the Snug and although there was no open hostility between the COs and the airmen, few crossed the self-imposed barriers." (SF2 P16-17)

Holton Grange Farm, Lincs.

Bought by Gerald Vaughan for CFS at Holton. "We had 4 regular Shire [horses] at the Grange. At the Laurels they had Percherons". [JH].

Ivy Lodge Farm, Holton Beckering, Lincs. LN8 5NG.

Bought with Holton Rectory (later renamed the Glebe) in summer/autumn 1943 by Roy Broadbent. Ivy Lodge was to be farmed in conjunction with Laurels Farm, managed by John Brocklesby, with Charlie Clarke as overall foreman of the 2 farms.

"The ideas of living as a community, conceived at Collow, were developed among the group at Bleasby. But all did not go smoothly. Problems arose over Roy and Dick being 'employers' and their subtly autocratic manner of handling affairs was questioned and criticised. Although many people agreed with the principles behind the proposals for change, others, notably Roy and Dee, were not fully sympathetic with the suggestions for how the new community should be run. At this time (1942/43), Roy's father died leaving him a substantial sum of money. Roy considered various ideas for the best way to use the money [inviting suggestions via the wall newspaper at Bleasby, it was said. JLM] and decided to buy the Rectory and Ivy Lodge Farm at Holton Beckering, a small village built on a T-junction some three miles from Bleasby. There was already a community established at Holton [at Laurels Farm, set up

and backed by the Peace Pledge Union in 1941] where John Brocklesby was farm adviser and Vic Farley was Secretary. In November 1943, Roy and Dee, with Noel and Vicki, left Bleasby and moved to the Rectory in Holton Beckering." [SF2, p12-13].

"Holton Beckering Estates Ltd, Glebe Farm, Holton Beckering, Wragby. To take over Ivy Lodge Farm, Glebe Farm and Johnson's Land, all at Holton Beckering to establish approved co-operative groups in agriculture etc. Nominal capital £50,000 in £1 shares. Directors R. L. Broadbent and Victor Farley both of Glebe Farm, Holton Beckering; R. K. Cornwallis, Floral Farm, Legsby, Market Rasen." Details of new companies published in the *Skegness Standard*, May 2nd 1945.

Saturday March 15th [1947] "At Holton Beckering for Holton Beckering Estates [a sale of] modern implements and machinery and selected livestock on the [Holton] Grange and Laurels Farms which have been let." *Lincolnshire Echo*, February 1st 1947.

For Sale at the Corn Exchange Market Rasen on Tuesday Feb 17th 1948 - 10 farms including "...by Holton Beckering Estates Ltd, the Ivy Lodge Farm, Holton Beckering. 210 acres of rich deep loam. Grows quality potatoes and suitable for fruit and intensive cultivation. 66 acres new leys and feeding pasture. Pair of modernised houses, each with Sitting Room, Living Room, 3 bedrooms & bathroom, h+c. Mains water. Ample buildings in good repair. Excellent stock yards." *Lincolnshire Echo*, February 7th 1948.

Holton Beckering Estates "...who have sold their Ivy Lodge Farm put up for sale valuable livestock and modern farm equipment including 5 grey horses, 26 store pigs, 1 brown cob [horse], lorry, market garden tractor, elevator, disc harrow, 2 trailers, cultivator, beet lifter, potato spinner, horse implements etc." *Lincolnshire Echo*, October 23rd 1948.

Ings Farm, West Torrington, Lincs.

Owned by Bill Brocklesby, brother of John. There was an interchange of CO trainees between Bleasby and Ings Farm.

Sale of Ings Farm by Messrs. Brocklesby Brothers, including 43 dairy cattle, 16 sheep, 47 pigs and farm machinery. *Louth Standard*, November 16th 1946 p3.

Collow Grange Farm, West Torrington, Lincs.

Located on the road between Holton Grange Farm and Collow Abbey Farm. Owned by William Robinson family - some COs spent time here though it was not a CO training location.

Linwood Manor, Nr Market Rasen, Lincs. LN8 3QG.

At one time (1937-) a home for Spanish refugees (Basque children and parents from Guernica). [JH]

Other "colonies" of Basque children at that time included "The Adelphi Centre" at The Oaks, Langham, near Colchester, run by John Middleton Murry and Max Plowman. Over 100 such "colonies" are known of.

See website <https://www.basquechildren.org>

The website notes that "Following the devastating bombing of Guernica in 1937, there was such outrage in Britain that the Government reluctantly agreed to allow one boatload of refugee children and their accompanying adults to enter the country."

5. CHRONOLOGY.**Late 1939.**

Dick Cornwallis and Roy Broadbent met at the Pacifist Service Bureau of the PPU where (with the help of Nancy Richardson) they made contact with the Brocklesby brothers Bill and John. Dick and Roy were offered and took up tenancy of Collow Abbey Farm, West Torrington, Lincs, with John Brocklesby as manager and agricultural adviser. Aim was to train COs in farm work.

April 1940.

First CO arrived (Joe Downend) to join the Farm Training Scheme at Collow. Training to last 3 months, for pocket money. 29 trainees arrived in 1940, though the total at any one time was 10-12.

October 1940.

Bleasby Grange Farm (bought by Jean Cornwallis) taken on as HQ, with Collow as sleeping quarters for FTS trainees. Floral Farm was also bought.

"The partnership of Brocklesby, Cornwallis and Broadbent (the same as at Collow but with John as the only Brocklesby brother involved) bought Bleasby Grange and nearby Floral Farm in order to broaden the scope of their farming and, they hoped, to gain a little more financial independence. The trainee system was gradually changed so that,

although people were still taken on for training, the emphasis was on employing them as staff to farm as a community under the guidance of the partnership. Bobby [Walshaw] lived more or less on his own at Bleasby, milking the few cows there, until the remainder of the Collow contingent moved over on October 6th 1940. Dick, Roy, Dee and Jean established themselves at Bleasby with Bobby, Arthur and Helen Betts and Keith Linday, while Francis Cammaerts and Nan moved into Floral Farm. At Bleasby the dormitory system of Collow was abandoned and, where possible, rooms were partitioned to give a little privacy. The same rudimentary lighting and water arrangements as Collow existed at Bleasby - no electricity or running water. The farm at Bleasby was 185 acres, with another 75 acres at Floral Farm. One of the main intentions was to develop a dairy herd which Bobby was to manage. At first they dabbled with different sorts of cattle: short horns, Friesians, Ayrshires and a Guernsey or two, but soon decided to go for Friesians which were the best milkers by far. In the Spring of 1941, they founded the herd and decided to go pedigree." [SF2, p12]

Spring 1941.

Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering, bought for the CLTA via PPU and public appeal for funds in *Peace News* (£8,500 for 310 acres) for training COs in land work. Holton Grange Farm bought by Gerald Vaughan and donated to CLTA for same purpose. PPU nominated 10 directors for this project: Alex WOOD, J. M. MURRY, Henry CARTER, Greg CARTER, Wilfred WELLOCK, Stuart MORRIS, Kev MORRIS, Robert KERKHAM, R. K. CORNWALLIS and John BROCKLESBY. The Laurels Farm project was paid for by subscriptions, loans and donations "...from various pacifist oriented groups" e.g. *Peace News* and "...private people with money". [Vic Farley interview with SF]

Late 1942 - early 1943.

RAF Wickenby (half a mile from Holton Beckering) was constructed by McAlpine with an 80% Irish workforce during 1942 and opened in September that year. (It closed in November 1945, became a maintenance depot, then was used as a store depot until 1956 and the land was sold off in the late 1950's).

October 1943.

Roy and Dee Broadbent bought Holton Rectory and Ivy Lodge Farm, Holton Beckering and moved from Bleasby to there, taking with them Keith Linday, the Makin and Willis families. Trainees' payment would be

profit sharing instead of pocket money. Working in co-operation with CLTA at Laurels Farm, Charlie Clarke to be foreman for both groups of workers. CLTA became the Community Farming Society (CFS), with a board of directors formed from PPU supporters.

1945.

As the war ended CFS was wound up and loans were repaid. Land and buildings were rented to people closely connected to CFS.

CFS became Holton Beckering Estates Ltd, taking over Ivy Lodge Farm, Glebe Farm and Johnson's Land at Holton Beckering, directors Roy Broadbent, Victor Farley and Richard Cornwallis. *Louth Standard, May 5th 1945, p5.*

June 1st 1946.

Date on which all COs were officially released from the restrictions and directions imposed upon them by their Tribunals during the War.

1947.

Holton Beckering Estates selling farm stock (as 2 of their farms are now let) - 7 horses, 35 sheep and machinery (tractors, binders, trailers etc.). *Louth Standard, March 8th 1947, p8.*

Crapp and Woolcock Ltd (a new company) running the Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering. *Louth Standard, July 12th 1947, p5.*

1948 and later.

Laurels Farm was sold to Howard Crapp. Ivy Lodge Farm sold to Ballard and Sternfeld. Holton Grange Farm sold to John Brocklesby. Holton Hall let to the Makins and later sold to them. Holton Power Farmers created on part of former RAF site by Victor Farley. Roy Broadbent set up Holton Builders and Holton Engineers was founded.

"Important Dispersal Sale by HBE of whole flock of sheep - 244 Lincoln Longwool Sheep ("a prize winning registered pedigree flock, a magnificent lot of young sheep in grand condition") plus sheep farming equipment and a good shepherd's hut. *Louth Standard, Jan 31st 1948, p2.*

HBE (who have sold Ivy Lodge farm) selling livestock and farm equipment, including 5 horses and 26 pigs, plus tipper lorry, tractor, disc harrows, trailers and elevator. *Louth Standard, Oct 16th 1948, p2.*

"Although the problems of community living, the conflicts between freedom of choice and majority decision, the clash between personalities

and many other difficulties created an atmosphere that was hard to live in, many of the participants later regarded it as a stimulating and highly enjoyable period of their lives. On May 8th 1945 Germany surrendered and the war in Europe ended. The last batch of trainees began to filter back to their original jobs or continue with their education.

There was a hiatus of about six months, and then the question arose of what should happen to the 1,000 or so acres accumulated for training purposes. Some people wanted to continue to live communally and hoped to be allocated some of the acreage by CFS Ltd. But throughout the time the scheme had been running, it had lost money and had only been kept going through the support of loans and gifts. Now that the loans were being called in and the gifts were no longer forthcoming, it was impossible to continue farming in such a way. Roy Broadbent tried to keep the scheme together, but eventually the board of directors agreed to break up CFS Ltd. It would continue to own the land it had acquired, but rent it out to some of the people closely connected with the scheme so that they could eventually buy it.

The Laurels was let to Bernard Woolcock in partnership with Howard Crapp who had been Farm Manager at Bleasby; the partnership was not a success, and after Bernard left, the farm was sold to Howard. John Brocklesby was let Holton Grange Farm, which he later bought and then sold to Tomlinson. Roy decided he would like to expand Holton Builders Ltd, a subsidiary of Holton Beckering Estates Ltd, and sold Ivy Lodge Farm in 1948 to the partnership of Douglas Ballard and Walter Sternfeld. The Makins bought [rented, then bought] and moved to Holton Hall.

Vic Farley remained as secretary to CFS Ltd. During the six months hiatus, odd bits of land that had not been sold were left unclaimed. Vic suggested that rather than sell this land in a hurry at low prices, he could farm them with the proviso that he would be entitled to keep any profit. CFS agreed, and he was also given the use of specific pieces of machinery. He did make a profit, and all the land was sold for a higher price, except 50 acres of poor land in Mill Field which Ballard and Sternfeld had not wanted to buy with Ivy Lodge Farm. Vic, with Roy's help, was able to buy the 50 acres and begin farming on his own.

The Broadbents and the Farleys, both families now with two children, lived together at the Glebe until May 1947, when the Farleys moved into Stockfield, a small bungalow they had built by Holton Builders. In 1948 Roy and Vic added another company to Holton Beckering Estates having been impressed by the new philosophy of power farming, they called it Holton Power Farmers." [SF2, p17].

6. COs AND OTHERS OF HOLTON BECKERING IN WW2.

The following is a list of names of World War Two COs and associated people in the Holton Beckering and Legsby area, compiled by John L Makin and drawing on R. K. Cornwallis' original listing of 44 COs arriving at Collow Abbey between 1940 and 1942 to join the "Farm Training Scheme".

Enlarged with the assistance of families of COs and especially of Sarah Farley, Don Sutherland of Lincoln and Bill Hetherington, Hon. Archivist of the Peace Pledge Union.

NAMES:

ADAMS, Arthur (1919-2015). [FTS trainee No 1]

FTS file:

Age 21. *Of 37 Deanscroft Avenue, Kingsbury. NW9.*

Occupation not recorded.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal decision: Non combatant.

Date Of Arrival: September 1940. Called to prison mid November - 6 months. Reduced to 4. Out March 20th [year not given, 1941?].

Training: Tractoring, milking, harvesting, horse work.

[Length of stay not clear. FTS, PPU and SF2, p12].

ALBARN, Edward (Oct 20th 1912-July 2002).

May have spent early war years as a town hall architect, sacked (?) for registering as CO. Worked for Harry Wheatcroft (a WW1 CO), rose growers in Notts., moved to Holton B. to be Head of Architecture at Lincoln Art School. Lived, with wife Joan and sons Keith and Mark, at Holton Hall for many years. His eldest son Keith (January 28th 1939-) was a National Service CO (Keith Albarn's Wikipedia, March 28th 2021).

At a sitting of the North Midland CO Tribunal at Nottingham Shire Hall "...Edward Albarn, 8 Landmere Lane, Ruddington [was] registered as a CO with the condition that he do forestry, agricultural or work of reclamation." *Nottingham Evening Post*, July 31st 1940.

"Stating that he had left the Church of England because he could not agree with it and had begun to attend meetings of the Society of the Free Churches, Edward Albarn (27) of 8 Landmere Lane, Ruddington, was registered to do work on the land." *Nottingham Journal*, August 1st 1940.

"A life-long peace activist, Edward Albarn dies on hunger strike in 2002". *Independent.ie* (Seen Sept 28th 2022; interview with Damon Albarn).

ATTENBOROUGH, Arnold Norman (1919-). [FTS trainee No 2]

FTS file:

Aged 21. Of 33 Crompton Road, Birmingham 21.

Occupation: Ironmonger.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Military Register for non-combatant duties.

Date of Arrival: May 17th 1940.

Training: Milking by hand & machine. Setting potatoes. Hoeing weeds. Chopping out & singling sugar beet. Haymaking.

Date of Leaving: July 22nd 1940. C/o Mr Brocklesby, East Hall, North Kelsey Lincs.

Arrested Nov 1940. Went into the army.

[Length of stay: 9 weeks]

The Lincolnshire Echo recorded that Attenborough (21) of Collow Abbey, Wragby, was now living at East Hall Farm, North Kelsey, and that he had pleaded guilty to failing to submit to medical examination. Fined 20s + £1 1s advocate's fee. Escorted to medical examination.

Attenborough, born in Coventry was registered in June 1939 as a CO. Local Tribunal heard his case on September 3rd and he was conditionally registered [as CO] providing he undertook work of national importance. "If I go for my medical examination I shall not go in the armed forces. I consider I am doing work of national importance - I am 2nd milkman on a farm." *Lincolnshire Echo*, September 4th 1940.

BALLARD, Douglas (1914-October 1994).

Humanitarian pacifist, came to Holton in October 1948 and bought Ivy Lodge Farm from CFS with Walter Sternfeld, whose Quaker mother in law had helped with PPU's purchase of Laurels Farm.

BALLARD, Frederick John (1882-1962).

Father of Douglas. Prominent dentist and WW1 CO. See "Frederick Ballard (1882-1962), tireless champion of NHS dentistry", *Dental Historian*, 63(2), July 2018, pp45 to 51.

BALLARD, Enid (1916-December 19th 1995). Nee Williams.

Wife of Douglas.

BARNES, Richard "Dick" (nd).

"... Dick Barnes, a Rudolph Steiner disciple, who lived on natural foods which had to be produced by preparing a compost to a special recipe that included honey and had to be turned by the light of the moon." [SF2, p15].

"One of the Holton COs for most of the war was a grandson of Bishop Barnes [Ernest William Barnes, Anglican Bishop of Birmingham (1874-1953)], the Dorset poet, whose "Linden Lea", set to music by Vaughan Williams, was one of John's [Brocklesby] favourite songs." [FJE]

BETTS, Arthur Albert (1913-). [FTS trainee No 3]

FTS file:

Aged 27. *Of 11 Berners St, Norwich, NORFOLK.*

Occupation: *Compositor & lino-type operator.*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *Non-combatant duties: appealing.*

Date of Arrival: *August 5th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving. 1 hr's cultivating. Reaping & threshing peas. Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs. Ensilage. Muck spreading. Horse raking. Operating binder.*

Date of Leaving: *Nov 5th 1940(?). Joined farm as permanent member.*

[Length of stay 3 months but stayed on]

"One man [of the Collow COs], came from Norfolk, where he worked in a newspaper machine-room. He had a melodious, gentle accent which the others loved to imitate." [SF2, p11].

BETTS, Helen (nd).

Wife of Arthur Betts. [Don S., P?]]

BLINDELL, Frederick (1918-)

At Holton Grange. [Don S., P 23]

BOURN, Hugh Robert, O.B.E., (Dec 19th 1929-May 12th 2014).

Lodger at Holton Hall in 1950's, began farming aged 21 at Holton Beckering. Went into property development aged 42, based in Wragby.

BROADBENT, Dee (1914-May 1995). Nee Findlay.

Wife of Roy. "There were three other women living at Collow when Phyl [Farley] arrived. Dee Broadbent, Jean Cornwallis and a very young, inexperienced wife of one of the trainees. Dee had the most organisational ability and she and Jean contrived to cook, clean and mend for the men, retaining a sense of style despite the lack of support.

Flowers were arranged around the house, and food was presented in as attractive a manner as possible. Needless to say, much of their effort was lost on the ravenous trainees whose one thought was to fill their bellies." [SF2, p8].

BROADBENT, F. J. ("Dats"). (nd).

Mother of Roy. Keen thespian in family town of Huddersfield. Moved to Friesthorpe Place, Friesthorpe, Market Rasen and supported Holton Players with props and acting in HP productions.

BROADBENT, Roy Laverick (January 11th 1915-May 1st 1972).

Humanitarian pacifist. Trained to be architect. Co-founder with R.K Cornwallis of FTS in 1940 at Collow Abbey Farm. Led a "breakaway" group, consisting of Keith Linday, the Makins and the Willises, who moved to work at Ivy Lodge Farm in Holton Beckering in October 1943, buying the Glebe and Glebe Cottage as well as Ivy Lodge, to work in tandem with the PPU CO group at Laurels Farm adjoining. Proposed to run farm on "profit sharing basis rather than a pocket money basis" (S.N. Makin, in interview with Sarah Farley).

At a sitting of the North Midland Tribunal for the registration of COs, Nottingham: "Roy Laverick Broadbent of West Torrington, Wragby, said he gradually became a pacifist while at a public school. He had offered his services to the Pacifist Service Bureau when war broke out. The bureau went into partnership with a pacifist farmer [John Brocklesby] and objectors were sent to the farm [Collow Abbey] to learn farming and so enter a reserved occupation. Broadbent was registered as an objector." *Lincolnshire Echo*, May 1st 1940.

BROCKLESBY, John Hubert "Bert", May 8th 1889-Dec 27th 1962.

WW1 CO and cousin of John BROCKLESBY (see below). A school teacher from Doncaster, he applied for "absolutist" exemption in early 1916 on religious grounds but his local and appeal Tribunals gave only exemption from combatant service. He became one of a group of COs sent to France from Richmond Castle, Yorkshire, as a military prisoner. At Henriville Camp in northern France they were found guilty and sentenced to death in June 1916. The sentences were commuted to 10 years penal servitude. Bert spent time in Winchester, Armley (Leeds), Shrewsbury, Wandsworth and Maidstone Prisons and at the Home Office scheme at Dyce Prison, Aberdeen.

Full details of his anti war life on PPU website.

https://www.menwhosaidno.org/men/men_files/b/brocklesby_john.html

See also: *The Guardian, Friday July 19th 2019, p3.* "War is hatred and murder': conscientious objectors held at Richmond [Castle, North Yorkshire] are recognised", article by Mark Brown.

BROCKLESBY, John (1901-1963).

Methodist pacifist and cousin of John Hubert "Bert" Brocklesby, WW1 CO. Farm manager to both FTS & CLTA/CFS and a Director of CFS.

Before the war in 1939 JB was competing in local singing competitions as an "operatic tenor" from North Kelsey. See *Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph* for that year.

"In 1942 ... JB was CFS manager living in College House, Lissington ... Singing was, I'm sure JB's priority. I often accompanied him at local concerts and music festivals and this meant frequent long bicycle rides to village halls and chapels, as well as long practising sessions. John was a great artist and I appreciate now what a great privilege it was to have been with him on these occasions. The adjudicators at the music festivals invariably commented on his ability to communicate the essence of whatever he sang. Although his repertoire was numerically limited it covered a very wide range... I often wonder if it was this great gift, the nature it flowered from, that enabled him to hold together the disparate and incongruous individuals who worked the farms." [FJE].

"John Brocklesby was a natural tenor and took great delight in singing but his repertoire consisted mainly of Methodist hymns. John Cook, and some of the other musically inclined trainees, took him in hand and taught [him] operatic and other songs. Sometimes he and John Cook gave a recital for the community at which he performed very creditably." [SF2, p10].

JB (tenor) sang at the Market Rasen Methodist Chapel Anniversary, *Lincolnshire Echo, April 1st 1940.*

JB sang at Faldingworth Methodist Chapel Concert in a programme of popular and classical music before a large audience. Quartets, duets, solos and recitals. Eight contributors including JB of Collow Abbey. *Lincolnshire Echo, March 2nd 1942.*

"Concert in Barn - An enjoyable country concert was given in the barn at Lynwode House, Linwood, when £5 12s was raised for the Nursing Association. Mrs Moss and Mr J. Brocklesby were the chief soloists, and items were contributed by Mrs Woodcock, Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Gregory, Mr F.A. Hill, Mr Garth Waite, and Mr Fred England, of Holton Beckering, the last named and Miss N. Towle being accompanists." *Lincolnshire Echo, August 6th 1942.*

JB sang at a "Sacred Concert [held] at the Central Methodist Chapel

Middle Rasen. A programme of popular and classical music, eight contributions including JB (tenor), James Harper (elocutionist) and T Garth Waite on piano." *Lincolnshire Echo, October 21st 1946.*

On a personal note: when JB came to Holton Hall, to visit my parents I (aged about 5-6 years) would be prompted by my mother to ask him to sing a song, a ditty, for me and often he would oblige...

"Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken! Lay a little egg for me,
I haven't had one since Tuesday and now it's half past three".

He was a very big man and heavy too. My mother used to make sure the chair he sat on was strong enough to take his weight - we had many rickety chairs! [JLM].

BROCKLESBY, George William (Bill) (1904-?)

Methodist pacifist of Ings Farm, West Torrington. Brother of the above; helped to set up FTS in 1940.

BURROW, Richard (1920-?). (FTS trainee No 4)

FTS file:

Aged 20. Of 29 Trafford Rd, Norwich, NORFOLK.

Occupation: Boiler house trainee.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal decision: Conditional exemption - same occupation.

Date of arrival: August 5th or 6th 1940.

Training: Tractor driving. Reaping. Cultivating, ploughing & odd leading etc. Harrowing. Can set plough. Reaping & threshing peas.

Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs. Ensilage.

Muck spreading. Operating binder. Squitter [illegible]. Drilling wheat.

(Horse). Potato picking.

Date of Leaving: Nov 1st to 14th employed here. Left here and returned later. Dead [in pencil].

(Length of stay 3 months but stayed on).

BUTCHER, Bill. (nd).

"...new faces were appearing on the scene [at Bleasby Farm 1943?]. Among them ... Bill Butcher". [SF2, p12].

CAMMAERTS, Francis Charles Albert (June 16th 1916-July 3rd 2006).

FTS trainee No 8.

FTS file:

Age 24. *Of The Eyrie, Radlett, Herts.*

Occupation: *Schoolmaster.*

Previous experience: *Considerable in holidays.*

Tribunal: *Military Register - awaiting appellate tribunal. Result: Conditional exemption.*

DOA: *August 8th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving: ploughing, cultivating, harrowing, leading etc. Harvesting & threshing - all jobs. Drilling wheat (2 horses).*

Potato picking.

DOL: *Nov 1st [1940?]. Taken on as permanent member of farm.*

(Length of stay 3 months, but stayed on.)

In the 1930s Cammaerts studied at Cambridge University and became a pacifist. Began his teaching career and met Harry Ree; both of them later also became agents with the Special Operations Executive in France. In 1940 he registered as a CO and worked on the land in Lincolnshire. Married Nan (nee Nancy Finlay) on March 15th 1941 at Caistor Registry Office.

On the death of his brother Pieter in the RAF on March 30th 1941 he decided to join the war effort. Recruited by SOE in October 1942. By the time of the D Day landings he was in charge of SOE in South East France and the group he built up consisted of more than 10,000 "resistants". After the war he resumed his teaching and teacher training career. (See his entry in Wikipedia and the biography by Ray JENKINS.)

"For a while the shepherd at Collow was Francis Cammaerts. His contribution to evening entertainment was to organise play-readings which often kept the trainees up later than was wise. Francis knew several of the well-known contemporary poets and playwrights, who sometimes came to stay at Collow. One group of friends would break into spontaneous and raucous recitations and songs, the words of which would sometimes leave John Brock[lesby] rather startled at their audacity...Francis came to Collow as a trainee shortly after Bobby Walshaw arrived; there he met Dee's sister Nan, whom he later married...in 1941 Francis left the Farm Training Scheme. Nan, who had recently had a baby, stayed with Dee and although she did not say much about where he had gone or what he was doing, it was generally felt he had joined the French Resistance. He returned briefly some months later, bringing with him a Frenchman named Gilbert. After the war it was it was disclosed that he had been working in the mountains in the South of France under the codename of Roger, in the organisation run by Odette." [SF2, p10-11.]

Louth County Police - Traffic Offences. Francis C. A. Cammerits [sic]

of Bleasby Grange, Legsby, was fined 10 shillings for driving a motor lorry which was not fitted with a reflecting mirror. *Louth Standard, April 4th 1942, p5.*

Sales of land at the Gordon Arms Hotel, Market Rasen "Less interest was shown in 2 small holdings at Bleasby Moor. One... was withdrawn at £360 but the other, occupied by Mr George at a rental of £20 16 shillings made £300, the purchaser being Mr F.C.A. Cammaerts." *Lincolnshire Echo, July 2nd 1942.*

CARTER, Rev Henry, CBE. (1874-1951).

Minister at Kingsway Hall, London, one of the founders of the Methodist Peace Fellowship in 1933 and Chairman of the Directors of the PPU CO farming scheme at Laurels Farm.

"Traitor To His Country - Pacifist Who Would Take the Risk - Christians and War Attitude". Rev Henry Carter "...who was largely responsible for the initiation of the Methodist Peace Fellowship" said that members would "...accept the Fellowship Covenant in unison". MPF members "...renounce war and all its ways and works now and forever." If London were bombed "... we cannot right this fearful wrong by bombing Berlin." "I, who love England, in the last resort will serve Christ rather than England." *Nottingham Journal, September 28th 1933.*

"Drink Traffic Attacked - Louth Temperance Meeting - Why Brewers are making a 'big drive'". Strong plea for the cause of temperance made by Rev Henry Carter at meeting in Eastgate Methodist Church, Louth. *Louth Standard, Feb 9th 1935, p9.*

"A prominent Methodist minister who was also involved in administering forestry units for Methodist COs from January 1940 onwards in the Christian Pacifist Forestry and Land Units." [FJE].

Rev Henry Carter of Methodist Church, Westminster, Secretary of the Social Welfare Council of the Methodist Church and member of "Embassies of Reconciliation", and several others, discuss H.G. Wells "Declaration of Man's Rights". *Daily Herald, February 8th 1940.*

In 1940 "The Reverend Henry Carter OBE was asked to give a talk on the Empire Service [of the BBC] and the script he submitted included some sharp commentary on inequality in Britain. 'Out of every hundred men, women and children in Britain', he wrote, 'one man and one boy own nearly a quarter of the wealth that should be available to meet the needs of them all'... This passage was judged to be shockingly left-wing [and] ...it was excised." Carter, without being banned, was not invited to broadcast again". *Auntie's War* by Edward Stourton, p144-5.

"Want End to Night Raids" - headline and article discussing a petition

from 3 bishops, 6 MPs. Among others were Rev Henry Carter, Vera Brittain, J.M. Murry and Dr Alex Wood. *Daily Herald, November 1st 1941.*

CASTON, Alan (?1918-).

At Laurels Farm. Previously at CPFLU, Dockenden, Kent. [Don S.]

First branch of CPFLU set up in Hemsted Forest, Dockenden, Kent on January 2nd 1940 with 4 men, one of whom was Alan Caston. Maclachlan, p20.

CLARKE, Charles (Charlie). (1882-1st September 1945).

Headstone in Holton Beckering churchyard has the inscription "Died aged 63". Foreman at Laurels and Ivy Lodge Farms, HB. "Living at the Laurels Cottage...Neither Charlie Clarke, Harry FOSTER nor Bob SANDERSON were COs...Harry and Bob had been working at the Laurels and the Grange before CFS took over. Charlie Clarke had been recruited, I think, by John Brocklesby". Charlie "... said he could do any job on a farm, and that was never disproved. It was his steady ability and sarcastic good humour that gave us confidence to attempt jobs we'd have thought twice about - stock work, handling horses, loading wagons etc. He was always there keeping a wary eye on things, and had a rare ability to demonstrate and explain how to do difficult jobs. He spoke a rich earthy Lincolnshire dialect in a high-pitched penetrating voice. Like Bob SANDERSON, he had the wise tolerance that seemed to come from generations of farm workers, when it was mostly a solitary occupation. He was found dead among his sheep at [Holton] Grange [Farm] one spring Sunday morning". [FJE]

COATES, Rev Henry.

Helped to finance CFS.

COLE, Ted (nd).

At PPU's Holton Grange Farm. [Don S. and Ian H. and SF2, p15.]

COOK, John Ernest (Oct 11th 1918-Aug 12th 1984). [FTS trainee No 5.]
FTS file:

Age 21. Of St George-the-Martyr Rectory, New Kent Rd. SE1.

Occupation: Musical student.

Previous experience: 5 months general farm work, particularly looking after stock in Sussex.

Tribunal: Conditional exemption (agriculture).

Date of Arrival: April 17th 1940.

Training: *General experience and training [illegible].*

Date of leaving: *middle of August [1940?] for farm in Cornwall. Now employed in land reclamation at Cambridge.*

[Length of stay: 4 months]

"Anglo-American organist, composer and church musician...a conscientious objector to WW2 he left his Cambridge studies prematurely to drive an ambulance during the Blitz of London."

[Wikipedia, seen Sept 24th 2022].

"One of the trainees, John Cook, was a trained pianist who later played at Dartington. He wanted to be able to practise so the community obtained a second hand Bechstein grand piano, an enormous object which would not fit in the house. The only big, dry space was the upper floor of the barn so that was where the piano went. The barn, just across the yard from the house included the pig sty in the lower part of the building. The trainees swept out the area for the piano but the dust and straw and, of course, the sound and aroma of the pigs still found its way up to the audience. John practised for hours on end and the sounds of the grand piano drifted across the yard to the kitchen of Collow." [SF2].

COPNALL, Hubert P. "Hu" (September 20th 1918-May 28th 1997).

At Laurels Farm. [Don S.]. Charlie Clarke "... once provoked Hubert Copnall, a CO who, because of his strength usually carried corn when threshing, into carrying a sack of wheat from the Laurels granary to the Grange granary for a bet of 50 cigarettes" [FJE].

NB. This story is repeated, with changed names (Pugh for Copnall) in Murry's "*Community Farm*", page 78 et seq.

"At yesterday's sitting of Lincoln Tribunal for the registration of COs Hubert P. Copnall (22), farm worker of Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering, said he had formerly been engaged in sculpture in London but preferred land work. He had been on land work for 3 yrs and was now on a farm supported by donations sent to a pacifist organisation [Peace Pledge Union]. In reply to a question Copnall said "I did not ask to be defended". The Chair said 'That's pretty cheap isn't it? You know that you are only getting food and things for your farm because the Navy brings them across'. Copnall was placed on the CO register for non-combatant duties". *Lincolnshire Echo*, July 31st 1941.

CORNWALLIS, Jean. (nd). Wife of Dick.

"Smoking was considered one of the little luxuries of life and many people smoked a brand, introduced by Jean, called Duesk Turks which

came in attractive oval tins and cost one shilling and a penny for 50. They were kept in a wooden stool which was one particular trainee's seat at the kitchen table." [SF2, p8].

CORNWALLIS, Richard Kinahan "Dick", (1915-January 17th 1969)
Humanitarian pacifist, co-founder of FTS at Collow Abbey Farm and a Director of CFS at Laurels Farm. Trained to be an accountant at Price Waterhouse.

" 'Conscientious Objectors Tribunal Asks about Farm Scheme'.
Richard K. Cornwallis (25) of Collow Abbey Farm, Wragby, said he was articled to a chartered accountant but he left his studies on the outbreak of war because it was his conviction that he ought to do all he could to help the pacifist movement. His objection to service was not on religious but on ethical grounds." Asked whether it is part of the job at this farm to train objectors before they come to court, Cornwallis said "Of course we discuss big questions among ourselves but there is no training." Do you pay trade union wages on your farm? "Not to the trainees who are there on a course of 3 months and who pay us a subsistence fee. The farm could take up to 10 trainees and there were 5 other people associated with him in the scheme. Two of the farms [Bleasby Grange and Floral] were owned by his wife. The acreage was 286 and the rent was £140 pa as much of the land had been derelict. Cornwallis was told that his name would remain on the register conditional on his being engaged in full time work on the land." *Lincolnshire Echo*, July 30th 1941.

"...we were working as a community...Dick Cornwallis was the prime mover...to me Dick was the community...I would describe him as a Gandhi. He was community - must be community. You don't do things just for yourself. You do things for society. I'm a beekeeper you know and the beehive is what he wanted. You were part of a family...That didn't stop you being a family man... you're part of that family [but] we hadn't all got that idea [some were] looking for ...almost a nest...they were looking for their own and they wanted a nest. I think that's what it was".

"I think why we collapsed [as a community] was there wasn't a community or rather a solid basis for it...I believe that both Roy and Dick were the same on that...humanitarian grounds...well another [reason] was political grounds...that of course to my mind doesn't wash and there were several [COs] like that." Arthur Adams interviewed by Ian Sharp.

COSSHAM, Ronald Steven. (1915-). [FTS trainee No 6].
FTS file:

Aged 25. Of 42 Danehurst Rd, Wallasey, Cheshire.

Occupation: Audit clerk.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: North Midlands Tribunal, Lincoln. August 30th 1940. Conditional Exemption (Agriculture). [Source PPU].

Date of Arrival: May 18th 1940.

Training: Milking, hand & machine. Setting potatoes. Hand spreading fertilizer. Hoeing weeds. Chopping out & singling sugar beet. Haymaking.

Date of Leaving: July 8th 1940 to the Ings Farm. Later left for Cumberland.

[Length of stay 7 weeks].

"Ronald Stephen Cossam [sic] (25), whose address was ... given as Collow Abbey Farm, Wragby, was registered conditional on his continuing land work. Cossam said he worked at Collow Abbey for 6 weeks before taking a job on a farm, and previously he was an audit clerk in an accountant's firm at Liverpool. 'I do not ask for military protection for myself or my wife or family. I think it is of no value in the long run'".
Lincolnshire Echo, August 27th 1940.

CRAPP, Howard Procter. (March 12th 1917-July 6th 2010).

"Nov 1939. Met John Brocklesby and Dick Cornwallis in Nancy Richardson's PPU office in King's Cross." With his agricultural training HC was asked to assist for a year at a PPU farming community at Stanford le Hope in Essex. Meanwhile John B and brother Bill rented a big farmhouse at Collow Abbey, West Torrington, Lincs. Could house about 12 COs. Collow ready in spring 1940. In January 1941 Dick and Roy Broadbent bought "... a very rundown farm nearby called Bleasby Grange". HC joined others at Collow in early January 1941. At Bleasby were Dick, Jean, Roy, Dee, Francis Cammaerts, Jack Wright, Joe Downend. At nearby Floral Farm lived Helen & Arthur Betts, HC and Arthur Adams, Frank Sheldon, Jean Anderson and Geoff Potter. [HC].

"Private Company - Crapp and Woolcock Ltd of 'Belvedere', Bleasby Moor, Market Rasen, has been registered as a private company...to carry on business of farmers etc. Nominal capital: £1,000. Permanent directors: H.W. Crapp, Rustington, Sussex; H.P. Crapp, Bleasby Moor, Market Rasen; B.V. Woolcock, Holton Beckering, Lincs." *Lincolnshire Echo, July 5th 1947.*

CRAPP, Jean. Nee Anderson, wife of Howard, married 1945. (d. July 1992)

CULLUM, Dennis (1920-). [FTS trainee No 9].

FTS file:

Aged 21. Of 16 Ivymount Rd, West Norwood, SE 27.

Occupation: Clerk.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Non-combatant - appeal dismissed.

Date of Arrival: March 17th 1941.

Training: Tractor driving - dragging, ploughing. March 17th - 24th 1941.

Away- arrested and in prison 3 days. Returned April 4th 1941.

Milking hand April 7th 1941 for 2 weeks. Milking machine for 1 week.

Ploughing. Drilling. Muck leading. Manure distribution. Draining. Small seeds sowing. Market garden. Did 2 weeks with pay after his 3 months training.

Date of Leaving: July 12th 1941 to Mixed Farm. 1 Elm Cottages, Woodside Green, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

[Length of stay 4 months]

CURRELL, Henry Arthur. (1916-2004). [FTS trainee No 7].

FTS file:

Aged 24. Of 120 King's Court, London, W6.

Occupation: Shorthand typist.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Conditional exemption.

Date of arrival: July 24th 1940.

Training: Tractoring: a little leading. Dragging, harrowing, reaping & threshing peas. Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs. Ensilage. Muck spreading. Horse raking. Sowing beans. Lifting sugar beet. Loading ditto. Picking potatoes. Pulling sugar beet.

Date of Leaving: first week in October 1940.

[Length of stay 3 months]

DAVEY, Charles. (1921-). [FTS trainee No 13].

FTS file:

Aged 20. Of Green End, Radnedge [?], High Wycombe.

Occupation: Cambridge undergraduate.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Not yet heard.

Date of Arrival: July 14th 1941.

Training: Singling beet. Hoeing etc.

Only stayed 2 weeks - was offered just the kind of community job he wanted so decided to take it.

Date of Leaving: July 27th 1941.

[Length of stay 2 weeks]

DAVISON, C. Robert "Bob" (1920-). [FTS trainee No 11].

FTS file:

Aged 20. *Of Culverton House, Princes Risborough, Bucks. Occupation: Pilot [ex Fleet Air Arm. In pencil]*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *To come.*

Date of Arrival: *April 26th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving: 9.5 hrs plus. Care of pigs. Grooming, harnessing etc horses. Horse drilling & harrowing. Drilling barley with tractor drill. Hoeing weeds. Chopping out & singling sugar beet. Setting potatoes. Spreading fertilizer by hand. Haymaking.*

Date of Leaving: *June 23rd 1940 to work on small holding at "Hillside", Flackwell Heath, Nr High Wycombe, Bucks.*

[Length of stay 8 weeks]

DEWHURST, Charles (1918-?).

"Tossed by Bull - Charles Dewhurst (25), of Holton Beckering near Wragby, lies injured in Lincoln County Hospital". *Lincolnshire Echo, May 7th 1943.*

DONNELLY, Cynthia (nd).

Resident at PPU's Holton Grange Farm (Ian H.)

DOWNEND, Betty (nee North), (March 31st 1915-March 2nd 2002).

Wife of Joseph. Attended Tribunal. [Don S. and Deb Rowley, née Downend]

DOWNEND, Joseph N. (February 2nd 1910-July 13th 1986). [FTS trainee No 10].

FTS file:

Aged 30. *Of 95 Wood St, Grimsby, Lincs.*

Occupation: *painter and decorator.*

Previous experience: *Knowledge of chicken farming.*

Tribunal: *To come.*

Date of Arrival: *April 15th 1940. (Earliest trainee to arrive)*

Training: *Mostly work on house (Collow Abbey Farmhouse). Singling beet etc.*

Date of leaving: *July 24th 1940 to Will Robinson's, Collow Grange.*

[Length of stay 3 months. Sources FTS & Deb Rowley, née Downend.]

DOWNIE, John (nd). [FTS trainee No 14].

FTS file:

No age, occupation nor address given.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Non-combatant.

Date of Arrival: Not given.

Training: Tractoring. Milking. Harvesting.

Date of Leaving: Not given.

Left for job with War Agricultural Committee, Herts.

[Length of stay: Unable to calculate as no dates given]

DRABBLE, Edwin Hadley (1920-). [FTS trainee No 12].

FTS file:

Age 21. Of 16 Hillside, Marborough [?], Nr Sheffield.

Occupation: Ex student of electricity.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Military Register. 28 days [?].

Date of Arrival: February 10th 1941

Training: Did no land training. All his 3 months spent fixing electric light plant at Bleasby Grange Farm etc. Left for a job of some sort in Sheffield town.

Date of Leaving: Not given. [Thought to be 3 months later.] Hollingworth Community, Chapelton, Nr Wakefield.

[Length of stay: 3 months but no leaving date given]

ELLIOTT, Jack (nd).

At Bleasby Grange Farm. [Don S.]

ELLIS, Arthur (1907-). [FTS trainee No 15].

FTS file:

Age 34. Of 64 Stonecliffe, Road, Sheffield 2.

Occupation: Bookbinder.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Conditional exemption, land.

Date of Arrival: February 17th 1941.

Training: Hay tying. & carting. Hedging. Milking & garthing.

Date of Leaving: March 16th 1941?

[Length of stay: 4 weeks]

ENGLAND, Frederick John. ("Fred"). (1916- May 2nd 1997).

After registering as a CO, he did "... bomb site clearance and demolition work in London... Worked in Kielder forests on the Scottish border [with CPFLU?] and on the land with a community of COs in Linwood, Bleasby and Holton Beckering." [Ruth England]. Joined CFS in 1942 at Laurels & Holton Grange Farms. Piano tuner by profession.

ENGLAND, Janet (nee Manwell). Wife of Fred.

FARLEY, Phyllis (nd). Wife of Victor.

After Vic was sacked in 1940 he was accepted to join the FTS at Collow. "At first Phyl stayed in London, travelling each day to the City which was being bombed almost every night. She went up to Collow for a couple of weeks holiday and, after the pale strained faces of Londoners, she was amazed by the tanned and relaxed Vic who met her at Lincoln station in Roy's shooting brake". She later stayed. [SF2, p8].

FARLEY, Victor (1915-January 20th 1994). [FTS trainee No 16].

FTS file:

Age 25. *Of 63 Quick's Road, Wimbledon SW19.*

Occupation: *Borough accountant.*

Previous experience: *Nil.*

Tribunal: *Military register - non-combatant duties (Lincoln August 1940).*

Date of Arrival: *August 5th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving: Reaping, cultivating & odd leading etc. Ploughing, Dragging, Harrowing. Reaping & threshing peas. Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn-crops - all jobs. Ensilage. Muck-spreading. Horse-raking. Operating binder. Sowing beans. Potato picking. Pig feeding & tending.*

Date of Leaving: *December 1940 (?) for Redhurst, Cranleigh (unclear), Surrey.*

[Length of stay: 4 months]

"In 1942... VF was CFS Secretary living at Mid Farm, Lissington". [FJE]

Below are dates noted by Vic himself and supplied by Sarah Farley:
1940. Sacked by Wimbledon Electricity Corporation for refusal to join Local Defence Volunteers. Joined land reclamation gang, Hampshire War Agricultural Committee.

August 1940. Went to Collow Abbey Farm.

1941. Bookkeeper for Laurels Farm. Also bookkeeper/secretary to J.M.Murry and Max Plowman for Peace News and Adelphi Magazine.

1942. At Mid Farm, Lissington.

1943. At the Glebe, Holton Beckering, with the Broadbents.

1947. Built Stockfield bungalow at Holton Beckering.

"While at Collow, several of the trainees' tribunals were called, including Vic's. It was held at Lincoln Court House and a week later he was told that he could not register as CO. He appealed against the finding ... and appeared before [it] a second time, in London, chaired by the headmaster of Harrow School. He was represented by a solicitor, Ambrose Appleby, who persuaded the [Appeal] tribunal to accept Vic's statement and direct him to do agricultural work for the duration of the war." [SF2, p11].

"Vic Farley left Collow Abbey Farm at the beginning of November 1940...he saw a job advertised in *Peace News*; it was for a secretary to a [farming] community which was led by John Middleton Murry at the Oaks, Langham in Norfolk [actually Essex]. The Oaks consisted of a kitchen garden... a 30 acre farm and a large house. It was staffed by COs, paid on a pocket money arrangement, whose job was to run the house as a social service looking after old age pensioners who had been bombed out of London...Although it was JMM who founded the community, much of the day-to-day organisation was left to Max Plowman, a staunch Fabian socialist. It was he who appointed Vic to his book-keeping and secretarial duties, recording the buying and selling of produce and doling out the pocket money. The duties were not very onerous and gradually Murry asked Vic to take over more and more secretarial work for *Peace News* and the *Adelphi* magazine, both of which Murry edited. Vic accompanied him to London meetings and sat in on editorial discussions enjoying the break from the normal book-keeping routine." [SF2, p13-14].

"Welton Rural Council election results...Among those returned unopposed...V. Farley (Fulnetby and Holton Beckering)." *Lincolnshire Echo*, April 2nd 1946.

FINDLAY, Ellis "Finn", MBE. (1920-).

Brother of Dee Broadbent and manager of "Holton Engineers", motor repairs garage, Holton Beckering, set up after the demise of CFS with the help of Vic Farley and Roy Broadbent. Holton Engineers sold petrol and diesel, and repaired cars and agricultural machinery.

Ellis Findlay (19) of Leeds, charged with exceeding the 30 mph speed limit in Grantham, got off with a 30 shilling fine due to his being in the Territorial Army. *Grantham Journal*, May 6th 1939, p7.

"Honour for Services". Mr Ellis Findlay of Wragby awarded the MBE for work in Malaysia as "engineering advisor to the Malaysian Federal Land Development Authority, being employed by the British Ministry of

Overseas Development under their Technical Aid Scheme." *Lincolnshire Echo Oct 30th 1968*, p3.

FOSTER, Harry (nd).

Not a CO, but "One of ...two skilled farm workers [see also Bob SANDERSON and Charlie CLARKE] lived in one of the council houses... had been working at Laurels and Grange Farms before CFS took over" [FJE].

FREEMAN, John Alfred (1920-). [FTS trainee No 17].

FTS file:

Age 21. Of 69 Crossmead, Eltham SE9.

Occupation: Bespoke shirt-cutting.

Previous experience: all except tractor driving.

Tribunal: ARP, agriculture or forestry.

Date of Arrival: February 3rd 1941.

Training: Ploughing. Garthing. Hedging.

Date of Leaving: February 21st 1941?

[Length of stay: 18 days]

FREEMAN, Peter (1915-). [FTS trainee No 18].

FTS file:

Age 26. Of 63 Clarendon Road, Sheffield 10.

Occupation: Radio engineer. Sec of Sheffield Refugee Cttee.

Previous experience: Holiday work.

Tribunal: Mercantile marine, forestry, land work.

Date of Arrival: May 21st 1941.

Training: Draining. Muck spreading. Milking - hand & machine. Ploughing.

Market garden. Hand distributing artificals [sic; fertilizers?]. Horse

harrowing. Beet singling. Hoeing. Binding. Mowing grass. Silage. Hay etc.

Fertilizer distributing [with] horses.

Date of Leaving: August 18th 1941. Job with Wilts War Agricultural Committee.

c/o Mrs Dorkins, High St, Whiteparish, Wilts.

[Length of stay: 3 months]

GOODGAME, Tom (?1920-).

At Holton Grange Farm with Jim Harper. (IH).

GOODSTEIN, Anton. (nd). [FTS trainee No 19].

FTS file:

Age not given. *Of 8 Observatory Street, Oxford.*

Occupation: *not given.*

[No other details supplied]

HANCOCKS, Peter Edward. (October 18th 1922- August 16th 1979).

Lived at Floral Farm with Joan. "At the end of day when tools were downed, Peter would exclaim "Now I can do some work!" and he spent evenings working on his paintings". [Don S.]

"Artist Aged 15 - City Boy's Success in National Contest. Peter Hancocks, Sheffield boy artist at Sheffield College of Arts & Crafts [has won] a poster drawing competition entered by artists throughout the country." Address:- 220 Meadowhead, Sheffield. *Sheffield Independent*, June 23rd 1938.

Peter Edward Hancocks summonsed for "Alleged Failure To Be Medically Examined" for military service. Hancocks fined £2 and detained and put before medical board later that day. Had been before the Appellate Tribunal and retained on the CO register on condition that he be employed for non-combatant duties. Hancocks (aged 20 yrs) fined £10 or 2 months prison for failure to submit to medical examination. Pleaded guilty and said he was a CO. *Lincolnshire Echo*, March 15th, 22nd & 24th 1943.

HANCOCKS, Joan Alfreda. Nee Lock. (August 9th 1922-).

Wife of Peter. [Don S.]

HAND, Wilfred Ward (1919-). [FTS trainee No 23].

FTS file:

Age 21. *Of Castle Bytham, Grantham, Lincs.*

Occupation: *Shop assistant.*

Previous experience: *Nil.*

Tribunal: *Conditional exemption - agriculture.*

Date of Arrival: *September 25th 1940.*

Training: *Ploughing. Cultivating. Sieving potatoes.. Muck leading. Milking, garthing. Pigs. Horse raking. Sowing beans. Pulling sugar beet & loading.*

Date of Leaving: *End December (1940?).*

[Length of stay: 4 months].

Report from the North Midland Tribunal for COs at Nottingham. Former railway man W.W.H. had left his job, now unemployed. Had been promised a job in a bookshop. He was left on the CO Register, case adjourned for 3 months so he could get a job of more national importance. *Nottingham Journal*, December 7th 1939, p5.

HARKNESS, Olive Elizabeth (10/10/21-)

HARPER, James "Jim" (October 15th 1921-Oct 26th 2014).

Joined CFS in 1941 at Holton Grange. [Don S. and Iain Harper]. "Jim Harper, an active member of the (Holton) play reading group, became Secretary of the Market Rasen Music Festival". [FJE].

"Sacred Concert at Middle Rasen - a large and appreciative audience in the Central Methodist Chapel, Middle Rasen on Sunday afternoon heard a programme of popular and classical music". Among the artists were Mr J. Brocklesby (tenor) and Mr James Harper (elocutionist) and 6 others. *Lincolnshire Echo, Oct 21st 1946.*

"Musical Festival Record at Rasen - a 5 day fixture for the first time". Mr James Harper (Secretary). Awards: Shakespeare Open: 1st James Harper of Holton Beckering. Verse Speaking Open: 1st James Harper. *Lincolnshire Echo, Oct 8th 1947.*

More Festival results: Elocution - Senior Challenge: 1st James Harper of Holton Beckering. Dramatic art, play or scene: 2nd Holton Players of Holton Beckering. *Lincolnshire Echo, Oct 9th 1947.*

"Lincoln Churches - Special anniversary service at High St [Methodist?] Chapel, Blyton". Among those taking part James Harper and John Brocklesby. *Lincolnshire Echo, Dec 2nd 1947.*

HARPER, Mildred May "Millie". Nee Taylor. (November 30th 1918-February 14th 1997).

Joined CFS in 1942. Wife of James. [Don S. and Iain Harper]

HARRISON, Eric. (1916-). [FTS trainee No 20].

FTS file:

Age 24. Of 16 South Parade, Grimsby, Lincs. Letters to 151 Ayscough St., Grimsby.

Occupation: Estate agent's clerk and collector.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Conditional exemption.

Date of Arrival: June 24th 1940.

Training: Tractor driving. Singling sugar-beet. Haymaking. Harvesting peas & threshing. Muck leading. Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs. Ensilage. Operating binder.

Date of Leaving: September 16th 1940 to go to the Ings [Farm].

[Length of stay: 10 weeks]

"North Lincs Objectors" at the North Midlands CO Tribunal at

Nottingham. Eric Harrison, of 16 South Parade, Grimsby, appeared. His case was based on religious grounds and the non-use of violence. He said he did social service in the slums of Grimsby, taking clothes around. His name was left on the CO Register. *Grimsby Daily Telegraph, April 24th 1940, p3.*

HARRISON, Ronald (1914-). [FTS trainee No 24].

FTS file:

Age 27. *Of 49 Mildred Avenue, Watford, Herts.*

Occupation: *Railway clerk.*

Previous experience: *Slight in holidays.*

Tribunal: *Land work, ARP or ambulance.*

Date of Arrival: *June 23rd 1941.*

Training: *Ploughing. Pea harvesting. Singling. Market gardening. Muck leading. Haymaking. Harrowing. Horse hoeing. Hoeing. Leading corn. Binding.*

Date of Leaving: *September 12th 1941. Address: Hill Farm, Boxford, Colchester.*

[Length of stay: nearly 3 months]

HART, Derek. (nd).

Pacifist employed by Wimbledon Electricity Company, dismissed for refusing to join the Local Defence Volunteers in early 1940, at the same time as Victor Farley. [SF2, p7].

HATT, Reginald Frederick (June 14th 1913-). [FTS trainee No 22].

FTS file:

Age 27. *Of 31 Havelock Road, Southsea.*

Occupation: *Journalist.*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *Conditional exemption, agriculture: appealing.*

Date of Arrival: *August 19th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving: 3hrs cultivating & some odd leading etc. Ploughing. Reaping & threshing peas. Cultivating. Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs. Muck spreading. Ensilage. Operating binder. Horse raking. Potato picking. Drilling wheat (2 hours).*

Date of Leaving: *Middle November [1940?] for Grange Centre, c/o Harry Hilditch [WW1 CO], The Grange Centre, Wythall, Birmingham 14. Tel: Wythall 2243.*

[Length of stay: 3 months]

HEAP, John (?1919-2012).

CO at PPU's Holton Grange Farm. (Iain H).

HEASMAN, Alma. (nd).

Related to Cyril HEASMAN (1892-1936), CO in WW1. Source Ian Sharp & Iain H. Victor Farley's secretary in his office at Mid Farm, Lissington, from 1942 while he was accountant for CLTA/CFS at Laurels Farm. (SF2, p15).

HEBERDEN, Ernest [Russell] (1916-). [FTS trainee No 25].

FTS file:

Age 25. No address given.

Occupation: Pacifist Service Bureau.

Previous experience: Nil.

Tribunal: PSB (Pacifist Service Bureau) or land.

Date of Arrival: June 25th 1941.

Training: Harvesting. Ploughing, milking, gattling [unclear]. Beet plough. Horse work generally.

Date of Leaving: July 12th 1942. Kept on from October as year trainee.

Finished year. All round work. Home address: 9 Grove Park Avenue, Eastbourne.

[Length of stay: 1 year and 2 weeks].

E.R.H. appeared before the South Wales Military Service Tribunal at Cardiff, was registered as a CO and directed to find land work.

"Supposing a German dropped from a parachute and faced you with a revolver?", asked Judge Frank Davies at SWMST. Heberden replied that he would try to be non-resistant. The Judge retorted "Yes, and then you would be non-existent." *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, May 17th 1940.

HENSON, Irene (nd).

Wife of Roy? [Don S. & Ian H.]

HENSON, Roy (nd).

Joined PPU's CFS at Holton Grange. [Ian H.]

HIBBERT, Kenneth. (?1914-2012).

Well known amateur actor and CO in the Hull area. Friend of Lawrence Murfitt, and keen motorist.

Letter protesting about "War Manoeuvres", *Hull Daily Mail*, Sept 13th 1934.

Letter to local newspaper:- "The CO - a Defence of His Position" in

which he discusses a letter from R.C. Allen and the views of H.G. Wells. Written from "Vrede", 34 Marlborough Av., Hull. *Yorkshire Post & Leeds Intelligencer*, Nov 4th 1939.

"Kenneth Hibbert was Phillip Larkin's insurance adviser...During WW2 his Quaker pacifist beliefs led him to become a CO." (Hull University Archives, seen Sept 29th 2022.)

HICKENBOTHAM, Alan Roulstone (1918-). [FTS trainee No 21].

FTS file:

Age 22. *Of 28 Gorse Rise, Grantham, Lincs.*

Occupation: *Artist.*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *Non-combatant duties: appealing. (Appeal dismissed).*

Date of Arrival: *August 4th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving: a little ploughing & cultivating & odd leading etc. Reaping & threshing peas. Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs esp. straw stack. Muck spreading. Ensilage. Operating binder. Ploughing & cultivating. Horse raking.*

Date of Leaving: *Early October [1940?] for Temple Bruer (?). Arrested early in March [1941?].*

[Length of stay: 8 weeks]

ARH letter criticizing speech by Bishop of Grantham and recommending reading of J.M. Murry's *Europe in Travail* and the works of William Blake. *Grantham Journal*, Jan 26th 1940.

ARH appeared with 31 other COs before Tribunal for North Midland Division at Shire Hall, Nottingham. ARH "...was removed from the CO Register with an instruction for non-combatant service." *Nottingham Evening Post*, April 22nd 1940.

"Grantham CO to Have His Medical - the Secretary of Grantham branch of Peace Pledge Union, Alan R. Hickinbotham [sic] (22) ...elected to go to prison for a month rather than pay a fine of £2 + £1 1s costs imposed by Lincoln Magistrates for failing to comply with a notice under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act requiring him to submit himself for medical examination. Formerly an art student [he was now] employed in agriculture. On June 30th 1939 he provisionally registered as a CO. After 10 months he went before the local tribunal and was registered for non-combatant duties. He lodged an appeal but the decision of Tribunal was upheld. ARH said his action was dictated partly by a desire to do what he considered to be right. He had as much hatred of Hitler's methods as anyone else in the country, so much so that he was not prepared to adopt those methods himself. The Magistrates ordered ARH

to be escorted before a medical board." *Grantham Journal*, March 14th 1941.

HIMPSON, Roy (nd).

"Roy and Irene Himpson lived at Holton Grange with Ted Cole and Ron Sykes". [SF2, p15].

HORTON, Edward (nd).

Early trainee at Collow. [Dee B.]

JACK, Andrew Desmond (1920-). [FTS trainee No 26].

FTS file:

Age 20. *Of 35 Suggitts Lane, Cleethorpes, Lincs.*

Occupation: *Machine worker in biscuit factory.*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *Rejected. Appellate Tribunal: Stay in former job.*

Date of Arrival: *August 13th 1940.*

Training: *Threshing. Stowking.*

Date of Leaving: *August 21st 1940.*

[Length of stay: 8 days]

"Cleethorpes Objector's Outburst. Name Removed From Register."
Desmond A. Jack of Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, appeared before the North Midland CO Tribunal at Nottingham. He said that Hitlerism was the result of Capitalism and that under a socialist co-operative system there would be no need for war. This should be achieved by pacifist means. The Tribunal decided there was no conscience underlying his views and his name was removed from the Register.

D. A. Jack sprang to his feet and shouted "I suppose if I had been a Christian I should have been exempt. I am a Socialist and I know that war can only be abolished by the ending of the capitalist system. Whatever you do, I shall not go to war to fight for this Capitalist-Imperialist system. I think posterity will condemn you all as murderers, just the same as the whole capitalist system... It's damnable!" *Grimsby Daily Telegraph*, March 21st, 1940, p3.

KERKHAM, Robert Hugh (1884-1957).

Member of management committee for PPU backed scheme at the Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering. "A farmer from Terrington St Clements in Norfolk". [FJE].

"New Norfolk JPs - List of 52 Names." Among them Robert Hugh

Kerkham, The Laurels Farm, Terrington St Clement, King's Lynn, Norfolk.
Diss Express, June 8th 1934.

Methodist Conference meeting at Bury. R.H.K. attended. *Bury Free Press*, Sept 12th 1936.

R.H.K. "well known Methodist farmer" selected as Liberal candidate at next Parliamentary election for the King's Lynn division of Norfolk. *Bury Free Press*, Jan 8th 1938.

The Methodist Peace Fellowship set out to find land work for COs in its care, late 1939-early 1940. "There was a live branch of MPF at King's Lynn and its chairman happened to be a farmer" [Kerkham?] and, with the help of other Methodist farmers in the same district, work was found for 4 men." Maclachlan, p19.

Letter from RHK - Is there a way of defeating Hitler "...without sacrificing the lives of so many young men and civilians in this and [some or other?] lands?" We must solve these problems "by means of a negotiated peace" or "devise a system in which all mankind could live at peace, without the dread of the insecurity of the means of livelihood and without the fear of aggression from their neighbours. R H Kerkham, The Laurels, Terrington St Clement." *Lynn Advertiser*, November 14th 1941, p4.

LAKE, Nancy (nd).

"...assisted on the domestic side" at Laurels Farm. [SF2, p15].

LARGE, Nancy (nd).

Wife of Thomas? [Don S.]

LARGE, Thomas William (1911-). [FTS trainee No 27]

FTS file:

Age 29. Of 13 Mundella Terrace, Newcastle of Tyne 6.

Occupation: Printing.

Previous experience: Nil.

Tribunal: Military register - refused registration.

Date of Arrival: October 30th 1940.

Training: Milking. Garthing. Ploughing.

Date of leaving: Not given, Left to be employed by Brock [Brocklesby?] Bros in Middle Fen.

Started at Holton Beckering [Laurels Farm?] April 6th 1941.

[Length of stay: 5 months?]

Thomas W. Large, 13 Mundella Terrace, Newcastle. Printer. Grounds of objection (religious or otherwise): Not given. Noted that he was the local

contact for CBCO, *Peace News*, Oct 6th 1939. Tribunal decision: Put on Military Register. Appellate Tribunal decision: Included on Register of COs, with conditions. Directed to find farm work. Bill Hetherington in January 2015 noted that TWL worked on community farms for COs at Holton Beckering, Lincs. From a database of NE England COs built up by Stuart Anderson. See his *Refusing to Fight the Good War: COs in North East England*, p324.

"Around this time [1939-40] Don [Sutherland] met Mr Large - a Quaker who told him about a Community in Lincolnshire that ran a Training Scheme for [CO] agricultural workers". [Don S.]

LINDAY, James Keith (1919-). [FTS trainee No 28].

FTS file:

Age 21. Of 33 Sandford Road, Nottingham.

Occupation: Maintenance engineer.

Previous experience: 1 month harvesting.

Tribunal: Conditional exemption.

Date of Arrival: December 2nd 1940.

Training: Garthing. Ploughing. Cultivating. Feeding pigs. Threshing.

Date of Leaving: Taken on as permanent member of farm February 21st [1941?].

[Length of stay: 10 weeks but stayed on].

"More Conchies - Quaker's Offer Accepted' - 36 CO cases considered at North Midland Court at Nottingham Shire Hall. The offer of James Keith Linday of 33 Sandford Road, Mapperley, a Quaker, to do work connected with the land or forestry was accepted. He is now employed in a soap works." *Nottingham Evening Post*, July 18th 1940.

"Premium Demand' - J.K.L. ...gave as his reason for not having found agriculture, forestry or land reclamation work the fact that a premium for training was asked for wherever he went. He was at present an apprentice maintenance engineer. On his behalf, it was stated that the Society of Friends, of which he was a member, were formulating a land scheme which would absorb these men. Linday was registered for non-combatant services." *Nottingham Journal*, Oct 24th 1940.

"J.K.L., at present living at Collow Abbey Farm, Wragby, said that he was undergoing a course of training in agriculture at the farm. The Tribunal approved." *Nottingham Evening Post*, Dec 11th 1940.

LINDSEY, "Wilf". (nd).

Pacifist employed by Wimbledon Electricity Company, dismissed for refusing to join Local Defence Volunteers at same time, early 1940, as

Victor Farley. [SF2, p7].

LINGARD, Len (Nov 1926-2000).

Probably not a CO. The "1939 [census] Register" has him living (and working?) at Bleasby Grange Farm, Legsby, Mkt Rasen, Lincs. Later worked on farms in Holton Beckering and lodged at Holton Hall.

MACLACHLAN, Rev Lewis, (nd).

Founder of CPFLU and member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. "Worst of Sins" - Letter to the Editor refuting the Archbishop of Canterbury's contention that "...it is right for Christians to fight in a just war." From Rev Lewis Maclachlan, The Manse, Holderness Road, Newcastle, Oct 13th. *Newcastle Journal*, Oct 14th 1936. Author of standard history of CPFLU.

MAKIN, Sydney Noel. (Dec 8th 1917-March 25th 2012).

SNM matriculated at Nether Edge Secondary School, Sheffield. *Sheffield Independent*, August 25th 1934.

Bristol Tribunal summer 1941 (source: personal correspondence while applying for job at Bleasby) . Basis of Objection: Humanitarian. Tribunal decision: Conditional exemption. FTS at Bleasby Grange Farm, May-October 1943. CLTA at Holton Beckering, Oct 1943-1948.

Here are transcripts of 3 letters written by Noel and Vicki in 1941-1942. They were sent, presumably to Dick Cornwallis at Bleasby Grange Farm, in response to a job advertisement in the *New Statesman* magazine for "...a young couple to assist on your farm".

LETTER ONE:

"Snowhill Hill

[sic, presumably Snowhill Farm where they worked for a while]

Near Moreton in Marsh,
Glos.

[Undated but internal evidence makes the date of writing late 1941, as their 25th birthdays were in November/December 1941].

Dear Sir,

With reference to your advert. in the 'New Statesman' for a young couple to assist on your farm, my wife and I would like to apply for the position.

We are both 24 years old, pacifists and keen on hard work. I was

formerly a radio officer in the Merchant Navy, but have been working on a mixed farm for the last 18 months. In addition I have learned as much as possible of the theory of soil & fertility conservation and various methods of farming (particularly those advocated by Sir Albert Howard) [an organic farming pioneer, 1873-1947] from reading all the books obtainable in this rather isolated place.

We are both vegetarians, so that my wife is an experienced food reform cook on Edgar Saxon lines [a pioneer of the organic movement, naturopath and food reformer, 1877-1956].

As I was previously a sedentary worker, my physique is inferior to that of the average farm worker, but I have average strength and am quite healthy.

Yours faithfully

S. Noel Makin"

LETTER TWO:

"c/o Richmond House,
Tarporley,
Cheshire.
8-7-42.

[July 8th 1942, that is 6-7 months after Noel's first letter expressing interest in the job, and in response to a request for more details to support their application].

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your reply to my application.

The job you describe seems in every detail exactly what my wife and I are looking for, and so here are details of my previous experience in agriculture.

I first started farm work on a 400 acre mixed farm near Stow on the Wold in March of last year [1941]. We had 20-30 cows in milk, reared calves, kept 80 sheep, and had 200 acres of arable land. The work was done by a foreman, his 15 year old son, and myself, with the occasional help of our wives; and so I necessarily had experience of practically all the everyday work of such a farm - milking, carting, calf-feeding, dry [stone?] walling, dairy work etc.

This farm, however, was not mechanised, and as I wished to learn something of tractor-work, I took a job on a highly mechanised 700 acre mixed farm near Broadway. Here I did such work as disc and chain harrowing, scuffling [?], rolling, and general haulage work with tractors, also some lorry-driving. There were also about 30 acres of market garden

crops including parsnips, leeks, sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, carrots and cauliflower, which I helped to look after. Every possible operation was done by machinery.

Before the war I worked in the publicity office of the Sheffield branch of Selfridges Provincial Stores as copywriter, and just previous to the outbreak of war [I] commenced training as a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy. I was engaged in training and actual service in the M.N. until January last year [1941], when I was advised to leave as I was not considered suited to the Indian climate. On returning to England I took up farm work as described, intending to make it a permanent career, and after 6 months [i.e. in June or July 1941; his appearance before Tribunal coincided with the death of his Mother on Feb 10th 1942,] the Tribunal at Bristol considered my case, ordered me to remain in this occupation. We had already decided to settle in rural life, as we are both temperamentally and physically suited to it, we consider.

As I was obliged to leave my previous position and address because of my late employer's prejudices, I have been unemployed for the past fortnight, and would be able to come and see you should you wish it.

Please note my new address.

Your truly S. Noel Makin.

LETTER THREE:

c/o Richmond House,
Tarpoley,
Cheshire 8/7/42.

[Written on the same day by Vicki, in support of their joint application].

Dear Sir,

We are very interested in your plans and think that we should fit in pretty well.

We have been married for two years [since March 23rd 1940], most of which time we have lived in the country and now have decided to settle somewhere where we shouldn't have to leave when the war ends; moreover where cultural interests (a little music and reading) are not entirely submerged in rural activity (we are however prepared to work hard!).

As our income had never been large, I feel that I have acquired some knowledge of the economics of housekeeping in rural districts including plenty of sewing and laundry experience.

I am interested in old houses and can utilise a measure of ingenuity in making a comfortable home without town amenities. I have done a good deal of cooking by oil stove and awkward old grates - this may be useful

until the house [presumably Bleasby Grange farmhouse] is altered to your liking.

Gardening has shown successful results under our care and if time [allows], I should be glad to do some. I have not had any secretarial experience but I could learn to type and bookkeep before October [1942?].

I should add that we have some furniture and household necessities (cooking utensils etc) which we should like to have with us, if there would be space for same.

We are not strictly vegetarians and I have done both kinds of cooking.

It is difficult to give all the details which we know you will want, by letter, but I think I have dealt with some important ones.

Yours faithfully

Vicki Makin

"...new faces were appearing on the scene. Among them...in May 1943 Noel and Vicki Makin. Noel had come in response to an advertisement in the New Statesman for a garth man - a man who looks after and feeds the livestock. He and Vicki were met at Market Rasen station by Roy and Dee and a very young Barney Broadbent and taken to Bleasby Grange where they were interviewed by the whole community. About twelve people sat around a large table after a meal, the air blue with Woodbine smoke, and asked the questions in an informal way to see if they were suitable for the community. In turn, Vicki and Noel discovered that as payment for labour they would receive 5 shillings a week plus board and lodging. For accommodation, they were given a gypsy caravan parked half way down the drive in a ha-ha.

Experienced in milking, working with horses, repairing walls and looking after cattle Noel was accepted for the community. He had gained his experience working on a farm in the Cotswolds which he was now trying to leave. His working clothes had still not arrived when George Todd collected him on his first morning. The work was hedging and ditching, but George did not seem to notice that Noel was attired in his only suit so Noel shrugged off his concern and followed George into the muddy ditches." [SF2, p12].

"Noel was pig man at his own request. Every morning he fed the pigs cleaned them out and then went to help on the arable side or, as van driver, he would be sent to collect spare parts or do some shopping. Then in the evening, he once again fed the pigs. At first, they began with a few

breeding pigs but food was difficult to obtain. There was a small ration of pig meal and in addition a percentage of the tailings of corn - the tiny misshapen grains which could not go for milling [and] could be kept for pig food. This was supplemented by swedes, potatoes and anything else that was left as waste" [SF2, p16]

MAKIN, "Vicki" Marjorie Eileen. (Nov 25th 1917-Feb 14th 2003).

Nether Chapel, Sheffield. Miss M.E. Lester elected social secretary & assistant secretary. *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, April 4th 1939.

Wife of Sydney Noel. May have been registered as CO. Helped Jean Cornwallis & Dee Broadbent to keep house at Bleasby Grange Farm and later ran the market garden while at Ivy Lodge Farm in Holton.

MANNERING, Richard "Dick", S. (?1920-).

"The [Holton] Hall warden, Dick Mannering, cooked on a huge paraffin range in the two garages at the bottom of the drive until the Esse range was installed in the Hall. From there Dick and his actor brother [name?] did all the catering for the communal meals [of the Laurels Farm workers] which, considering the difficulties under which they were produced, were remarkably good, and were served with a theatrical flourish." [SF2, p16].

MEDD, George Henry Bennison (1905/6-1983). [FTS trainee No 29].

FTS file:

Age 35. *Of Spens Farm, Hart Hill, Sheffield.*

Occupation: Clerk (Sheffield Corporation).

Previous experience: Nil.

Tribunal: To come.

Date of Arrival: April 9th 1941.

Training: Ploughing & harrowing with tractor. Weekend 20th April milking.

Date of Leaving: May 5th 1941. [c/o] W.A.C. Hostel, Park Rd, Nantwich.

***Moved on to CPFLU, Riverside Hotel, Park Rd, Norwich, under auspices of Cheshire CC War Agricultural Cttee. Source PPU.

[Length of stay: 4 weeks]

MORRIS, Canon Stuart Denton (1890-1967).

Member of Board of Directors formed by PPU to manage and run the Laurels Farm for COs to train in farm work.

'Church Accused of Betrayal - Canon Renounces Holy Orders'. As a protest against the attitude of a "great part of the Church of England clergy towards the war" Canon Stuart Morris...has taken the first step to renounce his orders. Announced at a meeting of PPU, at Manchester, of

which he is Chairman. He said he was not prepared to be hampered in the work of dealing with post-war social problems by official attachment to a Church which, he declared, had not only betrayed its Master and the Gospel it preached, but had betrayed the people to whom it preached. "Even if our cause had been the justest of causes", he said, "it remains true that no cause, however righteous, can possibly be achieved by a resort to methods of violence and a denial of all that we mean by righteousness". Canon Morris was not wearing a clerical collar at the meeting. *Nottingham Journal*, Oct 9th 1939.

"Obituary - Mr Stuart D. Morris, General Secretary of PPU and former Canon of Birmingham Cathedral, has died at the age of 77. Vera Brittain, sponsor of PPU, writes 'After leaving the Church Mr Morris became a well-known preacher and outstanding speaker, taking part in PPU campaigns with other leading pacifists of his generation. He was also involved in the famous court case known as the Poster Trial with Alex Wood [in June 1940] ...in which the defendants were tried and fined for exhibiting a poster which displayed the words: 'Wars will cease when men refuse to fight'." *Birmingham Daily Post*, Nov 8th 1967.

MURFITT, "Dick". (nd).

Wife of Lawrence. Teacher of Infants at Legsby County Primary School, nr. Market Rasen, Lincs.

MURFITT, Lawrence H. (nd).

An anarchist CO and friend of Kenneth Hibbert. [JLM]. Fruit farmer at Bleasby Moor, near Lissington.

After the war "... High Farm, Bleasby Moor, was bought by LHM, a lecturer whose wife [see above] taught for some years at Legsby School". [FJE]

One Day Conference on Soft Fruit Growing at NFU Council Chambers, Lincoln, to be held November 9th 1949. L.H. Murfitt, B. Sc., of Lissington (Lindsey), to lead discussion on strawberry growing. All growers are welcome to come and to take part in the discussion. *Lincolnshire Echo*, Nov 1st 1949.

MURRY, John Middleton (6th August 1889-12th March 1957).

Writer, literary critic and farmer. Influential figure behind the PPU CO farming scheme at the Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering. Editor of *Peace News* from June 1940.

BBC Ban on Choir "Dictatorial" - Glasgow Orpheus Choir banned from BBC in view of its conductor's [Sir Hugh Robertson] pacifist views. BBC

said that "by order of the Governors no person known publicly to hold pacifist views on the war should be allowed to broadcast" this was "...as a result of the outcry about broadcasts given by JMM and his recent book "Europe in Travail". *Nottingham Journal*, Dec 3rd 1940. [JMM was regularly on the BBC until about May 1940. JLM]

"The Betrayal of Christ by the Churches" by JMM. Reviewer said JMM should have torn up the MS and burnt it. He had begun as a convinced Marxist but now sees Christianity as the only way however the Church of England has failed in its task "...by its subservience to the State in this present crisis." *Boston Guardian*, Feb 5th 1941.

"...I was convinced that the pacifist has a peculiar duty to the national society that he must try to fulfil. He must try to prove that a society of peace is a real possibility and not an idle dream. The primary cell of such a society is a farming community, or a co-operative farm. If a group of pacifists, justly ordered by the State to work on the land, could take a neglected farm and make it flourish, and in the effort become a group of people knit together by a new social morality, they would have done something to justify their privilege." [JMM. "Community Farm", p34].

"...there are two indispensable qualifications for a member of an agricultural community. One is a determination to stay, whether you like it or not, whether or not you are unhappy, until you are asked to leave. The other is a determination to do more than earn your wages. The first is necessary in order that there may be an experiencing [sic] group at all; the second in order that it may survive and prosper. These two simple conditions are indispensable to the very existence of a community as I understand it. Until they are satisfied, you have not a community. ... These are the qualifications for this agricultural community and I recognize no others. And these will be the qualifications for any other agricultural community that is to survive." [JMM "Community Farm", p89].

"I think the CFS originated at the Adelphi Centre, a conference venue near Colchester, connected before the war with the Adelphi Magazine, edited by JMM... JMM was part of the management committee for the Laurels Farm scheme" [FJE]. [See also John BROCKLESBY, R. K. CORNWALLIS, Alex WOOD, Stuart MORRIS, Wilfred WELLOCK, Robert KERKHAM, Max PLOWMAN and the Rev Henry CARTER.]

"Harvest festivals were celebrated by a service in the Laurels granary on a Sunday morning preceded by a harvest supper and concert on the Saturday night. On the last of these occasions the preacher was J. M. MURRY" [FJE].

"...there was always a deep and unbridgeable cleavage between those who had come [to Adelphi Farm] from Langham and those who had come

from [Laurels Farm in] Lincolnshire", JMM *"Community Farm, p84.*

NANCE, Richard William "Dicon" (1909 Nancledra, Cornwall-2002).

In the 1930s he worked at the Leach Pottery at St Ives, Cornwall and then with potter Michael Cardew in Ghana during majority of WW2. [Cornwall Artists Index].

Dicon Nance of Carbis Bay injured in motor cycle crash near Camborne. *Cornishman, Dec 22nd 1938.*

Worked with Robert Blatherwick at Leach Pottery 1942/43 and later married one of Leach's daughter. [Sue Blatherwick].

OSBORNE, Rev. James (1853 -Oct 1942).

Vicar of HB, resident of the Rectory, died in motor accident in Wragby, October 1942.

"Rector Accidentally Walked Into Lorry. Inquest told Rector (89 yrs old) died of his injuries next day. PC Woolgar [George "Bill" Woolgar was later for many years proprietor of Wragby newspaper shop and café] said that Bren gun carriers passing by would have made a lot of noise and "...it was possible that this prevented Mr Osborne from hearing the lorry." *Lincolnshire Echo, Oct 2nd 1942.* Osborne had been Rector at HB for 50 years and liked shooting and gardening.

Rectory bought by Roy Broadbent in the following year and renamed it The Glebe.

PHILLIPS, Ian. (1924-)

"Front Line Preferred. Ian Phillips (18), The [Holton] Grange, Holton Beckering, Lincoln said he would prefer not to take up non-combatant duties as he considered these to be as important as combatant duties. 'If I considered that I could take up non-combatant duties I would rather be in the front line'. Phillips a Quaker who is studying agricultural work at a farm for COs [CLTA at Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering?] was allowed to remain on the register of COs as long as he did full-time agricultural work." *Lincolnshire Echo, Sept 21st 1942.*

PLOWMAN, Mark "Max". (1st September 1883-3rd June 1941).

Freelance writer, editor, pacifist author and William Blake enthusiast. First General Secretary of PPU and a co-founder (with J. M. Murry) of the Adelphi Centre at The Oaks, Langham, Colchester, Essex. Helped set up the PPU backed CLTA at Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering in 1941.

In 1917 Lieut. Plowman "...decided to renounce militarism and "withdraw" from the army on conscientious grounds...He expressed his

feelings in a cri de coeur entitled "The Right to Live" published 1918 as a pamphlet...His withdrawal from military service and subsequent court-martial were, as might be expected, publicised in the press." Griffin, p 269.

There are clear connections between Plowman's pamphlet and sections IV and V of Ezra Pound's "E.P. Ode Pour L'Election de Son Sepulchre".

See "E.P. Ode Pour L'Election de Son Selpulchre [sic]" and Max Plowman's Pamphlet, "The Right to Live" by Ernest Griffin, *Paideuma*, 5.2 (Fall 1976), pp269-273.

POTTENGER, Geoffrey (1915-). [FTS trainee No 31].

FTS file:

Age 26. *Of 127 Markham Road, Bournemouth, Hants.*

Occupation: *Journalist.*

Previous experience: *12 months market gardening & mixed farming.*

Tribunal: *Struck off. Altered to Agriculture, forestry or ambulance.*

Date of Arrival: *September 30th 1941.*

Training: *None listed.*

Date of Leaving: *Not given.*

[No leaving date, cannot calculate length of stay]

***Family papers, including CO refs., at Norfolk Records Office, ACC 2002/17,205. Source PPU.

POTTER, Geoff.

Trainee CO at Floral Farm, from Jan 1941. [HC].

PROCTOR, Betty (nd).

Wife of Hugh. Piano teacher and actor with Holton Players.

PROCTOR, Hugh B. (?1920-).

Teacher of biology at De Aston School, Mkt Rasen, from September 1959, and actor with Holton Players.

PURCHALL, Frederick William (1916-). [FTS trainee No 30].

FTS file:

Age 24. *Of 299 Marvel's Lane, Grove Park, London SE12.*

Occupation: *Certified accountant.*

Previous experience: *Nil.*

Tribunal: *Non-combatant duties - appealing.*

Date of Arrival: *September 9th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving: ploughing, cultivating, reaping etc. Threshing.*

Operating binder. Ensilage.

Date of Leaving: *October 7th [1940?] for sugar beet factory, Bardney, Lincs.*

[Length of stay: 4 weeks]

"Employee Students - Cooperative Students Re-Union at Anerley". South Suburban Cooperative Society, Educational Dept. event - about 150 past and present students attended the reunion at Town Hall, Anerley. Book Prizes: Intermediate Grade Cooperation, Mr F.W. Purchall [aged 17 yrs]. *Norwood News, Sept 29th 1933.*

RAVEN, Canon Charles Earle (July 4th 1885-July 8th 1964).

Army chaplain in WW1, became a pacifist in 1930, chair of Fellowship of Reconciliation from 1933 to 1945, a sponsor of PPU and one of the directors of PPU backed farming operation at Laurels Farm, the CLTA.

"Making A New World" - Dr Raven's Call to Pacifists. A call to pacifists and non-pacifists, to cooperate in building a new religious and social order, was made by Rev. Professor Charles E. Raven...under the auspices of the Society of Friends and the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the Friends' Meeting House, Hunter St [Liverpool]. In his speech he said that "...the BBC decided I was too unpatriotic to approach the microphone...regarded me as rather leprous". Professor Raven criticised the Ministry of Information which he said had made "...almost as insolent attempts to dictate the policy of the Church as were made by Nazi Germany three or four years ago". *Liverpool Daily Post, Sept 30th 1940.*

ROBERTS, Graham. (nd). [FTS trainee No 33].

FTS file:

Age: *Not given. No address given.*

Occupation: *Radio engineer.*

Previous experience: *Nil.*

Tribunal: *No details given.*

Date of Arrival: *September 9th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor. Ploughing. Operating binder.*

Date of Leaving: *September 23rd 1940 (?).*

[Length of stay: 2 weeks]

ROOK, James. (1911/1912-).

Lived at Bleasby Moor while working as a CO on Bleasby Grange Farm (acc. to Caroline Mckenna, nee Farley. Email 3/7/04).

"CO Tribunal" - At Manchester CO Tribunal last Monday James Rook (29), plasterer of Nelson, was ordered to do non-combatant service.

Burnley Express, March 5th 1941.

"At the CO Appellate Tribunal at Manchester yesterday, James Rook (30) ...who appealed against non-combatant duties was instead given whole-time land, hospital, ambulance or work in Civil Defence". *Lancashire Evening Post, August 12th 1941.*

ROSENBERG, Joseph (1920-). [FTS trainee No 32].

FTS file:

Age: 20. *Of 45 Brokesley St., Bow E3.*

Occupation: *Accountant's Clerk.*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *North Midlands Tribunal, Lincoln. August 1940. Conditional Exemption (Agriculture). [PPU].*

Date of Arrival: *May 2nd 1940.*

Training: *Setting potatoes, hand spreading fertilizer. Hoeing weeds. Chopping out & singling sugar beet. Haymaking. Harvesting & threshing peas. Stowking. Harvesting & threshing corn crops. All jobs. Ensilage. Muck leading. Horse raking. Ploughing.*

DOL: *October 5th 1940. Baddow Park Farm, Chelmsford, Essex.*

Subsequently Secretary to Donald Wolfitt, the actor manager.

*** See 2 page letter - copy incomplete, in compiler's possession - to Dick (Cornwallis?) dated October 27th 1940 relating his move to join the Bruderhof, the German religious pacifist community, in Devon. ***
[Length of stay: 5 months].

"'Wragby Colony' - Joseph Rosenberg [sic] (23), who said he was a British subject and lived at Collow Abbey Farm, Wragby, told the Tribunal that before he started farm work 4 months ago he was an accountant's clerk in London, and was a member of the PPU. He believed in doing "constructive work, such as disseminating pacifist propaganda".

Mr C.T. Lee (a member of the Tribunal): Is this a colony of pacifists at Wragby? Yes - they are there for the purpose of training for other farms. Rosenberg was registered as a CO conditional on his doing land work." *Lincolnshire Echo, August 27th 1940.*

"Joe Rosenberg ...came from the East End of London and bore a strong resemblance to Shakespeare. The country startled him terribly. On falling into a bed of nettles one day, he was heard to yell 'Cor, this grass ain't half sharp'. He had beautiful hands and when told to shear off the soiled wool from a sheep, he carefully put on gloves to prevent his hands from becoming blistered. Joe was mocked dreadfully for displaying such [words missing] but later he earned respect as an accomplished milker. He

was quick to pick up the way in which the real farm hands milked the cows, and after a month or so's practice was labelled 'the fastest milker in the district', a title even some of the locals admitted". [SF2, p8].

SANDERSON, Bob (nd).

"Not a CO...lived in one of the Grange Cottages... One of two skilled farm workers, Harry FOSTER and BS had been working at the Laurels and Grange Farms before CFS took over" [FJE].

SCEATS, John Frederick (1913-). [FTS trainee No 35].

FTS file:

Age: 27. Of 46 Rusland Av., Orpington, Kent.

Occupation: Audit clerk.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: To come.

Date of Arrival: June 1st 1940.

Training: Hoeing. Chopping out sugar-beet, harrowing, harnessing, shown how tractor works. Tried milking.

Date of Leaving: June 8th 1940.

[Length of stay: 7 days]

SCOTCHER, Alfred Wilson "Jock" (June 1st 1917-October 8th 1997).

Of Leytonstone, Essex. Gas meter reader. Source PPU.

SEARS, Cyril S. (1920-). {FTS trainee No 34}.

FTS file:

Age 20. Of 85 Castle Street, Cambridge.

Occupation: clerk.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Conditional exemption (agriculture).

Date of Arrival: April 27th 1940.

Training: Harvesting & feeding horse, horse drilling & harrowing. Setting potatoes & hand distributing fertilizer. Hoeing weeds. Chopping out & singling sugar beet. Feeding pigs. Haymaking.

Date of Leaving: July 9th 1940 to work c/o George Clark Esq., Benniworth Walks Farm, Donnington on Bain, Louth, Lincs.

Later The Lodge, Little Walden, Saffron Walden, Essex.

[Length of stay: 10 weeks]

Letter to the Editor by CSS from 85 Castle St, Cambridge, December 29th 1939. Should ration books be withheld from COs? Responds to 2 previous letters. "Many COs are doing useful work in carrying on the

ordinary life of the community while the men in the fighting services (although they undoubtedly honestly believe they are doing the right thing) are, in fact, giving nothing of real value in return for their keep...therefore since militarism has failed so miserably to preserve peace and freedom for mankind, surely we cannot afford to be intolerant of those who seek another way. After all, if all men were COs, war would be impossible." *Cambridge Daily News, Dec 30th 1939.*

SELF, Peter John Otter, (1919-March 29th 1999).

Father of Will Self, author; see his novel "Shark". See Wikipedia entry for PJO Self.

"Peter Self, who later became Professor of Public Administration at the London School of Economics, was once left to cook his own breakfast. Normally a man of unusually high intelligence, he was completely perplexed with the problems involved in boiling an egg. In what seemed to him a logical procedure, he attempted to boil the egg in the kettle with the water for a cup of tea. As a result he enjoyed neither egg nor tea and Dee found him sitting at the kitchen table very dismayed at the whole exercise". [SF2, p9].

SHARP, Denis (1919-).

At Holton Grange Farm. [Don S. & Iain H.]

"Amazing Conscience". Denis Sharp (21) a sub-post office clerk of Gisford Road, Barrowford, Nelson, said he was not helping the war effort by selling War Savings Certificates. "I would sell them simply because I work for my father", said applicant, who added that he had been branch chairman of PPU. Judge Burgis commented "This is a most amazing conscience". Sharp was registered [as a CO], a condition being that he should undertake work in agriculture, horticulture or allied trades. *Lancashire Evening Post, February 22nd 1940, p6.*

More on the above hearing. "I would rather the civil population perish than resist violence by violence", said DS, and that "...conscription was entirely contrary to any conception of democracy and freedom...he favoured non-violent resistance." *Nelson Leader, February 23rd 1940, p12.*

The CO Appeal Tribunal dismissed the appeal of "D. Sharp, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, Nelson who was ordered to remain in land work". *Burnley Express, July 20th 1940, p5.*

"Barrowford Man Asked To Leave". At the CO Tribunal at Preston Denis Sharp left the witness box during a clash with the chairman (Judge Burgis). DS had been required to do full time work on the land - upheld by the Appeals Tribunal - and the case was up for re-consideration as DS

had not fulfilled conditions of CO registration (to find land work). DS left the witness box, sat at back of court. Chair asked him to leave - DS left the Court. *Burnley Express, November 2nd 1940, p2.*

Spring 1941. DS was reported to the Ministry for not fulfilling a condition of his CO registration. He was many times before the Court in 1941 and 1942 for not paying a £2 fine for breaking said condition.

DS was sent to prison for 1 month for non-payment of his fine. "Defendant stated that he had taken up agricultural work but he had done that of his own free choice". *Burnley Express, August 19th 1942, p1.*

SHELDON, Wilfrid Frank. (1917-). [FTS trainee No 37].

FTS file:

Age: 23. *Of 59 Windmill Lane, North Reddish, Stockport.*

Occupation: *School teacher.*

Previous experience: *Horticulture.*

Tribunal: *Conditional exemption.*

Date of Arrival: *August 3rd 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving. Reaping, cultivating and odd leading etc.*

Ploughing, Dragging. Harrowing. Reaping and threshing peas. Stowking.

Harvesting and threshing corn-crops- all jobs. Ensilage. Muck leading.

Cultivating. Operating binder. Horse raking. Potato picking.

Taken on as permanent member [unclear] November 18th 1940.

[Length of stay: 14 weeks]

Living at Floral Farm, Jan 1941. [HC].

SKINNER, William "Bill" (c. 1919-).

Brother of Betty Sutherland. [Don S.]. "Bill Skinner, then a Methodist, decided to follow [his] ancestors onto the land and went to a small community farm at Clavering in Essex run by War Resisters International". Worpole, p40.

"...new faces were appearing on the scene [at Bleasby Grange Farm]. Among them Bill Skinner...". [SF2, p12].

In the 1950s Bill Skinner acted as a temporary teacher at Legsby County Primary School for several weeks while the headteacher (Noel Makin) was off sick. [JLM].

SMITH, Andrew. (nd).

Scottish CO at Holton Grange Farm with Jim Harper. (IH).

SMITH, Peter Pavey. (1918-). [FTS trainee No 36].

FTS file:

Age: 22. *Of 55 Hale Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7.*

Occupation: *Grocer.*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *Unconditional exemption.*

Date of Arrival: *April 25th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving: 15 [hours?]. Lorry driving. Milking, hand and machine (daily experience at Ings Farm throughout time). Horse drilling. Hoeing, chopping out & singling beet. 2 days threshing. Potato planting & distributing fertilizer. Haymaking.*

Date of Leaving: *July 20th 1940. To No2 Field Cottage, Great Oakley, Kettering.*

[Length of stay: 3 months]

SPATE, Albert. (nd). [Same person as Alfred SPEIGHT?, see below].

"At one stage of the community's time [at Collow and Bleasby], someone of a more serious nature arranged talks to help the trainees improve their understanding of the countryside. One such talk was given by Albert Spate who looked after the chickens. Not a very popular subject at the best of times, the squeamish audience were further put off the creatures when to their horror Albert wrung a chicken's neck before their very eyes." [SF2, p17].

SPEIGHT, Alfred "Alfie". (nd). [See above entry].

SPENCER, Douglas (nd).

Holton CO. [Don S.]

SPENCER, Hilda (nd).

Wife of Douglas? Holton. [Don S.]

STAINTON, Charles Douglas. (1921-). [FTS trainee No 39]

FTS file:

Age: 20. *Of 56 Headingley Avenue, Leeds 6.*

Occupation: *Accountant's clerk.*

Previous experience: *None.*

Tribunal: *Non-combatant.*

Date of Arrival: *April 14th 1941.*

Training: *Milking. Muck spreading. Ploughing. Market garden. Artificial [fertilizer] distributing. Drilling behind tractor. Singling beet. Hoeing etc*

DOL: For market garden work July 12th 1941.

[Length of stay: 3 months]

"Hunger in Germany - A Fundamental Cause of the Present War". Letter to the Editor from CDS, Leeds, January 12th 1940. *Yorkshire Evening Post*, Jan 15th 1940.

"Appeal Success - Charles Douglas Stainton, Headingley Avenue, Leeds, appealed to the Northern Appellate Tribunal for COs at Manchester against the decision of the Leeds Tribunal requiring him to do non-combatant service. His appeal was allowed on condition that he undertook agricultural work." *Yorkshire Post & Leeds Intelligencer*, Aug 20th 1941.

STEELE, George Edward. (1911-). [FTS trainee No 38].

FTS file:

Age: 29. Of 283 Fieldhead Road, Thornhill-Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Occupation: None given.

Previous experience: Nil, forestry.

Tribunal: Non-combatant duties. Appealing.

Date of Arrival: October 20th 1940.

Training: Potato picking. Threshing. Pulled [unclear] mangolds.. Milking. Carting etc.

Date of Leaving: Early March [1941?]. For Holingthorpe Farm [unclear], nr Wakefield.

[Length of stay: 5 months]

STERNFELD, Hilary S. (1916-November 1982).

Magistrate and wife of Walter.

STERNFELD, Walter. (1920-February 1976).

Came to England as an immigrant when he was 19 in 1939, just before the war started. [Joe Sternfeld, text August 2022].

Buyer of Ivy Lodge Farm, with Douglas Ballard, from the Community Farm Society in 1948.

"I was at the Labour Conference", an article by WS, where he was a delegate for the Gainsborough Divisional Labour Party. Walter is pictured with Robert Walshaw, A. N. Other, Dick Cornwallis, Harry Walston and Joe Downend at the time of the previous General Election, where Harry Walston was the Labour Party candidate. *Market Rasen Mail*, Oct 11th 1958.

STREETER, Denis (1921-).

The North Midland CO Tribunal, sitting at Lincoln and chaired by Judge Langman, heard that Denis Streeter (20) of Hatton Sykes Hostel,

Langton, Wragby [a CPFLU site] was "formerly a builder's clerk now engaged as a forester's labourer...He was registered as a CO on condition that he remained in full-time forestry work." *Skegness Standard, January 22nd 1941*. Also reported in *Louth Standard, January 25th 1941, p6*.

At a sitting of the Lincoln Tribunal ..."Denis Streeter (21) of Holton Beckering, near Wragby said [that] in January 1941 he was registered as a CO on condition that he did forestry. He had done that work for a year and 3 months and had now gone into farm work, to which he felt attracted. He worked for Holton Beckering Farming Society [actually the CLTA at Laurels Farm] set up by Rev. Henry Carter of London and others, for the training of men like himself.

The chairman:- Are you really doing agricultural work or merely playing at it? Streeter said the work was in some ways harder than forestry. The farm was 600 acres. There were about 16 men under the supervision of experienced farm workers and they only received pocket money of 12s 6d a week. There was a big waiting list for admission to the farm. He changed from forestry to farming because he thought he would be rendering more service to the community in view of the food position. The tribunal gave him permission to remain in full time work in agriculture." *Lincolnshire Echo, April 23rd 1942*.

Letter to the Editor, as from Holton Beckering, near Wragby, Lincs., contesting the views of other letter writers that COs have it easy and recommending they read their Bible, especially chapters 5 to 7 of St Mathew's Gospel... *West Sussex County Times, August 7th 1942*.

STREETER, Harold (nd).

SUTHERLAND, Betty (nd).

Nee Skinner, sister of Bill Skinner. Wife of Donald, married 1947. [Don S.]

SUTHERLAND, Donald (June 18th 1919 Coventry- 2022, Lincoln).

At Newcastle CO Tribunal. "When Donald Sutherland of Gowland Avenue, Newcastle, came before the Tribunal he said he would not be prepared to build an air raid shelter but he would use one...he said his views were entirely consistent with those of Christ...Judge Richardson said I am glad I do not associate with you or anyone of your type." Sutherland was unconditionally registered. *Sunderland Daily Echo & Shipping Gazette, Dec 15th 1939*.

"Fire Watch Fines - Stated to be COs [2 men and] Donald Sutherland (22) of Gowland Avenue, Newcastle [were] each fined £10 and one guinea

costs at Newcastle [upon Tyne?] for not registering for fire watch duties." *Lincolnshire Echo*, Sept 26th 1941.

Registered as CO unconditionally at Appeal Tribunal on 29/9/1941. Joined PPU's farming community at Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering and learned all aspects of farming. Horses, sheep, potatoes, wheat, oats, barley, hay and silage, sugar beet etc. Later lived at Holton Grange and was cowman at Bleasby. Moved to cottage in Bleasby Moor with Betty in 1950. [Don S. See his *Memoir of a CO*].

SYKES, Eva (nd).

Wife of Ron, housekeeper at Laurels Farm. Source PPU.

SYKES, Ronald "Ron".(nd).

"...lived at Holton Grange" with Roy and Irene Himpson and Ted Cole. [SF2, p15].

TODD, George E. (May 28th 1922 - March 13th 1972).

Appearing before the CO Appellate Tribunal at Manchester were several men who were sentenced to prison including "George E. Todd (28) [actually 20 years old] art student and more recently working as a poultry farmer who was sentenced to 6 months at York in June... [they] failed to have their names restored to the register [of COs]." *Yorkshire Post & Leeds Intelligencer*, July 9th 1942, p5.

Subsequent to this, it is believed that G.E.T. and his friend Peter Hancocks went on the run - living, it was said, in chicken sheds etc. Arrived at Bleasby in early 1943?

"...new faces were appearing on the scene [at Bleasby Grange Farm]. Among them George Todd, an artist" [SF2, p12]

VAUGHAN, Thomas Francis Gerald. (January 10th 1915-January 1984).

"Refugee Baroness Married - Austrian Couple Wed at Ashton Keynes". Baroness Alexandria and Fritz Karitz were married, both staying at Cotswold Bruderhof, sent there by Society of Friends. Bride given away by Mr T.F.G. Vaughan. *Gloucestershire Echo*, Dec 5th 1938.

With inherited money he acquired Holton Grange Farm for the CLTA, and later did similar for COs like George Ineson in Nancledra, Cornwall. "Holton Grange had recently been purchased by Mr Gerald VAUGHAN who, we understood, disagreed with inheritance on principle and gave CFS the benefit of his conviction, later on he worked for a while at Holton" [FJE].

WAITE, T. Garth (1917?-).

"...a handsome Methodist with an excellent delivery that made him a notable preacher." [SF2, p15].

First mentioned by Don S. P 23. Second mention, as T. Garth Waite, in concerts at local Methodist Church events where he accompanied John Brocklesby on piano. *Lincolnshire Echo, Oct 21st 1946.*

"Lincoln Music Festival - results. Piano Concert...Voice and Piano Ensemble: 3rd John Brocklesby and T. Garth Waite (Lissington)." *Lincolnshire Echo, March 5th 1949.*

*** Another or the same Garth Waite, in his book *Island - Diary of a Year in Easdale* by Vicky and Garth Waite, Mainstream Publishing 1985 gives the following details about his life. Lived in or near Cheltenham. Reader in the Methodist Church and Elder of the Church of Scotland. Lived in Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Lincolnshire and Hertfordshire before retiring to Argyll. Up to his retirement in ???? he worked at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Married 2nd wife in January 1977. Book records a year in Eskdale, 1979.

WALSHAW, Phyllis (Nee Ewebank). (nd).

Wife of Robert. She and Robert were married at Holton Beckering Church on January 13th, 1947. Attended Tribunal in London, date unknown. [Don S.]

WALSHAW, Robert Frankland "Bobby" (1920-). [FTS trainee No 41].

FTS file:

Age: 20. *Of Brumby Hall, Scunthorpe, Lincs.*

Occupation: *Pupil civil engineer.*

Previous experience: *Goat milking. Slight [sic] poultry.*

Tribunal: *Conditional exemption.*

Date of Arrival: *June 24th 1940.*

Training: *Tractor driving. Ploughing. Cultivating, leading etc. Hilling potatoes. Singling beet. Reaping & threshing peas. Stowking, Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs. Muck leading. Operating binder. Horse raking. Ensilage. Loading beet. Potato picking.*

Date of Leaving: *Taken on as permanent milkman November 18th [1940?]*

[Length of stay: 5 months but stayed on].

Bobby's father was Alderman G. R. Walshaw, Mayor of Scunthorpe from October 1938. *Lincolnshire Standard & Boston Guardian, Oct 1st 1938.*

"...Bobby Walshaw...had a large collection of 78 rpm records which included almost all of Beethoven's work and some of the modern

composers such as Bartok and Shostakovich. The gramophone did not have a needle but reeds which Bobby cleaned obsessively and no-one else dared to touch. Bobby had heard about the Farm Training Scheme [at Collow] from John Brock's cousin John [WW1 CO] who had been Bobby's school teacher in his home town of Scunthorpe. Registered as a CO Bobby wanted to leave the uncomfortably disapproving atmosphere of Scunthorpe and, after failing to get into the merchant navy, he cycled over to Collow to see if they would take him on. ...As part of the interview Bobby was shown how to milk a cow by John Cook. He proved to be such an apt pupil that Dick and Roy agreed that he should join the Training Scheme, continuing over into the next batch of trainees. Bobby's 'interview' had taken place at the end of May 1940." [SF2, p10].

"In September 1940, Bobby Walshaw moved to Bleasby Grange, about a mile from Collow Abbey Farm...[he] lived more or less on his own at Bleasby, milking the few cows there until the remainder of the Collow contingent moved over on October 6th 1940." [SF2, p12].

WALTON, Edward. (1920-). [FTS trainee No 40].

FTS file:

Age: 20. Of 1 Cardigan Road, Richmond, Surrey.

Occupation: Artist.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: To come.

Date of Arrival: April 25th 1940.

Training: Tractor driving 20.5 hours. Harnessing horse & horse drilling. Putting horse into shafts. Drilling barley with tractor drill. Hoeing weeds. Chopping out sugar beet. Setting potatoes. Hand distributing fertilizer. Working ridger. Working in garden under SAG [?].

Date of Leaving: June 21st 1940. To start own small holding.

Address: Briggs' Cottage, Noke, Nr Islip, Oxon.

[Length of stay: 8 weeks]

"Two Men Who Don't Want To Fight". One of them "Edward Walton of Biggs Cottage, Noke, Oxon was fined £8 with £2 costs at Oxford for failing to keep crops of potatoes in good condition. It was stated that E.W. had 2 smallholdings. He was a CO and was granted an indefinite postponement of his call-up on condition that he and his wife cultivated the land." *Weekly Dispatch (London)*, March 15th 1942, p5.

WALTON, George R. (?1920-).

George and Mollie his wife were stalwarts of the Holton Players.

WALTON, M. L. ("Mollie"). (nd). Wife of George R. Walton.

WATSON, Joseph H. ("Joe"). (1902 - Sept 12th 1966).

"...a Newcastle blast-furnaceman who...became a convinced follower of the journal's [The Adelphi, edited by John Middleton Murry] new aesthetic and social agenda, with its strong Christian socialist leanings." Worpole, p31-32.

In 1941 Murry invited JHW to manage the "Adelphi Centre" at The Oaks Farm, Langham, Essex, after the sudden death of Max Plowman. Joe later managed the Frating Hall farm community, near Colchester, Essex for training COs in agriculture.

In a letter from JMM to Joe in 1941, the former having just visited the new pacifist community [Laurels Farm] at Holton Beckering, "Murry attributes the happy atmosphere there to the fact that 'they have a good father figure, which the Langham lads lack'. [presumably John Brocklesby]. For a while Frating had just such a father figure [JHW], with all the positive - and occasionally difficult outcomes - such a position would produce." Worpole, p 75.

WELLOCK, Wilfred. (1879-1972).

"The most remarkable Christian socialist pacifist of the inter-war period. Imprisoned as a CO in WW1 for 2 years. Active in the No More War movement until its merger with PPU in 1937. Labour MP for Stourbridge 1927-1931. Keen advocate of the pacifist and community teachings of Tolstoy, Ruskin and Gandhi, he encouraged the creation of pacifist agricultural communities." M. Ceadel, *Pacifism in Britain*. P50.

"...a Conference was held at the Adelphi Centre, Langham, Nov 16th & 17th 1940... Its terms of reference 'That the way to the restoration of a healthy national life, and a truly peace minded society, lies through the establishment of Agricultural Subsistence Communities' were heartily endorsed...

Six weeks later a further Conference was held to consider the advisability of buying a farm or farms for the purpose of giving farm training to COs... Sponsoring these schemes were Eric Gill, Canon Raven, Dr Alex Wood, Stuart Morris, Middleton Murry, Max Plowman, Mary Gamble, the Rev Henry Carter and myself...

Inside three months [i. e. Spring 1941] a 300 acre arable and dairy farm [The Laurels] had been purchased in Holton Beckering, Lincolnshire. Soon afterwards an adjacent farm of similar size was added, and later still a third farm of some 400 acres, also in the same area, making 1,000

acres in all. As these three farms [The Laurels plus Holton Grange Farm and Ivy Lodge Farm] included three large farm houses, with the usual out buildings, three land communities were formed within a single organic farming entity. A pacifist farm manager [John Brocklesby] was appointed, and several foremen...

The Holton Beckering venture, by reason of my share of responsibility in getting the capital to ensure its stability, had the first call upon my time. It was a considerable concern with assets of £50,000 loaned by pacifists, much of it free of interest and the rest at very low interest rates.

Without doubt these were great days. In the midst of the biggest and most devastating war in history, steps were being taken to build a more stable and enduring civilisation on new foundations. By 1941 I was devoting all my time to this purpose. Every month I spent several days at Holton Beckering to help on its work, and strengthen the faith of the men working there...

Then came the sad sequel. At long last the war ended, and very soon afterwards the new communities began quietly to fade out...the sudden collapse of high hopes based on five years of patient, fervent building, constituted one of the major disappointments of my life." Wellock, *Off The Beaten Track*, p82 to 84.

Handwritten note by Vicki Makin: "Wilfred Wellock is coming to Holton Beckering for the weekend Jan 12-13. [1952]. A Public Meeting will be held at Holton Hall at 7.30 on Saturday 12th. Chairman: Dick Cornwallis. Speaker: Wilfred Wellock. Everyone Welcome. Silver Collection for the Pacifist Movement."

"Then a fairly recent visit to Holton Beckering proved to be a highly rewarding experience. It was gratifying to see that an appreciable percentage of the land we bought is still being farmed by our trainees, and that they were infecting the atmosphere of a wide area with something of the spirit we tried to impart. They had been responsible for packing a hall to listen to what I had to say about national and world events and about life in general on a cold Saturday evening in January. We had a good discussion, after which I had the great pleasure of chatting with a score or so of "old companions". Then on the Sunday evening some twenty or thirty of us had a rewarding discussion in the drawing room of the Old Rectory, now the home of Roy Broadbent...

Also the group has transformed an army hut into a theatre [the home of the "Holton Players"] with seating accommodation for about 200

people. Each winter they put on a series of really worthwhile plays. The people come from far and near and pack the place for every performance...All the scenery for the theatre is done by first class artists who now paint for pleasure, and make their living by farming. Even the young people are developing interests and "concerns" of a promising character. I must confess I returned home with an appreciable glow in my heart". Wellock. *OBT*, p85.

Wellock was a member of the management committee for the PPU backed Laurels Farm scheme. "...Ex Labour MP and frequent contributor to *Peace News*." [FJE].

WESTON, Elsa (nd).

"...assisted on the domestic side" at Laurels Farm. [SF2 p15].

WHEELOCK, Richard Hugh (1919-).

Name on FTS file, but no further details given.

Report from the Lincoln Tribunal: "Ex-Officer - Richard Hugh Wheelock (23) of Bleasby Grange, Legsby was allowed to remain on the register [of COs] as long as he continued in his present job as an apprentice to farmers. It was stated that he was formerly a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery and was asked to resign on account of his views". *Lincolnshire Echo*, July 29th 1942, p4.

"Lincs 'Conchies' - Judge T. W. Langman presided at the Lincoln C.O. Tribunal on Monday. When Richard Hugh Wheelock (aged 23) of Bleasby Grange, Legsby, Market Rasen, appeared before the tribunal, he said he was now apprenticed to a firm of farmers. He had taken a degree in economics at Cambridge and had held a commission as a lieutenant in the R.A. until April this year, when he was asked to resign because of his views. He did not belong to any organised body of worshippers. He did not agree with the Nazi system but he did not agree with using their own weapons to defeat them. The Chairman said he would be registered as a CO but must continue to do full time work on agriculture." *Lincolnshire Standard & Boston Guardian*, Aug 1st 1942, p8.

"Others [of the COs at Collow], such as Richard Wheelock were Quakers or Jews or agnostics or atheists." [SF2, p11].

WHITE, Bob (nd).

Worked under Charlie Clark, the foreman at The Laurels, with Harry Foster and Bob Sanderson, none of whom were COs.

WILLIS, Frederick Jacob (July 18th 1917- May 2002).

Quaker, land work. CLTA. Moved from Bleasby Grange Farm to Ivy Lodge Farm at Holton Beckering with Broadbents and Makins in late 1943 to work alongside the Laurels Farm, PPU led, CO group. See obituary, probably from the *Darlington and Stockton Times*, May 2002.

"To Helen and F. J. Willis of Winteringham, North Lincs, a son Peter Barron". *Yorkshire Post & Leeds Intelligencer*, July 26th 1947, p2.

WILLIS, Helen, nee Barron. (1917-Oct 30th 2008).

Quaker and wife of Fred Willis. "She worked as a nursery teacher until her marriage to Fred in 1944, whom she first met at school. They set up home in a farming community of conscientious objectors at Holton Beckering in Lincolnshire. After 18 months the couple moved to north Lincolnshire on Fred's appointment as a Farms Manager. There they brought up 5 children...They moved to Aysgarth in 1972." From an obituary in the *Darlington and Stockton Times*, November 2008 and www.suehepworth.com Seen Oct 1st 2022).

WILSON, Malcolm John William. (1919-). [FTS trainee No 42].

FTS file:

Age: 21. Of 126 Woodside Av., Coventry, Warks.

Occupation: Music teacher.

Previous experience: None.

Tribunal: Conditional exemption but to come before Appellate. Changed to landwork.

Date of Arrival: June 25th 1940.

Training: Tractor driving: none. Reaping & threshing peas. Stowking.

Harvesting & threshing corn crops - all jobs. Muck leading. Operating binder. Ensilage.

Taken on by Brocklesby Bros. beginning Oct [1940?]. Left Brocklesby to work for us April 1941.

Date of Leaving: May 9th 1942.

[Length of stay: On and off 2 years]

Last known address: 6 Raymond Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4AD.

"Music Teacher To Go Farming - a Coventry music teacher who objected to war on religious grounds had his application adjourned for 2 months by the Midland CO Tribunal at Birmingham today in order that he could find agricultural work. He was M.J.W. Wilson, 41 Spencer Avenue, who refused to undertake any service in khaki and expressed a preference for agricultural work." 'If you cannot get that type of work you should try and get other work of national importance', advised the

Chairman (Judge Longson). *Coventry Evening Telegraph*, Nov 29th 1939.

WOOD, Alex Dr. (1879-1950).

Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, prominent Christian pacifist and Chairman of PPU (1939-1946). Prosecuted and fined in June 1940 with other PPU officials in the infamous Poster Trial, whose text included the words "War will cease when men refuse to fight". The Court was informed by Dr Wood:- 'If we were to refuse to publish [any material] which might get into the hands of soldiers...we should put ourselves in the position of being completely closed down.'" Hetherington, p20.

Member of Board of Directors formed by PPU to manage and run the CLTA at Laurels Farm, Holton Beckering for COs to train in farm work.

WOOLCOCK, Bernard V. (nd).

CLTA. Warden at Laurels Farm.

"The Mistakes of 1914-18" - Letter to the Editor criticising those who object to ministers of religion supporting COs for assuming that "...war or the threat of war is an adequate method of dealing with international disputes." Christ showed the best way "...that of reconciliation, of returning good for evil and loving our enemies...peace cannot be obtained by methods of war." "All war is...brutal and wicked...that is why we are anxious to assist all who oppose conscription because when everybody is a CO war will be impossible." B.V. Woolcock, 43 Mansfield Road, Luton. May 22nd 1939. *Luton News & Bedfordshire Chronicle*, May 25th 1939.

Bernard and Lily Woolcock "...looked after the hostel and the nearer annexes. Bernard was an engineer and proved enormously useful at keeping the farm machinery in good repair." [SF2 p15].

"Lincoln Music Festival - Public Speaking Contest (Open) - Test Topic 'Is it desirable to emigrate at the present time, and why?' 1. B. V. Woolcock, Holton Beckering. 2. T. Garth Waite, West Torrington. *Lincolnshire Echo*, Feb 28th 1948.

WOOLCOCK, Lily (nd).

Wife of Bernard. [Don S.]

WOOLGAR, Police Constable George "Bill". H. (1911-).

Moved from Middle Rasen to Wragby Police Station. *Lincolnshire Echo*, September 14th 1942, p3.

Gave evidence at the Inquest into the death in a traffic accident in Wragby of Rev James Osborne, Vicar of Holton Beckering. *Lincolnshire Echo*, October 2nd, 1942, p3.

WRIGHT, Jack (15/12/1918-). [FTS trainee No 43].

FTS file:

Age 22. C/o Mr Mills, Fulwood Grange, Brownhills, Sheffield 10.

Occupation: Not given.

Previous experience: Haymaking, ditching, hedging & carting. Milking & market gardening.

Tribunal: Non-combatant.

Date of Arrival: April 21st 1941.

Training: Tractoring. Bridge building. Horse hoeing. Horse harrowing.

Hand sowing artificial [fertilizer?]. Planting potatoes. Singling beet.

Hoeing etc.

DOL: Taken on as paid man by us July 21st 1941. Taken on as permanent staff April 1942.

[Length of stay: 3 months but stayed on]

"Young men from Sheffield and district were applicants before the Tribunal for Conscientious Objectors at Leeds today". Among them "...Jack Wright (20) of Linstead Crescent, Sheffield, a student at the Royal College of Art, said his objection was based on Christ's teaching. Wright said that he had recently joined the PPU. He said he would do any civil work under civil control. He would not resist Germans by force, but would trust in God...Wright's name was removed from the register of COs and he was registered for non-combatant duty only." *Sheffield Evening Telegraph*, Nov 17th 1939.

YOUNG, R.E.L. (14/2/1920-)

7. Some conclusions (based ONLY on the file of FTS personnel)...

1. The first trainee to arrive at Collow Abbey Farm was Joseph Downend on April 15th 1940.
2. The last trainee to leave Collow Abbey was Malcolm Wilson on May 9th 1942.
3. AGE AT ARRIVAL: Of the 44 trainees listed in the FTS Register, 5 ages were not recorded. Of the 39 whose ages were given, 20 was the

youngest age, 35 was the oldest; nearly half (18) were aged 20 or 21.

4. HOME ADDRESS: The London area accounted for the highest number (9), while Sheffield and the county of Lincolnshire came joint second with 5 each. No home addresses were given in 4 cases. The places of origin were Birmingham (1); Norfolk (2); Cheshire (1); Herts (3); Bucks (1); Oxford (1); Essex (1); Newcastle upon Tyne (2); Nottingham (1); Hants (1); Cambridge (1); Warks (1); Surrey (1); Kent (1); Lancs (1); Yorks (2).

5. OCCUPATION: 6 trainees had no occupation listed. There were 10 clerks of various sorts, 4 engineers, 3 students, 3 teachers, 1 ironmonger; 2 printers; 1 boiler house worker; 1 typist; 1 decorator; 1 pilot; 1 bookbinder; 2 accountants; 1 tailor; 2 artists; 2 journalists; 1 shop assistant; 1 machinist and 1 grocer.

6. DURATION OF TRAINING PERIOD: This varied hugely. According to a visitor in 1941/42, (see William J. Wren in *Community in a Changing World*, Community Service Committee, 1942, page 176) the period of training was intended to be 3 months but the FTS Register shows trainees spending from 7 or 8 days up to 2 years at Collow Abbey Farm.

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