

Object of the month no.3

The Snow Plough.



This month we have the largest and heaviest object in the collection. One of the nice things about the plough is in its entire lifetime it had not travelled very far. Elijah Young and Co made it in Diss at the Waveney Iron Works, Elijah Young it is believed took over the Waveney Iron foundry in 1879, between then and 1920s Young's took on further partners into the business. George Unwin and W.Swootman. They became a limited Company in 1924. This dates our plough to sometime after that date, unless the blade was replaced which seems unlikely, but not impossible. Young's also made portable and semi-

permanent stationery steam engines and other agricultural implements. Sadly the only known remaining catalogue, circa 1912 does not list snowploughs. Which could make ours a special order.

There is little information as to whom the responsibility for keeping roads clear fell upon in those days. It is quite possible that local authorities paid local farmers to do this, as was recently cited on a similar plough, which still lies on the roadside in nearby Thornham village. Although of very similar design this plough is not marked as being constructed by Young's of Diss.

Abandoning of snowploughs by the roadside seems to have been common practice, ours was found in the hedgerow along Syleham road in Brockdish 25 years ago. John Spooner who restored and donated it to the collection rescued it thankfully.

In it's operational life it was normally operated by Mr.W.Chilvers the local roadman. It was drawn by one of the three shire horses that belonged to a farmer who lived in the terrace opposite the old kings head pub. It definitely saw service in the great snowfalls of 1947. Although was possibly superseded by 1963.

I you have anything you can add to the history of any of our featured objects please let us know.

**Anthony Scott-Robinson BA HONS MA
Curator Communications and Technology Collection**