



The Fairford Flyer

Newsletter No 13

July 2011

Lloyd George Valuation Survey

FINANCE (1909-10) ACT, 1910.
DUTIES ON LAND VALUES.

The name of the parish and number of the hereditaments above, be stated in all communications.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF INLAND REVENUE.
PROVISIONAL VALUATION.

Description of Property	<i>St Marys Church FAIRFORD</i>		
Situation	County Gloucester	Parish FAIRFORD.	No. of hereditaments <i>268</i>
Name of Occupier	—		
Extent	Ares <i>1</i>	Roods <i>2</i>	Percies <i>17</i> Yards —

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue have caused to be made the following Provisional Valuation of the land described above:—

ORIGINAL GROSS VALUE.....£ *118,000*

The 1910 Land Valuation Survey was the first full and detailed survey of land ownership since the 1086 Domesday Book. The Board of Inland Revenue determined the value of land on 30th April 1909 and from that date any sale, lease or transfer of land

was subject to a levy on the increase in value. Each district comprised a number of tax parishes and each Valuation Office undertook the valuation of properties in the area. The Fairford 'Form 37s' have now been entered on a spreadsheet for ease of reference, it lists owners, occupiers and value of property and, most usefully, each Hereditament (i.e. property) number is marked on a map. Used in conjunction with the 1911 census, a wealth of information can be found.

For example it was possible to find out the exact location of the Queen's Head pub in Milton Street. By use of the H number and the information on Form 37 which showed to whom the property was sold on to in 1933 (the Spencers), it can be shown that the Queen's Head was most likely the house which is now called Milvale in Milton Street.

Digital copies of the map and Form 37 spreadsheet are available to inspect in the FHS Archive Room.

The original 'Form 37s' with the map are in the Gloucestershire Archives Reference D2428-2-76 and D2428 3/52/12.



Gloucestershire local historians visit Fairford

Over fifty members of Gloucestershire local history societies converged on Fairford on Saturday July 2nd. The societies are all members of the Gloucestershire Local History Committee (GLHC) of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. The Committee organises an outdoor summer meeting and a themed indoor meeting each year (as well as regular meetings). This year the summer meeting was hosted by Fairford History Society. Our guests met in the Community Centre and were welcomed by FHS Chairman Geoff Hawkes. Chris Hobson gave a very brief history of the town and they then split up into groups. One group were taken on a tour of the Church by Geoff. Margaret Bishop talked to a small group about Farmor's School and its transition to the modern vibrant building that is the Community Centre. The rest were taken in three groups on a Heritage Walk around the town led by Syd Flatman, Don Cobbett and Ian Westlake. They all then returned to the Community Centre for a sumptuous tea provided by Fairford WI. Groups who had been on the walks then had the opportunity to look round the Centre and the Church. There were also displays kindly supplied by Edwin Cuss and Syd Flatman and by FHS itself. Steven Blake, GLHC Chairman then thanked Fairford

History Society for hosting the event and the WI for their delicious tea. Many attendees lingered on chatting in the courtyard—having had a very pleasant afternoon.



FHS members relaxing with their tea after most of the hard work was done.
Photo: Ian Westlake

Fairford Booke

The Fairford Booke, which is in Gloucestershire Archives, is a register of deeds to church lands, (1601-74), including schedule of lands, (1662) etc. Last year we were privileged to display this book at the celebrations of the completion of the Fairford windows. At the time we took photos of it and with the help of Miriam Scott have now completed the transcription and indexed it. A copy of the transcription has been presented to GA for their records.

VCH (Victoria County History)

The Victoria County History series is a scheme established in 1899 to produce definitive histories of each county. Counties established their own committees to produce the volumes needed for comprehensive coverage. Gloucestershire is well on with the task but they have recently lost important funding and have appealed for support. One suggestion they made was for each history society to add £1 to every membership subscription for the purpose. Our committee did not feel able to support this proposal but instead we committed ourselves to raise £100 a year for 5 years by additional activity, not out of our mainstream budget. For example donations for answering family history enquiries or from an exhibition could be used. The volume which includes Fairford was published many years ago but it is in the wider interest of historical studies in the county as a whole that the series needs to be completed. Then we hope they will embark on revising earlier volumes. Fairford's entry certainly needs updating. A new body, the Gloucestershire County History Trust, has been set up to promote the cause.

MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions (£5) are due in September. Of course, those of you paying by standing order will not need to do anything and you will find your membership card enclosed with this edition of the Fairford Flyer. Subscriptions can be paid at any meeting or by filling out the enclosed slip and sending it with payment to the Society at the Community Centre. The full address is on the slip.

Those of you who do not pay by standing order at present will find a form enclosed in case you want to switch. It helps us if you do as it will simplify our administration.

FHS has reached its highest membership ever with 128 this year. We have several 'out of Fairford' members and this month we have our first ever overseas member, Stacey Wane from Lara, Victoria, Australia. Her great, great, great grandfather was Isaac Wane born 1791. He married Sarah Brewer and their eleventh child, Alfred Frederick Wane was born at Inglesham in 1839. Alfred went to Australia in January 1866, aged 25, with his brother Richard Hurst Wane, sister-in-law Ann (nee Walker) and nephew William aged 6. Alfred lived in Geelong, Victoria, Australia and had 8 children.

MEMBERS TAKE OVER

We didn't know how the Show and Tell would work at the June AGM meeting. As it turned out it was very successful and there wasn't time for all the offerings. Fourteen people contributed and topics included a former Lord Mayor of London, a mounted priest in Queensland, Rudolf Hess, a cricket ball, a plate, scientific instruments, an airship, books, pictures and a delightful letter etc. Fascinating and something well worth repeating.

A SUMMER OUTING

FHS members joined Friends of Fairford Church on a visit to Witley Court, Worcestershire on July 13th. It was the first visit there for some members and they had been told that it was a ruin and were not prepared for the grandeur of the building set in beautifully landscaped grounds which have been restored by English Heritage.

Witley Court was gutted by fire in 1937 and was subsequently stripped and abandoned. The mansion had grown from a medieval farmhouse to a Jacobean mansion under the first Baron Foley and his son in 1720s and 30s. Regency architect John Nash added two porticos. It reached the peak of its grandeur in the 1850s when extensive remodelling was commissioned by the first Earl of Dudley.

Despite its ruinous state visitors can well envisage its former splendour. Some of the most impressive features were the huge complex of cellars, where one could imagine the bustle of the 100 servants, and the conservatory where the Dudleys and their guests would have relaxed gazing over the beautiful gardens and the distant horizon. We were privileged to see the Perseus and Andromeda fountain show off its magnificent plumes.

Members then visited Great Witley Church, a magnificent baroque style church much of it originally from the Chandos estate and brought by 2nd Lord Foley to Great Witley. The windows are very rare enamelled stained glass and the altar is of Venetian mosaic glass in gold, decorated with a cross and lilies. The Church also has the tallest funerary monument in the country which commemorates Lord and Lady Foley and their five children who predeceased them and was sculpted by John Michael Rysbrack in 1735. The Church Restoration Committee face a mammoth task of having to raise £1 million pounds to restore the roof and preserve the windows.

On the beautifully sunny afternoon members then enjoyed very tasty tea and cakes at the nearby tea room. A very worthwhile visit and thoroughly to be recommended.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Two beautifully crafted **hunting whips** have recently been donated to the Society by Fairford Town Council. The whips' silver bands have the initials PFRB and Fairford Park. PFRB stands for Percy Fitzhardinge Raymond Barker, who was born in 1843, the son of John Raymond Raymond Barker, and succeeded to the estate in 1888. He died in 1895. Fairford Park was leased from 1889 when the Raymond Barkers moved to Tetbury, so these whips probably date from 1860-1890s. The silver bands are marked Simpson & Co, Oxford Street. They were whip makers to the Prince of Wales who became Edward VII.

Other recent donations also include two old pairs of spectacles found on a rubbish tip at West End in the early '60s, an old photograph of Waiten Hill cottages, original plans of Burdocks and an A2 size Fairford 1841 tithe map—thank you to everyone and if you find anything interesting in the attic or under the floorboards - photographs, old newspaper cuttings relating to Fairford, etc, we would be grateful to see them.

Books acquired recently include **Lays and legends of Gloucestershire** by Adin Williams, c.1878. He was a Kempsford school master and wrote poems about historical events in the County. Relating to Fairford are poems about De Spenser's Feast and the Fairford Church windows.

Also bought recently is a copy of the '**Autobiography of Henry Herbert**: a Gloucestershire shoemaker and native a Fairford. 2nd edition printed in 1876 for the author who first published it in 1866. This is 174 pages of 4-line verses, a moral tale on the evils of drink, not of high quality perhaps but interesting because of the local places and people mentioned. Henry left Fairford to be apprenticed as a cobbler, marrying and living in Eastington, He finally settled as clerk at St Luke's Church, Gloucester.

A love for school I early felt,
For learning made me glad,
And there was music in the sound-
"All in; all in: each lad;"

For this at Fairford British School
Was constantly the call;
Ah, dear old place, with power this rule
Doth on my memory fall.

I found the master strict with all,
(Of this I much could tell),
The rod and cane found constant work,
And did their work full well.

From the Archives

A LESS ROSY VIEW OF FAIRFORD AND ITS CHURCH

We are so used to hearing much praise heaped on Fairford while the church visitors' book attests to a world-wide admiration for the beauty of St Mary's such that we assume everyone feels the same. Not so! In 1932 Edward Hutton published his 'Highways and Byways in Gloucestershire'. He travelled widely in the county and formed decided opinions. He arrived in Fairford having been hugely impressed by Kempsford.

"Now whether it was that I had fallen in love with Kempsford and was jealous of all other places, or whether I was prejudiced by its fame, I know not, but it was as I feared, and Fairford seemed a poor exchange for Kempsford, the Coln for the Thames."

Having begun on decrying the town's reputation Mr Hutton set about the church with relish.

"I confess I found the church uninteresting.... and I thought the glass ugly enough to be what it is not, a local product..... It is an irony that when the vandalism began at the Reformation and was renewed by the Puritans so much old glass of the highest beauty of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was lost - and the ugly stuff here was saved. It goes to show how poor we must be in really fine glass when we can rave about the pallid, ugly, washed-out stuff here. If you would see what glass can be, go to Chartres, Sens, Troyes, Auxerre and a hundred others, and have whole cathedrals full of the most glorious and beautiful work of a better time than the end of the fifteenth century."

With a final shrug he leaves the town, dismissing it with a contemptuous "I went on to Lechlade, and forgot Fairford." Edward Hutton's dyspeptic view is fortunately not very widely shared.

'Do not remit the practice of writing down occurrences as they arise, of whatever kind, and be very punctual in annexing the dates. Chronology you know is the eye of history'.

Dr Johnson

From the Newspapers

A report in Jackson's Oxford Journal of 14th January 1865 records a tragic accident in Fairford:

EASTLEACH

FATAL ACCIDENT - On Thursday the 5th inst., as Thomas Tidmarsh, carter to Mr Penson, of this place, was returning from Cirencester with a load of oats and maize, in company with a wagon and some carts, belonging to Messrs. Edmonds, of Eastleach and Southrop, in passing through Fairford, his horses turned into the wrong road on the off side, and in his attempt to bring them into the road he was knocked down by a cart which had been following him, loaded with oil cake, the wheel of which passed over his chest, crushing him in a frightful manner; he was conveyed to the Eight Bells, close by, but he never spoke, and died in about 20 minutes. An inquest was held on Saturday before J. G. Ball, Esq., Coroner, and a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. The deceased was a steady inoffensive man, and much sympathy had been felt, as he leaves a wife (who lost a former husband in a similar manner) and family; his wife, it will be remembered, gave birth, in June last, to three daughters, who all died in September, and were buried in one coffin on the 1st of October. It is rather remarkable that, since that day, there has not been a funeral in the parish until Sunday last, when the unfortunate father was laid beside them.

Accidents involving carts and carriages were a fairly common cause of violent death in the 19th Century as the double widowhood of poor Ellen Tidmarsh testifies. The National Burial Index shows that Thomas was only 28 years old when he died. He was buried on 8 January in the churchyard of St Michael and St Martin at Eastleach Martin where his three baby daughters, Alexandra, Alice and Amy, had been laid to rest. Thomas's employer, Thomas Penson, was a farmer and miller who owned 295 acres of land at Eastleach Turville. His son Thomas Johnson Penson later moved to Fairford and farmed at Waiten Hill Farm until his death in 1931.

The Retreat Asylum

A recent donation to the FHS is a set of three hand-written case books that were compiled by the resident surgeons of the Retreat. The case books commence in 1846 and, although there are missing volumes, this is one of the most important discoveries of recent years and will add much to Fairford's fascinating history. The books are currently being transcribed and will be reviewed in more detail in the next Fairford Flyer.

Meetings 2011-2012

All meetings take place in the Farmor Room of the Fairford Community Centre at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

September 15th 2011

The Wars of the Roses in the Cotswolds by Tim Porter.

November 17th 2011

The Hicks-Beach family and Williamstrip by Karen Cooke. For the past year Karen has been working on cataloguing the Hicks Beach collection at Gloucestershire Archives.

February 16th 2012

Pubs and Hotels of Fairford at **10am** a presentation by Edwin Cuss followed by a walk round the town.

March 15th 2012

The Cotswold Way by Steven Blake

May 17th 2012

A Grave Matter: Cotswold churchyards and tombs by Chris Hobson

June 21st AGM (followed by a talk to be arranged).

Dates for your diary

In August in conjunction with St Mary's Church 'The Bible in Flowers' a celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible from **August 26-29th** FHS is putting on a display in the Farmor Room. We thought as part of the display, it might be interesting to put on a display of different Bibles, for example we have the Bible commemorating the visit of Queen Mary to St Mary's in 1922. If anyone has any 'different or special' versions of the bible e.g. in another language or a special edition – could we borrow them for the exhibition please?

September 26th marks the 25th anniversary of the re-opening of Fairford Market in 1986. Town Crier Maurice Jones led the procession with the then Mayor Dorothy Paton and others in costume. At the Wednesday Market on September 28th there will be a small exhibition to mark the occasion. If anyone has any photographs of the event in 1986 could we please see them?

Please contact Alison on 01285 711768 or email or visit the Archive Room on Mondays, 2-4pm.

www.fairfordhistory.org.uk

Email: enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk