

Fairford Flyer

Extra No 31

July 2021

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. Meetings restart on September 16th with a short AGM and Syd Flatman will give talk on the Remaining Treasures of Fairford Park – something to look forward to.

Are you feeling ill!

Advertisements in newspapers and magazine can be a great source of information of the consumer products that were being sold in the shops in years gone by. An example of this are the advertisements placed in local newspapers by the manufacturers of various medicines. In the 1840s regular advertisements were placed in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire newspapers for various medicines. Most of the advertisements listed the local chemists (known more usually as druggists at this time) who stocked the company's medicines. John Dance was the chemist for much of the 1840s and beyond and he is listed in the advertisements for many patent medicines. The following were all available from John Dance, druggist in the High Street, Fairford

Rheumatism and gout

Simco's Gout and Rheumatic Pills (1840)

'They leave the patient stronger, and in a better state of health than before the attack'

Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills (1847)

The advertisements often contained letters of recommendation *'By the time I had taken one box I got rid of one crutch, I then sent away for another box which enabled me to throw away the other crutch. I have since then never had an attack. Samuel Blake, smith and farrier*

Also for rheumatism (1843) *C Gee's original drops for the cure of gout, rheumatic gout, pain in the back, cramp, tic deloreaux [neuralgia] and gravel [kidney stones], with directions, in bottles 2s 6d each*

Stavely's compound tincture of buckbean (1847)

To the afflicted I have not been laid up with gout one hour since taking Stavely's compound tincture of buckbean. J Gullick

Toothache

For stopping decayed teeth (1843)

Patronized by her Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and the principal nobility. Mr Thomas's Succedaneum for filling decayed teeth, however large the cavity

Brown's camphorated chloroform an immediate cure for toothache (1850)

In all those cases that admit of relief it acts as a perfect charm, giving ease immediately and cutting short the paroxysms of pain...hundreds of teeth have been saved from extraction

Coughs and colds

Smith's Cough Pills (1843)

There cannot be too much said in praise of these admirable pills, as experience in almost innumerable cases have proved them the most extraordinary and beneficial discovery ever yet made

Pinnegar's balm of Liquorice (1849)

Coughs cured for 1s. Pinnegar's balm of Liquorice The best and most agreeable remedy, ever yet offered to the public for the immediate relief and perfect cure of coughs, colds, sore throat, shortness of breath, asthma and all complaints affecting the lungs

Simco's Chemical Essence of Linseed (1841)

A most efficacious medicine in the cure of coughs, colds, asthmas, hoarseness, difficult expectorations, soreness of the chest and stomach, consumptive cough and pulmonary affections

Feet

Paul's American Balsam. Corns and Bunions (1843)

Paul's Everyman's Friend is a true and speedy cure for those severe annoyances without the least pain of inconvenience. As patronised by the Royal Family and Nobility

Digestion

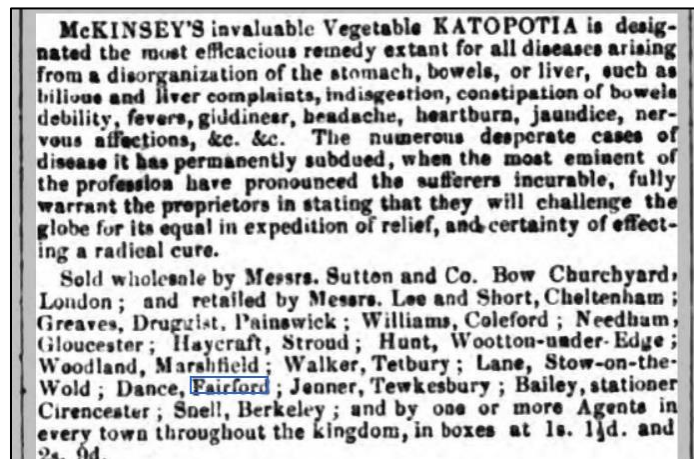
Smith's celebrated family of antibilious pills (1843)

These truly valuable pills which are entirely Vegetable have obtained the most unqualified approbation of the Public and are fast approaching every other stomachic and aperient medicine

McKinsey's invaluable Vegetable Katopotia (1845)

McKinsey's invaluable Vegetable Katopotia is designated the most efficacious remedy extant for all diseases arising from disorders of the stomach, bowels or liver, such as bilious and liver complaints, indigestion, constipation, debility, fevers, giddiness, headache, heartburn, jaundice, nervous afflictions etc. etc. The numerous desperate cases of disease it has permanently subdued, when the most eminent of the professors have pronounced the sufferers incurable, fully warrant the proprietors in stating that they will challenge the globe for its equal in expedition of relief and certainty of effecting radical care.

This is the medicine I would choose, its patent advertises it as a life preserver and it seems to cure everything!



McKINSEY'S invaluable Vegetable **KATOPOTIA** is designated the most efficacious remedy extant for all diseases arising from a disorganization of the stomach, bowels, or liver, such as bilious and liver complaints, indigestion, constipation of bowels, debility, fevers, giddiness, headache, heartburn, jaundice, nervous affections, &c. &c. The numerous desperate cases of disease it has permanently subdued, when the most eminent of the profession have pronounced the sufferers incurable, fully warrant the proprietors in stating that they will challenge the globe for its equal in expedition of relief, and certainty of effecting a radical cure.

Sold wholesale by Messrs. Sutton and Co. Bow Churchyard, London; and retailed by Messrs. Lee and Short, Cheltenham; Greaves, Drugist, Painawick; Williams, Coleford; Needham, Gloucester; Haycraft, Stroud; Hunt, Wootton-under-Edge; Woodland, Marshfield; Walker, Tetbury; Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold; Dance, Fairford; Jenner, Tewkesbury; Bailey, stationer Cirencester; Snell, Berkeley; and by one or more Agents in every town throughout the kingdom, in boxes at 1s. 1jd. and 2s. 6d.

Women's troubles!

Kearsley's Original Widow Welch's female pills (1844)

Important to Ladies! Kearsley's Original Widow Welch's female pills so long and justly celebrated for their peculiar virtues, are strongly recommended to the notice of every lady, having obtained the sanction and approbation of most gentlemen of the Medical Profession, as a safe and valuable Medicine in effectually removing obstructions, and relieving all other inconveniences to which the female frame is liable, especially those which, in an early period of life, frequently arise from want of exercise and general debility of the system; they create an appetite, correct indigestion, remove giddiness and nervous headaches and are eminently useful in windy disorders, pains in the stomach, shortness of breath and palpitations of the heart; being perfectly innocent, may be used with safety in all seasons and climates.(1844)

A Bad case cured at Highworth

Sir, For a long time I suffered from weakness and pain in my side, and tried many remedies, but could not get relief until I took C Gee Taylor's Female Pills, of Speenhamland, which removed the complaints. Ann Bridge, Highworth

And lastly, also by C Gee

Ointment to cure the Itch (1853)

This ointment is well known in Berkshire and its neighbourhoods as a speedy cure for the itch, being free from mercury, brimstone and anything unpleasant, it can be used with the greatest secrecy and not be known by any person sleeping in even the same bed. See that the name C Gee Taylor on the box

From an Elegy to the memory of Mr Thomas Philips of Fairford



Thomas Chatterton

Pale rugged winter bending o'er his head
His grizzled hair bedropt with icy dew;
His eyes, a dusky light congealed and dead;
His robe, a tinge of bright ethereal blue.
His train a motley'd sanguine sable cloud,
He limps along the russet dreary moor;
Whilst rising whirlwinds blasting, keen, and loud,
Roll the white surges to the sounding shore.

Now as the mantle of the evening swell,
Upon my mind I feel a thick'ning gloom!
Ah could I charm by friendship's potent spells
The soul of Philips from the deathly tomb!

This poem was written by the renowned romantic poet Thomas Chatterton (1752-1770). Thomas Chatterton was of a poor family was brought up in Bristol and went to Colston's Charity School. When he left in 1767 he had already produce satirical and romantic poetry. He was then apprenticed to Mr Lambert, an Attorney in Bristol but after a year, he was dismissed from his apprenticeship after writing 'The last will and testament of Thomas Chatterton' to which the attorney took exception. He went to London where his attempts to get his works published including a rejection by the great Horace Walpole that cause him great disappointment. Chatterton took arsenic and died at the age of 17. He was famous for reproducing the supposed works of a 15th century poet Thomas Rowley, a medieval monk, and having them published in the local Farley's Bristol Journal, which caused much interest at the time. He always denied forging them but it is thought he did. Back to Thomas Phillips of Fairford, a Thomas Phillips died and was buried at St Mary's November 3rd 1769 at the age of 20 years. This seems likely the person whom Chatterton is lamenting. He may have been the son of George Philips, landlord of the Bull who died in 1760. But 'his grizzled hair' caused doubt, hardly likely to have grizzled hair at age 20, but this may have been poetic licence. But how did Chatterton know him? Wikipedia says that Thomas Phillips was an usher at the Charity School; he was only a few years older than Chatterton. A connection has been found that George Phillips, Thomas's brother and also landlord of the Bull like his father, witnessed the will of Fairford solicitor Alexander Ready Colston in 1775. Alexander's wife was Sophia Edwards whose great uncle Edward Colston founded the charity school in Bristol. Perhaps Alexander helped Thomas Phillips to obtain the position of usher at the School. There is also a mention in Chatterton's history of a Richard Phillips of Bristol, his uncle, so that may be the connection; it is very interesting to conjecture but a Fairford connection does seem highly likely.

Fairford History – Month by Month

From the Newspapers & other Records

100 Years ago this month

Holiday-makers from London were offered special excursion rail travel to Fairford. From the Daily Mirror 12 July 1921:

G.W.R.
Summer Holiday Excursions
From Paddington Station
Friday, July 15
(To return July 22 or 29)

“Depart 6:55 pm – To Witney 14s 9d, Kelmscott 16s, Fairford 17s 3d, Oxford 12s 6d, Chipping Norton 17s 3d, Moreton-in-Marsh 18s, Honeybourne 19s 9d, Evesham 20s 9d, Worcester 22s 3d.”

The excursions ran in both directions. Shopping tours to London were one of the highlights of the year for the fashion-conscious of Fairford. From: the Westminster Gazette 13 July 1921:

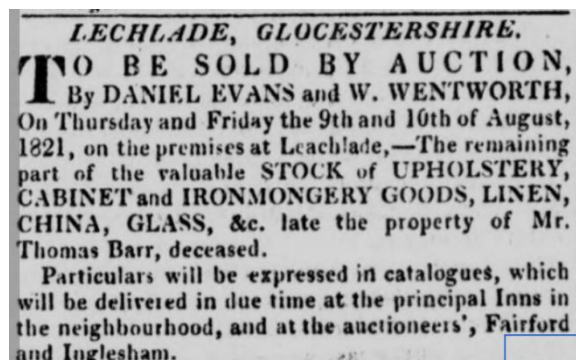
The Sales Train
Excursionist shoppers met by motors

“The first summer sales excursion train ran from the West of England today, arriving at Paddington a few minutes before ten o’clock, and bringing 500 keen-eyed shoppers carrying empty bags and babies, and their minds fixed on crepe de chine and gorgeous hats. The train came from Oxford, with connections from Kidlington, Fairford, and many towns and villages further west, and the price of an ordinary single fare provided a return ticket available at seven o’clock this evening.”

The report went on to say that there were eight “comfortable Lanchester limousines” waiting at Paddington, two cars each from Swan and Edgars and Dickins and Jones’s, while Whiteley’s and Selfridge’s had each provided two char-a-bancs to whisk the shoppers to their stores.

200 Years ago this month

Daniel Evans was a very successful auctioneer of Fairford. He was in business at Fairford from at least 1820 until he death at the age of 72 on the 30th of May 1843. One of his many newspaper advertisements is from the Oxford Journal of the 28th of July 1821



LECHLADE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By DANIEL EVANS and W. WENTWORTH,
On Thursday and Friday the 9th and 10th of August,
1821, on the premises at Leachlade,—The remaining
part of the valuable STOCK of UPHOLSTERY,
CABINET and IRONMONGERY GOODS, LINEN,
CHINA, GLASS, &c. late the property of Mr.
Thomas Barr, deceased.
Particulars will be expressed in catalogues, which
will be delivered in due time at the principal Inns in
the neighbourhood, and at the auctioneers', Fairford
and Inglesham.

300 Years ago this month

William Patey was buried on the 24th of July 1721. Spelling, even of surnames, was not standardized at this time and his name is written as Patey, Paty and Patee in contemporary documents.

400 Years ago this month

Another eight burials are recorded in Fairford in July 1621 continuing from the high death toll in June. Whatever the cause of these deaths it was over by August when only two people were buried in St Mary’s.