**SMITH Bill**

**Introduction for the recording and the transcript.**

This recording is part of the oral history project carried out by the Suffolk Horse Society in 2013 with advice from Cambridge Community Heritage, and a generous grant from the Heritage Lotteries Fund.

In the recording you will hear the voice of Bill Smith singing his song “The Suffolk Horse” about the Suffolk Punch heavy horse.

Bill is an expert ploughman and traditional singer.

The recording was made by Jeff Hallett a member of the Suffolk Horse Society.

The date of the recording was 22nd March 2013 and it was carried out at a social event of the Suffolk Horse Society held at Nedging Hall in Suffolk.

The duration of the recording is about 2 minutes.

The song was written by Bill Smith and the copyright is his.

*... Pin back your lugs boy and listen to me,*

*I’ll sing of a horse from the Suffolk county.*

*Do you be proud of his ancestry?*

*And hope that he lives on forever.*

Now Punch is a cart horse with a long pedigree.

Bred for the farm, a good doer is he.

Coat is always chestnut, spelt with only one T.

Clean leg and deep in the collar.

*So pin back your lugs boy and listen to me,*

*I’ll sing of a horse from the Suffolk county.*

*Do you be proud of his ancestry?*

*And hope that he lives on forever.*

There’s many old horsemen would swear and would vow

There’s no finer pleasure than being behind a plough

With a pair of good Suffolks and a bit of know how.

He will leave a good furrow behind him.

*So pin back your lugs boy and listen to me,*

*I’ll sing of a horse from the Suffolk county.*

*Do you be proud of his ancestry,*

*And hope that he lives on forever*.

Bring on the binders a sight to behold

With the sun on their coats boy, all copper and gold.

Round and round as the harvest unfolds.

And the sheaves and the shocks soon behind them.

*So pin back your lugs boy and listen to me,*

*I’ll sing of a horse from the Suffolk county.*

*Do you be proud of his ancestry?*

*And hope that he lives on forever.*

Wheelwrights and saddlers their work could be seen

The ring of the anvil on the village green.

Those were the days when the horse reigned supreme.

The time of skilled hands and tradition.

*So pin back your lugs boy and listen to me,*

*I’ll sing of a horse from a Suffolk county.*

*Do you be proud of his ancestry?*

*And hope that he lives on forever.*

Thanks to the farmers and breeders as well

Thanks for the stud book and Herman Biddell

Good luck old Punch, may your numbers swell.

The horse from the past, with a future.

*So pin back your lugs boy and listen to me,*

*I’ll sing of a horse from the Suffolk county*

*Do you be proud of his ancestry?*

*And hope that he lives on forever.*