



Bluntisham Barograph shortly after construction.

The Barograph

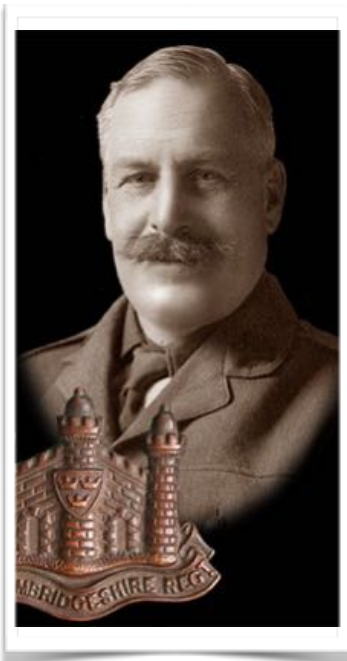
The Emblem of our Village

At least once a week, probably on most days we will all walk, cycle or drive past the barograph that sits on Block Hill at the top of the High Street. It sits at the heart of the village, and is the emblem of the Parish council, a backdrop for the village Christmas tree and carol singing. A resting place for cyclists and walkers and a leaning post for school kids waiting to catch the school bus. Our barograph has a long history and has stood sentinel in our village for over 100 years.

The barograph is a grade II listed monument and is owned and maintained by Bluntisham Feoffee's and is still fully operational. It consists of four oak posts which support a leader tiled pyramidal roof, with a wrought iron weather vane and a road sign at the apex of the roof. The Barograph constantly records barometric pressure in graphical form.

It was commissioned in 1911 by Lt Col Louis Tebbutt, in memory of his parents Charles P Tebbutt and Mary Tebbutt, nee Goodman. The dedication that runs around the internal structure of the shelter covering the barograph reads "Erected in memory of Charles Prentice and Mary Goodman Tebbutt by their son Louis 1911. The opening of the barograph was reported in the April 1st 1911 edition of The Peterborough advertiser

"The Rector proposed: "That this Parish Meeting desires to convey the grateful thanks of the inhabitants of Bluntisham to Mr. Louis Tebbutt for his great generosity presenting and erecting barograph, etc., Block Hill which is not only interesting and valuable from a scientific point of view, but is else universally considered very ornamental addition to the village.



Lt Col. Louis Tebbutt



Barograph with original shelter

The Feoffee's minute book contains several references to the barograph. Including the offer to the Feoffee's by Louis Tebbutt to pay for the memorial and barograph. Originally the barograph and shelter stood at the junction without a great deal of protection from either weather or passing vehicles. Over time the Feoffee's record the need to repair the barograph and to replace the shelter to offer an improved level of protection. In 1947 the barograph was hit by a motor vehicle and this resulted in an insurance claim for the repair as again noted in the Feoffee's minute book.

The barograph shelter was fully renovated by the Feoffees in 2011 and in 2014 the road layout was changed to provide an pedestrian area and bench around the barograph as a result of a local highways initiative bid by the parish council in conjunction with the Feoffees. The Feoffee's maintain and take the readings from the barograph, they also provide the flower planter, the Christmas tree and the lights each year. In 2020 the Barograph itself was given a fresh coat of paint and looks brand new once again.



Photo courtesy of Tim Fawcett July 2020



The dedication inside the Barograph - Photo Tracey Davidson