

FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

The Fairford Flyer

Newsletter No 30

January 2020

2020 ANNIVERSARY EVENT

It is 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).

On September 5th FHS is planning an event in St Mary's Church. The plans are rather vague at the moment but it will be something like Tudor music with a re-enactment of Henry VIII attending the Church and knighting Edmund the younger with appropriate readings and poetry. Isn't it remarkable that Henry VIII would have seen our beautiful windows in the Church.

Fairford Festival has also taken up this theme of the Tudors with lots of events planned. FHS is putting on a display in the Cricket Club and in the Library, which will be then transferred to the Community Centre where Edwin Cuss will have his usual Photographic Display. The Library also has events planned.

FHS is looking for volunteers to dress up in Tudor costume and walk in the Fairford Festival procession. It is possible to hire costumes for groups. If you are interested please let me know. Fairford Festival is on 5–7 June. What could be more fun than dressing up in Tudor clothes—for the ladies anyway!

St Mary's Church is commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE-Day on the weekend of May 25 –27, the late May Bank holiday weekend. FHS is contributing to their display and is wanting to borrow any WW2 artefacts or photographs. Perhaps another dressing up opportunity! There will be music and WW2 type food. Please contact Alison or Heather Gorton in the Parish Office.

Gloucestershire Police Archives

Gloucestershire Constabulary Archive Group was formed in 1998 and first became involved with the county's police heritage when a number of retired police officers were asked to record details of some photograph albums which had been discovered on police premises. This website is based on the archives of Gloucestershire Police and has been created by the Gloucestershire Police Archive Volunteers. Here you can browse through photos, memories, stories and historical information relating to the history of Gloucestershire Constabulary. They are now based at Gloucestershire Archives

This website was found when looking for information about Fairford Police Station. It is absolutely fascinating with interesting photographs, especially the early ones of the first police officers. If you have relatives that were in the Gloucestershire Constabulary maybe you can find out information or be able to add something to their archive.

Gloucestershire Constabulary was formed in 1839. Before the Police Station was opened in 1863 the first police officers lived in London Street. The website lists officers from Fairford but not necessarily stationed there. It does not appear that the first few police officers that joined in 1840 were too successful; John Andrews was dismissed for stealing tea, Thomas Scrivens for allowing a prisoner to escape at Gloucester, John Harrison resigned and Edward Carpenter was dismissed for neglect of duty.

Isaac Baylis seems to have been more successful; he joined the force in 1840, made a sergeant in 1845 and resigned in 1855. In the 1851 census he was living in London Street and there were also two police constables Thomas Clark and John Slocombe, both from Thornbury near Bristol and also lived in London Street.

Robert Clerk from Fairford also made a career in the police force; he joined in 1866, made sergeant in 1886 and was pensioned in 1899 on £55-9s-11d per year.

Charles Mason, joined in 1850, was promoted to sergeant in 1863, and stationed at Fairford from 1871 (age 45). He retired in 1886 and continued to live in Fairford. He was superannuated on £43-10s-0d per year. He died 10th October 1890 aged 65. There is a photograph of him in his huge stovepipe hat on the website.

In 1911 and during the First World War stationed at Fairford was Sergeant Egbert Jenkins; stationed with him were Constables Alfred Durant and Francis Wood.

Police Constable Albert Ford, joined the force on 4 May 1914 and was posted to Fairford in the same year specifically to guard the church windows against the suffragettes. He then enlisted in the Forces on 5 May 1915.

Sgt 'Ifsobe' Stevens [Stephens] might be remembered by some residents. He got his nickname as 'Ifsobe' was a favourite phrase. He was stationed in Fairford and was instrumental in helping catch the Edmonds shop robbers in 1937.

The Magistrates Court opened in 1863 and was closed for Petty Sessions in 1974 but was occasionally used for inquests after this date. The Police Station closed in 1999. A new police station was built in London Street but was only used for a few years before being sold off. <https://gloucestershirepolicearchives.org.uk/>

Curtain falls on Fairford Court -Standard 27 December 1974

The final curtain on the history of Fairford Court, which dates back to 1798, was brought down on Thursday when the court sat for the last time at Fairford before amalgamation with Cirencester and Tetbury. From January 1 Fairford magistrates will share duties in the new division which will be known as the Cirencester, Tetbury and Fairford Petty Sessions and which will sit on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Commenting on the changeover the chairman Mr Walter Hinton, said that the first reference to a court in Fairford was one which sat at the Bull Hotel in 1798. In 1820 it was recorded that a court sat in the present courthouse and in 1841 it was again officially recognised that a court had sat at Easter. 'As far as we know the court had been held regularly for the last 132 years, which is a tremendous thing', he said.....

Editor's Note: Petty Sessions were held at the Bull Hotel from 1820 until the new courthouse opened. The 1798 date cannot be confirmed.

Down the High Street ...

These articles have been updated and adapted from a series of articles reproduced in the Fairford Parish Magazine from October 2019.

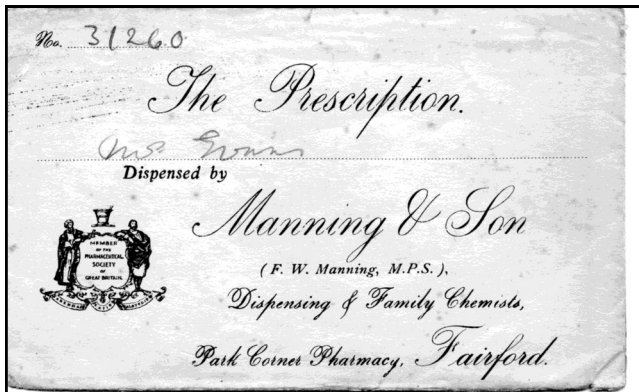
Park Corner—a school and then 100 years as a chemist's shop

Using trade directories, censuses, electoral registers and local memories it has been possible to roughly trace the story of Park Corner for almost the past 200 years. Between 1839 and the 1860s there was recorded in the trade directories at Park Corner the Miss Iles Boarding School for Young Ladies. There were about 15-18 young ladies boarding during this time and Miss Jane Iles ran the school with her sisters Elizabeth and Anne. Many of the pupils were born locally including at Fairford, Kempsford, Poulton, and Coln St Aldwyn but others came from further afield, for example Elizabeth and Ann Miles were born in Hudson Bay in Canada. By 1870 the Misses Iles had retired to Park Villas.

In the 1871 census Mr William Wakefield was at Park Corner, he was a draper was there until the mid-1880s. In trade directories he is described as both a draper and a grocer.

By 1889 Henry Manning had taken over the premises. He was described as a dentist and chemist and the premises remained in the hands of the Mannings until 1953/54, with the Manning family taking an active part in Fairford life. Henry's sons Thomas and Frederick eventually took over the business. In 1960 Thomas Manning died and left many bequests to local organisations including the Fairford Cottage Hospital, Fairford Church, the Bowls, Tennis, Cricket and Football Clubs, Congregational Church, the Silver Band as well as several national charities.

The shop became Park Corner Pharmacy with chemist Grenfell (1950s-60s), George Kuck from the late 60s (he was resident organist at St Thomas's RC Church) and then various other chemists (Anyamene/Mildenhall, etc in the 1990s) until in 2009 the Chemist moved to larger premises down the High Street having been taken over by Boots, the chemist. Park Corner then became a charity shop run by South Cotswold Voluntary Service and after a time and refurbishment the shop became a Lynwood & Co Café in 2018.



The Old Bakery in High Street including Nos 3 and 3A

There seems to have been a bakery at the premises for well over 100 years. Robert Hayward was a baker in Fairford by at least 1815. He died in 1824. The earliest listing for a baker in the High Street who can be identified is in the 1839 trade directory for Robert's wife Mary Hayward. In the 1841 census Mary and her daughter Jane are recorded as bakers at the top of the High Street. Mary died in 1848 but her daughter Jane continued the business, possibly until she married John Baxter of Eastleach Martin in 1857. The bakery was then continued by Jane's brother Robert who ran the business employing one assistant and one boy according to the censuses for both 1861 and 1871.

John Andrew Ford, c.1879-1890s followed and was succeeded by Frederick Plank, 1890s-1922. E J Organ took over in 1923 and there exists a photograph of the shop with a sign outside. 'E J Organ, baker and confectioner'.

Mr Ernest Raven took over the business from 1937. Bill Radway married Mr Raven's daughter Mary in 1941 and by 1946 the shop was definitely Radways - the last bakers, which will always be remembered for its lardy cakes.

Radways expanded the shop next door for a time and later on, when Radways downsized, Mike Barnes, electrician, ran a shop from there. Bill Radway retired in 1987 and handed over to his son, Derek. The shop closed in 1998/1999 due to lack of profits. Despite protests about the change of use by residents and Fairford Town Council the premises was converted to private housing in the 2000s.

Coln Gallery

Due to rebuilding on the High Street in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it is not always possible to relate precisely individual buildings with their residents according to the censuses or electoral registers.

From the 1838 property list it is clear that the buildings down to Montague House (No 6) were a number of private houses with barns and stables and a Smithy (Mr Mabbett) wheelwright and carpenter (Mr Loughton) to the rear. In the late 19th century living in the private dwellings were Robert Kimber, Church sexton (he is recorded as showing visitors around the church) and George Simpson, the first official Parish Clerk, who lived next door. Parish Councils were formally set up after the Local Government Act in 1894, and George was clerk from 1894-1900; he had been assistant overseer to the Board of Guardians which administered Poor Relief.

If you look above the first ground floor shop window of the next building you can see the remains of an arch. This was originally a way through to a yard at the rear. From the late 1870s John Peyman is listed as a plumber, glazier and house decorator working from this yard. His sons carried on the business and after Mr Baldwin gave up his shop (where Jake Sutton's clock shop is now) the Peymans took over the hardware shop.

The rest of today's Coln Gallery (to the right of the first ground floor shop window) was the 'Home Cafe' which flourished during the 1920s and '30s. This was run by Mrs Oscar Farmer and served as a cafe serving 'High Class Teas and Light Refreshments', and a shop with a 'comprehensive stock of photos and cards of the Church, Windows, Screens and Memorials in black and white or colour' and was advertised in the first two editions of Oscar Farmer's Church Guide for visitors to the Church. (See advertisement)

Later on this became Lees cake shop and for a time it was also a show room for Edmonds the department store in the town and later private residences. For the more recent information people's memories are relied upon. From early postcards and photographs both the Coln Gallery buildings switched from private residences to shops throughout from the 19th and 20th centuries. Part of the southern end of the Coln Gallery was formerly part of Montague House, called Montague Cottage. The present Coln Gallery opened according to its website, in 1975.

THE HOME CAFÉ

(OPPOSITE THE CHURCH)

FOR

High-class Teas . . .

and

Light Refreshments.

PARTIES CATERED FOR.

A Comprehensive Stock of Photos and Cards of the
Church and its Windows, Screens, and Misericords,
in Black and White, or Colour.

Montague House No 6 High Street

Montague House, next to the old Police Station in the High Street, is a late 18th century house for which there is a good traceable record. The earliest record, dated 1810, is found in the Raymond Barker Lifehold Estates book which refers to this property:-

'A messuage situate in the High Street lately erected on piece of land on which house called the Cross Keys formerly stood' [and later] 'house next to the Police Station'.

The name 'Cross Keys' refers to the keys of St Peter who guards the gates of heaven and inns with that name are often located near a Church. The property was owned by the Raymond Barker Estate and lifehold leases were usually held on 3 lives, leases were transferred indefinitely as long as the lives were transferred on. In this case the book says that the property reverted to the Estate in 1934.

The first named resident in the 1834 property list is George Cornwall. He was Dr Charles Cornwall's brother and although the house is listed as 'house, surgery, garden, court', George Cornwall was a vicar, William Miller was then the owner of the lease. In the next Fairford property list in 1838 Dr Charles Cornwall is listed as resident, but by 1841 he had moved to Keble House where he had his surgery.

In 1863 George Simpson, Fairford's parish clerk and assistant overseer, leased the property from John Raymond Barker, the lease being renewed in 1879 for the term of 99 years. Dr Daniel Iles rented the house and after his death in 1879 various people rented the house including Reverend Dr Frederick Bulley, President of Magdalen College, Oxford who died in 1885. Dr Bloxsome also lived there for several years and presumably had his surgery there before he had moved to Croft House by 1894.

The first evidence of it being named as Montague House is an 1879 advertisement for the sale of the house by auction after the death of Dr Daniel Iles. It is not known where the name Montague House came from but a potential clue is that there was an owner/lessee of other property in the High Street called William Montague in the early 1800s. He moved to Gloucester but it is not really known whether he retained his Fairford interest or that he had any connection with Montague House.

An advertisement to let the property in 1882 shows 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms and dressing rooms, a garden, capital stabling for 3 horses, a coach-house and saddle room.

In the 1901 census Catherine Evans, nurse, lived there when it was a nursing home. She had two widow boarders and another nurse. Miss Elsie Hickman was matron in 1906. By 1911 Alfred Lees, an agricultural implement dealer and ironmonger engineer, and his wife Lydia had moved in with both their daughters assisting in the business. He leased the house from Jesse James Simpson, who had inherited the house after his father George died in 1909. Alfred Lees bought it from the Raymond Barker Estate in 1934 for £1000. Alfred Lees died in 1939 and Oscar Farmer then bought the house for £850; he had married Alfred's daughter Florence Lees. Florence died in 1939 and Oscar then married May Barker in 1941. It appears that the property next to the north of the house (part of Coln Gallery now) was part of the property and known as Montague Cottage.

Lt Col R O V Thompson came to live with his wife and two sons in Montague House in 1939 when he was stationed at South Cerney. Unfortunately he was killed on 7 June 1944 in Italy and is buried in Rome War Cemetery. His name is on Fairford War Memorial. Mrs Thompson stayed on at Montague House until about 1947.

Thanks to the Godsals for supplying extra information for this article.

From the Newspaper Archives

Sun (London) Wednesday 13 December 1804

A strange adventure

On Tuesday se'night a Gentleman who lay at the Fleece Inn, Cirencester, got up in his sleep, about two o'clock in the morning, and after putting on his breeches and stockings, went out at his chamber window, which was two pair of stairs high, and got safe down into the street, He then walked a considerable way on the Fairford road, till he came to the turnpike gate which being shut, he went up against with such great violence, that he was thrown down backwards; when, awaked by the shock he discovered his deplorable situation. Although he was much bruised by the fall, he was enabled to alarm the inhabitants of a small house adjoining, who readily administered every comfort in their power; and we are happy to add, that the effects of this strange adventure are not likely to prove of any serious consequence.

Oxford Journal Saturday 29 January 1820

How trees have changed!
FINE MAIDEN ELM TIMBER,
TOPS of TREES and ASH POLES
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By Mr Wane

At the Bull Hotel, Fairford, Gloucestershire, on Thursday next the 3d of February, 1820, precisely at One o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions of sale as shall be then and there produced, - ONE HUNDRED very prime MAIDEN ELM TREES, NOW LYING IN SEVERAL Inclosures in the parish of Fairford, with a number to each lot; also about Forty Stacks of ASH POLES, etc. divided into suitable lots.



For a view of the same apply to John Bartlett, carpenter of Fairford aforesaid

Parish News June 1996 (originally 1908)
Fairford Choir Trip

The choir of St Mary's Church, Fairford went on their annual trip on July 20th to London, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Carbonell. We started from Fairford Station at 7.08, stopping at every station till we reached Oxford where we met a 'special' taking us to London without many stops. One of the most interesting sights which we saw on our railway journey was Windsor Castle between Reading and Slough stations. We had now reached Westbourne Park which is the first station outside Paddington, here everything seemed all so black, and the gardens were on top of the houses.

We had now reached Paddington Station where there are thirteen platforms, and it was from this place that we took an underground railway to the Exhibition. Here all the buildings were white, and were made up of boards and plaster. We had reached the grounds where two of the most striking attractions were to be seen, this was the Flip-Flap and the Mountain Scenic Railway. The Flip-Flap was very interesting, and when you are going up you are surprised to see the railways lying around London, just like a spider's web. The length of each huge arm was 150 feet, but when in the air it is about 200 feet.

Another interesting thing is the Spider's Web which is a trick to get on at a certain stage. I noticed there were many foreigners viewing the Exhibition and there were people from all parts of the world taking part in it. We had tea at 4 o'clock at the West end of the Flip-Flap, when having finished we went to the Machinery Hall, where we saw all sorts of machines working, we saw a number of exhibits from many lands and perhaps the most interesting were from our principal colonies. There were also represented life-size models of Ceylon, Sengalese [Senegalese], and Irish villages showing life as it is in these places, as well as the special manufactures carried on in them. The whole show is very wonderful and I enjoyed it immensely.

July 29th 1908 - H Hyett

This article was probably written by Hedley Edward Hyett, age 13, son of the grocer in the Market Place. Hedley served with the Royal Engineers and the Royal Air Force throughout the First World War despite being wounded at Ypres in 1915. He died in Broadstairs, Kent in 1967.

Notes on the 1908 exhibition at the White City, Shepherd's Bush, London

The Flip Flap was an exhibit at the Franco-British Exhibition at White City in 1908. It comprised two long steel arms, stretched out on opposite sides of a central base. At the end of each arm was a platform that could accommodate fifty people. The arms rose from the ground to a height of 200 feet, over 60 metres, giving a spectacular view of the exhibition grounds.

The exhibition attracted 8 million visitors and celebrated the Entente Cordiale signed in 1904 by the United Kingdom and France.

On 14 August, a balloon owned by American balloonist Capt. Lovelace exploded at the exhibition, killing his 18-year-old secretary and a male employee. Six others were injured, including a 47-year-old employee who died days after the accident. Newspaper reports indicated that the explosion occurred when a lighted match was thrown to the ground during preparations for a flight.

Limericks were used to advertise this event:-

*In an Anglo-French section one night,
A Youth met a Maiden, gay and bright,
But her idea of pleasure,
Was of such boundless measure,
He left with heart heavy – purse light.*

DON'T FORGET

- Items wanted for the 75th WW2 anniversary exhibition on May 25-27
- volunteers wanted to dress up in Tudor costume for Fairford Festival June 7-8
- help and ideas wanted for 500th Anniversary of the visit of Henry VIII to Fairford, 5 September

Thank you

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**

2020

February 20 (half term) at 10 am

From crawling to Concorde by Edwin Cuss

March 19

Location, location, location!: a 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 8 2020

VE Day Bank Holiday
Party in the Park
organised by Fairford Town Council

May 23-25 2020

VE Day Celebrations and Exhibition
in Fairford Church and Community Centre
Help and exhibits wanted. 01285 712611 fairfordpcc@btconnect.com

June 6 & 7 2020

Fairford Festival
with a Tudor theme in honour of King Henry VIII's
visit to Fairford in August 1520

Enquiries Alison 01285 711768

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