



# The Fairford Flyer

## Newsletter No 29

### July 2019

#### 75th ANNIVERSARY OF RAF FAIRFORD

RAF Fairford opened in January 1944 in preparation for D-Day and this year marks the 75th Anniversary of the base. Throughout these 75 years, RAF Fairford has had a rich and varied history, and to commemorate this, the base is hosting a 75th Anniversary Heritage Day, which will be held on Friday 6th September.

The 75th Anniversary event will take place in and around a hangar on base, and will include many items of interest. There will be an exhibition of memorabilia covering the various periods in the history of the base, which will include vehicles, historical displays, old uniforms and artefacts. In addition, there will be an opportunity to visit several static aircraft which will be on display including vintage and current aircraft. There will be a barbecue and refreshments available throughout the event and with luck the sun will shine!

All FHS members are invited please, contact the Secretary . You will not be allowed in unless you are on the list ! (see page 11 for details)

#### 2020 ANNIVERSARIES

It is also the 500th anniversary of King Henry VIII's visit to Fairford when he stayed with Sir Edmund Tame and also knighted his son, Edmund. He would have attended church on St Bartholomew's day August 24th and on the Sunday. He gave half a mark to the Church on each occasion (6s 8d, c.34 pence).

FHS is making plans to commemorate this Royal visit with an event in the Church where King Henry and entourage will be present accompanied by Tudor music. If you would like to be involved with this event please contact the Secretary.

**From the FTC Newsletter:** The Council is considering how best to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE-Day next year. We would like to find out what you think that we, as a community should do. Please contact the Clerks in the Community Centre with your ideas.

#### From the Chairman's Report at the AGM June 20 2019

This past year 2018/19 has been a demanding period for FHS. I, myself tried to escape the grip of the society by following the NHS escape route but in the end submitted to the needs of the society and signed up for another year. This time I will stick to my intentions and restrict my commitment to a one-year term. Of course, I jest but it is true that we do need fresh blood on the Committee. We have reached the 15<sup>th</sup> year of our existence and we are no longer a brand new society but one in mid-life. We have a loyal hard-working committee who help maintain the qualities of scholarship and knowledge that characterised the work of FHS. We have a large and enthusiastic membership that would put to shame many older and longer established societies. Nevertheless there are some cracks appearing. Nothing to do with the ravages of anno domini of course. And many of the pressures of the society proceed from its very successes. We get plenty of requests to join in events. It would be good for instance if we could provide support to the multiplicity of responsibilities that fall on the secretary. If you had thought of offering some help but don't know what or don't want to join the Committee you could still be of value. For example we are grateful to Don Cobbett for creating the meeting posters until ill health made it impossible. It was always said of committees that the Secretary does all the work while the Chairman reaps all the glory. I am sure this is not so with FHS. I would hope that by the time of the next AGM we will have managed to find some fresh faces and some new ideas. In the last few months we have enjoyed a couple of interesting occasions which illustrate the support given to the town by its History Society. In late March the Monumental Brass Society held its general meeting in Fairford. FHS members were offered free entry. Three of our members gave talks. It was a memorable occasion from which we learnt a lot. More recently we were visited by some 39 representatives of Fairford, Manitoba (Pinaymootang) who were in the UK for a brief visit. They were able to look at a display about Abraham Cowley who left Fairford to settle in Canada as a missionary. On both of these occasions FHS gave of their knowledge and expertise while not directly in charge of the event. Not least we admired the quality of a good informative display.

Geoff Hawkes

Even if you do not want to be on the Committee – could you help in any of the following ways?

Teas at meetings  
Monthly meeting posters  
Monthly meeting publicity  
Adding items to FHS website (using Wordpress)  
2020-21 meetings, arranging speakers

The talk after the AGM by Mervyn Cully on 'Memories of Keble House' to a record audience of 63 was very much enjoyed. It may be remembered that Dorothy Keble's menagerie was mentioned. This article was in the Parish News of May 2004:

### Here and There: News from St Mary's

It came to our notice over Easter, via Fairford Hospital, that one of Dorothy Keble's animals, a tortoise called Columba, died at the beginning of April this year. Post-war Vicar of Fairford, Canon Edward Keble, lived at Keble House which became quite a menagerie...Dorothy died in 1996, so Columba the tortoise had to find a new home in Minchinhampton, with the Ritters. The Lansdowne Vets in Stroud gave the tortoise a peaceful last few days ... we wonder how old Columba was!



### FHS News

In the membership year 2018-2019 FHS reached 150 members, the second highest total ever. Several donations were received, the highlight of which was an 1835 original map of Gloucestershire that was sent from Wisconsin, USA. If it had been known it was 12 ft x 12 ft the offer might have been refused!! We now have over 6,000 entries indexed on our database and some of these would be multiple items. The backlog of indexing newspaper cuttings and Ripples Magazine Fairford entries is now complete and work is being done on the Parish Magazines. Space is somewhat of a premium in the Archive Room.

### Fairford Waterworks—a nice little earner by Syd Flatman

If you walk up the Pitham Brook footpath, or up the Leaffield Road and then cross over the Cascades you will see two waterfalls; these were once part of the pleasure grounds of the now demolished Park House.

If you have already walked that way, how many of you noticed the small stone building with its ivy clad walls and moss covered Cotswold stone roof at the side of the waterfall?

Some of you, of a more inquisitive nature, may have even ventured around the side and looked through the open doorway and saw the roll of flat chicken wire and short length of twisted iron fencing and thought "it's just a shed". Dating from 1880 to 1900 this was much more than "just a shed". It was built to supply the water to Park House and many of the businesses of the town. Also the better off from around the market place area, those being prepared to pay a quarterly charge to the Fairford Estate, for whom that building was to be a nice little earner for the next fifty or so years.

How did it work? Let me explain...

Inside, there used to be a six foot diameter galvanised steel water wheel of about 2 feet in width mounted on a steel axle, which in turn drove a piston type water pump mounted on its side.

The water wheel was forced round by water flowing through the bottom of the wheel, known as an undershot type. Water entered the pump house via a tunnel leading from the upper side of the waterfall, (the wooden sluice gate is still there) and discharging again through a tunnel into the lower part of the waterfall.

Water from the pump was piped up the bank to the reservoir that is in the clump of trees by the cattle grid that you see today. Being the highest point on the eastern side of Fairford, water was able to gravity feed down to the town.

The west side of Fairford was on a different system; this was pumped from a waterwheel in the Mill House, piped past the Oxpens, across The Gassons to the reservoir situated above Dynevor Terrace. It's still there in amongst the trees on the side of the Quenington Road. Again, this is the highest point on the west of Fairford.

As youngsters, living at West End Gardens, we would climb down into the, by then, empty reservoir which we always called 'the tank'. At that time the ballcock mechanism was still in place, complete with its giant copper ball.

Next time you are at the Mill Pond feeding the ducks, take a look into the water by your feet, there is still a length of the reservoir feed pipe lying along the bottom.

I remember the pump house at the Cascades was still in use in the mid 1950s. Our gang from West End Gardens, would sneak across there. It was still very private at the time. Though the pump house door was always locked you could hear the sound of the thrashing water as it went through the wheel.

It was a scary place for us, as there were always several Polish men dotted about on the grassy bank above the pump house like sentinels, silently gazing at us, caps on their heads and hands in their trouser pockets of their old looking suits. To this very day I am always reminded of them when I see pictures of the standing statues of Easter Island.

Today, when we hear about water wheels, it all sounds so old fashioned and very quaint, something from a bygone age, but I believe they are set for a second coming. The new buzz word, where energy is concerned, is "renewable", so we blot the landscape with our wind turbines and solar farms. This is all well and good but the downside is, in the depths of winter, just when our needs are greatest, very often "the wind don't blow and the sun don't shine", but there, right under our noses is this wonderful free energy source waiting to be harnessed once again. Our Saxon forefathers knew a thing about renewables; the Domesday Book of 1086 tells us Fairford (spelt Fareforde), comprised 101 households, watermills 3.



The underground tank at West End (Syd Flatman)

### The Search for Thomas Raymond Barker

On a lovely sunny day in July the Hobson family set off on a local history quest. The aim was to find any evidence of Thomas Raymond Barker in Hambleden near Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Thomas, a son of John Raymond Barker of Fairford Park, caused a notorious scandal in 1809 by having a passionate love affair with Anne Loveden, the wife of Edward Loveden Loveden of Buscot Park. Edward was a family friend of the Raymond Barkers and Thomas often used to call in at Buscot Park on his way home from Merton College, Oxford but Edward was a very busy man and was not often at home. The affair was of several years standing and culminated in sensational divorce proceedings by Edward on the grounds of adultery, then known as 'criminal conversation', which eventually failed when Anne was awarded £400 alimony by the court which Edward refused to pay. Although denied a divorce by Edward this did not deter Anne and Thomas who set up home in Baker's Farm in Hambleden where Thomas became a successful farmer and local magistrate. In the 1851 census he is shown employing 36 men and eight boys on his 500 acre farm. After more than 10 years of happy cohabitation, Anne died in 1821 bequeathing stock valued at £17,000 (inherited from her mother Elizabeth Lintall) to Thomas.

The church of St Mary the Virgin in Hambleden is situated in the very pretty centre of the tiny village set in rolling Chilterns scenery. Although there was no sign of a memorial to Thomas in the church, we did find documents there which showed evidence of Thomas's presence in the village. These included an entry in an 1845 directory and a tithe map together with listings of his land holdings. A search of the churchyard eventually revealed the grave of Thomas but no sign of Anne's burial. Three years after Anne died Thomas married Eliza Jane Cocks in Marlow and she died in 1860. Thomas died on 23 June 1866 aged 88 and is buried with Eliza Jane. We were pleased to find the lasting resting place of one of the Fairford Raymond Barkers but the search for Anne Loveden's burial place continues!

If you want to read more about this scandalous affair there is a detailed article in the Berkshire Family History Society Journal of December 1999 which is available on the internet at: [www.berksfhs.org.uk/journal-articles-1999-2000/sex-a-scandal-in-north-berkshire.html](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/journal-articles-1999-2000/sex-a-scandal-in-north-berkshire.html)

**From the Newspaper Archives  
1819 and 1919**

**Cheltenham Chronicle Thursday 23 December 1819**

Died: On Wednesday last, after two days of illness, Mr Henry Thomson, sen. father of Mr Thomson, woolstapler, of Gloucester: he was Deacon of the Baptist Meeting at Fairford, in this county, and was much esteemed as a worthy, upright character.

*Mr Henry Thomson (1751-1819) married to Mary (1749-1829) lived at Milton End in quite a sizeable property as can be seen from the auction notice, after Mary's death in 1829*

**Jackson's Oxford Journal, Saturday October 31, 1829**

Long lease and Lifehold Premises

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

BY ILES AND SON,

(by order of the Executors of the late Mr Henry Thompson), at the George Inn, in Fairford on Thursday 19th of November, 1829 at Six o'clock in the evening, (unless disposed of by private contract, in which case notice will be given in the Gloucester and Oxford Journals of Saturday November 14) - All those LONG LEASE PREMISES, situate in Millton [sic] End, Fairford, and now in the occupation of Mr Edward Thompson, woolstapler; comprising a good and substantial Dwelling House, with neat parlour, kitchen lodging rooms, and other appropriate offices, a large shop, several convenient and extensive warehouses attached, other suitable outbuildings, with good garden; the whole forming a situation where a very considerable business in the wool trade has been carried on for many years - Also (in lots) - All those FIVE LIFEHOLD TENEMENTS, with Gardens attached, situate in East-end.....

**Worcester Journal 30 September 1819**

A Caution - There are some Five Pound Notes in circulation of the undermentioned description:- "Gloucestershire Bank. Fairford," signed "for John Herbert and Company, J. Herbert." These notes are made payable on demand at "Messrs. Peter and John Spencer', Newton-street, London," and are written across, "Payable at No. 5 Princes-street, Soho." On application being made at Messrs. Spencers', it is stated, that the notes were originally made payable at their house, but that afterwards they withdrew their authority; and on their being presented at No.5 Princes-street, Soho; it appears that no provision had been made for payment.

*In 2013 a bank note from this company was sold at auction for £150-200 (Estimated)*

**Morning Advertiser Monday 22 February 1819**

TO PLUMBERS, GLAZIERS, AND PAINTERS. ROBERT SAVORY, a Native of Fairford, Gloucestershire, Apprentice to William Thomson, of Hackney, Middlesex, left his Master's service in January last. This is to caution all persons from harbouring or employing him, as they will be prosecuted. The said Robert Savory is about 18 years of age, about five feet and five inches in height, stout made, light brown hair, florid complexion, and stoops a little in his walk

*By 1851 Robert Savory was a plumber and glazier living in Hereford with his wife, Elizabeth and 5 children employing 4 men and 1 apprentice. In the 1861 census he was a widower and had 3 children at home.*

*In November 1860 he was knocked down by a runaway horse while he was marching with the Hereford Volunteers. Having been declared bankrupt in 1850 but got back into business but was again declared bankrupt in 1861. He died on 8 July 1869 and left £2 10s.*

**Western Times 17 January 1919**

For having sent a pig from Fairford, Gloucestershire to Scarborough, a distance of 243 miles, in a box which was too small for it, William Arkell, farmer of Hempstead, Gloucestershire was summoned at Scarborough for cruelty and was fined £2 and was ordered to pay £3 8s 10d costs.

**Tewkesbury Register and Agricultural Gazette June 21 1919**

**The Late Canon Carbonell**

"The following article, which appeared in the last issue of the 'Gloucestershire Chronicle' over the initials C L W, will be perused with interest by many of our readers.

"The death of that well-known and genial fisherman, Canon Carbonell, has been noted with regret in Bibury and Fairford, where his prowess with the rod was well known. The photograph of his great catch of 10 trout weighing 17½ pounds must be well known to many hundreds of fishermen who never met the Canon in the flesh. As Vicar of Fairford Canon Carbonell had the entrée to much private water denied to the average frequenter of the Swan and Bull hotels, and his stories and adventures with 'monsters' in such waters such as Fairford Park, Hatherop, Williamstrip, Coln St Aldwyn and Bibury Court were always entertaining and amusing, as he generally prefaced his remarks with 'now you'll think this is a fisherman's yarn'. The Canon was an accomplished musician, and an excellent performer on the violoncello. He was to be found with Mrs Carbonell, who is also very much at home with the viola in all the important orchestras of Gloucestershire. Many years back, when the writer of these notes was acting as conductor of an orchestral piece in Tewkesbury Abby, the worthy Canon, having to count 32 bars came in boldly at bar 31, and apologised afterwards saying "I knew from the look in your eye I rose too quick". Last week, fishing with the May fly, within a few yards of his grave in Fairford Churchyard, one's thought dwelt on our 25 years; friendship in the realms of church music and fishing and the happy times that they had brought us. This season the May fly appeared in quite unusual numbers at Bibury and Fairford, and one heard of good fish being landed by members of the 'old gang' round Winson and Bibury district. One noted with pleasure the safe return of Mr Frank Busby, of Bibury, though alas other demobilised soldiers bore all too plainly evidence of the sacrifices they made for their King and Country as they assembled for their usual evening chat on Bibury Bridge".

*Francis Rohde Carbonell ( 1849-1919) was Vicar of Fairford for over 30 years. His predecessor had died suddenly and Rev Carbonell carried on the challenge of raising money for the restoration of the Fairford Church windows. He started the Fairford Parish Magazine, was a great cricketer, fisherman and musician. He retired in 1918 and died in Cheltenham. He also set up a parish library in the vicarage....*

**November 12, 1892**

PARISH LIBRARY - the November number of the *Parish Magazine* afforded the welcome intelligence of the opening of the parish library. The library is open every Thursday at the Vicarage from 6 to 7pm. This is a decided acquisition to the parish, as there is a goodly number of very readable volumes.

**Cheltenham Chronicle - 13 September 1919**

An interesting and valuable gift has been made to the Fairford Reading Room by Mr Walter Jones. It takes the form of a sword dated 1820, and is reported to have belonged to the Fairford Volunteers of those days. For the forthcoming billiard tournament open to members of the Fairford Reading Room, Mr Milner R Mudie has generously presented a handsome silver challenge cup for competition, to be held by the winner for one year, and to be competed for annually. A small replica of the trophy will be awarded to each holder as a permanent possession. It need hardly be stated that the generous gifts of both donors are highly appreciated by the committee and members.

RAMBLER

*Militia groups were set up after the 1808 Local Militia Act and mostly disbanded in 1816 when the threat from France had abated. The Reading Room was situated in the room next to Coffee Post (the former George Inn) and is now part of the Bull Hotel. Mr Walter Jones (1873-1946) lived at Morgan Hall with his wife, Gladys (died 1980, age 98) (who always seemed to have been known as Mrs Walter Jones) and their daughters Daphne Jones, (portrayed in Call the Midwife) and Ruth Ritter (later a Mayor of Fairford).*

*Mr Milner R Mudie was an agricultural student in the 1911 census and was with Mr Dancey at Moor Farm in 1915. He later moved to Charfield, Glos and died in Exmouth, Devon in 1935.*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time again! Membership subscription is due in September. It remains at just £5.

Members with standing orders need not do anything, you will be contacted if there is a problem. Your membership card will be enclosed with this Flyer.

For those who pay annually a membership renewal form is enclosed with this Flyer. You can pay at any meeting or drop it in to the Community Centre, clearly addressed to FHS (we now have a letter slot on the left hand side as you go in, just past the FTC Office), or by post: Fairford Community Centre, High Street, Fairford GL7 4AF

Another method of payment for those of you with online banking is bank transfer. The treasurer requests you name it something like <YOUR NAME> – FHS Subs 2019. The FHS Lloyd's Bank account number is 30-92-06 A/C 02170130. Thank You.

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## INVITATION TO RAF FAIRFORD HERITAGE DAY DETAILS

Please let FHS know as soon as possible if you wish to accept this invitation, and by the reply deadline of Monday 19 August. To facilitate base entry, all replies should include your entry security information as follows:

- Full name including middle initial • Car details including make, model, colour and registration number • Passport or photo driving license number • Date of birth

Please note the following information: • On the day of the event, all guests should bring their passport or photo driving license as photo ID to gain access into RAF Fairford. Guests should not arrive at the RAF Fairford main gate before 10:30am. • The event will be held in an open hangar, and guests should dress appropriately for comfort and weather conditions. The dress code is smart/casual. As the ground surface is uneven in places, no high heels should be worn.

• As cover is available at the hangar, the event will take place regardless of the weather! • There will be a charge for the barbecue, so please bring some money with you on the day. Both £'s and \$'s will be accepted • There is no smoking or vaping anywhere at the event venue • Whilst on base, guests will have access to the event venue only, and will be directed accordingly

## Meetings 2019-20

All meetings take place in the Farmor Room of the Fairford Community Centre at 7.30pm this year except for the **February meeting which is at 10 am**

### September 19

Bones, Stones and Romans: 5000 years of occupation  
by James Harris of the Corinium Museum

### October 17

Fairford Shops by Edwin Cuss

### November 21

Port to port: an historical journey the length and breadth of the Sharpness to Gloucester Canal by Paul Barnett

## 2020

### February 20 (half term) at 10 am

From crawling to Concorde by Edwin Cuss

### March 19

History of Lechlade  
by Marian Winckles of Lechlade History Society

### April 16

The grand drain: Fairford's contribution to agricultural history  
by Eric Jones

### May 21

Woodchester Mansion—an unfinished masterpiece  
by Liz Davenport

### June 18

AGM & Show and Tell

### September 6

**Heritage Day at RAF Fairford**  
**See pages 1 and 11**

**Enquiries Alison 01285 711768**  
**[www.fairfordhistory.org.uk](http://www.fairfordhistory.org.uk)**  
**email: [enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk)**

Fairford Flyer edited by Alison Hobson. With contributions from Syd Flatman, Mervyn Culley, Chris and Alison Hobson and the FHS Archive