

# Fairford Flyer

## Extra No 15

August 2020

FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

We hope you are enjoying these online newsletters. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute or have any local history questions please email [enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk). This is a special Tudor edition to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the visit of Henry VIII to Fairford.

**Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!**

Good people of Fairford -  
From 25<sup>th</sup>-27 August the town is to be honoured with a visit  
from our good King Harry. He is to stay at Warwick Court  
with our most honoured,  
Lord of the Manor, Sir Edmund Tame  
and his good wife Dame Katherine. So get ready!

**God Save the King**

### Extract from the diary of Alisoun, wife of Fairford 18 August 1520

What a bustle and excitement there is in the town. King Harry is coming! He is to stay for a few days with Sir Edmund Tame at the big house. Orders have gone out for the townspeople to tidy up their properties and sweep the streets. Volunteers are needed to clean the Church and surrounds. Every cart available has been sent out to procure food from surrounding towns. The boys are to catch as many rabbits as they can and take to the House. They have asked for extra help, I shall go and help in the kitchen. The entire town is involved.

### 24 August 1520

All is ready. The town sparkles with tidiness and expectation. Sir Edmund Tame and his wife Katherine have been on a tour of inspection and approved and praised everyone for their hard work. The King's Officers came and inspected the accommodation and facilities and even the kitchen. There is such a lot of food prepared. Sir Edmund is to ride out with his son and a small group to meet the King at Lechlade and escort him back to Fairford.

### 25 August 1520

We were allowed out to see the procession arrive. We had been instructed to cheer loudly which we would have done anyway. What a sight it was! King Harry accompanied by Sir Edmond and his son

amidst a group of colourful courtiers rode into the town. Every one cheered heartily- the King responded with a regal wave of his hat!

## 29 August 1520

It's over! The king has gone. He has feasted, been deer hunting, went to Church on Sunday and admired our lovely stained glass windows. He also knighted Edmund's son, little Edmund - what an honour for a teenage boy. We are all exhausted including Dame Katherine, but I think she and Sir Edmond are very pleased and satisfied with the success of the visit but secretly hope they won't have to entertain the King again! There are lots of stories going around the town and everyone will be talking about it for weeks.

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### The Tudor Chamber Books

These books (recently transcribed) are the expense and receipt books of the King's Chamber (known as the Chamber Books) covering 1485 to 1521. These are the earliest systematic private records of the financial transactions of an English monarch, giving an unparalleled insight into royal personality, the purchase of luxury items and material goods, the interaction of private and public, and the politics and finances of kingship.

This is the entry in the Tudor Chamber Book, for August 1520 ([E36/216 f102r](#)), it has been translated into modernised English:-

'Windsor 20s item for offering upon wednesday our lady day 6s 8d item to sir richard weston knight upon a warrant for the building of the new loge in the chace of crambourn within the forest of windsor £79 17s 8d sunday at littlecote master darelles place./b> anno xijmo xixno day augusti item/b> for the king's offering upon this sunday 6s 8d item for the king's daily alms this week 37s 11d item for offering at our lady caversham upon our lady day 6s 8d item for william temple the king's fletcher & other upon a warrant for certain stuff for the king's own shotyng as it appears by the said warrant £7 9s 4d item to john holland riding from reding to bradstock for 3 dais at 12d the day 3s anno xijmo xxvjo day augusti item for offering upon friday saint bartholomew day 6s 8d item for offering upon sunday at fairford master tamez place 6s 8d item for the king's daily alms this week 37s 11d'



Henry VIII by Hans Holbein, the younger, c1530

In 1520 Henry VIII was 29 years old, so he would have been a fine figure of a man, tall, bearded and athletic. The King had recently (June) returned from the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold', the meeting with Francis I of France. The summit was arranged to increase the bond of friendship between the two kings following the Anglo-French treaty of 1514. Each King tried to outshine the other, with dazzling tents and clothes, huge feasts, music, jousting and games. The tents and the costumes displayed so much cloth of gold, an expensive fabric woven with silk and gold thread, that the site of the meeting was named after it. At the beginning of July Henry met with Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor in Calais. He had returned to Windsor by 30 July.

According to his itinerary for His August Royal Progress, he was at Windsor from 1-13, Reading 13-16, Yattendon 16-18, Sir Henry Norris's residence (he was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber at that time), Littlecote 18-22, (Sir Edward Darrell's residence), Bradenstoke Abbey 22-25, and Fairford from 25-27 August. He then went on to a royal hunting lodge at Langley,

Oxon. He only stayed a few days at each place so probably this was not one of his huge 1,000 entourage trips. It is not clear if Catharine of Aragon accompanied him to Fairford. Extra guests were normally housed in local houses or maybe a camp was set up north of the town. There must have been a large number of servants and horses to stable.

Warwick Court or Beauchamp Court, 'Edmund Tame's' house is described by Leland as hard by the Churchyard, so may have been approximately on the site of Fairford House with its buildings the 'backside going to the very bridge'. It may even have been that the King's visit was on Edmund's invitation to look at the completed windows in Fairford Church as they were completed by 1517. What a sight that must have been, brightly coloured glass on one of those days when the sun shines and reflects the colours of the glass on the stonework. Sir Edmund would not have failed to point out the feathers



Prince of Wales feather  
[ostrich] with 'ich dien'  
from window 11

and Motto of the Prince of Wales. He attended Church on the Sunday at Fairford giving a half a mark (6s 8d) in alms on the day. During his time in Fairford Edmund Tame the younger, a teenager must have made a good impression as Henry knighted the boy (or perhaps the King was borrowing money from the Tames as he would have been needed money after the Field of the Cloth of Gold).

In Sarah Brown's 'Fairford Parish Church' there is a slightly different account of this visit "Sir Edmund met the royal party at Lechlade on 26 August and entertained them at Fairford until 2 September... Almost certainly Henry would have attended mass at John Tame's new church as the feast of St Augustine fell on the 28 August",

It was not the first Royal visit to Edmund Tame's House. In the Royal Progress of 1502 Henry VII and Elizabeth of York reached Fairford at the end of August on their way back from South Wales. It is very likely that they visited the Parish Church which would be structurally complete but without the stained glass windows.

In Samantha Harper's 'Henry VII and Elizabeth of York's Royal progress, Summer 1502' she says 'It is not unfeasible that Flours [Bernard Flower, the royal glazier] involvement with the church had been a royal suggestion'.

#### Edmund Tame, the elder

Edmund Tame was born in the 1460s. By 1500 when his father died, he was already a rich man as he had inherited most of his father's lands. In 1500 Edmund had a 'bargain' with the King Henry VII

[E101/415/3 f289v](#) original:

"that the kinges grace & sir reynold bray haue made a bargayn with edmond tame of fairford in gloucester shir for cl sakkess of wulles whereof twoo of fyne and one of mydell wulles to be deliuered at london pakked & dressed redy to be shipped to calais & to be taken after the weght of the bealme of london for the price of x marces & anoble for euery sakk."

Modernised:

'that the King's grace & Sir Reginold Bray have made a bargain with Edmond Tame of Fairford in gloucestershire for 150 sacks of wools whereof two of fine and one of middle wools to be delivered at London packed & dressed ready to be shipped to Calais & to be taken after the weight of the beam of London for the price of 10 marks & a noble for every sack thereto be delivered at his costs & charge before April next"

Sir Edmund became High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and was also a member of the Commission for Peace for Wiltshire. By 1516 his is listed as attending the King's Royal Chamber and was knighted the same year.

The Tame Coat of Arms in the porch of St Mary's Church, Fairford



## Publications

Fairford History Society produced two publications that were to go with the postponed 2020 Fairford Festival which was to be Tudor-themed in celebration of 500 years since the visit of Henry VIII. Fairford Festival on the Tudor theme will now take place on June 11-13 2021.



Fairford in the Tudor Era (price £1) is a general history of what it might have been like in Fairford in the whole of the Tudor period.

Tudor Trail (price £1) is a walks leaflet around the town, taking about 1½ hours. Showing remains of Tudor or Tudor-style buildings. On September 17 there will be an opportunity to go on this walk led by Syd Flatman at 10. 30 or 2.30. Please email [enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk) or phone 01285 711768

Also newly available is Fairford Year by Year: from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century (price £1)